

Private Charles Stephen[©]
Regimental number: 2337
Seaforth Highlanders
1st/6th Battalion (Morayshire) Territorial Force

born: 1 January 1899–died: 31 August 1916

Private Charles Stephen was just 17 years old when he died—one of the 704,803 soldiers from the British Isles who lost their lives during or as a result of the First World War.¹

Charles was born at 3 a.m. on 1 January 1899 in Lossiemouth,² a small community (population 3,904 in 1901) in the county of Elginshire (now Morayshire) on the northeast coast of Scotland, about 10 km from the town of Elgin.³ He was the son of Ann (née Blackhall) Stephen (1857–1943).⁴ Ann (known as Annie), married James Stephen (1857–?),⁵ (also known as James Steven) on 23 November 1877 in the Church of Scotland, Parish of Urquhart, Elginshire. James was employed as an agricultural labourer and Annie as a domestic servant.⁶

James and Annie spent most of their married life in Lossiemouth and likely faced economic challenges. In 1881, they and their two young children, George (1878–?)⁷ and Alexander (1880–1967),⁸ were living at 105 Street A. Their lodgings had one room with a window. James worked as a general labourer to support the growing family.⁹ During the next decade, four more children were born: Robert John (1882–1941),¹⁰ William Henry (1884–1962),¹¹ Peter (1886–1912),¹² and Jessie Ann Whyte (1888–1983).¹³ When Rose Helen (1893–1941)¹⁴ was born, Annie reported on the birth certificate that James had abandoned her in 1889 and was not Rose Helen's father.¹⁵ Similarly, when Charles was born, James was not listed as the father.¹⁶

In 1901, 2-year-old Charles was living with his mother and three siblings (Peter, Jessie Ann and Rose Helen) at 17 Macduff Street, Lossiemouth. Both his mother and 14-year-old brother Peter worked as farm labourers while Jessie Ann and Rose Helen attended school.¹⁷ The older children had left home to live and work on farms: Alexander was a ploughman,¹⁸ and Robert¹⁹ and William²⁰ were cattlemen. Information about George in 1901 was not readily available. However, in 1891 he was working as a servant on the Teindland Farm.²¹

Over the next 12 years, Charles's life unfolded with both joy and sorrow. On the brighter side, two of his siblings began families of their own. William married Williamina [*sic*] Anderson in 1907,²² and Jessie Ann wed Alexander Duncan in 1910.²³

In 1911, 12-year-old Charles was attending school and living at Woodside Cottage with his mother and brothers Alexander and Peter. The modest home with its three windows was kept by Annie, who listed herself as a widow. Both Alexander and Peter were firemen on steam drifters—large steam-powered boats used in the herring fishing industry.²⁴ In 1912, Peter married Catherine Wilson, but heartbreak soon followed when he passed away later that same year.²⁵ The family faced further change in 1913, when Charles's sister Rose Helen immigrated to Toronto, Ontario, Canada.²⁶

When war was declared on 4 August 1914, Charles was 15 years old and working as a fireman on a steam drifter. In November 1914, though underage, he enlisted in the 1/6th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, in Elgin and was assigned to its 4th company, 16th platoon.²⁷ His brothers Alexander and Robert enlisted around the same time: Alexander in the Royal Navy²⁸ and Robert in the 1/6th Gordon Highlanders. Robert had served in the Boer War.²⁹

The Seaforth Highlanders was a line infantry regiment of the British Army, created in 1881 through an amalgamation of the 72nd (Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders) Regiment of Foot and the 78th (Highlanders) (Ross-shire Buffs) Regiment of Foot as part of the Childers Reforms.³⁰ The 1/6th Battalion (Morayshire), Seaforth Highlanders, was a unit of the Territorial Force (TF), part of the Seaforth and Cameron Brigade, 1/1st Highland Division. At the start of the war, it was stationed at Elgin but moved to Bedford, Bedfordshire, England, about 879 km from Elgin, to train with the division's other battalions.³¹

During the cold wet winter of 1914–15 at Bedford, Charles acquired some military skills in musketry and drills and survived a measles outbreak that killed 59 men. On 13 April 1915, the 1/1st Highland Division was considered to have reached a level of "average" efficiency when it received orders to mobilize.³² On 1 May 1915, the 1/6th Battalion (Morayshire), Seaforth Highlanders, which included Private Charles Stephen, travelled to Folkestone, Kent, and sailed to Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, arriving at 10:30 p.m. that evening to join the British Expeditionary Force (BEF).³³ Charles would ultimately serve 15 months on the front lines in France.

