

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.

This document lacks 1950 census data.

Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

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TUSCANIA**Tuscania casualty****Muncaster, Roy****1892 CO – 5 Feb 1918 Tuscania**



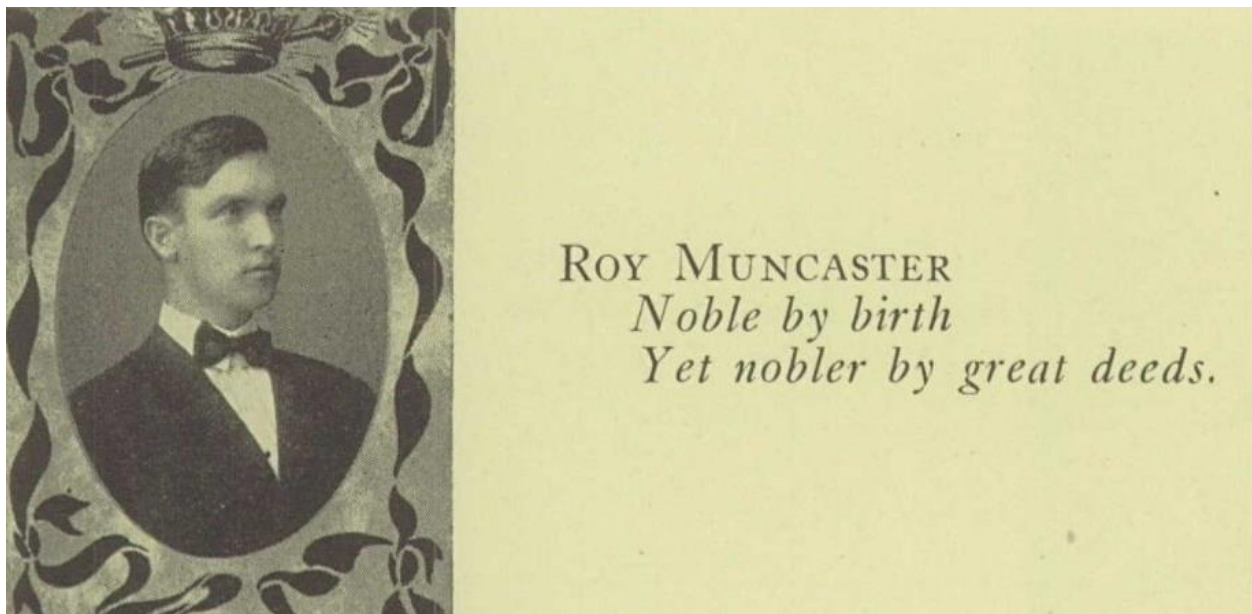
*ROY MUNCASTER
Ranger, District 6
Private, 20th Engineers
(Tuscania Disaster)*

Courtesy of Steven Schwartz of Renton WA



University of Washington Graduate; Degree in Forestry
 Member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, Sigma Tau Chapter
 University of Washington ROTC Cadet, Rank Private (6 months)
 Forest Ranger for Quinault District, Olympic National Forest

Roy Muncaster – Find A Grave 24438756



Caption at Find A Grave 24438756 – “high school yearbook 1911”

NEW YORK TIMES,
June 29, 1938.

Dear Mr. Zimmermann:

The headquarters of the American Overseas Memorial Day Association, at Paris, has sent me a list of burials of the OTRANTO and TUSCANIA victims buried in the Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey, England, and one of these bodies buried in the Kilnaughten Cemetery at Islay, Scotland. The letter goes on to say:

"The annual Memorial Day ceremony in Brookwood Cemetery is held on the Sunday nearest approaching May 30th and is organized by the London Branch of the American Overseas Memorial Day Association. Each of these graves is decorated with an American and British flag and flowers. A ceremony is held in the Cemetery is attended by the American Ambassador and members of his staff, members of the American and British Legions with flags and representatives of all of the American organizations in London in addition to a large number of English people residing in the vicinity. There are prayers and short speeches.

"The isolated grave at Islay, Scotland, is decorated by the Registrar at Kilnaughten Cemetery, Port Ellen, Islay, Scotland.

Following is the list as sent me. It is a carbon copy - you may keep it as I have the original.

Yours, (signed)

PAUL FREDERICKSEN.

* * * * *

You may be interested to know I have tried to find how many Americans are still buried on Islay, Scotland. I get these results: From M. Macgregor of Bowmore, through the American consul at Glasgow:

"All were taken away except Roy Muncester of TUSCANIA, whose friends in America requested that his grave be not disturbed."

From the Consul: Muncester is in Grave 95, Row 4, Kilnaughten Cemetery. The decoration of this grave is undertaken by this consulate each year on Memorial Day, May 30th, under the auspices of the American Overseas Memorial Day Association, Aldwych House, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2. An American Flag and a laurel wreath are sent to Mr. P. M. Campbell, Tighanrudha, Port Ellen, Islay, who places them on the grave. His father had for many years, until his death, undertaken this duty, and it will be noted that the father was one of three men who were decorated for rescue work in connection with the TUSCANIA disaster".

* * * * *

Courtesy of Steven Schwartz of Renton WA

Following are excerpts from "The Sinking of the Tuscania" by Marilyn C. Gahm:



Kilnaughton Military Cemetery today, emptied of most of its burials, Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2047720/KILNAUGHTON%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY,%20KILDALTON%20AND%20OA,%20ISLE%20OF%20ISLAY>). Roy Muncaster's grave is the white tombstone to the left of the entry gate. He was originally buried in grave 19 at Kinnabus.

