

## HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE



### **ROBERT HILL HANNA VC (1887–1967)**

Robert Hanna was born in Kilkeel, Ireland on 6 August 1886, and came to Canada in 1905. He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in November 1914, and by the summer of 1917 was a Company Sergeant-Major (CSM) serving with the 29th Infantry Battalion.

On 21 August 1917 CSM Hanna's company was attempting to overpower a German strongpoint on Hill 70, near Lens in France. For the bravery and leadership he demonstrated that day, Hanna received the Victoria Cross. The citation read -

*On August 21, 1917, at Hill 70, Lens, France, Company Sergeant-Major Hanna's company met with most severe enemy resistance at a heavily protected strong point, which had beaten off three assaults and all the officers of the company had become casualties. This warrant officer, under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, coolly collected and led a party against the strong point, rushed through the wire and personally killed four of the enemy, capturing the position and silencing the machine-gun. This courageous action was responsible for the capture of a most important tactical point.*

Robert Hanna died in Mount Lehman, British Columbia on 15 June 1967.

**Patrick Devlin**