By 5 May, Charles's battalion had moved to Robecq, France, where the 1/1st Highland Division was concentrated. On 11 May, the 1/1st Highland Division was renamed and renumbered as the 51st (Highland) Division; the 1/6th Battalion (Morayshire), Seaforth Highlanders, became part of the 152nd (Seaforth and Argyll) Brigade.

There was little rest for the soldiers. On 13 May, the 1/6th Battalion marched from Robecq to Strazeele and on 19 May to Vieille-Chapelle, where it experienced shell fire for the first time. The next day, the battalion was assigned to trenches in front of Richebourg St. Vaast, where it began to construct a new front-line trench. Enemy sniper and artillery fire made this work difficult. Relieved on 22 May, the battalion provided fatigue parties for the next three nights. During that time the men buried about 700 bodies of soldiers killed during an earlier advance.³⁴

On 31 May, the inexperienced 1/6th Battalion moved to the Festubert area where the 51st (Highland) Division was assigned the difficult task of holding and consolidating the line in front and to the north of Festubert, territory captured from the enemy during the Battle of Festubert (15–25 May 1915).³⁵ The 1/6th Battalion was in the trenches by 4 June. Because of the high water table, these trenches were only about 46 cm deep, offering little protection. Under shell and sniper fire, the men worked at night to construct breastwork walls. On 15 and 16 June, the battalion participated in the BEF's unsuccessful attacks to gain more territory in order to straighten the line. During these two days, the battalion's casualties were 36 Other Ranks (ORs) killed and 1 officer and 109 ORs wounded.³⁶ Somehow, Charles survived.

The 1/6th Battalion left the Festubert area on 24 June to take over the line south of Laventie, where it remained until the end of July. From there, it travelled by train to the Albert sector east of Amiens and during September, October, November and December was stationed in trenches in the Authuille and Aveluy sectors. During this time, Charles took part in more skirmishes and experienced day-to-day shelling, sniper fire, endless noise and a horrid stench, followed by rest periods behind the lines. There were some pleasant moments. Christmas Day was spent at Hénencourt. The men had baths. On 31 December, the battalion was at Pierregot, about 16 km northeast of Amiens, and on 1 January 1916 they enjoyed a holiday. The soldiers welcomed the New Year with feasting and the wail of the bagpipes. It was Charles's birthday. Games were played; the 1/6th Battalion's football team was victorious over the 1/5th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders' team.³⁷

Out of the front line for the first time since arriving in France, Charles's battalion spent the first six weeks of 1916 training in Pierregot—honing its skills in trench defence and the principles of an attack. In the ensuing months, Charles faced a succession of difficult combat conditions. By 19 February, his battalion had entrenched itself near Corbie, holding the position until early March. Then came new orders: the battalion assumed control of a tangled web of trenches known as the Labyrinth located near the villages of Anzin and Maroeuil, at the southern edge of Vimy Ridge.

The 1/6th Battalion arrived during a blizzard and was entrenched by 11 March. The enemy held the high ground and had heavily mined the area. As the men laboured to reinforce the trench system—ever vigilant against sniper fire and shelling—they faced the constant threat of a mine being triggered. On 28 April, while the battalion was stationed on the front line, the enemy detonated seven mines. The explosions killed 15 ORs and injured 5 officers and 16 ORs; 19 soldiers were reported missing, likely buried beneath the rubble. The enemy followed the blasts with an assault, which ultimately failed. Following four gruelling months in the Labyrinth, Charles's battalion was redeployed to the Somme offensive on 13 July.³⁸

On 1 July 1916, the BEF had launched an assault on enemy-held trenches near Albert, France. This marked the beginning of the Battle of Albert (1–13 July 1916), the first of 12 major engagements that collectively became known as the Battle of the Somme, fought between 1 July and 18 November 1916.³⁹