Burials of the crew – and the last American grave – on Islay:

According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Kilnaughton Military Cemetery “was made in 1918 to bury the dead of the S.S. Tuscania, and 4 Commonwealth crewmen from that vessel are now buried here and 1 American soldier. 84 American graves, mainly of the 20th Engineers, who were passengers on the S.S. Tuscania, have now been removed. There is 1 unidentified burial, lost in the S.S. Tuscania, here.” The unidentified burial is likely of the “Unknown Negro,” as the burial was first termed. The cemetery now has scattered headstones among empty land because of the removals. Remaining at Kilnaughton are the graves of British crew members - some of them “known unto God” burials - and the grave of American soldier Roy Muncaster, the only white headstone, topped by crossed marble logs, to designate his forestry role.



Grave of Roy Muncaster, Kilnaughton, Isle of Islay
[http://findagrave.com/cgi-](http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=muncaster&GSfn=roy&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=24438756&df=all&)

[bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=muncaster&GSfn=roy&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=24438756&df=all&](http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=muncaster&GSfn=roy&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=24438756&df=all&)

The only American soldier still buried on the Isle of Islay is Roy Muncaster, born March 14, 1892, in Colorado. When he enlisted, he was a forest ranger of the Quinault District at the Olympic National Forest, out of Seattle, Washington. Roy died just a month shy of his 26th birthday.



Roy Muncaster's grave, photograph by and courtesy of Les Wilson of Islay

Lt. Donald Smith in his memoirs noted how Roy along with Sergeant Harpham had worked for an hour trying to launch lifeboats, with Roy sliding down the ropes into the last lifeboat with about 60 men. Harpham was so ill in the boat that all he could do was “dip water to keep us from foundering,” while Roy rowed – “very cool and courageous all through the terrible experience,” recalled Harpham - as their boat drifted and was rowed from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. “The men sat in water up to their knees, which made constant bailing necessary to avoid sinking. Just before we struck, Ray slapped me on the back and said, ‘Cheer up, Harp, we will get the Kaiser yet’ ” – the last words Harpham heard him speak. At first thinking their lifeboat was nearing a wooded island, they

realized that they were nearing cliffs, and they could not row fast enough to avoid being sucked onto them. Their lifeboat was “dashed to pieces” on the rocks of Islay, Harpham reported in a letter home.



Harpham and eight others on his boat survived out of the 60 aboard. In a letter to a friend in America, Harpham wrote: “We laid together by a large rock, in the wind, and had to listen to the moans and groans of our dying comrades till daylight. About twenty corpses had washed ashore beside us when daylight came and we were rescued by a Highlander.” Harpham was “badly bruised and nearly frozen” and had hit his head, and remained hospitalized for weeks. In a letter to his brother, Harpham wrote he “had not the slightest idea of getting out of the mess alive.” In 1955, Harpham and his wife Josephine Evans Harpham of Portland, Oregon, traveled to Islay, particularly to see the American Monument.

(left) Roy Muncaster, from findagrave.com

While Muncaster’s friend Harpham survived, Private Muncaster’s dead body, minus a life preserver, floated in the pounding Islay surf. His parents William J. and Elizabeth Muncaster, both born in England, requested that Roy’s body lay in Scotland undisturbed. The Islay folks assured them his grave would be treated as one of their own. Roy’s grave in Kilnaughton Military Cemetery, Grave No. 95, is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in a unique arrangement, his being the only American body which remains on Islay. In 1938, it was reported that his grave was decorated on Memorial Day, May 30, under the auspices of the Overseas Memorial Day Association in London. A flag and laurel wreath were sent to P.M. Campbell in Port Ellen to place on the grave that year. His father, Duncan Campbell, was one of those decorated for his work in assisting casualties on Islay.

In July 1918, the United States Geographic Board approved the name of Muncaster Mountain for a previously unnamed peak in the Olympic Mountains of Washington, in the district in which Muncaster had been assigned as a ranger. The peak at 5,910 feet is currently (2017) ranked as the 911th highest peak in the state of Washington. It is located north of the Quinault River and south of the Rustler River. Muncaster Mountain was first successfully climbed in 1941. It is at 47.6379 degrees north, 123.5121 degrees west in Jefferson County, Washington. Muncaster Mountain lies east of Mount Lawson, south of Mount Christie and northwest of Mount Olson.



*Muncaster Mountain - photo by Don Abbott, from
<http://www.climbersguideolympics.com/peaks/quinault-group/muncaster-mountain>
 Latitude: N47.63795, Longitude: W 123.51203*



*left: Muncaster Basin – Washington Trails Association
 (<http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/trip-reports/tripreport-2007080516>)*

below: Muncaster Mountain from Mount Christie

https://www.google.com/search?q=muncaster+mountain+washington&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjTiN-U07bXAhXL1CYKHT_UB7QQsAQIQQ&biw=1080&bih=732#imgsrc=RPSuMAASOcnSHM:



No. 22207

COUNTY COURT
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

ESTATE OF

Roy Muncaster *Decd.*

Elizabeth Muncaster *Admin.*

No. 22207

County Court of City and County of Denver

Brady **Petition for Letters of** *Page*
Administration *290*

ESTATE OF

Roy Muncaster
Deceased.

PETITION OF

Elizabeth Muncaster

Filed in the County Court this.....

day of, 19.....

FILED IN COUNTY COURT,
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLO.
Clerk.

APR 22 1918

By James L. O'Connell Deputy.

The address of Administrator is

1460 Corona Street,

Denver, Colorado

Paul M. Knowlton
Attorney.

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, VIZ FORSARKER PRESS ROOM AND REPRINT CO.

STATE OF COLORADO,
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, ss.

IN THE COUNTY COURT.

In the Matter of the Estate of

Roy Muncaster
Deceased.

PETITION OF Elizabeth Muncaster, FOR
Letters of Administration.

To the Hon. Ira C. Rothgerber, Judge of the County Court
of the City and County of Denver, in the State of Colorado.

