

Private Robert Ross Andrew[©]

Regimental number: 291374

"A" Company, 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders

born: 1890 – died: 24 April 1918

Private Robert Ross Andrew was the first child of David and Margaret Andrew. He was born in 1890 in Greenock, Renfrewshire, in Scotland.¹ David and Margaret McKell Ross had married in Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire, in 1888.² A second son followed a few years after Robert's birth—William Ross, born in Greenock West in 1894.³ David was then 41 and this was his second family.

David had married his first wife, the former Christina Kennedy, on 24 December 1874 in Abbey Paisley, Renfrewshire⁴, but sadly she died in 1886⁵ leaving him with at least seven children ten years of age and younger:

- Alexander Kennedy (born in about 1876),
- Daniel (born in about 1877),
- Christina (born 2 April 1879 in Abbey Paisley),⁶
- David (born in about 1880),
- James Provan (born in about 1881),
- Jane Provan (Jeanie) (born in about 1883) and
- Mary (born in about 1884).⁷

In 1881, David and his first wife Christina were living at 41 Lyndoch Street, in Greenock Middle, Renfrewshire.⁸ Christina died five years later and, after his marriage to Margaret, David and the children had moved to 18 Kelly Street in Greenock, where David was a pawnbroker.⁹ In 1901, he was a shopfitter's salesman and the family was living at 9 Trafalgar Street, still in Greenock.¹⁰

It is not clear where the family was in 1911, but in 1914, Robert married Mabel Young in Pollokshields, near Glasgow.¹¹

Two years after his marriage, Robert joined the British Expeditionary Force. He enlisted in Glasgow in about March 1916¹² and served as a private with the 1st Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders.¹³ The Highlanders were part of the 76th Infantry Brigade and, in April 1918, were in the trenches near Vendin-lès-Béthune, just west of Béthune.¹⁴ The Brigade was in the process of being relieved by the 9th Infantry Brigade on 23 April when Robert was fatally injured. It is not known how he was injured but he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station that day with gunshot wounds to his right arm and knee, his left thigh and knee and his head.¹⁵ He died the following day and was buried on 25 April in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row A, Grave No. 2) with the Canadian chaplain Robert K. Lambert presiding.

Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance. Robert was one of 188 soldiers admitted on 23 April and one of 46 soldiers to die at the station that month.¹⁶

The chaplain sent a letter to his wife at 50 Braeside Street in Kelvinside, North Glasgow, to notify her of his death.¹⁷ She received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death¹⁸ and requested the following inscription for his gravestone:

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD
WHICH DIE IN THE LORD¹⁹

Robert was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁰ He is also remembered on Inverclyde's online roll of honour.²¹

Four of the Andrew sons served in the Great War—three lost their lives; Robert was the last.

James was both the first to enlist and the first to die. He had enlisted at the outbreak of the war²² and died in Flanders only a few months later. He was serving as a private (regimental number: 6334) with the 1st Battalion of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders when he was killed in action on 22 October 1914.²³ He has no known grave but is remembered on the Menin Gate memorial, in Ypres, Belgium. Like his brother, James was awarded posthumously the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He was also awarded the 1914–15 Star, for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915. He is recognized on Inverclyde's online roll of honour.²⁴

Robert's eldest half-brother **Alexander** was the next to enlist. He signed up for the war effort on 11 October 1915, at the age of 40. He enlisted as a private in London, England, even though he was living at 759 Pollokshaw Road in Glasgow.²⁵ He joined the Army Service Corps (regimental number: 298909) and in October sailed to the Mediterranean, disembarking in Mudros, Greece. While there in November, he was posted to the 27th Labour Corps. He sailed on to Alexandria, Egypt, in February 1916 and, shortly after, turned around and sailed back to Europe, arriving in Marseilles in April 1916. He remained with the Labour Corps until the end of the war and returned to England in February 1919. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and, since he enlisted early in the war, he was also awarded the 1914–15 Star.

Robert and his brother **William** enlisted only a few months apart. Two years before he enlisted, William married Anna Sophia Welch on 20 March 1914, when he was an insurance clerk, living at 28 Bute Terrace at Queen's Park in Glasgow.²⁶ He enlisted in about June 1916²⁷ in Camberwell, Surrey and served as a private (regimental number: 22768) with the 13th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment.²⁸ He was killed in action on 26 November 1917. Like his brother James, he has no known grave and is remembered on the Cambrai Memorial (Panel 6) in the Louverval Military Cemetery in Louverval, France. Like his brothers Robert and James he is also remembered on Inverclyde's online roll of honour.²⁹

At least two of Robert's siblings went to America. **David** went to the United States in 1896³⁰ and, on 28 June 1904, married Mabel A. Lennox,³¹ a Canadian from Huron East, north of London, Ontario.³² They were married in Detroit, Michigan and were living there in 1910.³³ David was a chief clerk in the paint and varnish industry³⁴ but, by 1940, he was a vice president in the same industry.³⁵ He died on 27 December 1945 in Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga, Ohio.