Charles's battalion, arrived at Buire-sur-l'Ancre on 21 July. It was swiftly thrust into combat, engaging the enemy at Fricourt Wood, Bécordel-Bécourt, and Mametz Wood before moving to High Wood near Bazentin-le-Petit. The BEF had been attempting to seize High Wood since 14 July. In early August, a renewed offensive was launched. Between 4 and 7 August, the 1/6th Battalion constructed and occupied a forward position—named the Seaforth Trench—approximately 61 m ahead of the existing front line in High Wood. During this brief engagement, the battalion's casualties were 1 officer and 22 ORs killed; 8 officers and 89 ORs were wounded.⁴⁰ Despite their efforts, the enemy remained deeply entrenched and resistant to defeat. After more than 16 days of combat, (during which the 51st (Highland) Division sustained over 3,500 casualties),⁴¹ the battalion was finally relieved on 8 August and redeployed to Armentières, arriving there on 18 August. Between 18 and 25 August, the 1/6th Battalion carried out a series of training exercises. The next day, it commenced a five-day assignment in trenches near Armentières.

The BEF initiated a bombardment of enemy positions on 30 August. In retaliation, the enemy returned heavy fire. The battalion's casualties were five ORs killed and five ORs wounded—among them was Private Charles Stephen.⁴²

Charles was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS) located at Bailleul, France, about 14 km from Armentières. A casualty clearing station was a medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who could not be adequately treated were stabilized before being transported to a military hospital.⁴³ Charles was one of 93 patients at No. 1 CCCS on 30 August and one of four men who died there on Thursday, 31 August 1916.⁴⁴ His death was recorded by the No. 1 CCCS chaplain.⁴⁵

Private Charles Stephen was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference II. F. 190).⁴⁶ Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 CCCS, were quartered there. The earliest

Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

Charles' mother announced his death in the *Aberdeen Weekly Journal* on 15 September 1916.⁴⁷ On 24 March 1917, she received his savings of £1 18s 9d, followed by a war gratuity of £9 on 10 December 1919.⁴⁸ She applied for a pension.⁴⁹

Private Charles Stephen was posthumously awarded the 1914–15 Star (for service in a theatre of war against the central powers between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre), and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).⁵⁰ As next of kin, his mother received a memorial scroll and plaque.

The Stephen family mourned the death of a cherished son and brother in eulogies printed in the *Northern Scot and Moray & Nairn Express*. On 1 September 1917, his sorrowing mother, brothers and sisters at home and abroad wrote:

Often there my thoughts do wander
To that grave so far away
Where they laid my dear son Charles
Just one year ago to-day
Dear Charles, thou art one year gone
But to our memory dear
And many a time mother weeps
When there is no one near.

On 24 August 1918, they remembered Charles with the following:

In our hearts he ever dwelt
Never shall his memory fade
And we must well our souls prepare
When death shall come to meet him there. ⁵¹

The family's world continued without Charles. Alexander and Robert remained in active service with the BEF, their absence a source of concern. Yet, amid the uncertainty, there were moments of joy. On 7 March 1916, Rose Helen married Robert Thomson, a soldier, in Toronto.⁵² That same year, while home on leave, Robert married Jessie Stewart.⁵³ The family's anxiety must have escalated when Robert was captured by enemy forces during the Battle of Saint-Quentin on 21 March 1918. He endured eight months of internment before returning to Lossiemouth in December 1918.⁵⁴ Alexander also survived the war and was officially demobilized on 25 April 1919.⁵⁵ Despite sustaining injuries, Rose Helen's husband Robert Thomson also made it through the conflict.⁵⁶

On 31 July 1919, **Rose Helen** travelled from Toronto to Lossiemouth with her two young children, Robert and Margaret, for an extended visit with her mother. She returned to Toronto in August 1920.⁵⁷

In the years that followed, most of Charles's siblings remained in Lossiemouth. In 1921, Charles's mother **Annie** and his brother **Alexander** were living at 19 Macduff Street, Lossiemouth. Alexander was working as a general labourer for Walker and Harrower Engineers, Glasgow.⁵⁸ His sister **Jessie Ann Duncan** and her family lived next door,⁵⁹ while brothers **William** and **Robert**, along with their respective families, resided nearby.⁶⁰ In July 1921, his mother **Annie** travelled to Toronto to visit

Rose Helen, returning to Lossiemouth in June 1922.⁶¹ **Alexander** married Mary Cameron on 1 December 1931.⁶²

