

## Corporal James Todd

**Regimental number: 2127**

**10th (Service) Battalion, Highland Light Infantry**

**born: probably about 1893 - died: 10 April 1916**

Corporal James Todd was the son of Robert Todd and his first wife, Phoebe.<sup>1</sup> James was born in about 1893<sup>2</sup> in Greenock, Renfrewshire,<sup>3</sup> near Glasgow, Scotland. His father, Robert, was born in about 1858 in Blantyre, Lanarkshire and his mother, Phoebe, was born in Glasgow in about 1860.<sup>4</sup> Phoebe died on 18 July 1899<sup>5</sup> and, in 1901, Robert was married to Jessie, born in Greenock in about 1876.<sup>6</sup> With his two wives, Robert probably had at least six children:<sup>7</sup> Annie (born in about 1884), Charlesina (known as Ina)<sup>8</sup> (born in about 1887), Thomas (born in about 1889), Robert (born in about 1891), James and Jessie (born in about 1900). In 1901, the family is living at 11 Brachelston Street, Greenock, where Robert is a stonemason.<sup>9</sup> Robert died on 25 May 1915.<sup>10</sup>

James enlisted in the Highland Light Infantry in Edinburgh.<sup>11</sup> He went to the Western Front on 21 June 1915. Less than a year later he was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with abdominal wounds.<sup>12</sup> He died on 10 April 1916 and was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row D, Grave 203).<sup>13</sup> He was a Presbyterian.<sup>14</sup> When he died, he was serving with the 10<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion<sup>15</sup> and he was possibly the only soldier to die at 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS that day.<sup>16</sup>

Bailleul is located close to the Belgian border.<sup>17</sup> It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several Casualty Clearing Stations, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

A letter was sent to his step-mother, who was still living at 5 Brachelston Street in Greenock to notify her of his death.<sup>18</sup> The monies owing to him by the army after his death were sent to his siblings: Ina, Annie and Robert.<sup>19</sup>

James was awarded 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>20</sup>

James' older brother, Thomas, is thought to have fought and died in the Great War – probably before James.<sup>21</sup> However, information about his service has not been found.

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<sup>1</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 17 June 2015), entry for Robert Todd, ED: 1, Household schedule number: 166, LINE: 7, Roll: CSSCT1891\_210

<sup>2</sup> "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 17 June 2015), entry for James Todd, ED: 23, Household schedule number: 69, LINE: 25, Roll: CSSCT1901\_197

<sup>3</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 15 June 2015), entry for James Todd

<sup>4</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," entry for Robert Todd

<sup>5</sup> Family information, June 2015

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- <sup>6</sup> "1901 Scotland Census," entry for James Todd
- <sup>7</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," entry for Robert Todd; "1901 Scotland Census," entry for James Todd
- <sup>8</sup> Family information, June 2015
- <sup>9</sup> "1901 Scotland Census," entry for James Todd
- <sup>10</sup> Family information, June 2015
- <sup>11</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," entry for James Todd
- <sup>12</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 53
- <sup>13</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 17 June 2015), entry for Todd, J
- <sup>14</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 53
- <sup>15</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," entry for James Todd
- <sup>16</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G); accessed 17 June 2015)
- <sup>17</sup> "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery.%20Nord>; accessed 17 June 2015)
- <sup>18</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 53
- <sup>19</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 16 June 2015), entry for James Todd
- <sup>20</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 16 June 2015), entry for James Todd
- <sup>21</sup> Family information, June 2015