David's sister **Christina** also immigrated to the United States and lived just a few miles from David and Mabel. She had married David Allan in Greenock in 1902³⁶ and they arrived in the States in 1906.³⁷ In 1920, they were living in River Rouge, just outside Detroit, where David Allan was a shop fitter, working in the ship building industry. Sadly, Christina died on 8 April 1928,³⁸ just after her 49th birthday, leaving her husband and at least one son.³⁹

Little is known about Robert's other siblings. **Jeanie** married Alexander Walker in Plantation, near Glasgow, in 1920.⁴⁰ Nothing is known about **Daniel** or **Mary**.

© 2019 BIFHSGO

-
- ¹ "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 June 2019), entry for Robert Andrew, Enumeration district: 27, Household schedule number: 52 Line: 15, Roll: CSSCT1891_182
 - ² "Index of Statutory Registers–Marriages," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 5 November 2019), entry for Ross, Margaret McKell, Reference: 574/ 10, Registration district: Port Glasgow
 - ³ "Index of Statutory Registers–Birth," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 5 November 2019), entry for Andrew, William Ross, Reference: 564/2 67, Registration district: Greenock West
 - ⁴ "Scotland, Select Marriages, 1561–1910," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 November 2019), entry for Christina Kennedy, FHL film number: 6035516
 - ⁵ "Index of Statutory Registers–Deaths," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 5 November 2019), entry for Andrew, Christina, Reference: 564/3 118, Registration district: Greenock Old or West
 - ⁶ "Michigan, Death Records, 1867–1952," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 November 2019), entry for Christina Allan, File number: 096293
 - ⁷ "1891 Scotland Census," entry for Robert Andrew
 - ⁸ "1881 Scotland census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 November 2019), entry for David Andrew, Enumeration District: 36, Household schedule number: 81, LINE: 21, Roll: cssct1881_164
 - ⁹ "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Robert Andrew
 - ¹⁰ "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 November 2019), entry for Robert Andrew, Enumeration district: 12, Household schedule number: 125, Line: 13, Roll: CSSCT1901_193
 - ¹¹ "Index of Statutory Registers–Marriages," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 5 November 2019), entry for Andrew, Robert, Reference: 644/18 357, Registration district: Pollokshields
 - ¹² Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2019), entry for Robert Andrew
 - ¹³ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 4 November 2019), entry for Andrew, R.
 - ¹⁴ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 November 2019), Division: 3rd Division, Piece 1434/1-3: 76 Infantry Brigade: Headquarters (1918 Jan–1919 Mar)
 - ¹⁵ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," entry for Andrew, R.
 - ¹⁶ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/results/images?module=images&SortSpec=score+desc&Language=eng&ShowForm=hide&SearchIn_1=mikanNumber&SearchInText_1=2005082&Operator_1=AND&SearchIn_2=&SearchInText_2=&Operator_2=AND&SearchIn_3=&SearchInText_3=&Level=&MaterialDateOperator=after&MaterialDate=&DigitalImages=1&Source=&ResultCount=10: accessed 28 March 2018)
 - ¹⁷ Ibid.
 - ¹⁸ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," entry for Robert Andrew
 - ¹⁹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 4 November 2019), entry for Andrew, Robert Ross, Service No: 291374
 - ²⁰ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2019), entry for Harry Reuben Knight
 - ²¹ *1914–18 Inverclyde's Great War* (<http://www.inverclydeww1.org/honour-roll/list/a>: accessed 3 November 2019), entry for Robert Ross Andrew

-
- ²² Based on “War Gratuity Calculator;” “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 October 2019), entry for James Provan Andrews
- ²³ “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 November 2019), entry for James Proven [sic] Andrew
- ²⁴ *1914–18 Inverclyde's Great War* (<http://www.inverclydeww1.org/honour-roll/list/a>: accessed 3 November 2019), entry for James Proven [sic] Andrew
- ²⁵ “British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 November 2019), entry for Alexander Kennedy Andrew. Unless otherwise specified, all information about Alexander's military service comes from this source.
- ²⁶ “Statutory Registers–Marriages,” *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 13 November 2019), entry for Andrew, William Ross, District: Glasgow, City/County: Lanark, 644/10 0379
- ²⁷ Based on “War Gratuity Calculator;” “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 November 2019), entry for William Rass Andrews [sic]
- ²⁸ Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour William Ross Andrew
<https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead>
- ²⁹ *1914–18 Inverclyde's Great War* (<http://www.inverclydeww1.org/honour-roll/list/a>: accessed 3 November 2019), entry for William Ross Andrews [sic]
- ³⁰ “1910 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 November 2019), entry for David J. Andrew
- ³¹ “Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867–1952,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 November 2019), entry for David Andrew, Record number: 42975
- ³² “1891 Census of Canada,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 November 2019), entry for Mabel Lennox, Province: Manitoba, District number: 2, Enumeration District: 76
- ³³ “1910 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry*, entry for David J. Andrew
- ³⁴ *Ibid.*
- ³⁵ “1940 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 November 2019), entry for David J. Andrew
- ³⁶ Christina m Allan Details?
- ³⁷ “1920 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 November 2019), entry for Christina Allan
- ³⁸ “Michigan, Death Records, 1867–1952,” *Ancestry*, entry for Christina Allan
- ³⁹ “1920 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry*, entry for Christina Allan
- ⁴⁰ “Index of Statutory Registers–Marriages,” *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 5 November 2019) entry for Andrew, Jeanie Provan, Reference: 644/20 154, Registration district: Plantation