Private Charles Stephen's sacrifice has not been forgotten. His name is inscribed on the Men of Lossiemouth and Drainie Parish War Memorial alongside 159 other community members who lost their lives in the First World War. Designed by P. Portsmouth, A.R.S.A., the memorial was unveiled in 1922 and bears the enduring message: "Not in Vain."⁶³ His legacy is also preserved in the book, *Morayshire roll of honour: a biographical record of the men and women connected with the county who took part in the Great War 1914–18*, published in 1921.⁶⁴ In addition, Charles is commemorated on the Scottish National War Memorial.⁶⁵

© 2025 BIFHSGO

¹ "Some British Army Statistics of the Great War," *The Long, Long Trail; Researching Soldiers of the British Army in the Great War 1914–1919* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/some-british-army-statistics-of-the-great-war>: accessed 26 June 2025)

² "Statutory Registers, Births, 130/5," *Scotland's People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 22 May 2025), entry for Stephen, Charles, When and where born: 1 January 1899, 3 a.m., Moray Street, Lossiemouth, Name and surname of father, Name and maiden surname of mother, Annie Stephen. Note: His father's name was not given. Charles was listed as illegitimate. *The Register of Corrected Entries* 130/00 002 36 attached to the birth certificate was difficult to read. It indicated that Charles' last name could be either Stephen or Blackhall.

³ "Lossiemouth," *Wikipedia* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lossiemouth#Geography,_geology_and_wildlife: accessed 30 May 2025); "Lossiemouth," in "Slater's Royal National Commercial Directory of Scotland 1903," p. 649, *Scottish Post Office Directories* (<https://digital.nls.uk/directories>: accessed 8 November 2025)

⁴ "Statutory Registers Index, Births," *Scotland's People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 2 June 2025), entry for Blackhall, Anne, Mother's maiden name: Williamson, Year: 1857, Reference: 143/9, RD Name: Speymouth; "Statutory Registers, Deaths, 130/28," *Scotland's People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 2 June 2025), entry for Stephen, Annie, Name and surname: Annie Stephen, widow of James Stephen, farm labourer, When and where died: 1943 May 14, 27 Macduff Street, Lossiemouth, Age: 85, Name, surname, rank or profession of father: George Blackhall, Estate labourer (deceased), Name and maiden surname of mother: Christina Blackhall, m. s. Williamson (deceased), Cause of death: senility and heart failure, Signature and qualifications of Informant: A. Stephen, son, 17 Quarry Court, Lossiemouth

⁵ "Statutory Registers, Births, 130/51," *Scotland's People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 2 June 2025), entry for Mennie, James, When and where born: 9 June 1857, 6 a.m., Lossiemouth, Name and surname of father: Alex Stephen Mennie, Labourer, Name and maiden surname of mother: Ann Mennie Whyte. Note: In the 1851 Census, the family's name was Mennie but in the 1861 Census, the family's name was recorded as Stephen. This may be simply a transcription error by the 1851 census-taker.

⁶ "Statutory Registers, Marriages, 144/14," *Scotland's People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 24 May 2025), entry for 1877 Blackhall, Annie, When, where and how married: 23 November at Blackdam after banns of Church of Scotland, Signatures of parties, rank of profession, whether single or widowed, and relationship (if any): Annie Blackhall, Domestic servant, (spinster), Age: 20, Usual residence: Blackdam, Name, surname and rank or profession of father: George Blackhall, labourer, name and maiden name of mother: Christina Blackhall, m. s. Williamson, Signatures of parties, rank of profession, whether single or widowed, and relationship (if any): James Steven [*sic*], farm servant, (bachelor), Age: 20, Usual residence: Lossiemouth, Name, surname and rank or profession of father: Alexander Steven, labourer (deceased), Name and maiden name of mother: Ann Steven, m. s. Whyte (deceased). Note: James's surname was spelled as Steven or Stephen on various documents.

