



Mrs. Ward's Memoirs

From Mrs. Ward's memoirs "Flight-Lieutenant J. H. Hampton, The First World War, 1914-1918."

In 1915 at Maple Ridge, special recruiting assemblies were organized to encourage the young men to enlist and join the forces; many friends were enlisted which encouraged others to do the same. James Henry Hampton enlisted and joined the 47th Battalion at New Westminster where they were in training and in barracks for some time.

In November, 1915, they were sent overseas. I was staying with Edith and Jim Chatwin at this time, and we went by their motorcar to the train station to see them off. The young fellows were very gay, but we did not feel so gay to see them go. On reaching England by steamship, they were stationed at Bramshott, Hampshire, for extensive training. When they were given leave, Jimmie went to Cornwall to visit with Aunt Lizzie and cousins.

In August, 1916, they were sent to France, where they were engaged in fighting around Ypres, and they were in the charge at Regina Trench. In a letter, Jimmie wrote that he was the only one that survived and he brought back eight prisoners, young boys about sixteen years old, to the base, but there wasn't an officer there to record it. He said that he felt sorry for these young fellows, they were very scared, and one gave him his watch.

Later, Jimmie was wounded by shrapnel at Vimy Ridge, and was invalided to England. On recovering, he applied and was transferred to the Royal Air Force (RAF), and received training. He became a Flight Lieutenant and returned to France in September, 1918, at the age of twenty-one.

One day he was the leader of several planes to reconnoitre near the enemy line, when suddenly enemy planes descended from a cloudy sky. His plane, being the leader, was their target, with the result that he was brought down in flames, and no trace was ever found. This happened October 29, 1918, just previous to Armistice Day, but the sad news to our home arrived after that day.

To quote from the newspaper write-up, "Flight-Lieutenant J. H. Hampton fought courageously although outnumbered three to one. A life of energy and honor was his and his name will be remembered in Maple Ridge as one who died fighting like a true Canadian."



**Alma (Mrs. James) Ward
née Hampton.**

Opposite

Portrait taken in England of Flight Lieutenant James H. Hampton at "The Wey Studio, Haslemere," probably on account of having just received his commission as a pilot.