

2nd Lieutenant Charles Douglas Reid (1st June 1897 – 15th July 1916)



Birth

Charles Douglas Reid was born on the 1st June 1897 at 15 Montgomerie Crescent (now Clevedon Crescent), Glasgow the youngest son of James and Patricia Reid.

1901 census

James Reid, 55, Retired Dyer & East India Merchant

Patricia M Reid, 46

Eliza M C Reid, 26

Alice R Reid, 19

Alexander K Reid, 16

James G Reid, 12

Charles D Reid, 3

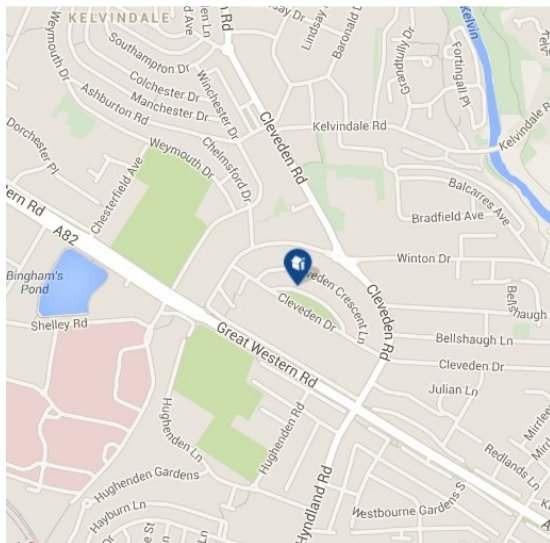
Jane Aitchison, 24, Laundry maid

Margaret K C Love, 23, Cook

Helen M C Love, 20, Table maid

Agnes C Anderson, 25, Housemaid

Bessie M Scott, 28, Nurse



Clevedon Crescent, Glasgow

Education

He was educated at Kelvinside Academy, a private school in the north of Glasgow, and then at Fettes College in Edinburgh.



Kelvinside Academy

He came to Moredun House at Fettes in 1911 and was a school prefect, a sergeant in the cadet corps, and a player in the 1st rugby XV, 1st cricket XI, the fives X, and hockey team.



Fettes College

MOREDUN HOUSE

"Cock House"

O.T.C. HOUSE SECTION COMPETITION 1913



ALEX. ATTON.

45 AND 45 BRUNSFIELD PLACE, EDINBURGH.

Pte. A. C. MacCormick, Pte. R. G. Paterson, Pte. F. G. Shand, Pte. G. C. L. Atkinson, Pte. R. A. Murray, Pte. C. S. H. Livingston, Pte. A. W. Reid,
Pte. W. I. Nicholson, Pte. D. Mackintosh, Pte. F. J. Fisher, Pte. E. K. Anderson, Pte. D. I. Stewart, Pte. R. Midwood, Pte. S. C. Auld, Pte. J. C. Wollenden,
Pte. C. D. Reid, L.-Cpl. A. J. Begg, Sergt. W. A. Smith, Cpl. D. W. Grant, L.-Cpl. J. L. Pullar, Pte. N. R. Colville,
Pte. D. K. Simpson, Pte. D. D. W. Todd, Pte. C. H. Trollope, Pte. J. D. Inglis, Pte. H. Gilson, Pte. R. R. Johnston, Pte. E. T. S. Salvesen.

C D Reid is on the second row on the left. O.T.C., Moredun House, Fettes. 1913.

Photo courtesy of David McDowell, History Department, Fettes College

A third of those in the photograph above were killed, and a third wounded, in the war.

The person sitting next to C D Reid, Alexander Begg, became an officer in the 17th Highland Light Infantry which suffered heavily on the outbreak of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916 with 6 former Fettes pupils, including Begg, killed or mortally injured serving with that battalion on that day.

MOREDUN HOUSE 1913-14.