The petition of the undersigned, Elizabeth Muncaster,
respectfully represents that Roy Muncaster, late of the City and
County of Denver aforesaid, departed this life at Denver, in said County, on or about the 5th
day of February, A. D. 1918, leaving no last Will and Testament as far as your
petitioner — know, or believe —

And this petition further shows that the said Roy Muncaster
died seized and possessed of Real Estate as follows, to-wit: none;

Dollars; that the Personal Estate consists chiefly
of the following, to-wit: one policy of insurance, numbered 2466435,
issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, a cor-
poration, to deceased, insuring him in the sum of \$ 5000.00 and pro-
viding that upon the death of the insured, the amount of the
insurance be paid to the executors, administrators or assigns of the
insured,
all of said Personal Estate being estimated to be worth about five thousand
— (\$ 5000.00) — Dollars; that said deceased left surviving as his
sole and only heirs at law the following, to-wit:

NAMES (STATE IF MINOR)	RESIDENCE	RELATIONSHIP
<u>Mrs. Elizabeth Muncaster</u>	<u>1460 Corona</u> <u>Street Denver,</u> <u>Colorado.</u>	<u>mother</u>

That your petitioner, — being an adult sister of said deceased,
and believing that said estate should be immediately administered, as well for the proper manage-
ment of said estate as for the prompt collection of the assets, by virtue of her —
rights under the Statute, therefore pray S that your
Honor will grant Letters of Administration to her —
in the premises, upon her taking the oath prescribed by the Statute, and entering into bond
in such sum and with such securities as may be approved by your Honor.

Elizabeth Muncaster

MUNCASTER ROY		X C 7 556
Pvt Co D 6 Bn 20 Engrs		K
Newark N J		A
Sn	Died 2/6/18	T 393 696 F
Born 3/14/92		R
Enl	Dis	CL
		I 7 976
U.S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7303--Rev. Sept., 1936		INDEX CARD 2-12993

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:7T4K-433Z>

Life:

GREAT MATERIAL OUT AT SEATTLE

Football Prospect at U. of
W. Appears to Be Bright
This Season.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.
SEATTLE, Oct. 1.—With the first three weeks of football practice over the general opinion is that Dobie has the best material to work with that has ever greeted him since his arrival on the campus seven years ago. The "tall Scot" has 11 men who have had intercollegiate experience, eight of whom played last year and another who was a star in his freshman year, and two more who have won emblems on other college teams. Besides these men Dobie has eight men who participated in parts of intercollegiate games last season and four freshmen who at present are peers of any of the squad at their positions. With this material on hand Dobie finds it hard to convince the campus dopesters that Washington is going to meet its doom this season.

Captain Ray Hunt of North Yakima has his end job cinched, but there are seven other men of more than the average ability striving for the opposite extremity position. Don Abel and George Smith, 1914 letter men; Murphy, the Wallace (Idaho) star; Drummond, from the scrubs; Ed Leader, who broke his wrist in early season a year ago; Roy Muncester, for two years an end at Colorado college, and Ted Faulk, late of Aberdeen, have all been used by Coach Dobie on the first squad.

The tackles have been giving him his greatest worry. With three freshmen holding their own against their upper-class opponents, Dobie has been attempting a number of combinations to develop two from those who are eligible for the California games. Gilmour and Calkins of Lincoln high, Seattle, and Bill Grimm, brother of the two former Grimm stars, have been alternated at the two positions in the absence of Elmer Leader, who has been resting a bad leg, injured in scrimmage. Van de Bogart and Newton have been tried in the berth opposite Leader in an endeavor to find Leader's mate.

Seagraves, Wirt and Van de Bogart lead in the race for guards. Cushman and Markham are still fighting it out for center.

Dobie's backfield material is strong, even better than the 1914 quartet, when Washington had the strongest backfield in the conference. Shiel, Noble, Miller and Young still lead for the jobs. Noble is temporarily absent from practice because of his broken nose and Gardner has been filling his shoes at half.

Football player at U of WA – "Spokane (WA) Chronicle" Friday 1 Oct 1915 p 20

Wartime:

THREE COLORADO MEN ON TRANSPORT TUSCANIA

Denver, Colo., Feb. 8.—Three Coloradans were aboard the transport Tuscania torpedoed Tuesday off the Irish coast, according to a private dispatch today from Washington. No information has been received as to whether they were saved or lost.

The men were: James Asher King, Denver; Roy Muncaster, Denver, and Lee Barney Castle, Dalerose, Las Animas county.

King is the son of Mrs. Pauline Weaver, and is a corporal in company E, sixth battalion, 20th engineers. Muncaster has a mother and three sisters living here. He formerly was a student at Colorado college, Colorado Springs.

"El Paso (TX) Herald" Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 5

OLYMPIA FORESTER LISTED AS MISSING

**Fate of Roy Muncaster Un-
known—Everett Harpham
One of Survivors.**

Roy Muncaster, listed as one of the men missing from the Tuscania, was a district ranger in the forest service at Quinault and Everett E. Harpham, one of the survivors, was also in the service of the Olympic reserve. Forest Supervisor R. L. Fromme of Olympia said last night. Both men are University of Washington graduates. Muncaster came from Denver, Colo., and Harpham from Roseburg, Ore., but both had lived in Washington for a number of years. They were in the 20th engineers.

Word was received here yesterday that Floyd S. Hill, son of Charles E. Hill of Tacoma, was saved. He was landed in Ireland, according to a message received by his father. Mrs. James Pook received a telegram yesterday that her son, William E. Farrar, was one of the engineer survivors.

"Tacoma (WA) Daily Ledger" Thursday 12 Feb 1918 p 1

Spruce Expert Was Lost.

