

Jack Chisholm - WW1 (KIA)



(original photo enhanced with AI technology)

Personal Profile

- Full Name: Jack Chisholm (p. 3).
- Date of Birth: March 12, 1886 (p. 3).
- Place of Birth: Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada (p. 3).
- Pre-Enlistment Trade: Miner (p. 3).
- Marital Status: Single (p. 9).
- Religion: Roman Catholic (p. 4).
- Next-of-Kin: Mrs. C. Chisholm (Mother), residing at Georgeville, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia (pp. 17, 29).
- Physical Description: 6 feet 1 inch tall, dark complexion, brown eyes, dark brown hair, weighing 165 pounds, with no distinguishing marks (pp. 4, 13, 18).

Military Service & Timeline

- Frontline Transfer: Transferred to the 54th Canadian Infantry Battalion on December 28, 1916, arriving in France for active combat duty on December 29, 1916 (p. 11).
Regimental Number: 645972 (pp. 1, 3).
- Rank: Private (Pte) (pp. 1, 11).
- Enlistment (Attestation): Voluntarily enlisted on March 3, 1916, in Vancouver, British Columbia (pp. 3, 9).
- Initial Unit: 158th (Overseas) Battalion, also known as "The Duke of Connaught's Own" (pp. 3, 11).

The 158th (The Duke of Connaught's Own) Battalion, CEF was a distinct infantry unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force raised during the First World War. Rather than fighting on the front lines as an intact battalion, the unit served primarily as a vital training and reinforcement pipeline for seasoned Canadian combat units already deployed on the Western Front.

- Deployment to Europe: Embarked from Canada on November 14, 1916, and arrived in England on November 20, 1916, aboard the S.S. *Olympic* (pp. 11, 17).

The 54th Canadian Infantry Battalion, CEF—popularly known as the "Kootenay Battalion"—was a prominent frontline combat unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War.

✖ Combat Casualty Detail

- Status: Killed in Action (pp. 1, 27).
- Date of Death: March 29, 1917 (pp. 1, 27).

 *March 29, 1917: Trench Reliefs & Heavy Shelling*
The Company Swap: On March 29, the battalion was ordered to execute "inter-company" reliefs. "A" and "B" Companies marched forward into the dangerous front-line trenches to take over the sector. Concurrently, "C" Company retired slightly backward into a support trench known as the "Music Hall Line," while "D" Company moved out of the elements into the safety of the "Tottenham Caves"—part of the massive subterranean chalk tunnel system dug out to hide troops before the big offensive. Artillery Duels: The battalion's war diary officially reported "active (artillery fire) on both sides" throughout the day. While the main diary page oddly noted zero casualties for the 29th itself, Private Chisholm's specific Circumstances of Casualty card clarifies that he was killed instantly by enemy artillery fire while on active duty in the sector. The erratic nature of battlefield paperwork is highlighted by the diary recording 2 men killed and 4 wounded the very next day.

- Location: Western Front (reported from base) (pp. 9, 24).
- Buried in the Villers Station Cemetery in Villers-au-Bois, France.
- Plot VII, Row G, Grave 23.
- Post-War Commemorations: His military medals, decorations, scroll, and plaque were sent posthumously to his mother, Catherine, in Georgeville (pp. 21-22). *As well as campaign medals, his family received these medals as well...*



British War Medal



Victory Medal

As well, his mother would have received The Memorial Cross (Silver Cross), a sterling silver cross stamped with her son's name, rank and regimental number. It was meant to be worn as a public token of personal loss and national gratitude.



The Memorial Cross (Silver Cross)

The family also received The Memorial Plaque (Death Penny): A large, heavy bronze medallion depicting Britannia alongside a lion, inscribed with his full name, Jack Chisholm, and featuring the phrase "He whom this plaque addresses died for freedom and honour". They also received The Memorial Scroll: An accompanied, elegant parchment scroll featuring an official message of condolence from King George V, recognizing his supreme sacrifice on the Western Front.