

**Private Robert Campbell**<sup>©</sup>  
**Regimental number: 11763**  
**2nd Battalion, Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment)**

**born: about 1888–died: 5 May 1918**

Private Robert Campbell was born in about 1888, the son of George and Isabella Campbell.<sup>1</sup> Both Robert and his parents were born in Edinburgh, Scotland—George William in about 1851<sup>2</sup> and Isabella (the former Isabella Brown)<sup>3</sup> in about 1854.<sup>4</sup> George and Isabella probably had at least nine children:

- Mary (born in about 1875),
- Helen (born in about 1877),
- Isabella (born in about 1879),
- George (born in about 1880),<sup>5</sup>
- Matthew (born in about 1883),
- Matilda (born in about 1885),
- Robert,
- William (born in about 1889)<sup>6</sup> and
- Alfred (born in about 1893).<sup>7</sup>

George worked in the printing business. In 1881, he was a machine printer and the family was living at 8 Violet Bank in Edinburgh.<sup>8</sup> Ten years later, they were all at 17 St James Square and George was now a letterpress machine man.<sup>9</sup> He had the same occupation and the family was living at the same address in 1901.<sup>10</sup>

Sometime in 1907, George developed pulmonary tuberculosis. He died of exhaustion as a result of his illness, in his home on St James Square on 23 February 1909.<sup>11</sup> His daughter Helen, who had married Mr. Loftus, reported the death.

Robert enlisted in the Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment) in Edinburgh<sup>12</sup> in about September 1914.<sup>13</sup> He served in the 2nd Battalion, which was the regiment's first battalion deployed in the Great War. The 2nd Battalion had been serving in India from 1891 to 1909 when it was relieved by the 1st Battalion. The 2nd Battalion remained in England until it was deployed to the Western Front on 14 August 1914.<sup>14</sup>

Robert went to Europe with his battalion<sup>15</sup> and saw most of the major battles on the Western Front.<sup>16</sup> He survived on the Front for nearly four years but, on 4 May 1918, he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds and a fractured skull. He died there the following day and was buried the next day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row B, Grave 1) with the Canadian chaplain G. C. d'Easum presiding.<sup>17</sup>

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.<sup>18</sup> Robert was one of 185 soldiers admitted to the station on 4 May and one of 115 soldiers to die there in May 1918.<sup>19</sup>

Robert's mothers and his brother George received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>20</sup>

Robert was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 20 May 2019), entry for Campbell, Robert, Service No: 11763

<sup>2</sup> "Statutory Registers–Deaths," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 4 July 2019), entry for Campbell, George William, Reference: 685/267

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 May 2019), entry for Robert Campbell, Enumeration district: 47, Household schedule number: 62, Line: 20, Roll: CSSCT1891\_342

<sup>5</sup> "1881 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 May 2019), entry for George Campbell, Enumeration District: 37, Household schedule number: 67, Line: 1, Roll: cssct1881\_287

<sup>6</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Robert Campbell

<sup>7</sup> "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 July 2019), entry for Robert Campbell, Enumeration district: 50, Household schedule number: 49, Line: 7, Roll: CSSCT1901\_373

<sup>8</sup> "1881 Scotland census," *Ancestry*, entry for George Campbell

<sup>9</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Robert Campbell

<sup>10</sup> "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 July 2019), entry for Robert Campbell

<sup>11</sup> "Statutory Registers–Deaths," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 4 July 2019), entry for Campbell, George William

<sup>12</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 May 2019), entry for Robert Campbell

<sup>13</sup> 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](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 May 2019), entry for Robert Campbell

<sup>14</sup> "Royal Scots." *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Scots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Scots) : accessed 4 July 2019)

<sup>15</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 July 2019), entry for Robert Campbell

<sup>16</sup> "Royal Scots." *Wikipedia*

<sup>17</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 20 May 2019), entry for Campbell, R.

<sup>18</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 13 January 2015)

<sup>19</sup> "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](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)

<sup>20</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 May 2019), entry for Robert Campbell

<sup>21</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry*, entry for Robert Campbell