

Vancouver Gunners Nominal Roll

There are now 5,000+ names listed in our online nominal roll! This started out as a project 5 years ago to find all the names of everyone that ever served with 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and its predecessors. It also includes those that enlisted with 68th Overseas Depot Battery and with the 15th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery that was formed in 1916. My estimate, at that time, was that there were probably 10,000 names and I don't believe that that number is too far off.

Of course, the list has changed somewhat since the beginning. My initial goal was simply name, rank and photo. However, that didn't seem to be enough information to capture who these soldiers are. There was a need to find out when they shipped overseas, when they were promoted, when they died and where they were buried. Were they awarded a medal? did they marry? Which 68th Depot Battery draft did they sail with? The list goes on and on. Most of this information for World War I can be found in the Library and Archives site <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/personnel-records.aspx> supplemented by Google searches and/or, if you have access, Ancestry.ca and newspapers.com

The current standard of the entries is to start off with their full name:

Family name first, followed by their given names.

Then we place the relevant portions of their life in chronological order, each event separated by a semicolon (You might notice that the use of a semicolon is a new standard!)

Taken on strength 15th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery 15 Mar 1918; promoted Bombardier 12 Jan 1920; deceased 5 Dec 1920; buried St James Cemetery, Vancouver, BC.

Most World War I records start with *Attested Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force Aug 12 1915* as this is usually the first official enlistment date and can be found on the attestation paper where the individual signed. However, there may be cases where the individual has indicated previous service. In that case I start with *On strength Vancouver Volunteer Artillery; attested Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force Aug 12 1915;*

Abbreviations are minimized in order to be clear to non-military types and also to provide the respect to the ranks earned and the units served.

Common phrases/abbreviations on military records :

CARD – Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Depot

GSW - Gun Shot Wound - wound caused by a bullet

MC - Military Cross - award given to officers for specific act(s) of bravery, or for meritorious service

MM - Military Medal - medal for bravery awarded to other ranks (non-officers)

SOS - Struck off strength (I usually only indicate TOS on the nominal roll)

TOS - Taken on strength

Complete list can be found here: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/Pages/military-abbreviations.aspx>

All that research should culminate in an email to president.vcrgunners@gmail.com similar to the following:

Knowles, Fred Hayes; Taken on strength BC Horse 44 days; attested Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force 21 Feb 1916; assigned regimental #331650; taken on strength Vancouver Volunteer Reserve; shown in 68th Overseas Depot Battery, Canadian Field Artillery Mar 1916; promoted Bombardier 26 Apr 1916; promoted Corporal 10 May 1916; embarked Halifax 12 Sep 1916; disembarked Liverpool 21 Sep 1916; #3 Section 4th Division Ammunition Column; appointed Acting Corporal 12 Sep 1916; appointed Acting Sergeant 26 Oct 1916; struck off strength on proceeding overseas with 54th Battery 15th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery 19 Mar 1917; automatically reverts to rank of Gunner on arrival in France 21 Mar 1917; posted to 1st Canadian Division Ammunition Column 21 Mar 1917; granted 14 days leave 8 Jan 1918; returned from leave 23 Jan 1918; awarded Military Medal 23 Feb 1918; on Command Reserve Camp 3 Jul 1918; rejoined unit 21 Jul 1918; to be Sergeant 22 Aug 1918; granted 14 days leave to United Kingdom 13 Jan 1919; granted extension of leave from 30 Jan 1919 to 4 Feb 1919; leave extended on account of private family affair until 11 Feb 1919; rejoined unit 16 Feb 1919; proceeded to England 19 Mar 1919; proceeded to Canada 23 Apr 1919; discharged 14 May 1919; deceased 3 Aug 1972; buried East Lawn Memorial Park Sacramento California USA.

MM, BWM, VM