OLYMPIA, Feb. 11.—Two forest rangers stationed at Olympia and employed in the Olympic forest reserve, who enlisted together just before Christmas, were aboard the ill-fated Tuscania and one was saved. Both are graduates of the University of Washington.

Roy Muncaster of Denver had been with the department three years and before going he told Supervisor R. L. Fromme he would not be back. Fromme wanted him to stay here, as he was an expert on spruce, but he declined and announced his intention of getting into a fighting regiment later.

E. W. Harpham, who is reported saved, comes from Prineville, Ore. He was with the department five years. Both are unmarried and each thought it his duty to go. They both belonged to the 20th engineers, a forestry regiment.

"Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review" Tuesday 12 Feb 1918 p 3

Stanley R. Augspurger and Roy Muncaster, both members of the 20th engineers (forest), were lost when the Tuscania went down and are buried on the coast of Scotland. Mr. Augspurger was a field assistant on the Columbia national forest, working at the Wind river nursery just before enlisting. His home was in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Muncaster was a district ranger on the Olympic national forest previous to his enlistment. He came to the coast from Denver, Colo.

"Ashland (OR) Tidings" Thursday 25 Apr 1918 p 1

WAS ON THE TUSCANIA

The following letter from a member of the 20th Engineer regiment, which was on the Tuscania when that transport was torpedoed near the Irish coast, in which disaster several hundred American troops lost their lives through the merciless activities of the submarine, is one of the most interesting accounts of that tragic incident of the war that we have seen. It is a plain, unvarnished story, brief but to the point, of the experiences of one who passed through the terrible trial and was saved as by a miracle. The letter and introductory explanation is taken from the Okanogan Independent:

When the Tuscania catastrophe was enacted there were a good many Okanogan people interested in the report that one E. E. Harpham, a member of a forest regiment, was on the boat, as many here were acquainted with V. V. Harpham, formerly deputy supervisor on the Okanogan forest and later supervisor of the Ochoco forest in Oregon. It later developed that E. E. Harpham is a brother of V. V., and this paper has been furnished with a letter written by the soldier to his brother in Oregon, which we take pleasure in publishing as it gives an interesting account of the disaster:

"Europe, February 15, 1918.

"Dear Vernon:

"Would like to tell you more about where I am, but feel that such information would be held up by the censor.

[article continues]

The officer in command raised in our boat and threw his electric flashlight against the rugged shoals only a stone's throw ahead, and we could see the white foam washing high on the rocks. Each breaker took us nearer until finally our boat broke with a terrible crash and broke in a dozen pieces, and after that it was each man for himself. Roy Muncaster, a ranger from the Olympic, who enlisted when I did, did not have on a life belt and I am sure he was drowned. I was taken under by the waves, hit against the rocks, and finally by some act of Providence was thrown high on a rock, where I managed to hang until I was able to crawl above the highest waves. The cold wind just about finished me; but six of us, including a lieutenant, managed to huddle together under a rock, where we lay in the water and mud for five hours before daylight, when a Scotch Highlander living on a plateau above rescued us. He was told of the disaster by a soldier who was not hurt, upon landing. Out of about sixty in my lifeboat only seven came out alive. We were treated royally

[article continues]

"Oroville (WA) Weekly Gazette" Friday 26 Apr 1918 p 1

How Muncaster Died

The letter quoted below from Sergeant E. E. Harpham, former ranger and scaler on the Olympic national forest, but now with the American expeditionary forces in France, furnishes the first details received as to the exact nature of the death of Roy Muncaster, also a former ranger on the Olympia, and stationed at Quinault as a district ranger. Sergt. Harpham's description bears out the previous conjectures of the local forest force and of his other most intimate friends that he met death bravely and with unshaken faith in his self-determined mission to serve his fellow man and his country to the last. Both he and Harpham graduated in forestry at the University of Washington and enlisted in the 20th engineers, or forestry regiment, last December. Muncaster leaves a mother, three sisters and three brothers, most of whom reside in Denver, Colo.

Sergt. Harpham, who is with the headquarters detachment, 6th battery, 20th engineers, writes:

"Muncaster and I were on the Tuscania when she was torpedoed in the North channel February 5 and happened to be assigned by previous arrangement to the same life boat. We floated and rowed upon the rough waters of the channel from about 8 o'clock p. m. to 1 a. m., when the boat containing our crew of about 60 struck the rocky shoals off the Island of Islay, Scotland, and dashed into a dozen pieces. Muncaster was handling the oars when the boat struck the rocks and was very cool and courageous all thru the terrible experience. I was very sick in the life boat myself and could do nothing but dip water to keep us from foundering. Just before we struck Roy slapped me on the back and said, 'Cheer up, Harp, we will get the kaiser yet.' That was the last I heard him say. After our boat was dashed to pieces I never saw Roy again, but learned for certain he was drowned and is buried near Fort Ellen, Islay, Scotland. He received, with the others, a proper burial, with military escort, ministers, etc. Fort Ellen can be reached in one day from Glasgow and good accommodations can be had there.

"I was one of the lucky nine saved from the original 60 in our life boat, but was badly bruised and nearly frozen. Was in the hospital several weeks, but am now back with the bunch again to 'do my bit,' and feel quite fit. I have met a number of fine people here, including some very good-looking Scotch girls, and am mighty glad I enlisted. We are all feeling fine again. The weather is good. I will write to you after a bit, when

perhaps more news can be sent you in regard to the work, etc. Please remember me to all. The Americans are doing fine here and I believe are ready to 'hit the bell.' "

Mountain Named For Man Lost On Tuscania

OLYMPIA, April 27.—(Special.)—An unnamed mountain peak 6,000 feet high in the National forest between the Quinault and Rustler rivers will be named for Roy Muncaster, formerly a forest ranger, who was drowned when the Tuscania was torpedoed. On the recommendation of Forest Supervisor Fromme, District Supervisor Cecil of Portland has taken the naming of the mountain up with the United States forester. Muncaster enlisted in the 20th engineers, foresters, in Olympia. He was a member of the forest service force in this district at the time of his enlistment. He was popular in the service and well known throughout the entire district. The unnamed peak will be called Muncaster mountain.

