

## Victory Square Lament

by Christina Barber

Monument in Victory Square  
Erected there, a solemn prayer  
Grey granite obelisk in stead  
Marks the passing of our dead  
One Great War laid innocence bare

Bagpipes skirl, lead in to this affair  
At ease, remove the caps they wear  
On lapels flare Poppies crimson red  
Our monument in Victory Square

Veterans, in honour standing there  
While the flypast drones the air  
Last Post, Reveille resound overhead  
Hymns sung; poetry read  
Promises made, burdens to share  
Our monument in Victory Square

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Witnessed by a thousand eyes  
April city springs to cries  
Of *Strike!*; workers, jobless, veterans attacked  
To standoff, police were quick to react  
Flee to the Square, strikers stabilize

When delegates returned with no replies  
McGeer took steps to neutralize  
With odds, against them, stacked  
Witnessed by a thousand eyes

Rationale: countering Communist spies  
Mayor's moment to self-aggrandize  
*God Save the King!* Read the Riot Act  
Anger, resentment boiled, tensions cracked  
Trek-on-to-Ottawa!, the crowd decries  
Witnessed by a thousand eyes

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Faraway shores  
March sons, proudly, while the crowd roars  
Saluting past the monument  
The Lost Generation too cognizant  
Sacrifices, demands of wars

Weary feet-body-mind deplores  
Hailing bullets, like spring downpours  
On a distant continent  
Faraway shores

Home again, seek simple splendours  
Remembrance beyond memorial gym doors  
Standing tall, humble monument  
Yours too, for those lost, the complement  
On beaches, valleys, fields, lie scores  
Home now, those faraway shores

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*All ye that pass by*  
Who stand under November's sky  
What of others there, who make do?  
Downtrodden, forgotten, seen through  
Poverty, the Square does magnify

Against tyranny, soldiers solidify  
For freedom and peace fortify  
The plinth recalls, "*Is it nothing to you?*"  
*All ye that pass by*

The many who hurt, who cry  
To be seen, heard and to ally  
Wherefore did we lose those of virtue?  
*Their name liveth for evermore?*  
Walking there, turn not a blind eye  
*All ye that pass by*

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Monument in Victory Square  
Erected there, a solemn prayer  
Grey granite obelisk in stead  
Marks the passing of our dead  
Too many wars laid innocence bare

Bagpipes skirl, lead in to this affair  
At ease, remove the caps they wear  
On lapels burn Poppies, crimson red  
A moment of silence ...

Veterans, in honour standing there  
While the flypast drones the air  
Last Post, Reveille resound overhead  
Angelic voices rise, tears shed  
Promises made, burdens to share  
Monument in Victory Square

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