D. Stewart. C.F. Syme. W.A. Shand. J.D. Inglis. D.R. Simpson. W. Ross. H.F. Forrester. E.T.S. Salvesen. A.I. Davis.
H.C. Hayward. W.G. Dean. A.J.W. Baker. J.I. Murray. J. Paterson. C.H. Livingston. H. Gibson. G.C.I. Atkinson. M.I. Davis. R.G. Paterson. A.C.M. McCormick. H. Gardner. C.H. Trollope. M.C. Cox. R. Nicol. R.R. Johnston. J. Cunningham. F.A. Randall.
S.C. Auld. C.D. Reid. J.L. Pillar. A.H. Ashcroft, Esq. A.J. Begg. Miss Tanqueray. D.W. Tanqueray, Esq. A.D. Low. R.A. Murray. R. Underwood.
G.H.V. Hart. T.B. Harvey. R. Gibson. J.L. Tomlinson. R.M. Connelly. C. Connell. G.W. Marshall. R.K. Paton. J. Campbell. H.L. Law.

C D Reid is on the second row, second from the left. Moredun House, Fettes. 1913-14.

Photo courtesy of David McDowell, History Department, Fettes College

At least nine of the pupils in the photograph above were killed and nine wounded in the war.

Service in Glasgow Highlanders

He left Fettes in July 1915 to join up, and on the 25th May 1916, a week before his 19th birthday, he landed in France as a Second Lieutenant in the Glasgow Highlanders (9th Battalion Highland Light Infantry).

His battalion was highly praised for their raid on enemy trenches on the 27th June.

Letter of congratulation from Glasgow City Chambers:

To Lieut-Colonel Stormonth Darling, Officer Commanding 9th HLI (Glasgow Highlanders).
3rd July 1916

Dear Colonel Stormonth Darling,

Sir Douglas Haig has sent me a most charming letter telling me of the brilliant work done by your battalion during the night of June 27th when you brought back 46 prisoners and two machine guns besides destroying some mine shafts during your tour of the enemy trenches. Will you allow me, not only on my own behalf but on behalf of the citizens of Glasgow, to congratulate you and your battalion most heartily on this notable feat, which is quite in keeping with the traditions of the Glasgow Highlanders and other troops from this city. We always knew that when the opportunity occurred they would discharge with efficiency any task entrusted to them. We are proud of the Glasgow Highlanders and of what they have done and feel sure that in the future they will display the same gallantry and courage as in the past.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Yours very truly,

Norman Dunlop.

Two weeks later they were to take part in the Battle of the Somme.

Extract from the Glasgow Highlanders War Diary

July 13th. Becordel-Becourt. Battalion remained in Bivouac. Company Commanders proceeded to Mametz village to reconnoitre.

July 14th. From 3am Battalion stood ready to move. Moved up to Fricourt at 11am remaining till about 5pm when orders were received that the battalion would move towards High Wood to take up a line from N.W. corner of wood westwards along the road to Bazentin-Le-Petit joining in to the 1/Queens who were to prolong to our left as far as X roads N.E. of Bazentine.

The 7th Division had shortly before attacked High Wood & we were informed by O.C. 2/Queens that they had captured it & held it.

Nos 1 & 2 Comps deployed at S.E. end of wood moving up western edge to take up allotted line. The line was fired at from N.W. corner of wood by machine guns and rifles & it was found impossible to take up the line of the road. Trenches were therefore dug about 150 yards south of road. During night things in wood became muddled & there were a great many men (7th Div) evacuating the wood. To prevent our left being completely enfiladed from the wood No 3 Coy sent 3 platoons to get astride the wood. This they did. During night the battalion had a lot of casualties among officers & men.

July 15th. At 5am orders were received that the Battalion was to attack the Switch Trench in front of Martinpuich. The Queens & Glasgow Highlanders were to carry out the attack. The Worcesters & 15/KRR (Kings Royal Rifle Corps) to be in support.

Our right was to start from the N.W. corner of High Wood (which we did not hold). The preliminary bombardment was to begin at 8.30am & the attack at 9am.

A message was sent to the Brigade that it was impossible to attack unless High Wood was first cleared. About 7.30am a message came from Brigade HQ that it had been requested that 7th Division should be asked to clear wood & asking if we had heard of any 7th Division Battalions were to do this. One of the C.O.s of a 7th Division Battalion said it had been suggested he should attack High Wood but it was too big a job for him.

