

Wartime Casualties on Hospital Hill Memorial



This memorial honours all who perished during World War II while on active duty or working at RCAF Station Patricia Bay, or who were aboard aircraft from that base. In all, 180 men and women lost their lives. Overleaf is a list of all people and the number of the feather where they are named. Below is shown the location of each feather. Feather 1, 2 and 3 are at the start of the path numbered from left to right.



Victoria International Airport Memorial *Airmen of the Lost Empire*

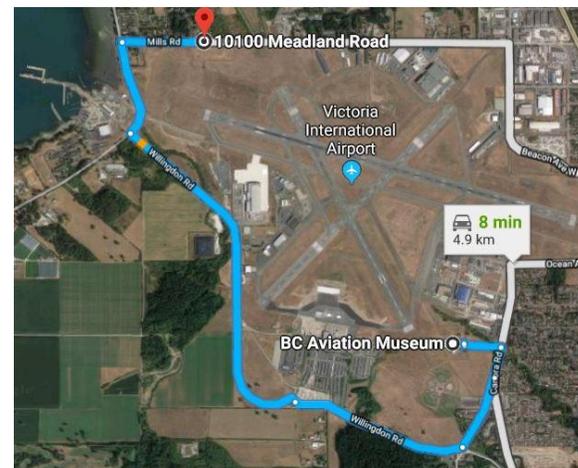
Dedicated in 2017, the memorial is the work of local artist Illarion Gallant, who has numerous other works in the area, including the flowers in front of the Victoria Airport Terminal, and the *Commerce Canoe* in Bastion Square.

The memorial is situated on Hospital Hill, the airfield's highest point of land and the former site of the base infirmary. Directly South is a commanding view of the airport; to the East is stately Mount Baker; and to the West is Patricia Bay with the Malahat range in the background.

The approach to the memorial from the path is flanked by the original gate-posts of the airfield, and a lane of Red Maple Trees; a national symbol of Canada. At the end of the lane is a plinth, fashioned from the bricks of the airfield's original Administration Building. Arranged chronologically in the field behind are the names of the lost, inscribed on 8-foot feathers of Corten Steel, which ages naturally.

These are Cooper's Hawk feathers, selected by the artist as being a bird of prey local to the region, and an important symbol to the original indigenous inhabitants of the area. The memorial is a quiet, contemplative and fitting tribute to the fallen.

How to get there from BCAM



At the end of the laneway to the Museum turn right and then take the right fork off Canora Rd. At the roundabout head towards the Airport, drive past the terminal and carry on to a Stop sign. Make a right and just after the church turn right onto Mills Rd. Drive up the hill and just over the crest is a small gravel parking lot on your side of the road. Walk a short way back up the hill to the memorial.

On the way to the memorial, just past the Spitfire Grill, you will see a WW2-vintage hangar and at the water is the original seaplane base. For most of the Second World War, RCAF Station Patricia Bay was the 3rd-largest airfield in Canada and played a critical role in that conflict.

