

## **Private Albert Gruar**

**Regimental number: 23874**

**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)**

**born: about 1895 - died: 11 July 1918**

Private Albert Gruar, born in about 1895, was the son of Robert and Euphemia Gruar of Dundee, Forfarshire in Scotland.<sup>1</sup> It would appear that Robert first married Margaret Patrick in 1872 and then married Euphemia McCombie in 1881.<sup>2</sup> With his two wives, he had at least twelve children: James (born in about 1873), David P. (born in about 1877), Andrew (born in about 1879), Mary A. (born in about 1882), Robert (born in about 1884), John M. C. (born in about 1886), Georgina J. (born in about 1888), Jessie M. (born in about 1890), Beatrice (born in about 1893), Albert, Nora (born in about 1898) and Edith (born in about 1901).<sup>3</sup> There may have been other children, including possibly Douglas (born in about 1904).<sup>4</sup>

In 1891, his father, Robert, was a joiner near Dundee and, in 1901, he was a millwright. In 1911, Albert was not living at home, but was possibly in Monikie, Forfarshire, working as a general farm labourer.<sup>5</sup>

Albert enlisted early in the war – initially as a Driver with the Army Service Corps, transferring later to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and finally the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, of the Black Watch.<sup>6</sup> He went to France on 28 July 1915 and survived for three years before being fatally injured by gunshot wounds. He was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 10 July with gunshot wounds penetrating his chest. He died the following day and was buried on 11 July in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row E, Grave No. 17) with the chaplain R. K. Lambert presiding. Albert was a Presbyterian.

There are over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery – most of them were soldiers who died at one of the nearby clearing stations.<sup>7</sup> This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.

His mother, who was living at Happy Hillock, Douglasfield, near Dundee, was notified of his death by letter. His father received the monies owing to him from the army after his death.<sup>8</sup>

No evidence was found to indicate whether any of Albert's brothers served in the Great War – it was unlikely given their ages. Only Albert is recognized in a list of Dundee's war dead.<sup>9</sup>

© BIFHSGO, 2015

---

<sup>1</sup> "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 27 April 2015), entry for Albert Gruar, ED: 63, Household schedule number: 65, LINE: 9, Roll: CSSCT1901\_103

<sup>2</sup> "Scotland SR Marriages," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>; accessed 27 April 2015) entries for Robert Gruar, District City/County/: ST ANDREW (DUNDEE), MR GROS Data: 282/04 0103 and District City/County/: ST CLEMENT DUNDEE, MR GROS Data: 282/03 0153

<sup>3</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 27 April 2015), entry for Robert Grewer, ED: 49, Household schedule number: 6, LINE: 20, Roll: CSSCT1891\_96; "1901 Scotland Census," entry for Albert Gruar

<sup>4</sup> MAJOR GRUAR MBE BLACK WATCH (RHR), The Great War Forum (<http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=120341>; accessed 27 April 2015); "Scotland SR

---

Marriages," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>; accessed 27 April 2015) entries for Guar, District City/County/: DUNDEE CITY/ANGUS, MR GROS Data: 282/04 0362

<sup>5</sup> "1911 census," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>; accessed 27 April 2015) entry for Albert Guar, District: MONIKIE, City/County: ANGUS, GROS data: 311/00 001/00 007

<sup>6</sup> "UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 27 April 2015), entry for Albert Guar

<sup>7</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>; accessed 13 January 2015)

<sup>8</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 26 April 2015), entry for Albert Guar

<sup>9</sup> "Dundee's war dead," *The Evening Telegraph*

[www.eveningtelegraph.co.uk/polopoly.../Dundee%20war%20dead.pdf](http://www.eveningtelegraph.co.uk/polopoly.../Dundee%20war%20dead.pdf); accessed 27 April 2015)