

Robert McCallum Sharpe Died 28th July 1918

Died: 28th July 1918 ~ France

Robert McCallum Sharpe Regimental No: S/41359

Private Robert McCallum Sharpe aged 20 years, of the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), Territorials lost his life on 28th July 1918. He was the son of John and Janet Sharpe, of New Orchard, Blairlogie, Stirlingshire. His brothers Hugh and James also fell. Robert is buried in Chambrecy British Cemetery, Marne, France.

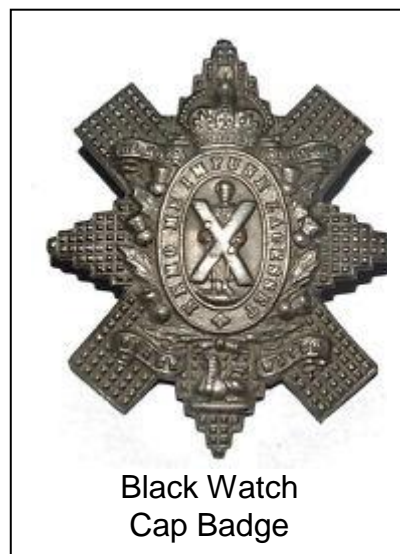
Sadly his army record is not available and if it were not for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and his letters we would know very little about his life and death.

On 28th March 1918, Robert wrote from King Street, Hutments, Aberdeen to his mother. Robert had arrived in Aberdeen at 3.20am and went to the Soldiers and Sailors rest hut where he had a good tuck in and a bed. He commented that "This place is in a bubble of excitement as every available man is under orders for drafting. Of course quite to be expected, I am amongst them.

As yet we have had no medical inspection but I will have one at the first opportunity". Robert also comments on a fellow soldier who had just had an operation for appendicitis and was still expected to go and without a leave. It appears Robert was more annoyed that the chap wasn't even going to get a chance of a wee bit of furlough before shipping back to France. Robert then tries to cheer his mother by saying "So don't worry mother, I don't think that they will pass me after they see what's wrong". Sadly Robert's letter does not make it clear what was wrong with him and he did pass his medical and was in France within the month.

On Sunday 7th April 1918, Robert wrote to his sister Nan giving her his correct address as: 41359 Pte R.S. No 10 Platoon, C Company, 1/6th Black Watch, BEF, France. He comments on being very sorry to leave the Gordons but that they had been allowed to retain their Bumbie Tartan and the "By Dand" cap badges. Robert had tried to get some leave but was passed fit and comments on his foot being much better now. He comments on how his draft had passed through Bridge of Allan, a week past yesterday and that he had seen Mr Stewart of Causewayhead.

On 20th April 1918, Robert wrote from France to his brother George who was too young to enlist berating him gently for not writing sooner. He also reported that the weather "was bitterly cold these last few days with sleet and snow, but it has improved today". He also commented on meeting "About three nights ago I met Mr Henderson of Logie Villa who is on the Motor Transport out here", and that he was looking well and is getting on AI. It is at this stage that Robert comments on "Nearly all the fellows who were in the Scottish Horse with me are knocking about here so I have many pals" Robert lets his father know that the billet that he is in is a barn and that it was fitted out with electric lights. He also reports that the farmers are busy at this time and that their crops are coming on nicely. He also commented on moral claiming that the "boys here are all very cheery and I am enjoying



Black Watch
Cap Badge



© Blairlogie Archives
Sharpe brothers

myself immensely". He concluded his letter to his brother George by saying "Your loving brother Bob".

On 2nd May 1918, Robert wrote to his sister Nan that he had received a letter from his brother which had been sent on the 27th April and received by him on 2nd May 1918. He was clearly delighted to receive any letters from home. Robert reports that 1st May was a very cold day and to get heat and circulation going the soldiers had to resort to physical exercise, but it was the opposite today and he was basking in the sun. Robert reports his new address to his mother as: Pte R Sharpe, No 11 Platoon, C Company, 1/6 Black Watch, BEF France. Robert comments on having a long talk with James Hepburn, who is in a different platoon and that James had seen Robert Jamieson and Edward Gentles. Robert also mentions that he had read in the Perthshire Journal that W. Goldie of Airthrey had been transferred from an internment camp in Germany to Holland and that he had been a prisoner of war for 2 ½ years. This was the letter home that we have and it was not long after this that the family would receive notification of the third brother's death.

Copies of Robert's letters home are available and are a touching reminder of the care that those in the trenches took to maintain moral at home.

Historical Information

The cemetery was created after the Armistice, by the concentration of graves from the surrounding battlefields and from COURLANDON Hospital (French Military) Cemetery.

There are now over 400, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly half are unidentified and a special memorial is erected to a British N.C.O. buried at Courlandon. The graves are almost all of May/July, 1918, and largely of the 19th (Western) and 51st (Highland) Divisions.



© Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Chambrecy British Cemetery, Marne

The cemetery covers an area of 1,579 square metres and is enclosed by a low stone rubble wall.