

# Private. James Moir



**1st Battalion  
Gordon Highlanders  
Service no: 11130  
*25th September, 1915*  
Age: 19**

REMEMBERING

# SETTING THE SCENE



**GORDON HIGHLANDERS  
REGIMENTAL BADGE**

## Background

James was the son of Mrs. Elizabeth Moir, of 22, Northfield Place, Aberdeen. He served with the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders (Service number S/11130), attached to 3<sup>rd</sup> Division.

James Moir was killed in the action known as 'The Battle of Bellewaarde Ridge'. The Inverurie born lad only arrived in France on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1915, and was one of a draft of 72 that reinforced the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gordon Highlanders on 6<sup>th</sup> August in camp at Poperinghe near Ypres.

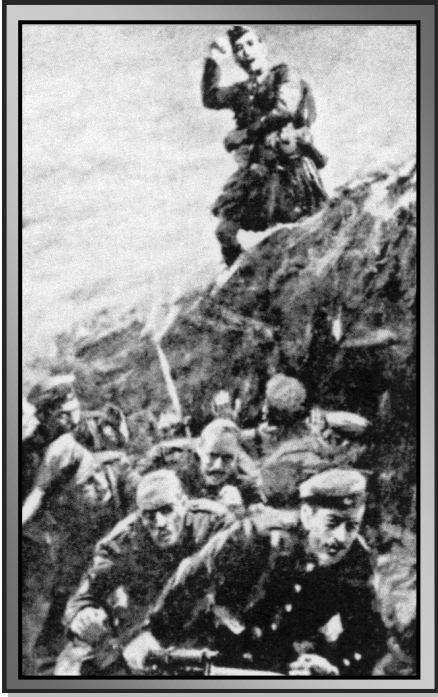
The Gordons were preparing for an attack along the Menin Road and they were being familiarised with the trenches at Hooge and Sanctuary Wood. On 22<sup>nd</sup> September James would have been excited when he lined up with his comrades to be inspected by Lord Kitchener. Next day, they moved forward to their assault trenches in Sanctuary Wood.



**TRENCHES IN SANCTUARY WOOD 2014**

## The Battle of Bellewaarde Ridge

24th to 25th September 1915



**SCOTTISH SOLDIER  
'BOMBING' AN ENEMY  
TRENCH**

The night of the 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> was miserable and the men of the attacking units were soaked through by a heavy downpour. They may have cheered up a little at 1.30 a.m. when coffee was doled out to them as they waited for the attack to begin. At 3.40 a.m. they stood with fixed bayonets on the fire step and just as they might be thinking, 'what now?', the air was filled with loud booms. Shells screamed overhead as the British artillery began a 30 minute bombardment of the German front line. Just after 4.00 a.m. the artillery ceased fire and along the British front line, officers gave a sharp blast on their whistles. The Gordons sprang from their trenches but quickly encountered problems as the artillery had failed to do sufficient damage to the enemy wire in their sector. Bullets whizzed among them as they struggled with inadequate wire cutters. Some moved to their left to look for gaps and became intermingled with other units. Some did get through and hand to hand fighting took place both in the German trenches and in the open ground between the enemy first and second lines.

Bombers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Gordon Highlanders caused some damage initially but quickly ran out of bombs and were forced to retire. More than 50% of the Gordon Highlanders who took part in this attack were killed or wounded (334 out of 641).

# IN MEMORIUM

On the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1915, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Gordon Highlanders was withdrawn for rest. James Moir was one of those left behind – killed on his one and only venture across No-man's land, only 2 months after landing in France. The 19 year old has no known grave and is named on the Menin Gate.

## Menin Gate Memorial



**THE MENIN GATE MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING,  
YPRES**

The Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known, including Private James Moir. Here, at 8 o'clock each night, the traffic is stopped for the last post ceremony in front of crowds of up to 1500.



Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
451 MOIR James	Good Highrs. <u>do</u>	Pvt. <u>—</u>	<u>11130</u>

Medal.	Koll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	G/101 B10	1252	W in A 25-9-15
BRITISH	<u>do</u>		
15 STAR	G/1 B4.	333	
Theatre of War first served in	France.		
Date of entry therein	27-7-15		

K 1380.

Correspondence.

Address.