⁷ “Statutory Registers Index, Births,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 2 June 2025), entry for Steven [sic], George, Mother’s maiden name: none given, Year: 1878, Reference: 130/78, RD name: Drainie

⁸ “Statutory Registers Index, Births,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 2 June 2025), entry for Steven [sic], Alexander, Mother’s maiden name: Blackhall, Year: 1880, Reference: 130/61, RD Name: Drainie; “Statutory Registers Index, Deaths,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 10 June 2025), entry for Steven, Alexander, Mother’s maiden name: none given, Age at death: 86, Year: 1967, Reference: 130/8, RD name: Drainie

⁹ “1881 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com: accessed 25 May 2025), entry for James Stephen, Registration district: Drainie, County: Moray, Country: Scotland, Schedule: 55, Page: 11

¹⁰ “Statutory Registers Index, Births,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 4 June 2025), entry for Steven [sic], Robert John, Mother’s maiden name: none given, Year: 1882, Reference: 130/81, RD Name: Drainie; “Statutory Registers Index, Deaths,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 4 June 2025), entry for Stephen, Robert John, Mother’s maiden name: none given, Age at death: 59, Year: 1941, Reference: 130/58, RD name: Drainie

¹¹ “Statutory Registers Index, Births,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 4 June 2025), entry for Stephen, William Henry, Mother’s maiden name: Blackhall, Year: 1884, Reference: 130/49, RD name: Drainie; “Web: Moray, Scotland, Local Heritage Index, 1632–2014,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 17 June 2025), entry for William H. Stephen, Birth date: 1884, Death date: 9 Nov 1962, Death place: Spynie Hospital Elgin, Scotland, Spouse: Williamina [sic] Anderson

¹² “Statutory Registers Index, Births,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 4 June 2025), entry for Stephen, Peter, Mother’s maiden name: Blackhall, Year: 1886, Reference: 130/94, RD Name: Drainie; “Statutory Registers Index, Deaths,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 5 June 2025), entry for Stephen, Pete [sic], Mother’s maiden name: Blackhall, Age at death: 26, Year: 1912, Reference: 130/69, RD name: Drainie

¹³ “Statutory Registers Index, Births,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 4 June 2025), entry for Stephen, Jessie Ann Whyt [sic], Mother’s maiden name: Blackhall, Year: 1888, Reference: 144/28, RD name: Urquhart (Moray); “Statutory Registers Index, Deaths,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 6 June 2025), entry for Duncan, Jessie Ann Whyt [sic], Mother’s maiden name: Blackhall, Age at death: 95, Year: 1983, Reference: 280/372, RD name: Elgin

¹⁴ “Statutory Registers, Births, 144/17,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 29 May 2025), entry for Blackhall, Rose Ellen [sic], Name and surname: Rose Ellen [sic] Blackhall or Stephen, When and where born: 29 May 1893, 5 a.m., Muryhall, Urquhart, Name and surname of father: There was a note—“Ann Blackhall wife of James Stephen, Ploughman, who she declares is not the father of the child. She has had no personal communication with him since he deserted her in 1889.” Name and maiden surname of mother: Ann Stephen. Note: The designation “illegitimate” was scratched out; “Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869–1952,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 June 2025), entry for Rose Helen Thompson, Age: 47, Birth date: 28 May 1893, Birth place: Scotland, Death date: 20 January 1941, Death place: York, York, Ontario, Certificate number: 041253

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ “Statutory Registers, Births, 130/5,” *Scotland’s People*, entry for Stephen, Charles

¹⁷ “1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com: accessed 31 May 2025), entry for Annie Stephen, Registration district: Drainie, Archive reference: RG13, Schedule: 76

¹⁸ “1901 Scotland Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 June 2025), entry for Alex Steven [sic], Registration number: 142, Registration district: St. Andrews Lhanbryd, County: Moray, Enumeration district, institution or vessel: 2, Household schedule number: 6, Line: 8, Roll: CSSCT1901_42

¹⁹ “1901 Scotland Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 June 2025), entry for John Stephen, Registration number: 142, Registration district: St. Andrews Lhanbryd, County: Moray, Enumeration district, institution or vessel: 4, Household schedule number: 28, Line: 24, Roll: CSSCT1901_42

