

**Private William Grant<sup>©</sup>**  
**Regimental number: 202677**  
**1st Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)**

**born: 24 January 1896 - died: 29 May 1918**

Private William Grant was the only son of William Grant, a farmer in Dollar, Clackmannanshire, Scotland. When he died in the Great War, his father had the following inscription placed on his gravestone:

ONLY BELOVED SON OF  
WM. GRANT, FARMER  
COWDEN, DOLLAR<sup>1</sup>

There is no evidence that William senior had any other children. The loss of his son must have been all the more devastating for him, since he had also lost his wife Anne (nee McGregor) Grant quite a few years earlier. William junior was born at 9:15 p.m. on 24 January 1896 at 75 Hutcheson Street, Maryhill, Glasgow. His father was then a railway signalman. He and Anne had married on 16 November 1894 in Chapelton, Glassford, about 25 miles south of Glasgow.<sup>2</sup> William was born in about 1862 in Logie, Fife, and his wife in about 1856 in Aberfeldy, Perthshire.<sup>3</sup> They had moved to the Glasgow area sometime before William junior's birth.

In 1901, the family was living at 67 Hutchison Street in Maryhill, Glasgow, where William senior was still a railwayman.<sup>4</sup> His wife died sometime between 1901 and 1911 because, in 1911, William senior was a widow. William junior was living with his father and his aunt, Elizabeth Grant (born in about 1863 in Ceres, Fife), who may have moved in to help William senior raise his son. William senior was now a retail dairyman, working for himself.<sup>5</sup>

William junior enlisted as a private in the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) in about April 1915 in Alloa, Clackmannanshire.<sup>6</sup> He served with regimental numbers 7918 and then 202677. He probably did not go to the Front until after January 1916.<sup>7</sup>

In May 1918, the 1st Battalion of the Black Watch was near Noeux-les-Mines, northeast of Lens, in northern France.<sup>8</sup> On 20 May, the battalion was relieved and went into camp in Noeux-les-Mines, where it engaged in training activities, range practices and battalion sports. On 28 May,

[a]bout 2 PM when A. and C. [Companies] had paraded ready to march off to the line, a solitary shell burst immediately in rear of C. [Company]. FIFTYNINE [*sic*] casualties were sustained of whom 6 were killed, and 4 died of wounds.<sup>9</sup>

William was probably one of the wounded, because he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 28 May with gunshot wounds to both legs—the left one had to be amputated. Sadly, he died three days later<sup>10</sup> and was buried on 1 June in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row E, Grave 7) with the Canadian chaplain, R. K. Lambert, presiding.<sup>11</sup>

This 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.<sup>12</sup> William was one of 102 admitted to No. 1 CCCS on 28 May and one of nearly 4,000 soldiers admitted in the month of May, of whom 115 died.<sup>13</sup>

His father, who was then living on Bridge Street in Dollar, Clackmannanshire, was sent a letter to notify him of the death of his only son.<sup>14</sup>

William was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 21 May 2018), entry for Grant, William, Service No. 202677

<sup>2</sup> "Statutory Registers–Births," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 26 May 2018) entry for Grant, William, Reference: 622/1 135, Registration district: Maryhill

<sup>3</sup> "1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 21 May 2018), entry for William Grant, Registration district: Maryhill, Archive reference: RG13, Piece: –, Folio: –, Page: –

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> "1911 Scotland Census," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 28 May 2018), entry for Grant, William, Reference: 644/14 22/ 4, District: Maryhill, City/County: Lanark

<sup>6</sup> "Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 21 May 2018), entry for William Grant

<sup>7</sup> He was not awarded the 1914–15 Star for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915. ("British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 June 2018), entry for William Grant)

<sup>8</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 4 May 2018), Regiment or unit: Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), Sub-unit: 1st Battalion, Division: 1st Division, Diary dates: 1914 Aug–1919 Mar, Piece description: Piece 1263/3: 1 Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) (1914 Aug–1919 Mar), Piece number: 1263

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 21 May 2018), entry for Grant, William. The record of his death in the journal maintained by the chaplains at No 1 CCCS indicates that he died on 29 May. However, other military records give the date of death as 31 May. Given that he was not buried until 1 June, the chaplain's journal is probably incorrect.

<sup>11</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 21 May 2018), entry for Grant, W. L.

<sup>12</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

<sup>13</sup> "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=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](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=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G): accessed 15 December 2014)

<sup>14</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 21 May 2018), entry for Grant, W. L.

<sup>15</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 June 2018), entry for William Grant