

Private. Alexander Adams



**6th Battalion
Gordon Highlanders**

Service no: 15214

16th May, 1917

Age: 17

REMEMBERING

SETTING THE SCENE

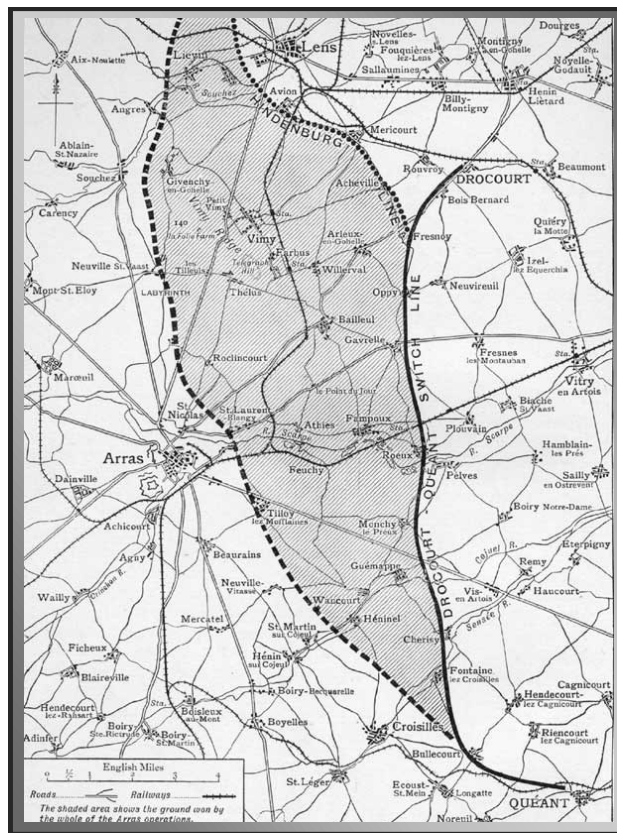


**GORDON HIGHLANDERS
REGIMENTAL BADGE**

Background

Alexander Jackson Adams was the son of Christina N. Adams, of 54, Bedford Rd., Aberdeen, and the late John Alexander Adams. He enlisted in London and served with the 6th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders (Service number S/15214) which was attached to the 51st (Highland) Division.

The Battle of Arras is the name given to a series of engagements around that city in the spring and early summer of 1917. The 6th Battalion was in action throughout this campaign including the First Battle of the Scarpe (9th – 14th April), Second Battle of the Scarpe (23rd – 24th April) and finally the capture of Roeux / Chemical Works (11th – 17th May).



**MAP SHOWING THE AREA OF THE BATTLE
OF ARRAS**

The Battle of Arras

9th April to 17th May 1917

On 13th May, Private Adams was with the advancing 51st Division close to the River Scarpe, east of Arras. In their path lay the village of Roeux and the Chemical Works that had been turned into a veritable fortress. German defences around Roeux were very strong with concrete 'bunkers' and tunnels.



GERMAN CONCRETE BUNKER NEAR ROEUX

The attack by the 51st was the sixth and final attack on this position and the last action of the Battle of Arras. This has been described as *“the most savage infantry battle that the Division took part in.”* This is quite a statement given that the 51st had been involved in heroic actions on the Somme during the previous summer. On the night of the 15/16th May 1917 the 51st Division faced a strong German counter attack along both sides of the railway line that ran north of the River Scarpe. Private Adams faced a torrent of artillery shells, bullets and bombs as the 1/4th Gordon Highlanders tried to hold the ground they had gained.

IN MEMORIUM

On 16th May, Private Alexander Adams was killed – one of 6,500 casualties sustained by the 51st Division in this battle. Private Adams is commemorated in Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras.

Arras Memorial



**ARRAS MEMORIAL WITHIN FAUBOURG
D'AMIENS CEMETERY**

The Arras Memorial within Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918 (the eve of the Advance to Victory) and have no known grave.

Name.

Corps.

Rank.

Regtl. No.

ADAMS.

Gardons.

Pte. S/15214

Alexander J.

Medal.

Roll.

Page.

Remarks.

VICTORY

G/101 BII

1501

BRITISH

"

"

STAR

Theatre of War first served in

Date of entry therein

K. 138

Correspondence