-
- ²⁰ “1901 Scotland Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 June 2025), entry for William Stephen, Registration number: 125, Registration district: Alves, County: Moray, Enumeration district, institution or vessel: 1, Household schedule number: 39, Line: 21, Roll: CSSCT1901_38
- ²¹ “1891 Scotland Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 June 2025), entry for George Stephen, Registration number: 142, Registration district: St. Andrews, Lhanbryd, County: Moray, Enumeration district, institution or vessel: 6, Household schedule number: 27, Line: 81, Roll: CSSCT891_40
- ²² “Statutory Registers Index, Marriages, 130/14,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 18 June 2025), entry for Stephen, William Henry, Spouse surname : Anderson, Spouse forename : Williamina [sic], Year: 1907, Ref : 130/14, RD name: Drainie
- ²³ “Statutory Registers Index, Marriages, 130/14,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 19 June 2025), entry for Stephen, Jessie Ann, Spouse surname: Duncan, Spouse forename: Alexander, Year: 1910, Ref : 130/14, RD name: Drainie
- ²⁴ “1911 Scotland Census 130/1/13,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 24 May 2025), entry for Charles Stephen, Registration district: Drainie, Parliamentary constituency: Elginshire, Police burgh: Lossiemouth, Enumeration district no.: 1, Page: 13; “Steam Drifters; Engine-powered Scottish fishing boats,” *historyshelf.org : the Silver Darlings* (https://sites.scran.ac.uk/secf_final/silver/links/linkh.php: accessed 21 June 2025)
- ²⁵ “Statutory Registers Index, Marriages, 130/5,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 19 June 2025), entry for Stephen, Peter, Spouse surname: Wilson, Spouse forename: Catherine, Year: 1912, Ref : 130/5, RD name: Drainie; “Statutory Registers Index, Deaths,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 5 June 2025), entry for Pete [sic] Stephen, Mother’s maiden name: Blackhall, Age at death: 26, Year: 1912, Reference: 130/69, RD name: Drainie
- ²⁶ “Canada, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1865–1935,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 July 2025), entry for Rose Stephen, Arrival date: 16 Jun 1913, Birth date: abt 1893, Arrival port: Quebec, Canada, Final destination: Toronto, Ship: Hesperian, Occupation: Servant
- ²⁷ “Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 November 2025), entry for Charles Stephen, Service number: 2337; “Scotland, World War 1, Rolls of Honour 1914–1918,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 24 June 2025), entry for Stephen, Charles, Military service number: 2337; “1916-08-31 Stephen, Charles (Soldiers’ and airmen’s wills, Regiment: Seaforth Highlanders, SC70/8/577/41),” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 25 June 2025). Note: Because Charles’ service file was destroyed in the 1940 fire at the Army Records Office in Walworth, London, his military career was pieced together using a number of sources.
- ²⁸ “UK, Royal Naval Reserve Service Records,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D8665417>: accessed 9 July 2025), entry for Steven [sic], Alexander, Reference: BT 377/7/131218, Place of birth: Drainie, Elginshire, Number: ES 1810
- ²⁹ “Scotland, World War 1, Rolls of Honour 1914–1918,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 24 June 2025), entry for Robert John Stephen, Military service number: 240390; “Anglo-Boer War Records 1899–1902,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 7 October 2025), entry for Robert Stephen, Service number: 29348; “War Veteran,” *Northern Scot and Moray & Nairn Express*, 20 September 1941, p. 4, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 September 2025)
- ³⁰ “Childers Reforms,” *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Childers_Reforms: accessed 9 July 2025)
- ³¹ “Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, the Duke of Albany’s),” *The Long, Long Trail; Researching soldiers of the British Army in the Great War of 1914–1918* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-british-infantry-regiments-of-1914-1918/seaforth-highlanders-ross-shire-buffs-the-duke-of-albanys>: accessed 9 July 2025); “Seaforth Highlanders – 6th (Morayshire) Battalion,” *Imperial War Museum* (<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk/community/4010>: accessed 28 April 2025)
- ³² Frederick William Bewsher, *The History of the 51st (Highland) Division, 1914–1918*, Edinburgh, London: William Blackwood and Sons, 1921), Chapter I, “Mobilisation,” *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/historyof51sthig00bews>: accessed 16 July 2025)

