

## **Private Alexander Brown<sup>©</sup>**

**Regimental number: 26103**

**"B" Company, 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders**

**born: 14 January 1886–died: 23 April 1918**

Private Alexander Brown was the son of Alexander Brown and his wife Jessie, née Blues. Alexander was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on 18 January 1856<sup>1</sup> and Jessie just 13 days earlier, on 5 January 1856 in Edinburgh.<sup>2</sup> They married on 5 October 1877 in Edinburgh and had 14 children, nine of whom were still alive in 1911. Thirteen of the children have possibly been identified. The children who appeared in census records with their parents were:

- Jessie (born in about 1878)<sup>3</sup>
- Andrew (born in about 1880)<sup>4</sup>
- James (born in about 1882)<sup>5</sup>
- Jane (born in about 1884)<sup>6</sup>
- Alexander
- Henry (born in about 1888)<sup>7</sup>
- Charlie (born in about 1889)<sup>8</sup>
- Barbara (born in about 1893)<sup>9</sup>
- Annie (born in about 1897)<sup>10</sup>
- Lizzie (born in about 1899)<sup>11</sup>

Three other children with the surname Brown, whose mother had the maiden name Blues, were born in Edinburgh and died at a very young age:

- George (born in about 1890 and died in 1890)<sup>12</sup>
- William (born in about 1891 and died in 1895)<sup>13</sup>
- Thomas Hogg (born in about 1894 and died in 1895)<sup>14</sup>

They were probably children of Alexander and Jessie, which would leave only one child not identified.

In 1891, the family was living at 28 Carnegie Street in Edinburgh, where Alexander Sr. was an engine fitter.<sup>15</sup> Ten years later, they had moved to 35 Carnegie Street and now Alexander Jr., aged 15, was an envelope packer.<sup>16</sup> In 1911, Alexander's parents were still living on Carnegie Street, where his father was an engineer working for a printer.<sup>17</sup>

In 1908, Alexander Jr. married Sarah Jane (born on 5 November 1883<sup>18</sup>) and, in 1911, they were living on Heriot Mount in the St Giles parish of Edinburgh, where Alexander was a grain store man. In 1911, they had a daughter, Jessie Robertson Blues, born on 5 May 1909.<sup>19</sup> Another child had died before 1911.<sup>20</sup> Two other children followed—Alexander Bain, born on 6 August 1912<sup>21</sup> and Sarah Jane Charles Miller, born on 1 February 1914.<sup>22</sup>

Alexander enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in about October 1916<sup>23</sup> and joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. The 1st Battalion landed in Le Havre, France, in August 1914 and remained on the Western Front for the length of the war.<sup>24</sup> Alexander appears to have survived on the Front for a long time. It was only on 23 April 1918 that he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian



**Gravestone of Private Alexander Brown**

Source: "Global, Find a Grave Index for Burials at Sea and other Select Burial Locations, 1300s–Current," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 15 May 2022)

Casualty Clearing Station<sup>25</sup> with gunshot wounds and fractures to both his legs. He died the same day.<sup>26</sup> The day Alexander was admitted, 188 soldiers were taken to No. 1 CCCS, bringing the total number of patients to 375. That day also saw the arrival of a new chaplain, Hon. Captain J. L. Bradley.<sup>27</sup>

Alexander was buried in Pernes Military Cemetery on 24 April (Plot 1, Row D, Grave 32) with the Canadian chaplain G. C. d'Easum presiding. This cemetery had only recently been set up when the 1st and 4th CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.<sup>28</sup>

The family was notified of his death on 4 May 1918<sup>29</sup> and the chaplain sent a letter to Alexander's wife at 4 Borough Lock Square, Edinburgh.<sup>30</sup>

No information was found to indicate whether any of Alexander's four brothers served in the Great War; nor was it possible to identify what became of other family members.

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<sup>1</sup> "Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 17 May 2022), entry for Alexander Brown

<sup>2</sup> "Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 18 May 2022), entry for Jessie Blues

<sup>3</sup> "1881 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 15 May 2022), entry for Alexander Brown, Enumeration district: 35, Household schedule number: 21, Line: 14, Roll: CSSCT1881\_292

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

<sup>5</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 15 May 2022), entry for Alexander Brown, Enumeration district: 51, Household schedule number: 32, Line: 7, Roll: CSSCT1891\_354

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 16 May 2022), entry for Alexander Brown, Enumeration district: 47, Household schedule number: 40, Line: 5, Roll: CSSCT1901\_387

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> "Index of Statutory Registers–Deaths," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>; accessed 18 May 2022), entry for Brown George, Mother's maiden name: Blues, Reference: 685/5 751, Registration district: Newington

<sup>13</sup> "Index of Statutory Registers–Deaths," *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>; accessed 18 May 2022), entry for Brown George, Mother's maiden name: Blues, Reference: 685/5 717, Registration district: Newington

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- <sup>14</sup> “Index of Statutory Registers–Deaths,” *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 18 May 2022), entry for Brown Thomas Hogg Dun, Mother's maiden name: Blues, Reference: 685/5 987, Registration district: Newington
- <sup>15</sup> “1891 Scotland Census,” *Ancestry*, entry for Alexander Brown
- <sup>16</sup> “1901 Scotland Census,” *Ancestry*, entry for Alexander Brown
- <sup>17</sup> “1911 Scotland Census,” *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 19 May 2022), entry for Brown, Alexander, Reference: 685/5 53/ 13, District: Newington, Midlothian
- <sup>18</sup> “UK, WWI Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914–1923,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2022), entry for Alexander Brown, Reference Number: 1/WP/400, 1/APW/839
- <sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>20</sup> “1911 Scotland Census,” *ScotlandsPeople* (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 19 May 2022), entry for Brown, Alexander, Reference: 685/5 62/ 19, District: Newington, Midlothian
- <sup>21</sup> “UK, WWI Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914–1923,” entry for Alexander Brown
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>23</sup> Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratitude.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 19 May 2022), entry for Alexander Bron [*sic*]
- <sup>24</sup> “Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders,” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen%27s\\_Own\\_Cameron\\_Highlanders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen%27s_Own_Cameron_Highlanders): accessed 30 June 2022)
- <sup>25</sup> A casualty clearing station was a military medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who did not die or could not be adequately treated in the CCS were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital. “Casualty Clearing Station,” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty\\_Clearing\\_Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station): accessed 2 May 2020). A very comprehensive description of the casualty clearing stations is presented in the blog entry “Casualty Clearing Stations During WW1,” *Chiddicks Family Tree* (<https://chiddicksfamilytree.com/2021/05/09/casualty-clearing-stations-during-ww1/>: accessed 13 May 2021)
- <sup>26</sup> “Search Name Index,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 5 September 2021), entry for Brown, A.
- <sup>27</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>28</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>29</sup> “UK, WWI Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914–1923,” entry for Alexander Brown
- <sup>30</sup> “Search Name Index,” entry for Brown, A.