"Tacoma (WA) Daily Ledger" Sunday 28 Apr 1918 p 4

Muncaster Mountain Named for Soldier

Muncaster mountain in the Olympic National forest has just been named in honor of Roy Muncaster, former district ranger in the Olympic forest, who met his death on the Tuscania.

The mountain was so named at the suggestion of members of the district forest service, who wanted to commemorate the ranger who died in the service. The name has received the sanction of the national geographic board. The mountain is located between the Quinault and Rustler rivers.

"Oregon Daily Journal" (Portland OR) Friday 12 Jul 1918 p 3

14
(From the Forest Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Portland, Ore.)

but
MOUNTAIN IN OLYMPICS NAMED
FOR DEPARTED FORESTER

JUL 12 1918 July 12, 1918.

The United States Geographic Board has approved the name of Muncaster Mountain for a previously unnamed peak in the Olympic Mountains, Washington, according to a letter from the Secretary of the Board, a copy of which has just been received by District Forester Geo. H. Cecil, of Portland. This action was recommended by members of the Forest Service to commemorate the name of former District Ranger Roy Muncaster, who lost his life in the Tuscania disaster while enroute to France as a private in the 20th Engineers (Forest) regiment. Mr. Muncaster came to the coast from Denver; was graduated from the University of Washington, College of Forestry, and was district ranger on the Olympic National Forest before enlisting in the 20th Engineers. His fighting spirit is indicated by his last words, spoken to E. E. Harpum, a brother forester, just before their life-boat went on the rocks: "Cheer up, Harp. We'll get the Kaiser yet".

Muncaster Mountain is located on the line between townships 24 and 25 north, range 7 west, north of Quinault River and south of Rustler River, - a tributary of the Quinault, - in the district of the Olympic National Forest formerly administered by Ranger Muncaster.



HOW MUNCASTER DIED

THE letter quoted below from Sergeant E. E. Harpham, former ranger and scaler on the Olympic national forest, but now with the American expeditionary forces in France, furnishes the first details received as to the exact nature of the death of Roy Muncaster, also a former ranger on the Olympic, and stationed at Quinault as a district ranger. Sergeant Harpham's description bears out the previous conjectures of the local forest force and of his other most intimate friends that he met death bravely and with unshaken faith in his self-determined mission to serve his fellow man and his country to the last. Both he and Harpham graduated in forestry at the University of Washington and enlisted in the Twentieth engineers, or forestry regiment, last December. Muncaster leaves a mother, three sisters and three brothers, most of whom reside in Denver, Colo.

Eighteen

Sergeant Harpham, who is with the headquarters detachment, Sixth battalion, Twentieth engineers, writes:

"Muncaster and I were on the *Tuscania* when she was torpedoed in the North channel February 5 and happened to be assigned by previous arrangement to the same life boat. We floated and rowed upon the rough waters of the channel from about 8 o'clock p. m. to 1 a. m., when the boat containing our crew of about sixty struck the rocky shoals off the Island of Islay, Scotland, and dashed into a dozen pieces. Muncaster was handling the oars when the boat struck the rocks and was very cool and courageous all through the terrible experience. I was very sick in the life boat myself and could do nothing but dip water to keep us from foundering. Just before we struck Roy slapped me on the back and said, 'Cheer up, Harp., we will get the kaiser yet.' That was the last I heard him say. After our boat was dashed to pieces I never saw Roy again, but learned for certain he was drowned and is buried near Port Ellen, Islay, Scotland. He received, with the others, a proper burial, with military escort, ministers, etc., and the American Red Cross is looking after the graves, monument, etc. Port Ellen can be reached in one day from Glasgow and good accommodations can be had there.

"I was one of the lucky nine saved from the original sixty in our life boat, but was badly bruised and nearly frozen. Was in the hospital several weeks, but am now back with the bunch again to 'do my bit,' and feel quite fit. I have met a number of fine people here, including some very good-looking Scotch girls, and am mighty glad I enlisted. We are all feeling fine again. The weather is good. I will write to you after a bit, when perhaps more news can be sent you in regard to the work, etc. Please remember me to all. The Americans are doing fine here and I believe are ready to 'hit the ball.'"



*Date from Forest Club Annual
College of Forestry
University of Washington
Seattle,
Washington*

Courtesy of Steven Schwartz of Renton WA

Forest Club Annual Is New Publication

Copies of the 1918 Forest club annual, published by members of the Forest club, college of forestry, University of Washington, are being received by members of the district forest service.

The annual is dedicated to the boys "over there," and for the frontispiece is a large service flag containing 101 stars, two of them in gold; for H. A. Reese and Roy Muncaster.

Articles are in the annual by A. G. Jackson, '10, forest examiner at the district forest service, on "Wartime Activities of the Forest Service;" William F. Ogburn, professor of sociology at University of Washington and formerly of Reed college, on "Causes and Remedies of Labor Unrest in the Lum-

ber Industry;" "Possibilities of Future Airplane Spruce Production in the Pacific Northwest," by Axel J. F. Brandstrom; "The Present Status of the

Wood Preserving Industry in the Pacific Northwest," by Bror L. Grondal, assistant professor of forestry, University of Washington.

"Oregon Daily Journal" (Portland OR) Sunday 21 Jul 1918 p 37

'U' HONORS ITS PATRIOT DEAD

**52 Gold Stars on Flag; Dean
Priest Speaks**

To pay tribute to the 52 Washington men who fell during the great war and to honor the 3,000 who, altho not called on to make the supreme sacrifice, were ready to go, the faculty and student body of the University held memorial services in Meany hall Thursday night.

