

#### **MONUMENTAL CANADIANS LESSON PLANS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

## John George Pattison VC: AN ORDINARY PERSON DOING THE EXTRAORDINARY



NAME: JOHN GEORGE PATTISON V.C.

**BORN:** SEPTEMBER 08,1875 (WOOLWICH, ENGLAND)

**DECEASED:** JUNE 03,1917 (LENS, FRANCE)

EPIC BATTLE: VIMY RIDGE, APRIL 10, 1917

**RANK: PRIVATE** 

HONOURS: VICTORIA CROSS AT THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

#### **LESSON OUTCOMES:**

- Understand that an ordinary person can make a difference to others
- Engage in creative thinking
- Increase students' comfort in working with primary documents

#### **ACTIVITY:**

In a large group or small groups, read over the activity sheet below.

- Watch the Monumental Canadians John George Pattison video clip with students. Stop the video as needed to address difficult vocabulary, concepts and answer questions. Consider watching it through uninterrupted afterwards.
- 2. Discuss what a primary source is and why the study of primary sources is critical to the discipline of history.
- 3. Let students explore the primary documents related to John George Pattison. If possible, print at least one copy of these documents on a colour printer so that students get a feel for what an authentic primary source document looks like. Documents could also be projected onto a screen for all to see in enlarged format. As a class or in small groups, have students circle or highlight on their copy of the primary source documents any information they think is interesting or relevant to the story of John George Pattison. Students may also enter this information into a chart like the one modeled on the assignment sheet to help organize their thinking.
- 4. Have students address one or more of the discussion questions verbally in a large or small group setting, or in writing.
- 5. Have students come up with an epitaph for Pattison's headstone that reflects their understanding of him as a person and his story during the War. Students can colour and add their epitaph onto a copy of the Commonwealth War Grave Headstone template.

#### Objectives:

Our Intention is to educate Canadian Citizens so that they:

- Appreciate the role of our military heritage in protecting Canadian interests, values and beliefs.
- Understand the role our military history has had in shaping our country and the world.
- Are inspired to be engaged and well-informed participatory citizens of Canada.

## Intended Student Body: Intermediate Grades

\* Activity can easily be modified for earlier grades by focusing on the headstone activity only, or for later grades by emphasizing primary document use.

#### **RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

- Monumental Canadians John George Pattison Video Clip: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaecyHYmgXl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaecyHYmgXl</a> (6 minutes)
- Activity Sheet & Primary Source Documents:
  - At least one colour printed copy (optional)
  - A copy for each group or student completing the activity
- Commonwealth War Grave Headstone template sheet
  - Pencil crayons

N	lame:		

### **ACTIVITY SHEET & PRIMARY DOCUMENTS**

### John George Pattison VC: An Ordinary Person Doing the Extraordinary

1) View Valour Canada's Monumental Canadians John George Pattison Video Clip: http://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/johngeorge-pattison-vc/
Notes about the video clip:



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**OF VIMY RIDGE** 

#### 2) Primary Sources

A <u>primary source</u> is what historians use to figure out what happened in the past. Primary sources are usually from the time period being studied and include interviews, artifacts, eye witness accounts, pieces of art, diary entries, letters, recordings, images, etc. A <u>secondary source</u> interprets, describes and comments on primary sources. Books about history are secondary sources.



Why do historians use primary sources to explore the past?	

3) Highlight or circle any information in the primary sources about Pattison below that you feel are relevant to his story. Enter your information into a table like the one modeled below.

Information about J.G. Pattison

#### 4) .Discuss or reflect on the following questions:

- What does the story of John George Pattison tell us about the First World War?
  - Potential leads:
    - The violent nature of Pattison's actions that earned him a Victoria Cross
    - The change in height requirements in 1915 that allowed Pattison to go overseas to fight
- What does the story of John George Pattison tell us about human nature?
  - Potential leads:
    - Fatherly love
    - Ability of all people to do extraordinary

#### 5) Epitaph Assignment

John George Pattison is buried at La Chaudiere Military Cemetery near Vimy, France. Like all First World War Commonwealth soldiers with a known grave, Pattison's headstone is white stone and is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, an organization that cares for the graves and memorials of 1.7 million people who died in the First and Second World Wars. His is unlike most because it bears an image of the Victoria Cross that he earned in battle. Canadian family members of the deceased were able to have a short epitaph engraved onto the headstones of their loved ones, courtesy of the Canadian government – other Commonwealth countries charged for this service or did not allow engraving at all.