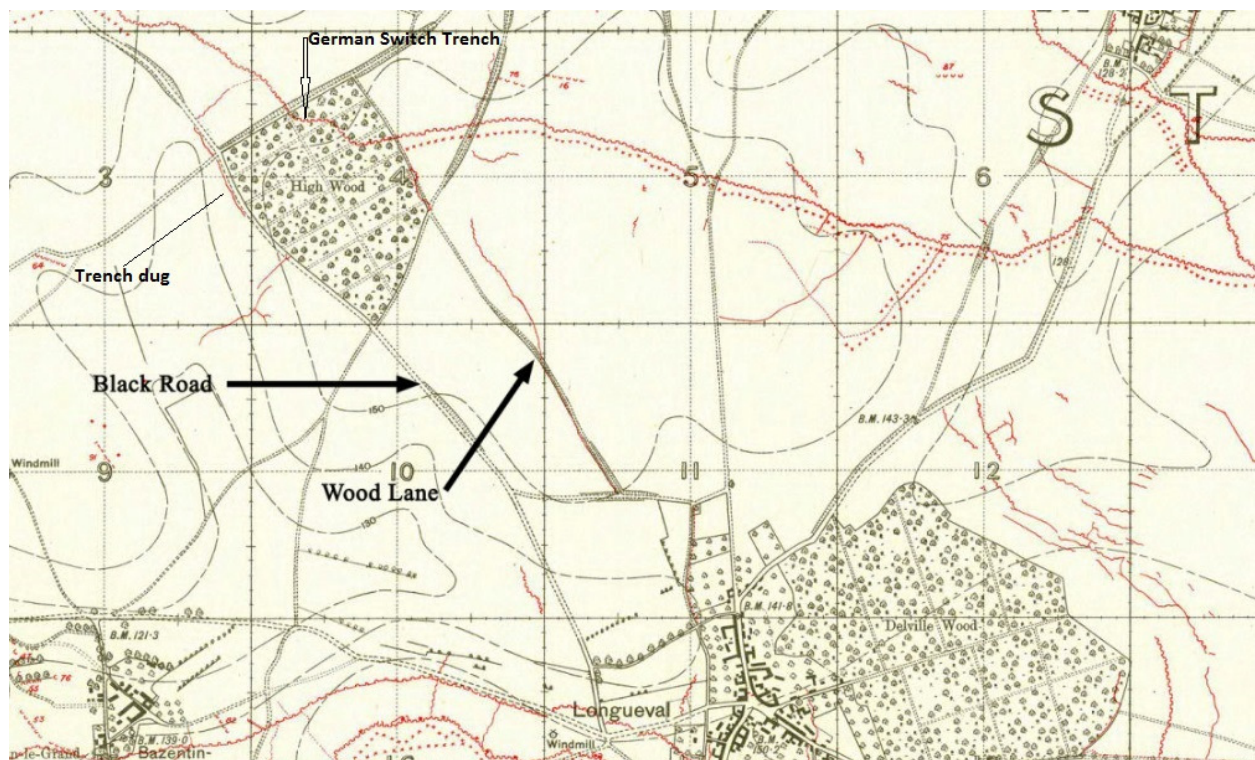
About 7.30am a convoy of 16/KRR was sent up to be a support to the Battalion. This convoy & 3 platoons of No 3 Coy were put into wood to try & clear the Right flank of the Battalion when the attack began.

At 9am the Battalion attacked & only got about 150 yards coming on very heavy fire from wood & from Switch trench N of wood & from a sunken road in front of Switch trench.