[article continues]

A bronze tablet, inscribed with the name of every Washington war hero, will be placed in the new Union building. The names to be on the tablet are:

Lawrence E. Allen, Jeanette Barrows, Fred E. Bueler, Alfred J. Bradford, Donald Broxon, Leo F. Bennett, Herbert F. Canfield, Arthur E. Carlsson, Lloyd T. Cochran, Dow R. Cope, Edward C. Cunningham, William R. Cutler, Walter C. Dunbar, George Vernon Evans, James M. Eagleson, Charles N. Fletcher, Albert M. Farmer, Samuel Goodlick, George C. Gorham, Rhodes H. Gustafson, Nicholas C. Healy, Clarence J. Hemphill, Alfred C. Hiby, Earl M. Hoisington, Everett Hoke, Frank H. Hubbard, Howard D. Hughes, Clair Kinney, Harry Leavitt, Wilfred Lewis, Charles Lindberry, John H. Martin, Wilmot C. Morehouse, Adelbert D. McCleverty, William J. McDonald, Frank Everett McNutt, Roy Muncaster, Elmer J. Noble, Merle O'Rear, Samuel N. Parker, Gerald S. Patton, Lester B. Pickering, N. A. Rees, James R. Ristine, Walter Earl Shanley, Truman A. Starr, William S. Tucker, Homer W. Ward, Leon H. Wheeler, Harold C. White, Chester Wilson, Lukens P. Young.

"Seattle (WA) Star" Friday 30 May 1919 p 3

Forest Service Record—A permanent record of the forest service men who lost their lives while in the performance of their duties is to be kept at Washington, D. C., according to word received at the Portland office of the forest service. Three men from the Northwest will be listed on the honor roll—Roy Muncaster of the Olympic national forest; Stanley A. Augspurger, field assistant at Wind River experiment station, who died on the Tuscunia, and Donald Frazier, guard on the Oregon forest, who was killed in an airplane accident.

"Oregon Daily Journal" (Portland OR) Thursday 10 Mar 1921 p 11

RENAME MOUNTAIN PEAKS IN HONOR OF DEAD MEMBERS OF FORESTRY SERVICE

Muncaster Mountain within the Olympic National Forest, Washington, has already been officially named in memory of Forest Ranger Roy Muncaster, of the 20th Forestry Engineers who was lost on the "Tuscunia."

These changes in names of local peaks were recommended by the District Forester's office to the U. S. Geographic Board, which is the government committee made up of representatives of practically all the federal departments in Washington, D. C., that finally decide on the names and spelling of all topographic features that appear on all government maps.

District Forester's office of the office. Word has just been received at the official change in name of two peaks within the Oregon National Forest of two former forest officers.

Frazier Mountain in Clackamas County, formerly known as Shell Rock is named in memory of Donald R. Frazier, of Hood River, one time forest guard on the Oregon National Forest who was killed in an airplane accident at an aero training camp in England in April, 1918.

Mitchell Mountain, formerly Oak Grove Mt., in Clackamas County, is renamed in honor of Roy Mitchell who was killed while fighting fire on the Oregon National Forest on August 20, 1919.

"The Olympian" (Olympia WA) Thursday 17 Jan 1924 p 1

Name Mt. Olympus Glacier for Olympia Man Killed this Year

Word has just been received at the office of Forest Supervisor R. L. Fromme, Olympia, that the U. S. Geographic Board in its regular meeting in Washington, D. C., on November 12 adopted the name "Jeffers" for the glacier on the south side of Mount Olympus, formerly known as the University Glacier. This action was taken on recommendation of the local forest service approved by the district forester in Portland and the chief of the forest service in Washington, D. C.

All government maps hereafter published showing the Olympic region will carry the name Jeffers Glacier as one of the prominent topographic and scenic features on the south slope of Mount Olympus.

The change in name from University to Jeffers Glacier is in honor to Joseph C. Jeffers, a prominent photographer of Olympia, who lost his life on a daring climb over the top of Mount Olympus from north to south on the afternoon of last August 24. Mr. Jeffers was engaged at the time in securing some exceptional scenic close-up photographs of the most rugged region in the Olympics, and he met his death by slipping from the end of a rope while attempting a descent over a perpendicular cliff to the head of the steep and picturesque glacier which now bears his name. He was accompanied only by his son, Vibert, who was compelled to return over a very hazardous ice, snow and rock route to a forest service trail camp at the base of the north slope of the

mountain for assistance.

Two attempts were made to secure Mr. Jeffers' body, the first by two forest service patrolmen guided by Vibert Jeffers over the same route followed by his father, and the second by a large searching party with pack horses and special ice climbing equipment approaching the glacier from below under guidance of Henry Fuhrer, a Swiss guide loaned by the Rainier National park. Neither party was able to reach the exact spot at the head of the glacier where the body was buried, owing to a cliff that could not be negotiated from above, and an impassable crevasse in the glacier below. It was definitely determined, however, that the body was buried in the head of this former "University Glacier" under an avalanche of ice and rock.

The name University was originally applied by the forest supervisor at the time this glacier was first climbed and described in 1916. It was climbed then by former Forest Ranger Roy Muncaster, who lost his life on the Tuscania, and Forest Patrolman L. R. Hainsworth, both being students at the University of Washington. There is no knowledge of its ever having been climbed since, as there are several other glaciers which provide less hazardous routes to the top of Mount Olympus. The naming of Jeffers Glacier by the U. S. Geographic Board is felt by all who knew Joseph C. Jeffers intimately to be a very fitting action, the glacier serving as a monument to his natural courage and love for mountain heights.