Your assignment is to create an epitaph (inscription on a headstone) for Private Pattison that reflects your understanding of him as a person and of his story during the War. Consider ways you could make his epitaph poignant, personal and memorable. First World War epitaphs had to be no more 66 characters. For this assignment, don't limit yourself to only 66 characters, but keep it brief and aim to capture the essence of who Pattison was and what we, as Canadians living more than a century after his death, can gain from his story.

Use the headstone template on the next page to write your epitaph. Colour the template. Just as Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries are nicely manicured and well taken care of, your sheet of paper should be neat and demonstrate thought, care and effort. Below are sample epitaphs from Commonwealth War Graves Commission First World War cemeteries:

- Spirit in heaven, body in France, memory in Canada
- Oh Bertie darling / How we miss you
- An only son / 'To what purpose / Is this waste?'
- Only one in thousands / But all the world to us.
- Tread softly o'er/ my darling son's grace/for a mother's love lies here
- All our beauty and hope and joy we owe to lads like you
- His last message "I would not have missed it for anything"
- As brave as a lion & worked to his last ounce in the cause of his wounded comrades
- He joined the forces at 15 ½ years and did his duty till death

#### "THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE"

-Rudyard Kipling, engraved on the Stone of Remembrance in war cemeteries and memorials commemorating First World War dead



#### SELECTED PRIMARY SOURCES RELATING TO JOHN GEORGE PATTISON

\*Using primary sources can be frustrating! Sometimes they are difficult to read and understand. Don't give up! Think of these documents like clues that will help you piece together a fuller story about Private Pattison. Organize the information you gather into a table like the one modelled in part 3 of your activity sheet and use it to help write an epitaph for Private Pattison.

Excerpts from Pattison's Personnel File:

(http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=7654-41)

I.D. number No. d'identification	PATTISON Surname Nom de famille  K i A 03/06/17	Given names Prénoms
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ATTESTATION PAPER.

ORIGINAL No. 808887

## CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. 10 yrs in Caused

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
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1. What is your surname?
In What is your present address? 1622. 1st an Mechanist Calgar
To what is your preeds address.
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in Starlovich Kent England what Country were you born?
3. What is the name of your next-of kin? Moreon Louise Callison
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? /62 2. May with Tristmount to algo
4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?
5. What is the date of your birth?
6 What is your Trade or Calling? Zabour
7. Are you married?
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-
vaccinated and inoculated?
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the \
Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force?
after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.  [Signature of Recruit]  Date Mach 6 1916. ARD and (Signature of Witness)
OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.  John George Callison, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance of His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as
in duty bound hone my and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.
m (Signature of Recruit)
Date March 62 1916. ARD andson (Signature of Witness)
CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.
The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.  I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at
M. F. W. 23. 460M1-16

lat	rent Age	Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.  (Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Appeoring Officery.
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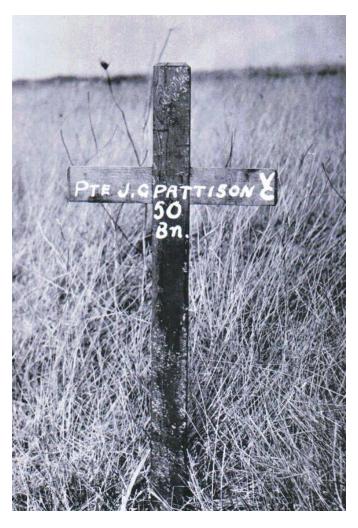
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CHRISTIAN NAMES John, George Pte REGL. No. 808887 RANK Pte UNIT 137 CT. NEXT OF KIN.  NAMES IN FULL Pattison Mors. Sophia, Louis RELATIONSHIP TO SOLDIER Wife ADDRESS 1622-1st. Ave. Westmount, Calgary, Alta.  COUNTRY OF BIRTH Ingland. Moolwich Kint DAT PLACE OF ATTESTATION Calgary, Alta. DAT Sailed from Halifax, Tex 88.	FOLL D  B'n.  CHANGE OF ADDRESS  LEE Sept: P. 1875  E Moarch & 1916

