

**Private John McInnes<sup>©</sup>**  
**Regimental number: 16851**  
**15th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry**

**born: unknown - died: 24 June 1917**

Private John McInnes was unconscious when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 24 June 1917. He died there of serious abdominal wounds<sup>1</sup> and was buried in Adinkerke Churchyard Extension (Grave Reference: 1711).<sup>2</sup> Adinkerke Churchyard Extension, which includes 67 Commonwealth graves from the Great War, is a Belgian Military Cemetery near Veurne, Belgium. Commonwealth troops held the Front from the Belgian coast inland for about 70 kilometres from June to November 1917. No. 1 CCCS was at Adinkerke for a short time in June.<sup>3</sup>

John was born in Glasgow and it was there that he joined the 15th Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry<sup>4</sup> in the first month of the Great War.<sup>5</sup> He went to the Western Front in France on 12 May 1915<sup>6</sup> and survived for more than two years. At the end of June 1917, the battalion was in the line near Nieuport in Belgium, just across the French border.<sup>7</sup> The battalion's war diary notes that, on 24 June, "[t]here was intermittent shelling the whole day inflicting a few casualties. Our aeroplanes were more active, one was brought down on Canal Bank. A patrol went out to find strength of enemy wire for coming raid. Casualties for last two days, 38 OR [Other Ranks]."<sup>8</sup> John was likely one of these ORs. A total of 48 ORs in the 15th Battalion were killed in the month of June.

The No. 1 CCCS chaplain notified Mrs McInnes, who was living at an address c/o Hawkins at 7 Ragland Street in Glasgow, of John's death.<sup>9</sup> John Hawkins received the monies owing to John from the army upon his death.<sup>10</sup> John Hawkins was his sole legatee.<sup>11</sup>

John's death was commemorated in Glasgow's *Evening Times*' Roll of Honour on 10 July 1917.<sup>12</sup> He 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>13</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 13 April 2017), entry for McInnes, J.

<sup>2</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 5 April 2017), entry for McInnes, J., Service No: 16851

<sup>3</sup> "Adinkerke Churchyard Extension," CWGC <http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 18 April 2017

<sup>4</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 April 2017), entry for John McInnes

<sup>5</sup> Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratiuity.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 12 April 2017), entry for John McInnes

<sup>6</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 April 2017), entry for John McInnes

<sup>7</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 April 2017), Regiment or unit: Highland Light Infantry, Sub-unit: 15th (Service) Battalion (1st Glasgow), Division: 32nd Division, Diary entry start date: Jun 1917, Diary entry end date: 30 Jun 1917, Diary

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dates: 1915 Nov 1–1916 May 31, Diary entry location: Nieuport, Piece description: Piece 2393/1–7: 14 Infantry Brigade: 15 Battalion Highland Light Infantry (1915 Nov–1919 Mar), Piece number: 2393

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 13 April 2017), entry for McInnes, J.

<sup>10</sup> “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 April 2017), entry for John McInnes

<sup>11</sup> Little is known about John's family. It is not known if Mrs McInnes was John's mother or wife, or what relationship John Hawkins had to the McInnes family.

<sup>12</sup> “May to August 1917,” *Evening Times* Roll of Honour (<http://www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk/ExploreRecords/Pages/Evening-Times-Roll-of-Honour.aspx>: accessed 19 April 2017), entry for McInness, John [*sic*]

<sup>13</sup> “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 April 2017), entry for John McInnes