

# THE MISSING AIRMAN

O, sometimes yet I feel lonely,  
For him who went away overseas;  
Times healing wing, and time only,  
Can soothe the empty heart with ease.

That parting hour was hard to bear,  
When we shook hands and said good-bye.  
Hope alone breathed over our prayer,  
While tears rose up and dimmed each eye.

But our Mother, in sore distress,  
Was heard from o'er the restless wave.  
Her sons falter'd not in her stress,  
It was victory, or the grave.

Jim sleeps, with many comrades brave,  
Sleep on; your battle is done.  
No lonely cross will mark the grave,  
Where rests the Empire's warrior son.

## Wchihle lunuween pumihleeshiiwii ahkumahkwat

Tahtaas iiyach nii numaamayaniiluni  
Eelu neeka aween kwaxkakeew wahlumat (be far away)  
Sahku kiikeeheew chaskuneew waak sahu shukw  
Wiichumeew Alaxan wteeh naxpii aapuwixun

Loosoomew sahu ahwat ooshaweelundam  
Eenda kiiloona ksakiinaxkeeneewihna waak leew laapii uch kuneewultihna  
Nahkeewsuwaan leexeew paalihleew kiiloona pahtamaweelxaweewihna  
Naakeesh akeexpeengweew paasteew waak matatawaapuw (hard time seeing)

Shukw kukuna, ooshaweelundam (feel grief)  
Lustaweew wunj kwaxkakeew (go across the water)  
Neeka kwiisusak mahta pooniitooow neeli neeka ooshaweelundam  
Neeka pumohkaasu, shukw machiiyay

Njiim wunaxpii-kawit xweeli njoosumak maskaniiteeheewak  
Kawihmwa meekal kii kuwiichoohuweew kehkoohaawatuwak  
Mahta maamayaniilunuw aashteeteihiikan waxkiichi machiiyay  
Eenda alaaxiimuwaan shuwanakwunj tali soochul kwiissuw

## Nelson Moses

This poem was written in 1917 by Nelson Moses of the Delaware Band on the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve, near Brantford, Ontario. During the First World War, his son Lieutenant James David Moses was an air gunner and observer in a DH-4 aircraft in No. 57 Squadron of the RAF. Nelson wrote the poem shortly after his beloved son was declared missing in action.

Originally written in English, "The Missing Airman" was translated into Luunape by Ian McCallum and Elders from the Munsee Delaware nation near London, Ontario.

James D. Moses with other officers  
of the 107th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

ca 1916

Front row, left to right: Lt O.M. Martin,  
A.L. Cavanaugh, H. Dawson.

Back row, left to right: Lt F. Riley,  
L.V. Smith, Lt James D. Moses.

James D. Moses served aboard  
a de Havilland DH-4.

ca 1918

James D. Moses serving with "Brock's Rangers,"  
the 114th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

ca 1915

*iyach nii numaamayaniiluni  
neeka aween kwaxkakeew wahlumat  
kiikeeheew chaskuneew waak sahu shukw  
teeh naxpii aapuwixun*