	17
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TRADE OR CALLING Labourer. RELIGION 10. Of. To.	
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APPARENT AGE 140 YEARS MONTHS	
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HEIGHT 5 FEET 21/2 INCHES  CHEST MEASUREMENT 35 INCHES EXPANSION 3.  COMPLEXION Medium: EYES Brown grey, HAIR D. B.  DISTINGUISHING MARKS Three tattor shots on R. f.	rown.
DISTINGUISHING MARKS Three tattoo Shots on R. f.	orearm,
2. on left forearm.	
2. on left forearm.  1 " Wrist (Small hanging mole left show MEDICAL EXAMINATION. PLACE Calgary. DATE March	lder)
MEDICAL EXAMINATION. PLACE Calgary. DATE March	16,1916

Surname Pattison	1		2
Examined on 6 day of March 191 at falgary. Alla. Can Birthplace City or Town Woolwich. County Kent. England	6 Appr	oved by	De Wills
(City or Town Woodwich.		Rank	aupt-1 M.
Birthplace County Kent, England	Date.	Fit or Unfit.	EXAMINED FOR RE-ENGAGEMENT.
Apparent age 40. Trade or occupation Labourer.			М.
Trade of occupation 2.5			M.
Height 3 Feet 2/2 Inc			
5.9	Lbs.		М.
Chest measurement Maximum expansion 35 inc	Wales		М.
Physical development Good.			М.
Small-Pox Marks None.			М.
Vaccination Marks Arm Right Left.	Date.	Result.	VACCURATIONS.
Vaccination Marks (Number 6 ·	27/11/2	EVOCATA	A) My 111
When Vaccinated last Childhood	1716	0	J. W. Willelog M.
(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities	or		
previous disease			M.
none.			

(http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/80814?John%20George%20Pattison)
The original grave marker of Private Pattison, Glenbow Museum, Alberta.



## FORM OF WILL

3, John George Pattison	
Regimental Number 808887 serving in 137.t	h O. Bn.C.E.F.
of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, do hereby revoke all for	ormer Wills by me made and
declare this to be my last Will.	
I devise all my real estate unt	ю
Mrs. S. Louise Pattison	Name and Address
1622 1st Avenue Westmont	of person or persons to whom
Calgary Canada	it in to me
absolutely, and my personal estate I bequeath to	
Mrs. S. Louise Pattison	Name and Address
1622 1st Avenue Westmont	or person of
Calgary Canada	personal estate*
	)
NOTE	
This space for the appointment of Executor if necessary.	
In Witness whereof I have h	ereunto set my hand
IMPORTANT NOTE this 24th day of November	A.D. 191 <sup>6</sup>
This must be signed and Dated by THE SOLDIER John G. Pattison	Signature of Soldier.

#### Personal Information Sheet

(http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/80814?John%20George%20Pattison)

Name PATTISON J.G.

Rank Pte

Batt'n 50th Batt'n

Former Unit 137th Batt'n

Date & Place of Birth Woolwich, England, 1875.

Date & Place of Enlistment 1916. Calgary March 6th, 1916

He Pallison

Trade or Profession Gasfitter.

Sailed from Canada 21-8-16 S.S.Olympic

Unit 137th Batt'n

Arrival United Kingdom Liverpool. 29-8-16

Departe for France Jan. 1917

Unit 50th Batt'n.

Casualty Killed

Date 3-6-17

(Wounded 20-5-17)

Reported missing and afterwards killed in act

Evacuated

Approinted to Commission

Date

Ronk

Honours & Awards Victoria Cross 2-8-17 LG.30215

Reference "Canada" 11-8-17. p.153 and 29-9-17 p.371.

