

Private Archibald McIlquham Hendry[©]

Regimental number: S/41553

1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders

born: 1898–died: 1918

Archibald McIlquham Hendry was born around September 1898 in Uddingston, Lanarkshire,¹ a small town just east of Glasgow on the River Clyde. It was a coal mining area.² Archibald was the son of Thomas and Janet Hailstones Hendry,³ who had, according to the 1911 census, eleven children between 1890 and 1911, of whom three had died by 1911.⁴ We know the names and approximate birth dates of eight of them, from the census records: Adam M. (1890), George Prentice (1891), Thomas (1896), Archibald McIlquham (1898), John (1901), Robert (1906), Annie (1908), and James (1911). At least one more child was born after 1911 (William, in 1913).⁵

Thomas was a coal miner hewer,⁶ working at the coal face in dangerous conditions. Janet, née McIlquham, was born on 10 April 1872 in Old Monkland, Lanarkshire,⁷ a parish just two miles from Uddingston. She was the daughter of Archibald Russell McIlquham and Janet Hailstones. Archibald was likely named after his grandfather.

As a teenager, Archibald had a job as a pit pony driver,⁸ in charge of one of the pit ponies that pulled the coal tubs underground in the mines. In September 1916 he was one of three pony drivers charged with theft and malicious mischief, for stealing apples, throwing stones, and breaking property at Broomilton Farm, Larkhall.⁹ They pleaded guilty, were fined 10s. each and ordered to pay for the damage.

Eight months later, in May 1917, Archibald enrolled in the army, at Hamilton.¹⁰ He was deemed to be in good condition, 5' 5.5" tall, and 125 lbs. He was initially assigned to the 3rd Battalion of the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders, but transferred to the 1st Battalion in August. Later that month he joined the 10th Entrenching Battalion, then finally in October 1917 he transferred to the Gordon Highlanders and was posted to the 1st Battalion.¹¹

In October 1917 the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders was in Barastre, near Arras in Northern France.¹² On 9 October, 46 Other Ranks (non-officers) joined from the Cameron Highlanders to replace the ranks thinned by casualties. The next few months were relatively quiet, which allowed the new recruits to become trained. Archibald's disciplinary record shows a couple of infractions: On 26 November 1917 Archibald was "awarded 21 days F.P. #1",¹³ which refers to field punishment, introduced following the abolition of flogging in 1881. In F.P. #1, soldiers were placed in handcuffs and fixed to a post or similar object for up to two hours a day.¹⁴ It is not known what crime Archibald committed, but it might have been something like being found asleep on sentry duty. Then, on 5 January 1918 Archibald was found to be "Dirty on Parade" and sentenced to three days C.C. ("Confined to Camp").¹⁵

In December 1917 Archibald suffered an "I.C.T. to heel" (inflammation of the connective tissue) but rejoined the battalion three days later.¹⁶ All was fairly quiet until the end of March 1918, when there was a heavy German offensive.¹⁷ The battalion retreated, regrouped, and in April was assigned to the Hinges Sector near Bethune.¹⁸ Here, on the night of June 14/15, the battalion was involved in a major attack on the German lines.¹⁹ The attack was successful, but there were many fatalities, including both assault company commanders, two other officers, and a number of Other Ranks.²⁰

Private Hendry was seriously wounded and taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.²¹ He had severe wounds to the head, knee and chin, and his left leg had to be amputated at the thigh. He died there the next day, 16 June 1918, and was buried on 17 June at Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row B, Grave No. 2). No inscription was added to his tombstone.²² The cemetery lies one kilometre west of Pernes-en-Artois, in the region of Pas de Calais, and contains the remains of 1096 soldiers from the two world wars.

Private Archibald Hendry received the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) for his service.²³

Archibald's older brother George Prentice also served briefly in the army. He got married at age 19 in 1911 to Isabella Watt²⁴ and had two children before the war started. He was a miner, like his father, and he enlisted at Aberdeen in August 1914 at the start of the war.²⁵ His medical history form shows he was just 5' 2" and 122 lbs.²⁶ He enlisted in the Gordon Highlanders, and was promoted to the rank of lance corporal two weeks later in September, but reverted to private at his own request in October.²⁷ In November he was discharged on medical grounds as "not likely to become an efficient soldier," due to rheumatism.²⁸ He served a total of 82 days. He survived the war and died in 1938, age 47.²⁹

No military records can be found for Archibald's other older brothers Adam and Thomas. Adam was a coal miner hewer, age 23, living with his parents in the 1911 Census.³⁰ Thomas was not listed and may have been one of the three children who did not survive till 1911.

Archibald's younger brothers would have been too young to serve in the First World War.

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¹ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 December 2018), entry for Archibald McIlwham (*sic*) Hendry, p. 41333

² "History of the Coalfields: Lanarkshire," (www.scottishmining.co.uk/507.html: accessed 15 January 2019)

³ "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 18 December 2018), entry for Archibald Hendry, Registration district: Bothwell, Enumeration district: 9, Household schedule number: 172, Line: 19, Roll: CSSCT1901_247

⁴ "1911 Scotland census," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Hendry, Janet, District: Larkhall, City/County: Lanark, GROS data: 638/00 014/00 003

⁵ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 December 2018), entry for Archibald McIlwham (*sic*) Hendry, p. 41347

⁶ "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 18 December 2018), entry for Thomas Hendry, Registration district: Bothwell, Enumeration district: 9, Household schedule number: 172, Line: 19, Roll: CSSCT1901_247

⁷ "Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 14 December 2018), entry for Janet McIlquham, FHL Film Number: 6035516

⁸ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 December 2018), entry for Archibald McIlwham (*sic*) Hendry, p. 41333

⁹ "Mischievous Youths", *Hamilton Advertiser*, 23 Sep 1916, page 5, *British Newspaper Archive* (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk: accessed 10 December 2018)

¹⁰ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 December 2018), entry for Archibald McIlwham (*sic*) Hendry, p. 41349

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 41357

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- ¹² "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 December 2018), entry for Gordon Highlanders Regiment, Sub-unit: 1st Battalion, Piece description: Piece 1435/1-3, page 201
- ¹³ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 December 2018), entry for Archibald McIlwham (*sic*) Hendry, p. 41358
- ¹⁴ "Field Punishment," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_Punishment: accessed 20 December 2018)
- ¹⁵ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 December 2018), entry for Archibald McIlwham (*sic*) Hendry, p. 41343
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 41358
- ¹⁷ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 December 2018), entry for Gordon Highlanders Regiment, Sub-unit: 1st Battalion, Piece description: Piece 1435/1-3, p. 235
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 271
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 280
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 281
- ²¹ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 25 November 2018), entry for Hendry, A.
- ²² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2018), entry for Hendry, A, Service No: S/41553
- ²³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 December 2018), entry for Hendry Archibald
- ²⁴ "British Army WWI Pension Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 15 December 2018), entry for George Hendry, p. 9974
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 9972
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 9975
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 9973
- ²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 9976
- ²⁹ "Statutory Registers–Deaths," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 18 December 2018), entry for Hendry, George Prentice, District: Leith, City/County: Edinburgh, GROS data: 685/9 924
- ³⁰ "1911 Scotland census," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 9 December 2018), entry for Hendry, Adam, District: Larkhall, City/County: Lanark, GROS data: 638/00 014/00 003