The renaming of University Glacier on Mount Olympus to Jeffers Glacier – Roy Muncaster was the 1st to climb the glacier | 1916 - "The Olympian" (Olympia WA) Thursday 17 Jan 1924

Siblings:

MUNCASTER — In Oakland, Nov. 25, James E. Muncaster; a native of Colorado, aged 41 years. Remains was shipped Monday evening to Denver, Colorado, for interment.

Death notice of brother James Ewing Muncaster – “Oakland (CA) Tribune” Tuesday 27 Nov 1923 p 6



Sister Ethel Mae Muncaster Brown - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/1980644/person/182032687336/media/4aaca19-63e4-4e61-8186-30e7603a167a>

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<u>COLORADO</u>	WHITE: INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL ARMY OR ASSIGNED THERETO UPON ENLISTMENT			
<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF DEATH</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
Muncaster, Roy		Pvt	6 Bn Co D 20 Engrs	Feb 5/18

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/GQMT-LLT>



Islay's year of World War One commemorations will kick off in the New Year with events in January and February. January will see further planting of native trees at the new memorial woodland at Port Bhan on the shore of Lochindaal. Already, local volunteers, led by experts from the Woodland Trust Scotland and Tom Skinner from the Islay House Community Garden, have already planted 1500 saplings there. If you haven't already planted a tree, or you enjoyed yourself at the last planting, check the *Ileach* for the date of the next 'dig in.'



February the 5th – the centenary of the sinking of the troopship *Tuscania* by a U-boat off the Oa – will see two commemorative services on the island in honour of more than 200 American soldiers and British crew who lost their lives in the tragedy. One will take place at the American Monument on the Oa and the other at the military cemetery at Kilnaughton. After the services, a gathering at Number One Charlotte Street will celebrate the enormous efforts of local people to rescue and tend the survivors of the disaster and to recover, identify and bury with honour the bodies of the dead.

Kilnaughton military cemetery has a particular significance. Not only are British crewmen from the *Tuscania* buried there, but the one American soldier remaining on Islay from both the sinking of the *Tuscania* and the *Otranto* still lies there. Private Roy Muncaster had worked for the National Forest Service before enlisting in the US Army shortly after America declared war on Germany. Born to parents who had emigrated to Colorado from England, Roy Muncaster was a tall, fit, blue-eyed, cheerful American doughboy.

Muncaster served with the 20th Engineers, a forestry regiment that would manage French forests and turn trees into the timber necessary for barracks, bridges and duck boards for trenches. He was a graduate in forestry from University of Washington. The twenty-five-year-old had left his job as a ranger in Washington State's Olympic National Forest to join up.

On the evening of February 4th, he and the rest of the *SS Tuscania's* passengers were treated to an on-board entertainment, at which a Sergeant from Oregon sang the popular song, 'Asleep in the Deep.' It was an uncannily prophetic choice.

After the torpedo struck the practical forester, Roy Muncaster, and his fellow forester Sergeant Everett Harpham from Oregon, spent more than an hour struggling with the rope pulleys to launch lifeboats from the stricken ship for other men. Eventually they slid down a rope into what they believed to be the last boat to leave the foundering liner. They pulled away as fast as they could for fear of being sucked into the whirlpool that the *Tuscania* would create as she plunged to the bottom of the sea.

Many of those in the lifeboats were picked up by destroyers and naval trawlers – they were the lucky ones. A destroyer slid past the lifeboat that Everett Harpham and Roy Muncaster shared with as many as 60 others. A Royal Naval officer shouted to them: 'Float around a while boys. We'll pick you up later.' But the destroyer never came back. It was pitch black, the sea was rough and, as that bitterly cold February night wore on, the hopes of survivors who had not been picked up by destroyers or trawlers were fading. None of the men were dressed to withstand the cold, or the perishing waves that broke over them. They had no idea where they were heading.

By about 1.00 am – nearly six hours after the *Tuscania* was torpedoed – Everett Harpham and Roy Muncaster were desperately trying to row their frail lifeboat away from the seething waves that were smashing into the rocks of the Oa. When they had first glimpsed land through the darkness they thought they were heading for a wooded island, before realising what they were seeing were cliffs. An officer hurled his flashlight ashore, and the men on board could see white foam dashing high on the rocks.

Harpham described the fight with the sea. 'We tried to row away, but we had drifted so near that the breakers were taking us in faster than we would row in the overcrowded boat. Muncaster was handling the oars when the boat struck the rocks and was very cool and courageous all through the terrible experience. I was very sick in the lifeboat myself and could do nothing but dip water to keep us from foundering. Just before we struck Roy slapped me on the back and said, "Cheer up Harp, we will get the Kaiser yet." That was the last I heard him say. Finally our boat struck a rock with a terrific crash and broke in a dozen pieces and after that it was every man for himself.'

Later that day, Muncaster was found drowned.

In 1920, most of the bodies of Americans buried on Islay were exhumed and repatriated to the USA, or buried in the American Cemetery at Brookwood in Surrey. However, one American still lies buried in Islay soil – Private Roy Muncaster. He left a mother and three sisters in Denver, Colorado. His family's wishes were that their son and brother remained where the people of Islay buried him

with respect and sorrow, and to the sound of a lament played on the Highland pipes as a homemade American flag fretted in the wind. Roy Muncaster is commemorated in the Olympic National Forest in Washington State, where a mountain is named after him in the area he once served as forest ranger.



