

Captain Archibald Mackenzie[©]

Regimental number: —

1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers

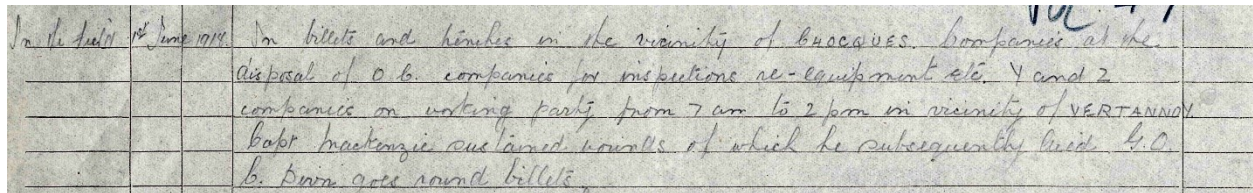
born: about 1876 - died: 4 June 1918

Captain Archibald Mackenzie died on 4 June 1918 at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.¹ He had enlisted in the 1st Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers and joined the Front in France on 21 November 1915.

His battalion was stationed near Choques, northwest of Bethune in northern France, when Archibald was wounded on 1 June 1918. That day does not appear to have been a particularly busy day for the battalion—two companies were in working parties near Vertannoy. However, as noted in the battalion's war diary, "Capt Mackenzie sustained wounds of which he subsequently died."²

Extract of 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers war diary for 1 June 1918

Source: *Ancestry*



The image shows a handwritten entry from a war diary on a grid background. The text is written in cursive and reads: "In billets and huts in the vicinity of Buocaves. Companies at the disposal of D.C. companies for inspections re-equipment etc. 4 and 2 companies on working party from 7 am to 2 pm in vicinity of VERTANNOY. Capt Mackenzie sustained wounds of which he subsequently died. 4.0. b. from one round bullet."

He was admitted to No. 1 CCCS with shrapnel wounds to his head. He died a few days later and was buried on 5 June in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row F, Grave 2) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.³ Archibald was probably only one of two officers in the battalion wounded in June and the only one to die.⁴

The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.⁵ In May 1918, nearly 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS, and in June, over 4,000 soldiers were admitted.⁶ There were 82 deaths that month.

Mary Gertrude Mackenzie was his wife and next of kin.⁷ She was living at Monk House, Monk Breton, near Barnsley in Yorkshire, when she was notified of his death⁸ and in Cossall, Nottinghamshire, when she had the following inscription put on his gravestone:

A NOBLE LIFE LAID DOWN⁹

Prior to enlisting to serve in the Great War, Archibald was a colliery engineer.¹⁰ He was born in about 1876 in Chesterfield, Derbyshire,¹¹ and was probably the son of Hugh and Ellen Mackenzie.¹²

His father married Ellen Walker Saxton in Crich, Derbyshire, on 2 March 1875.¹³ Archibald was their eldest child. They then had two more sons—Frederick (born in 1878)¹⁴ and Donald (born in 1881).¹⁵ Finally, they had a daughter, Anne Saxton Mackerrow (born in 1885),¹⁶ but sadly she died in 1896, at the age of 10.¹⁷

In 1891, the family was living in Kimberley, near Nottingham, where Hugh was a draper.¹⁸ By 1901, Archibald may have left home, because his parents and two brothers were living with Hugh's

mother, Ann, and his brother, George, and two nephews. Archibald's father probably died in 1930¹⁹ and his mother and brother Frederick may both have died in 1937.²⁰

Archibald married Mary Gertrude Wheatley (born in Cossall, Nottinghamshire, in about 1870) in 1906 in Basford, Nottinghamshire.²¹ They do not appear to have had any children.²²

Archibald was awarded posthumously 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).²³

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¹ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Mackenzie, A. The journal maintained by the chaplains at the No. 1 CCCS indicates that Archibald died on 3 June 1918. However, other military records indicate that he died on 4 June and this would be more consistent with a burial on 5 June.

² "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), Regiment or Unit: Northumberland Fusiliers, Sub-unit: 1st Battalion, Division: 3rd Division, Diary dates: 1914 Aug 1–1915 June 30, Piece description: Piece 1430/1-4: 9 Infantry Brigade: 1 Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (1914 Aug–1919 May), Piece number: 1430

³ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Mackenzie, A.

⁴ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), Regiment or Unit: Northumberland Fusiliers

⁵ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

⁶ "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=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)

⁷ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Archibald Mackenzie, District: Basford, County: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7B, Page: 307

⁸ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Mackenzie, A.

⁹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Mackenzie, Archibald

¹⁰ "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Archibald Mackenzie

¹¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2018) entry for Mackenzie, Archibald, Registration district: Chesterfield, Volume 07B, Page 713

¹² "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 January 2018), entry for Archibald Mackenzie, Registration district: Basford, Sub-district: Greasley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 9b, Piece: 2659, Folio: 141

¹³ "England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 January 2018), entry for Hugh Mackenzie, FHL film number: 1041625

¹⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2018) entry for Mackenzie, Frederick, Registration district: Chesterfield, Volume 07B, Page 668

¹⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2018) entry for Mackenzie, Donald, Registration district: Derby, Volume 07B, Page 486

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- ¹⁶ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2018) entry for Mackenzie, Annie Saxton Mackerrow, Registration district: Derby, Volume 07B, Page 569
- ¹⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Annie Sexton M K Mackenzie, Registration district: Basford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 62
- ¹⁸ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 January 2018), entry for Archibald Mackenzie
- ¹⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Hugh Mackenzie, Registration district: Basford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 175
- ²⁰ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Ellen Mackenzie, Registration district: Shardlow, Inferred county: Derbyshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 669; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Frederick Mackenzie, Registration district: Shardlow, Inferred county: Derbyshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 427
- ²¹ "England & Wales Marriages 1837-2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Archibald Mackenzie
- ²² "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Archibald Mackenzie, Registration district: Barnsley, Registration district number: 507, Enumeration district: 41, District number: 41, Sub-district: Barnsley, Dub-district number: 2, Census reference: RG14PN27600 RG78PN1578 RD507 SD2 ED41 SN33, RG78 code number: 1578, Piece number: 27600
- ²³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Archibald Mackenzie