-
- ³³ “152 Infantry Brigade: 6 Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, War Diaries, 1915 Apr 1–1917 Apr 30,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14055813>: accessed 9 July 2025) Reference: WO95/2867/1. Note: Unless otherwise identified, all information about the 1/6th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders’ movements during this time period comes from this source.
- ³⁴ “152 Infantry Brigade: Headquarters, War Diaries, 1915 May 1–1915 Nov 30,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14055792>: accessed 29 July 2025), Reference: WO95 2861/1, entry 29 May 1915
- ³⁵ Frederick William Bewsher, *The History of the 51st (Highland) Division, 1914–1918*, Chapter II, “Arrival in France–Festubert,” *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/historyof51sthig00bews>: accessed 16 August 2025)
- ³⁶ “152 Infantry Brigade: 6 Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, War Diaries, 1915 Apr 1–1917 Apr 30,” entry for 15 June 1915
- ³⁷ D. Sutherland, *War diary of the Fifth Seaforth Highlanders, 51st (Highland) Division* (London: J. Lane, 1920), pp 56–57, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/51stseaforth00sunduoft/page/n13/mode/2up>: accessed 18 August 2025)
- ³⁸ “152 Infantry Brigade: 6 Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, War Diaries, 1915 Apr 1–1917 Apr 30,” entry for 28 April 1916; Frederick William Bewsher, *The History of the 51st (Highland) Division, 1914–1918*, Chapter IV, “Training and Reorganisation – The Labyrinth,” *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/historyof51sthig00bews>: accessed 16 August 2025); Jill Stewart, “The Labyrinth and the 6th Seaforth Highlanders,” *The Western Front Association* (<https://www.westernfrontassociation.com/world-war-i-articles/the-labyrinth-and-the-6th-seaforth-highlanders>: accessed 28 August 2025); “152 Infantry Brigade: 6 Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, War Diaries, 1915 Apr 1–1917 Apr 30,” entry for 13 July 1916
- ³⁹ Tony Ball, “The Northumberland Fusiliers and the Somme, 1916: A Case Study in Unit Deployment, Tactical Order and Casualties,” *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, Vol. 85, No. 344 (Winter 2007), p. 310, *JSTOR* (<https://www.jstor.org>: accessed 20 July 2025)
- ⁴⁰ “High Wood,” *World War One Battlefields* (<https://www.ww1battlefields.co.uk/somme/high-wood>: accessed 30 September 2025); “152 Infantry Brigade: 6 Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, War Diaries, 1915 Apr 1–1917 Apr 30,” entry for 7 August 1916
- ⁴¹ Frederick William Bewsher, *The History of the 51st (Highland) Division, 1914–1918*, Chapter V, “Battle of the Somme – High Wood,” *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/historyof51sthig00bews>: accessed 16 August 2025);
- ⁴² “152 Infantry Brigade: 6 Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, War Diaries, 1915 Apr 1–1917 Apr 30,” entry for 30 August 1916
- ⁴³ “Casualty Clearing Station,” *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station: accessed 2 October 2025)
- ⁴⁴ “No.1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31,” *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=fonandcol&id=2005082&lang=eng>: accessed 5 October 2025), entries for 30 and 31 August 1916
- ⁴⁵ “Search Name Index,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (<https://www.bifhsgo.ca>: accessed 6 October 2025), entry for Pte Chas Stephen
- ⁴⁶ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/201714/c-stephen>: accessed 1 October 2025) entry for C Stephen, Service number: 2337
- ⁴⁷ “Private Stephen,” *Aberdeen Weekly Journal*, 15 September 1916, p. 2, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com: accessed 4 October 2025)
- ⁴⁸ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers’ Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 October 2024), entry for Charles Stephen, Regimental number: 2337
- ⁴⁹ “UK, World War 1 Pension Ledgers and Index Cards 1914–1923,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 October 2025), entry for Charles Stephen, Service number: 2337