Mount Muncaster

<https://ww100islay.com/private-roy-muncaster/>



<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15905749.remembering-tragedy-sea-brought-horrors-war-islay-shores/>



At the grave of Roy Muncaster – (left:) Lord George Robertson (native of Islay, Scotland, former Defence Minister of the UK, former secretary/general of NATO) and (right:) U.S. ambassador to the UK Robert (Woody) Johnson, May 2018 -

<https://twitter.com/USAmbUK/status/992344620712460288/photo/1>



<https://www.irvinetimes.com/news/national-news/15921173.islanders-mark-100-years-since-war-ship-sank-leaving-200-dead/>

Name: Roy Muncaster

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 16th/Co. D - private

Serial number: serial numbers were not assigned to Army enlisted men until after the sinking of the Tuscania showed their value, so Roy died without one

Entered service from: Denver CO

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Roy Muncaster

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": mother Mrs. W.J. Muncaster, 1460 Corona Ave., Denver CO

Buried on the isle of Islay, Scotland, at

The only one of the Tuscania soldier burials on Islay not to be exhumed. Originally buried at Kinnabus, in grave #19.

World War I draft registration (1917): as Roy Muncaster - b. 14 Mar 1892 Rico CO; res: 4503 – 17th NE, Seattle WA. Single. District forest ranger, US Government, Quinault WA. Military experience: UW Cadets, 6 months, Washington. "I claim exemption as an executive officer in the government." Tall with medium build.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlistment & discharge dates not listed.

Born 14 Mar 1892

Died 6 Feb 1918

Address: Newark NJ

Rank/unit: private, Co. D, 6th Battalion, 20th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 14 Mar 1892 [Mar 1890 in 1900 census – there is a conflict with birthdate of sister Ethel, b. Apr 1892] Rico, Dolores CO

Died: 5 Feb 1918 Tuscania

Find A Grave record: 24438756 – photo – presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Mull of Oa, Isle of Islay, Argyll & Bute, Scotland

Cemetery: Kilnaughton Military Cemetery

Tombstone: tombstone: D. Coy / 6th Batt. 20th Engineers / U.S. Army

Father: William James Muncaster, 18 Oct 1853 [tombstone: 1854] England {Helsingham, Cumberland, England – 1 Dec 1905 Victor, Teller CO. Ancestry.com family tree at

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/1980644/person/182032687335/facts>

attributes parentage to Ferdinando Muncaster Jr. (1831-1894) & Mary Ann Smallwood (1833-1900) but found them listed as his aunt & uncle. Family tree believes Ferdinando's sister Catherine may be William's biological mother; she was a servant employed by William Davidson in 1851. On William's baptismal record on 4 Feb 1855 in Helsingham, Cumberland, England, William's mother is listed as Catherine Muncaster. William & Ferdinando were both iron miners in England, and William was a miner in the US after he immigrated. Buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Denver CO.

Find A Grave: 203283023

Mother: Elizabeth Ewing Muncaster, 11 Mar 1853 Cumbria, England – 5 Oct 1923

[interment date] Denver, Denver CO. Buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Denver CO.

Find A Grave: 126573101

Parents' marriage: Apr 1875 Helsingham, Cumberland, England

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Siblings: In the 1900 census, his mother Elizabeth reports giving birth to 10 children, 7 of whom are living. Listed are John, Elizabeth, James, Edith, William, Roy & Ethel. – In the 1910 census, Elizabeth reports giving birth to 9 children, 7 of whom are living.

- John Muncaster, 14 Mar 1876 Cumbria, England – 1952 Denver, Denver CO. SSN 524-09-2242. Married on 27 Nov 1901 in Rico, Dolores CO to Helen A. Thompson (1879-1962, F: 55093640). Buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Denver CO. F: 55093642
- Elizabeth Muncaster, Mar 1880 Cumbria, England – 14 Dec 1943 Denver, Denver CO. Buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Denver CO. F: 126573100

- James Ewing Muncaster, 27 May 1882 Rico, Dolores CO – 25 Nov 1923 Oakland, Alameda CA. Buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Denver CO. F: 55093344
- Edith Agnes Muncaster, 30 Sep 1885 Rico, Dolores CO – Jul 1960 Denver, Denver CO. Buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Denver CO. F: 203282874
- William Pearce Muncaster, 30 Sep 1887 Rico, Dolores CO – 11 Feb 1962 Denver, Denver CO. Death date found in Veterans Administration Military Index. Buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, Denver CO. F: 203282027
- Ethel (Ethyl) Mae Muncaster Brown, 3 Apr 1892 Rico, Dolores CO – 3 May 1948 McCook, Red Willow NE. Married in 1920 in Denver CO to Merritt Thomas Brown (1885-1968, F: 203299048). Buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, McCook, Red Willow NE. F: 203299169

Notes:

Colorado newspapers are not available on Newspapers.com for the time period needed.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

Post-war:

Obituary:

Censuses:

1900 Rico, Dolores CO – this census enumerator provided date/month/year of birth

J. William Muncaster, 46 England, 18 Oct 1853, parents b. England, married 25 years, emigrated 1879, in US for 20 years, naturalized, ore mining

Elizabeth, 46 England, 11 Mar 1853 England, parents b. England, gave birth to 10 children, 7 are living

John, 24 England, 14 Mar 1876, ore miner

Elizabeth, 20 England, 12 Mar (?) 1880, clerk, DY (?) store

E. James, 18 CO, 27 May 1882

Edith, 14 CO, 30 Sep 1888

W. Pearce, 11 (14?) CO, Mar 1890

Roy, 10 CO, Mar 1890

Ethel, 8 CO, 2 [month?] 1892.

1910 Denver, Denver CO

Elizabeth Muncaster, 55 England, widow, parents b. England, emigrated 1881, gave birth to 9 children, 7 are living, housekeeper, rooming house

Elizabeth, 26 England, emigrated 1884, single, stenographer, office

Edith A., 24 CO, teacher, public school

William P., 22 CO, bookkeeper, private club

Roy, 20 CO
Ethel M., 18 CO