



Character A

The posters of Lord Kitchener said our country needed us so me and my pals all joined up on the same day in 1915. I'm proud of how we fought but many of my friends were killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in July 1916 and my best friend died in my arms, his face half blown away. We all suffered and there are things I saw which I'll never talk about, especially now I've got back home (they wouldn't believe me anyway). I didn't really hate the enemy but everyone heard the story of the crucified Canadian soldier and I served alongside some really great Canadians at the front so when I heard about this exhibition thought I'd come to it to remind myself of them. The sculpture made me really angry and sad at the same time. It reminded me of everything that the government said we were fighting the war for and it makes me hope the peace will really punish Germany so they can never start another war. However I'm also really angry because the politicians promised in the election that England would be "A land fit for heroes " but I still don't have a job. Makes you wonder what we were all really fighting for.

Character B

I was really, really shocked by this sculpture because it is clearly based on one of those false atrocity stories spread by Beaverbrook to stir up hatred against Germans. The artists should be ashamed of themselves for taking Beaverbrook's money. God wants all people to live as equal brothers and sisters. If only all soldiers on all sides did as we Quakers did and refused to fight the war would have been over in a day. It's only our politicians, bankers, arms manufacturers and generals who have gained anything.

Character C

I'm really proud of how we Canadians fought on the Western Front. Although the war was terrible it really pulled all us soldiers together. I was in Ypres in the spring of 1915 and I remember those terrible stories of the crucified soldier. It shocked us then and made us even more determined to fight the Boche (enemy). The sculpture is very powerful and shocking. The Germans are mocking the crucified soldier just like Roman soldiers mocked Christ. I hope future generations of Canadians will see the sculpture and that they will be reminded of the sacrifice of their country in defeating a terrible enemy.

Character D

This sculpture is very shocking because it is based on what is probably yet another government lie. Early in the war we were all taken in by those atrocity stories and posters showing German soldiers bayoneting Belgian babies to recruit men and stir up hatred against the enemy. It makes me very angry to think that so many of the men I fought with died for these lies.



Character E

My husband died on the Western Front and not a day goes by when I don't miss him or cry for him. But I'm a private person and I have to go on for the sake of my children. I go to mass every week and pray for my husband's soul. When I saw the picture of the sculpture I was very shocked because it reminded me of the crucifixion scene on the altarpiece of my church. At first I thought how dare the artist compare a common soldier to our Lord (*Jesus*)? But then the sculpture reminded me that my husband suffered when he died and this Canadian soldier also gave his life for his country just like our Lord died for everyone at the hands of a brutal enemy. It reminded me that my husband died for God, King and country.

Character F

I have been very moved by the suffering of our ordinary soldiers. I still feel guilty that I could not serve in the trenches with them. However I have used the little talent I have to help those that have disfigured faces to live a normal life again. I was honoured when Lord Beaverbrook invited me to create a sculpture for the Canadian War Memorials Fund. I have always been deeply shocked by the story of the crucified Canadian soldier and I wanted to create a work of art that would honour that soldier and remind Canadians and others that see the sculpture of the brutality of our enemy. I also hope that it will remind future generations of what our soldiers sacrificed.

Character G

As British minister of information I was always taken aback by the brutality of the German army. This moving sculpture reminds us of one of the most shocking atrocities of the whole war and shows us why we have all been fighting for the British Empire against this merciless enemy. It is very important that we record accurately the actions and suffering of our soldiers so that future generations will never forget the role Canadian soldiers played in the war for freedom.

Character H

The sculpture is a powerful way of reminding the British public of the brutality of our enemy. Our job in government was to turn accurate stories of German atrocities like that of the crucified Canadian soldier into propaganda to keep up morale on the Western Front and the Home Front. The artist has produced a work of art much more powerful than a picture or a poster and I admire the way that he has linked this terrible scene to religious feelings. It is true that at times the government deliberately exaggerated information or made up stories to make people hate the enemy but it is not true of this story.