

Private Hugh Kane©
Regimental number: 41655
5th Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

born: about 1893 – died: 25 August 1917

Private Hugh Kane was born in about 1893 in Beith, Ayrshire, Scotland.¹ When he died in 1917, his army record shows that he was the son of Hugh and Maggie Kane of 39 North Hamilton Street in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire.² Hugh Sr. was born in about 1857 in Dalry, Ayrshire. Prior to 1911, he was married to Margaret. She was born in about 1865 in Colmonell, also in Ayrshire.³ However, it is possible that this was his second marriage and that his first wife, Jane, had died sometime between the 1891 and 1901 censuses.⁴ No evidence was found of Hugh's marriage to Jane or Margaret, or of Jane's death. So, Private Hugh Kane may have been the natural son of Jane or Margaret.

Hugh was one of at least 6 siblings or step-siblings: James (born in about 1881), Jane (born in about 1884), John (born in about 1887), William (born in about 1891), Robert (born in about 1893) and Hugh.⁵

Hugh's father was a tailor. In 1901, the family was living at 4 Gilmour Street in Kilmarnock.⁶ By 1911 his father was a widower and the family was living at 10 Gillsbarn Place, still in Kilmarnock.⁷ By then all the children remaining at home were working: John as a bricklayer, Robert as a miner and Hugh as a labourer at a fire clay works.

Hugh enlisted in the army in Kilmarnock and initially served in the Royal Army Service Corps.⁸ When he died in 1917, he was serving with the 5th Battalion of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). He may also have served with the 6th Battalion of the Cameronians.

On 20 August 1917, the Cameronians were stationed near Nieuport, Belgium. The battalion relieved the 20th Royal Fusiliers and found that the conditions of the line were very bad because of the low-lying ground. Temporary fortifications (called breastworks) were the only protection, but they were not bulletproof, not continuous and only in an adequate state of repair at the posts.⁹ Four days later, Walter was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shell wounds and died the same day.¹⁰ He was buried in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: B. 13) the following day.¹¹ Two comrades from the same battalion, Private William Howell¹² and Private Hugh Muir¹³ had also died at No. 1 CCCS and had been buried in Adinkerke Military Cemetery.

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.¹⁴

Hugh's next of kin was probably his father and, if so, he was living at 35 Park Street in Kilmarnock. His father received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.

Hugh was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁵

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- ¹ "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 May 2016), entry for Hugh Kane, Enumeration district: 14A, Household schedule number: 360, Line: 16 Roll: CSSCT1901_228
- ² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 25 May 2016), entry for Kane, Hugh, Service No: 41655
- ³ 1901 Scotland Census," (www.ancestry.co.uk), entry for Hugh Kane
- ⁴ "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 June 2016), entry for James Kane, Enumeration district: 8, Household schedule number: 70, Line: 16, Roll: CSSCT1891_200
- ⁵ 1901 Scotland Census," (www.ancestry.co.uk), entry for Hugh Kane
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ "1911 Scotland census," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 31 May 2016) entry for Kane, Hugh, District: Kilmarnock (Ayr), City/County: Ayr, GROS data: 597/00 004/00 018
- ⁸ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for Hugh Kane
- ⁹ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," (www.ancestry.co.uk) Regiment or Unit: Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), Sub-unit: 5th Battalion, Division: 33rd Division, Diary entry start date: 1916, Diary dates: 1915 Dec–1918 Sep, Piece Description: Piece 2422/3: 5th Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) (1915 Dec - 1918 Sep), Piece Number: 2422
- ¹⁰ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 to 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: 349
- ¹¹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org) entry for Kane, Hugh, Service No: 41655
- ¹² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 25 May 2016), entry for Howell, W.W., Service No: 241413
- ¹³ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2015), entry for Muir, Hugh, Service No: 202522
- ¹⁴ "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org/; accessed 30 April 2016)
- ¹⁵ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for Hugh Kane