

Private Hugh Muir©
Regimental number: 202522
1st/5th Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

born: about 1893 – died: 27 August 1917

Private Hugh Muir was born in about 1893¹ in Falkenberg, Sweden.² He was the son of John and Christina (nee Robertson) Muir.³ Christina was born in about 1868 in Carriden, Linlithgow, Scotland. John and Christina were probably married in Carriden in 1890⁴ and had three children. Hugh had an older brother, James (born in about 1890), and a younger brother, John (born in about 1897).⁵

In 1891, Christina was living at Cowdenhill in Carriden, West Lothian, with her first son James. There was no evidence of where her husband John was living at the time. Later, when Hugh and his younger brother were born, his mother was in Sweden. What took the family to Sweden is not known.

In 1901, Hugh was living with his mother and two brothers at 1 Livingstone Terrace in Borrowstounness and Carriden in West Lothian.⁶ Ten years later, they were at the same address, but now James was an iron moulder, working in a foundry; Hugh was a clerk at the foundry and John was an office boy in a law office.⁷ Hugh's father died sometime before 1911, because by then his mother was a widow.

Hugh enlisted in the army in Edinburgh at the beginning of the Great War.⁸ He served initially in the Royal Scots (Regimental number: 3311). He then transferred to the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). He may have served first with the 1st Battalion but, when he died in 1917, he was serving with the 5th Battalion.

He first joined the Front in the Balkans in 15 September 1915.⁹ But it was in France that he was fatally wounded. 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.¹⁰ Five days later, Hugh was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station and died two days later of shell wounds in his hip.¹¹ He was buried the same day in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: B. 19).¹² Two comrades from the same battalion, Private William Howell¹³ and Private Hugh Kane,¹⁴ had also died at the No. 1 CCCS about the same time and were 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.¹⁵

Hugh's next of kin was his mother, who was still living at 1 Livingstone Terrace,¹⁶ and she received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.¹⁷

Hugh 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).¹⁸

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- ¹ "1911 Scotland Census," *ScotlandsPeople* (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/: accessed 20 June 2016), entry for Kane, Christina, District: Carriden, City/County: West Lothian, GROS data: 663/02 004/00 029
- ² "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 June 2016), entry for Hugh Muir
- ³ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 20 June 2016), entry for Muir, Hugh, Service No: 202522
- ⁴ "Statutory Registers–Marriages," *ScotlandsPeople* (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/: accessed 20 June 2016), entry for Fox, William, District: Carriden, City/County: West Lothian, GROS data 664/00 0004
- ⁵ "1911 Scotland Census," *ScotlandsPeople* (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/), entry for Kane, Christina
- ⁶ "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 June 2016), entry for Hugh Muir, Enumeration district: 4, Household schedule number: 196, Line: 14, Roll: CSSCT1901_356
- ⁷ "1911 Scotland Census," *ScotlandsPeople* (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/), entry for Kane, Christina
- ⁸ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk), entry for Hugh Muir
- ⁹ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 June 2016), entry for Hugh Muir
- ¹⁰ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (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: 5 Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) (1915 Dec–1918 Sep), Piece number: 2422
- ¹¹ "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: 351
- ¹² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org), entry for Muir, Hugh
- ¹³ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 25 May 2016), entry for Howell, W.W., Service No: 241413
- ¹⁴ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 25 May 2016), entry for Kane, Hugh, Service No: 41655
- ¹⁵ "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 30 April 2016)
- ¹⁶ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 to 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, Record number: 351
- ¹⁷ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 May 2016), entry for Hugh Muir
- ¹⁸ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk) entry for Hugh Muir