

# British Columbia's Sacrifice



## The BC Volunteer Effort

In per capita terms British Columbia's contribution to Canada's war effort of 1914-18 was among the greatest of the provinces. More than 47,000 BC men and women volunteered for overseas service.

"No More Survivors from Hospital Ship Found by Searchers", The Daily Colonist, Victoria, BC July 3, 1918

NO MORE SURVIVORS FROM HOSPITAL SHIP FOUND BY SEARCHERS

Water in Vicinity of Place Where Llandoverly Castle Was Sunk Is Carefully Examined Without Result—Conclusion That 234 People Were Drowned Unavoidable

GERMAN WILD BEAST MUST BE DESTROYED

Bonar Law Emphasizes Uselessness of Denunciation—Major Lyon Gives Further Details of Deliberate Savagery—Rescue Efforts Prevented

Search through search of the water in the vicinity of the Llandoverly Castle was made when the Canadian hospital ship was sunk.

PEOPLE STARVING IN CENTRAL EMPIRES

GENEVA, July 2.—Without bread for the last sixty days, and with many other necessities of life lacking, the people of Harbin, are on the verge of starvation, according to The Herald Lamp, and The Star, of Prague. It is said a protest against the attitude of Austria has been made and the reply from the Vienna Government was: "Victory is also suffering."

AIRMEN 42

Destroy Twenty-Five and Send Fifteen Out of Control—Two Hostile Machines Fall in British Lines.

TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED ON ENEMY

Raiders Again Visit Mannheim, Trier, Treves and Cologne



Above left: Private Frank Butts of Saanich, Killed in Action, age 17. Bois-Carre British Cemetery, France. Photograph taken by Gavin Cooper for the Saanich Remembers WWI Project (Saanich Archives).

Above right: Thomas Ethelbert Tombs of Duncan, BC - War Grave, Adanac Military Cemetery; France courtesy of Rodrigo Konigs

Nursing Sister Gladys Wake  
Photo courtesy of the Imperial War Museum, London (WWC H22-10)



### Gladys Wake, 34

It was not just men and boys who died in the war. Women did too. Nursing Sister Gladys Wake of Victoria was killed in May 1918 when enemy bombs fell on her hospital at Etaples on the French Coast.

### Thomas Tombs, 16

At least 225 of the British Columbia fallen were teenagers. Thomas Tombs of Duncan was 16 when he was killed in action while on duty in the 50th Battalion, November 1916.

### Christina Campbell, 40

Christina Campbell of Vancouver was one of fourteen nurses who died in June 1918 when their hospital ship, the Llandoverly Castle, was torpedoed by German U-Boat.

### Alfred Gyde Heaven, 18

Awarded the Military Medal for gallantry, Alfred Gyde Heaven of Grand Forks was seriously wounded at Vimy Ridge and died of his wounds 21 April 1917. He was 18.

It was the intention of those who conceived the Shelbourne Memorial Avenue to plant a tree for every British Columbian who died in the war. Hundreds of London Planetrees were planted. But hundreds were not enough. More than 6,000 British Columbians perished in the war.



London Planetrees along Shelbourne Street taken from Mount Douglas Park, July 2015. Image courtesy of Michael Travers.

### James Richardson, 20

Many of the volunteers never returned home. One who remains forever part of the soil of France is James Richardson, 20, of Chilliwack, a piper who bravely rallied the men of the 16th Battalion at Regina Trench on the Somme in October 1916. Richardson was awarded the Victoria Cross for his valour but he never knew it: the piper's performance was his last. He was never seen again.



Above: Piper James C. Richardson, V.C. and bagpipes – 16th Canadian Infantry Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force, Library and Archives Canada, accession number 1964-114 NPC, item HS4 C-168-5

Cap Badge, 7th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force  
CWM 19920166-1434  
Canadian War Museum