Present Location

Next of Kin Mrs. S.D. Pattison (Wife)

1622, 1st Avenue, Westmount, Calgary, Alta. Canada.

Portrait painted by MISS ETHEL WRIGHT.

Official Account of Deed for which Award was made.

For most conspicuous bravery in attack.

When the advance of our troops was held up
by an enemy machine-gun, which was inflicting severe
casualties, Pte. Pattison with utter disregard
for his own safety, sprang forward, and jumping
from shell-hole to shell-hole, reached cover
within thirty yards of the enemy gun.

within thirty yards of the enemy gun.

From this point, in face of heavy fire, he hurled bombs, killing and wounding some of the crew, then rushed forward, overcoming and bayonetting the surviving five gunners.

the surviving five gunners.

His valour and initiative undoubtedly saved the situation and made possible the further advance to the objective.

Commonwealth War Graves Registers (<a href="https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/commonwealth-war-graves-registers/Pages/item.aspx?PageId=129798">https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/commonwealth-war-graves-registers/Pages/item.aspx?PageId=129798</a>)

FORM E13. 9758.—10M—4-6-17.  NUMBER	Regt., NEXT-OF-KIN- MS	PATTISON (V.C.) 3	+ 1549.649-P-6877 Pattisin Are S 487656
DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE O	OF DEATH .	CAS, SHEET NO.
3-6-17	Previously reported Mi Killed in Action	ssing now reported	A 298
DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION O	F GRAVE.
	36. C. M. 36. B. 60, 34. Burial Report by G. R. O. 15 4 miles Wof avion, 12 miles & Wof Lens,	BR/4668/D&R	
Exhumation	In Chaudiere British be.  Sht. 44a. 5.18- b. 22  Plot 6 Now b. Grave 14  Burial report by G.M. C.  La Chaudiere British.  3 Miles S.S. W. of Len.  Plot 6. Now b. Grave 11	Puf. B.3.11 benetvey - B	R/11866

(https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/80814/pattison,-john-george/#&gid=null&pid=2)

O'BRIEN, Pte. M. J., 261700. Royal Canadian Regt. 9th April, 1917. X. B. 2. OLIVER, Pte. J., 781553. 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles (1st Central Ontario Regt.). 10th April, 1917. VI. E. 18. PACKER, Pte. George Henry, 687536. Coy. 72nd Bn. Canadian Inf. (British Columbia Regt.). Killed in action 28th May, 1917. Age 39. Son of Lewis and Elizabeth S. Packer, of 4th Avenue, Belleville, Barbados, West Indies. Lived in O'Kanagan Mission, British Columbia, and was game warden at the time of enlistment. Born at Barbados, B.W.I. IV. E. 12. PAGLIALUNGA, Pte. A., 877531. 85th Bn. Canadian Inf. (Nova Scotia Regt.). 29th April, 1917. Age 36. Son of Igina Paglialunga, of Tonre Afflina, Roma, Italy. IV. B. 10. PALMER, Pte. H. W., 808015. 50th Bn. Canadian Inf. (Alberta Regt.). 3rd June, 1917. VI. B. 5.

minster, London. VI. C. 19. PATTISON, Pte. John George, 808887, V.C. 50th Bn. Canadian Inf. (Alberta Regt.). Killed in action 3rd June, 1917. Age 42. Son of Harry and Mary Pattison; husband of Mrs. S. L. Pattison, of Suite 12, Curtis Block, Calgary, Alberta. Native of New Cross, England. An extract from "The London Gazette," No.30215, dated 31st July, 1917, records the following:— "For most conspicuous bravery in attack. When the advance of our troops was held up by an enemy machine gun, which was inflicting severe casualties, Pte. Pattison, with utter disregard of his own safety, sprang forward and, jumping from shell-hole to shell-hole, reached cover within thirty yards of the enemy gun. From this point, in face of heavy fire, he hurled bombs, killing and wounding some of the crew, then rushed forward overcoming and bayoneting the surviving five gunners. His valour and initiative undoubtedly saved the situation and made possible the further advance to the objective." VI. C. 14.

