

Private James Philip Paterson©
Regimental Number: 105890
Air Mechanic, 3rd Class, Royal Flying Corps, United Kingdom

born: 1877 – died: 10 February 1918

Private James Philip Paterson was born in 1877 and grew up in Alva, Stirlingshire, Scotland.¹ His parents were Francis and Julia Paterson. They lived and raised their family at 59 Johnstone Street, Alva, for many years.^{2,3} James had four siblings: Elizabeth (b. 1867), Janet (b. 1870), Jane (b. 1871) and Robert (b. 1873).⁴ James was a mill worker in the 1890s and his older brother Robert was employed as a butcher.⁵ By 1901, both James and Robert had moved to Glasgow and both lodged with a Jane Blaney in Kelvinside. Both men were employed there as butchers.⁶ James was still engaged in this trade when he enlisted in 1915. It is likely that Robert's experience as a butcher influenced James' decision to follow him in that career.⁷



Royal Flying Corps Logo

James enlisted at Edinburgh on 22 May 1915 when he was 39 years old. He was a short man of 5 feet 2 3/8 inches, was living at 4 Wheatfield Road, Edinburgh, and listed his religion as Presbyterian.⁸

He was married to Annie Hunter and they had one child, a daughter, Janet Snaddon Paterson, who was born 9 December 1917. Like James, his daughter Janet, was born in Alva, Stirlingshire.⁹

It should be noted that the file for this soldier contained a number of different regimental numbers, which probably reflected the different parts of the military he was assigned to (regimental numbers found: 30260, 36095, 43361, 24670 and finally 105890).¹⁰ James signed up with the Lothian Regiment of the Scottish Division of the Royal Scots. By 8 July 1916, he had been transferred to the 2nd Division of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, where he joined the rest of his unit serving in France. After just two months in the field, James was transferred again, this time to the 3rd Division in England for further training. By 30 July 1917, he was again in France, serving with the 5th Balloon Wing, 1st Brigade, Royal Flying Corps as an Air Mechanic, 3rd Class.^{11, 12}

Six months later, on 5 February 1918, James was admitted to the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station and five days after that, on 10 February 1918, died of pneumonia.¹³ He was buried the next day at the Barlin Military Cemetery Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France in Plot 3, Row E, Grave No. 12.¹⁴

The Barlin Cemetery Extension, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was begun by French troops in October 1914; when they moved south in March 1916 to be replaced by Commonwealth forces, it was used for casualty clearing station burials. In November 1917, Barlin began to be shelled and the station was moved back to Ruitz, but the extension was used again in early 1918 during the German advance on this front. The Extension contains 1094 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and a number of French and German war graves.

James Paterson was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre). His family never received his medals, which were returned unclaimed.¹⁵

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¹ "British Royal Air Force, Airmen's Service Records, 1912-1939," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 21 June 2016), entry for James Philp Paterson [sic].

² "1881 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 21 November 2014), entry for James P Paterson, Registration district: Alva, County: Stirlingshire, ED: 3, Household schedule number: 179, Line: 5, Roll: cssct1881_131.

³ "British Royal Air Force, Airmen's Service Records, 1912-1939," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 30 June 2016), entry for James Philp Paterson [sic].

⁴ "Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950" *Family Search* (www.familysearch.org: accessed 11 July 2016), entries for Francis & Julia Paterson, Birthplace: Alva, Stirling, Scotland.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 July 2016), entry for James and Robert Paterson, Enumeration district: 89, Household schedule number: 6, Line: 4, Roll: CSSCT1901_302.

⁷ "British Royal Air Force, Airmen's Service Records, 1912-1939," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 21 June 2016), entry for James Philp Paterson [sic].

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 26 June 2016), entry for James P Paterson.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2016), entry for Peterson, J.P., Service No: 105890.

¹³ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 28 April 2014), entry for James P. Paterson.

¹⁴ "Global, Find A Grave Index for Non-Burials, Burials at Sea, and other Select Burial Locations, 1300-Current," *Ancestry* and *Find A Grave* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 21 November 2014), entry for Airmn3C James Philp Paterson [sic].

¹⁵ "British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 26 June 2016), entry for James P Paterson.