-
- ⁵⁰ “British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 October 2025), entry for Charles Stephen, Regimental number: 2337
- ⁵¹ “In Memoriam,” *Northern Scot and Moray & Nairn Express*, 1 September 1917, p. 1; 24 August 1918, p. 4, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com: accessed 9 October 2025)
- ⁵² “Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1826–1942,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 October 2025), entry for Rose Helen Stephen, Marriage date: 7 March 1916, Marriage place: York, Ontario, Canada, Spouse: Robert Thomson, Father: James Stephen, Mother: Annie Blackhall
- ⁵³ “Statutory Registers Index, Marriages 130/5,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>: accessed 9 October 2025), entry for Stephen, Robert, Spouse surname: Stewart, Spouse forename: Jessie, Year: 1916, Ref : 130/25, RD name: Drainie
- ⁵⁴ “Prisoners of War 1715–1945,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com: accessed 8 October 2025), entry for Robert Stephen in 1918, Service number: 240390; “Prisoners of War” *Northern Scott and Moray & Nairn Express*, 27 April 1918, p. 4 and 08 June 1918, p. 4; “Eight Months a Prisoner,” *Northern Scot and Moray & Nairn Express*, 07 December 1918, p. 2, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com: accessed 4 October 2025); “Gazetteer of the Western Front: Saint-Quentin,” *The Long, Long Trail; Researching Soldiers of the British Army in the Great War 1914–1919* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/battlefields/gazetteer-of-the-western-front/gazetteer-of-the-western-front-saint-quentin>: accessed 8 October 2025)
- ⁵⁵ “UK, Royal Naval Reserve Service Records,” *National Archives*, Kew (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D8665417>: accessed 9 July 2025), entry for Steven [sic], Alexander, Reference: BT 377/7/131218, Place of birth: Drainie, Elginshire, Number: ES 1810
- ⁵⁶ “Canada, World War 1 CEF Personnel Files, 1914–1918,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 October 2025), entry for Robert Thomson, Regimental number: 139195
- ⁵⁷ “UK and Ireland, Incoming Passengers Lists 1878–1960,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 October 2025), entry for Rose H Thomson, Port of departure: Montréal, Quebec, Canada, Arrival date: 31 July 1919, Port of arrival: Liverpool, England, Ship name: Tunisian, Official number: 111248; “Canada, Ocean Arrivals (Form 30A), 1919–1924,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 October 2025), entry for Rose H Thomson, Date of arrival: August 1920, Port of departure: Glasgow, Scotland
- ⁵⁸ “1921 Scotland Census 130/2/17,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>: accessed 20 October 2025), entry for Annie Stephen, Civil parish: Drainie, Parliamentary constituency: Moray, Burgh: Lossiemouth, Page: 17
- ⁵⁹ “Statutory Registers Index, 1921 Census,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 20 October 2025), entry for Jessie Ann Duncan, Year: 1921, Ref : 130/2/16, RD name: Drainie, County/City: Moray
- ⁶⁰ “Statutory Registers Index, 1921 Census,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 20 October 2025), entry for William Stephen, Year: 1921, Ref : 130/1/11, RD name: Drainie, County/City: Moray; “Statutory Registers Index, 1921 Census,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 20 October 2025), entry for Robert J Stephen, Year: 1921, Ref : 130/1/3, RD name: Drainie, County/City: Moray
- ⁶¹ “Canada, Ocean Arrivals (Form 30A), 1919–1924,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 20 October 2025), entry for Ann Stephen, Date of arrival: 17 July 1921, Port of arrival: Quebec, Port of departure: Bournemouth, Ship name: Pretorian; “UK and Ireland, Incoming Passengers Lists 1878–1960,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 October 2025), entry for Annie Stephen, Port of departure: Montréal, Quebec, Canada, Arrival date: 14 June 1922, Port of arrival: Glasgow, Scotland, Ship name: Cassandra, Official number: 124130
- ⁶² “Statutory Registers, Marriages, 130/15,” *Scotland’s People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/search-records>: accessed 21 October 2025), entry for Stephen, Alexander, When, where and how married: 1 December in high church manse, Lossiemouth, Names in full of parties, with signatures: Alexander Stephen, engineman, (bachelor), Age: 50, Usual residence: 27 Macduff Street, Lossiemouth Name, surname and rank or profession of father: James Stephen, farm servant, Name and maiden name of mother: Anne Stephen, m. s. Blackhall, Names in full of parties, with signatures: Mary Cameron, domestic servant, (spinster), Age: 19, Usual residence: Clifton Road, Lossiemouth, Name, surname and rank or profession of father: John Cameron,

labourer, Name and maiden name of mother: Christina Cameron, m. s. Blackhall (deceased). Note: Alexander's father James is still alive in 1931.

⁶³ "Lossiemouth," *War Memorials Online* (<https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/114613>: accessed 22 October 2025), "War Memorials Register," *Imperial War Museum* (<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/name/1363177>: accessed 25 October 2025), entry for Stephen, Chas; "Lossiemouth War Memorial Unveiled," *Banffshire Advertiser*, 24 August 1922, p. 7, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com: accessed 25 October 2025)

⁶⁴ "Scotland, World War 1 Rolls of Honour, 1914–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 23 October 2025), entry for Charles Stephen, Military service number: 2337

⁶⁵ *Scottish National War Memorial* (<https://www.snpm.org/roll-search/?id=4068122&searchid=35e47834fbc32c6582a039e63e4d8d92&page=1>: accessed 24 June 2025), entry for Stephen, Charles, Service number: 2337