

**Private Peter McDonald Begg<sup>©</sup>**  
**Regimental number: 41645**  
**5/6th Battalion, The Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment)**

**born: about 1899 – died: 24 August 1917**

Private Peter McDonald Begg was born in about 1899 in Aberdeen, the eldest son of Henry and Jessie Begg. His father was born in Aberdeen in about 1877 and his mother in about 1880 in Skene, Aberdeenshire.<sup>1</sup> They had at least six children: Margaret (born in about 1904), Henry (born in about 1906), Jessie (born in about 1909), Robert (born in about 1911), Elizabeth (born in about 1914) and Catherine (born in about 1919).<sup>2</sup> In 1911, the family was living in Greyfriars, Aberdeen, where Peter's father was a slater's labourer.<sup>3</sup>

Peter enlisted in the army at the age of 18. When he enlisted on 13 February 1917 in Aberdeen, he was living at 145 West Knot Street, Aberdeen. He was 5' 2¼" tall and a carter. On 3 July 1917, he travelled from Folkestone to Boulogne to join the Western Front. A few weeks later he transferred to the 5/6th Battalion of The Royal Scots. A year before, the 1/6th Battalion had amalgamated with 1/5th to become the 5/6th Battalion.<sup>4</sup>

Less than a month after joining the battalion, Peter was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shell wounds. He died the same day and was buried the following day in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: B. 14).<sup>5</sup> Adinkerke Military Cemetery is 20 kilometres east of Dunkirk, in the community of De Panne, just across the border into Belgium. There are 168 Commonwealth soldiers from the Great War buried in the cemetery.<sup>6</sup>

Peter's mother, who was living at 8 Princes Street in Aberdeen, was his next of kin and was notified of his death.<sup>7</sup> The monies owing to him from the army upon his death were given to his father,<sup>8</sup> as were his personal effects. The latter included, among other things, letters, photos, a religious book, a letter case, a cigarette case and a cap badge.<sup>9</sup>

Peter was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "1911 Scotland census," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 25 May 2016) entry for Peter Begg, District: St Nicholas, City/County: Aberdeen City/Aberdeen, GROS Data: 168/01 016/00 004

<sup>2</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 24 May 2016), entry for Peter McDonald Begg

<sup>3</sup> "1911 Scotland census," entry for Peter Begg

<sup>4</sup> "Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment)," *The Long, Long Trail: The British Army in the Great War of 1914–1918* (<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-british-infantry-regiments-of-1914-1918/royal-scots-lothian-regiment/>: accessed 25 May 2016)

<sup>5</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 – 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 348

<sup>6</sup> "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 30 April 2016)

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<sup>7</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 – 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 348

<sup>8</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 24 May 2016), entry for Peter McDonald Begg

<sup>9</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," entry for Peter McDonald Begg

<sup>10</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 24 May 2016), entry for Peter McD Begg