

## CHRISTIAN, William

Service Number 180194

Rank Private

Canadian Infantry, British Columbia Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Born May 10, 1895, Liverpool, UK

Died February 17, 1918, at No. 1 Canadian Casualty  
Clearing Station

Occupation Rancher

Marital Status Single

Born in Liverpool, William Christian Jr. emigrated to Canada with his family. The 1914 BC Directory lists William Sr. working as a shipwright, and William Jr. as a plumbing apprentice. Around that time, the family bought land in Errington, and by the time William enlisted in 1915, he was a rancher.

William Christian enlisted with the rank of Corporal. He saw two years of active service before he was wounded at Vimy, April 9, 1917, when he was shot in the back. On April 15, 1917, he was blown off his feet by an exploding bomb. Wounded, dazed and spitting up blood, he was sent to recuperate in Eastbourne, England. He was deemed fit for duty in August. On August 31, 1917, he was not present for the afternoon parade at Seaford, England and did not report again until the evening of September 2, 1917.

He was court-martialed, docked pay and demoted from Corporal to Private. He pleaded guilty, offering his clean record in mitigation of his offence.

On February 16, 1918, he received another gunshot wound to the thorax, and died of his wounds on February 17, 1918. He is buried in Barlin Communal Cemetery near Bethune, France.

### Sources:

Photo: <https://archive.org/details/dailycolonist59y116uvic/page/n4/mode/1up?view=theater>

Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada

Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada

WWI Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada

British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library

