

British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

July 2014 Newsletter

Commemorating the First World War



Written and designed by
Sandra Joyce and Lori Oschefski



BHC Albert Hapgood at his farm placement
KIA May 3rd 1917



Claude Nunney

On July 28th, at the special Commemorative Black Creek Pioneer Village Service, in Toronto, for the British Home Children who served in the First World War, we have the very special honour of displaying the miniatures of BHC Claude Nunney's Victoria Cross (VC) medal, his Military Medal (MM) and his Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM - received at Vimy Ridge). Private C J P Nunney VC DCM MM was the mostly highly decorated 'other rank' in the Canadian Army in the Great War.

The Victoria Cross is the highest award in the Canadian Honours System. This military award is given for extraordinary valour and devotion to duty while facing a hostile force. Pte Nunney, serving with the 38th (Ottawa) Battalion, received his VC posthumously for most conspicuous bravery during the operations against the Drocourt-Quéant Line on Sept. 1st and 2nd, 1918.

"When his battalion, which was preparing to advance, was heavily counter-attacked by the enemy, Private Nunney on his own initiative, went forward through the barrage to the company out-post lines, going from post to post and encouraging the men by his own fearless example." - London Gazette.

After being wounded several times and gassed throughout the course of the war, Claude Nunney rejoined his battalion each time.



However, when he was wounded on September 2, 1918, it proved so severe that he died 16 days later at the age of 25. He is buried at Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension.

His brother, Alfred Nunney, also a Home Boy who had come to Canada at the age of 11, died in battle just three weeks earlier and is buried in Somme, France.

Pte. Nunney, having enlisted as Claude Joseph Patrick Nunney born in Dublin, Ireland, was actually Stephen Sargent Claude Nunney born in Hastings, England. Nunney arrived in Canada as a British Home Child in 1905 on the S.S. Tunesian at the age of 13 with his brother Alfred, 11, from the Harrod Road School in London, England.

Their brother George had arrived the previous year as a British Home Child.

Upon arrival in Canada, Nunney went to the St. George's Receiving Home where he was sent out to a Mr. Alexander MacDonald and worked as a Home Child. Sadly, his brother George, drowned in the Jock River near Barrhaven in 1908 at the age of seventeen. Claude never knew about his brother's death.



Claude Nunney, middle soldier. Gazette 1918

British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

July 2014 Newsletter

Commemorating the First World War



BHCAIRA News

It is with overwhelming sadness that we announce the passing of Rita Attard. Rita was the Administrative Assistant of the BHCARA and Regional Director of the Wellington County Ontario Branch. Rita told us, after a spell of not being well, that she was feeling better and ready to take on new responsibilities. Two days later, she was taken from us. She will be greatly missed.

The official opening celebration of the largest display of British Home Child artefacts ever seen before, collected by the BHCARA and Black Creek Pioneer Village (BCPV), will be officially opened following the First World War Commemorative Service on July 28th at BCPV in Toronto at 2 pm.

At the First World War Commemorative Service a Roll of Honour will be unveiled including the names of one thousand British Home Child Boys who were Killed in Action during the Great War. They were among ten thousand British Home Children who enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force. The names and details of these boys will be released soon on the website "British Home Children in Canada". This page is password protected pending finalization of the list.

<http://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/first-world-war-causalities.html>

The itinerary for the First World War Commemorative Service is included on page 3 of this newsletter.

We are fortunate to have a very special guest, Don Cherry, who will be speaking about his BHC Grandfather, Richard Palamountain, who enlisted in Kingston with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He served with 4th Regiment Canadian Mounted Rifles and was wounded at Vimy Ridge in 1917.

Tickets for our September 28th dinner on British Home Child Day at BCPV Toronto are going fast and are limited! They may be purchased for \$40 by sending a cheque to our Secretary-Treasurer Glenna Walkden at 13300 County Road 13, Winchester ON K0C 2K0.

To pay through PayPal visit:
<http://britishhomechildrenadvocacy.weebly.com/sept-28th-bhc-day.html>

This package includes entry to the Village, parking and a three-course Celebratory Dinner. Purchased tickets will be sent out August 15. General tickets can be purchased at a special discounted rate at the door. Please tell the cashier you are there for the BHC event.

The BHCARA is also busy helping to set up a permanent display with the Canadian National Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec. This is the former Museum of Civilization. The display will be opened in late 2016/2017.