Circumstances of Death Registers, First World War (<a href="https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/circumstances-death-registers/Pages/item.aspx?PageID=77309">https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/circumstances-death-registers/Pages/item.aspx?PageID=77309</a>) MIKAN 46246

	1. No.	2. RANK OR	RATING	3. SURNAME	MARKET STREET	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
	808887,	Privat	е,	PATTISON, (V.C.)	John Georg	ge,
	a. Unit or ship		6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE	NO.	8. RELIGION
	50th Battalion.		3-6-17.	649-P-687	77.	Church of England.
	9. CIRCU	MSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, REI	LATIONSHIP AND ADDRES	98 OF NEXT OF KIN
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			NOTE:-Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be com	eleted until grave is permanently located.		
	12. CEMETERY		15. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE	LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
	La Chaudiere British Cemet	ery.	3 miles South South Wes	t of		
			Lens, France.	Grave		
			Lens, France.	Plot		936
			Lens, France.	Plot	PH OF GRAVE AND CEME	TERY SUPPLIED TO
ме	56. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TJ		Lens, France.	Plot	PH OF GRAVE AND CEME	TERY SUPPLIED TO

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		ctdated		RAVES COMMISSION	SCHEDULE "B" PAGE	1 -15://
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Design No.and Layout	Head- stone No.	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Line 4	Letters in text
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1202/1G	436	KNOWN UNTO GOD				
*1	438	NR/NK. (Mrs.E.M. Bullet	t. 35. Wolsey Avenue, Fores	t Road - E-17-)		
	1	Titel Tite / Introduce manage	o, oo, morboj michae, roroz	o moud, mer,		
AYOUT 1H	439	KNOWN UNTO GOD		1000, 201.07		
AYOUT 1H	439	KN <b>O</b> WN UNTO GOD	, 101, Shepherd St., Northf			
		KN <b>O</b> WN UNTO GOD				
AYOUT 1H	440	KNOWN UNTO GOD	, 101, Shepherd St., Northf	leet, Kent.)	14.10	
202/1G	440	KNOWN UNTO GOD  NR/NK. (Mrs.L. Cosgrove  KNOWN UNTO GOD  I WILL GIVE HIM	, 101, Shepherd St., Northf		A NEW NAME - VICTORY	51
lajoutit	440	KNOWN UNTO GOD  NR/NK. (Mrs.L. Cosgrove  KNOWN UNTO GOD  I WILL GIVE HIM  (Mr.H.C. Bowers.  WHEN THE MORNING DAWNS	A WHITE STONE ROSSISND, B.C., Canada.)	AND IN THE STONE		51
202/1G 202/1E	440 441 442 443	KNOWN UNTO GOD  NR/NK. (Mrs.L. Cosgrove  KNOWN UNTO GOD  I WILL GIVE HIM  (Mr.H.C. Bowers.  WHEN THE MORNING DAWNS	A WHITE STONE ROSSISNIC, B.C., Canada.) WE WILL MEET AGAIN	AND IN THE STONE	A NEW NAME - VICTORY	
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202/16 202/16	440 441 442 443 444 445 446	KNOWN UNTO GOD  NR/NK. (Mrs.L. Cosgrove  KNOWN UNTO GOD  I WILL CIVE HIM (Mr.H.C. Bowers.  WHEN THE MORNING DAWNS (Mrs.F.M. Deyo,  HE GAVE HIS LIFE (Mrs.J. Swain, C)  (Mr.S.McIlvenna, SO HE GIVETH HIS BELOVE	A WHITE STONE ROSSIAND, B.C., Canada.) WE WILL MEET AGAIN 1143 - 10th Street East, Ca FOR RIGHTSOUSNESS Sarman, Manitona, Canada.) Crea Whitesides Corner, Ea	and in the Stone lgary, Alta, Canada.) UMANITY AND FREEDOM	A NEW NAME - VICTORY	34
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# J.G. PATTISON VC.

50th En. Canadian Infantry 3 June 1917 Age 42



When he died in 1917, Private Pattison's family created an epitaph for him that is engraved on his headstone below the Victoria Cross, but it has been removed from this image. Write the epitaph you created for Pattison at the bottom of his headstone.