

## **MONKS, Albert Morton**

Service Number 180282

Rank Lieutenant  
Canadian Infantry (British Columbia Regiment), 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Born June 20, 1882, Colchester, Essex, England  
Died August 21, 1917, Lens, France

Occupation Hotel Manager  
Marital Status Married to May Savatard

Albert Morton Monks' father was a British railway worker, and Albert followed in his footsteps to become a railway clerk. Just before he turned 19, he enlisted in the Army Ordnance Corps and spent three years in the Royal Arsenal Gatehouse in Woolwich, near London. He emigrated to Canada in approximately 1905 and according to his obituary, spent four years prospecting in the Cariboo.

In 1912, he married May Savatard in Port Moody and together, the pair managed the Cameron Lake Chalet.

Albert enlisted in 1915. He was promoted and transferred to different battalions three times while still in England and was able to visit his sister, which explains his commemoration on a British war memorial where she lived. Now a lieutenant, he arrived in France in April 1917. While leading his platoon on an attack near Lens on August 21, 1917, he was struck in the head and body by shrapnel from enemy bombs and died shortly afterwards. In a letter to Mrs. Monks, the Major of his unit said that once struck, he refused help so that his comrades could continue fighting.

After his death, a Mr Woolett ran the Cameron Lake Chalet until May returned to manage it until her retirement.

Albert Morton Monks' body was not recovered. He is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial and in Bentley, Suffolk.

Sources: Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada  
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada  
Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada  
British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library  
Wikipedia  
Grangehill1922.wordpress.com / albert morton monks  
Westendvancouver.wordpress.com / biographies / mollison-jean  
The Daily Colonist, Thursday, November 22, 1917