The BHCARA is now on Twitter! Find us at:
<https://twitter.com/BHCARA>

EVENTS

July 18 - 4th Line Theatre, Millbrook
July 28 - Commemorative First World War Service for British Home Children at Black Creek Pioneer Village - itinerary is attached. Advance tickets are available from the Black Creek Pioneer Village web site:
<http://www.blackcreek.ca/v2/events/www100th-anniversary.dot>
or by calling: 416 736-1733

Alfred Mist

On April 2nd 1917, G. Bogue Smart, Chief Inspector of British Immigrant Children and Receiving Homes, stated in a letter to the St. George's Home in Ottawa, "as far as the numbers are available over seven thousand of our Old Country boys are doing their duty with the Canadian Forces - a showing to be proud of."



The BHCARA estimates that by the end of the war, nearly 10,000 BHC had enlisted, a number which must represent close to 100% of the BHC Boys eligible to enlist. Close to 1,000 of these boys were killed in the war. The Boys enlisted for a variety of reasons; a desire to do their duty, escaping an undesirable work placement, or to return to England to seek out their families.

Many of these boys, knowingly or unknowingly, falsified their ages to enable them to enlist. Alfred Mist was one of these boys. Alfred was born May 24, 1900 and was placed in the Stony Stratford orphanage in Wolverton, England. Alfred became a "Home Boy" when he was brought to Canada by the Fegan's Boys Home. He was put aboard the SS Empress of Britain on 7 April, 1911.

Alfred enlisted on February 7, 1916 at Millbrook, Ontario and was placed with the 136th Battalion. Alfred was only 15 years old. After the war's end, he was shipped home aboard the SS Caronia from Liverpool on the 14 May, 1919. He had not yet turned 19.

Following the war, Alfred found work at Weston's Bakery in Toronto and delivered bread door to door with his trusty horse and buggy. He married and settled into domestic life. At the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, he wanted to serve again. In June of 1940, he joined the Royal Regiment. Alfred served in both wars.

Read Alfred's fully story, written by his Grandson, Al Lloyd at: <http://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/alfred-mist.html>

Iroquois Platoon of B. Coy 154th Overseas Batt. C. E. F. in command of BHC Lt William Thwaite. Lt Thwaite was KIA August 10th, 1918



Itinerary for the July 28th First World War Commemoration Service

Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto
1000 Murray Ross Parkway | Toronto, Ontario M3J 2P3

Emcee Sandra Joyce – Executive Director Canada, BHCARA

**9:50 Piping In – The Maple Leaf Forever – White Heather Pipes and Drums,
Camp Borden Cadets, Parade of Flags,
The Ceremonial Unit of Commissionaires, Great Lakes**

York Regional Police Male Chorus – Till We Meet Again

Lori Oschefski

- Founder and CEO of the British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association (BHCARA)
Opening remarks

Jim Brownell

- Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders
Opening address

George Beardshaw

- Surviving British Home Child (BHC) and Second World War veteran serving with the Queen's Own Rifles.
Address on behalf of our BHC who served

Don Cherry

- Co-host for the "Coaches Corner" CBC Television
Address in honour of his BHC Grandfather Richard Palamountain, veteran serving with the Canadian Expedition Force.

Reading by Emcee

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Everyone repeats: *We will remember them*

The Last Post

Two Minutes of Silence

The Rouse

York Regional Police Male Chorus "For Those in Peril on the Sea" – The Naval Hymn

Glenna Smith-Walkden

- Secretary Treasurer of the BHCARA
Reading of the Poem "Private Nash"

Karen Mahoney

- Regional Director Innisfil, BHCARA
Reading of a letter from the Front written by BHC Herbert Blackall

Sandra Joyce

- Executive Director Canada, BHCARA, Author of "The Street Arab" and soon to be released "Belonging"
Reading from her book, "The Street Arab"

Marjorie Kohli

- Author of "The Golden Bridge: Young Immigrants to Canada, 1833-1939"
Dedication of the BHC Roll of Honour Plaque

Lori Oschefski and Jennifer Layne – Head Researcher of the BHC First World War Project

- Unveiling of the BHC Roll of Honour Plaque

Padre blessing and closing – God Save the Queen - O Canada – York Regional Police Male Chorus

Piping out - Scotland the Brave – White Heather Pipes and Drums

Military collector Carl Black will be showing his First World War Military Artefacts in the Town Hall across from the event pavilion.