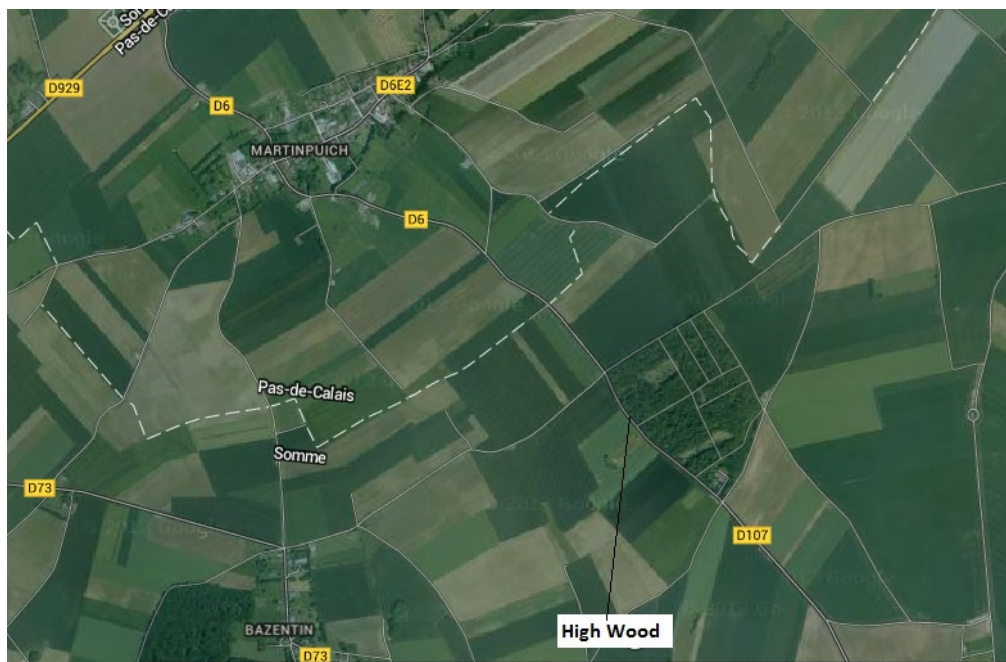
The 2nd Worcesters were sent up in support but were also stopped.

The Battalion suffered the following casualties: 5 officers killed, 15 wounded & 1 missing.
Other Ranks: 87 killed, 214 wounded, 99 missing (believed killed).

July 16th. At 3am the 1/Cameronians came up & relieved the Battalion which went back to the S.E. corner of Mametz Wood.



Trench map showing location of High Wood, the German Switch Trench, and the possible location of the trench dug by the Glasgow Highlanders 150 yards south of the road between the North West corner of High Wood and the village of Bazentin-le-Petit.



High Wood in 2016.

The Glasgow Highlanders objective was to progress up the side of the wood but they received ‘very heavy fire from wood’ resulting in very many casualties.



Glasgow Highlanders Memorial Cairn next to High Wood comprising 192 stones for each person killed.



Wreath placed in 2016 for the centenary

Charles Reid was the officer in the missing list mentioned in the war diary.

His elder brother Alexander Kirkwood Reid (later to become Colonel) wrote in his book 'Shoulder to Shoulder' that Charles Douglas Reid had been killed while making 'a gallant attempt to move his platoon forward' on the attack on High Wood. ('Shoulder to Shoulder' referenced by 'Come on Highlanders!': Glasgow Territorials in the Great War By Alec Weir).

The War Office subsequently accepted that he had been killed on the 15th July as per below:

FOR INFORMATION ONLY. NOT TO BE COMMUNICATED OUTSIDE THE WAR OFFICE.

EXTRACTS from Nos. X.41973. X.41974 & X.41976. X.41977.

Ext. No. X. 41973.

2nd Lieutenant C.D. Reid. 1/9th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry.
reported "Missing 15th July, 1916" on List No. C/910.

No further information has been received; and in view of the lapse of time since he was reported missing, his death has now been accepted for official purposes as having occurred on or since the 15th July, 1916.

Confirmation Nominate. Register No. 9/4/984.

Extract from ~~Letters of Administration~~
~~Probate of Will~~ Not resealed in England.

Dated 10th Jan'y: 1918. Granted at Glasgow.

1. Estate of Charles Douglas Reid, late of 15, Montgomerie Crescent, Kelvinside, Glasgow. 2nd Lieut. Glasgow Highrs.

2. Date and Place of Death Died on the 15th of July 1916 in France.

Holograph Will dated 23rd May 1916.

3. Grantees Alice Patricia Reid or Thomson, of 19, Roslyn Terrace Kelvinside, Glasgow, (wife of Graham Hardie Thomson, Engineer in Glasgow.) his Sister. (and four others who have all declined to accept office) Universal Legatories and as such the sole accepting Executrix-Nominate.

4. Gross value, £ 2,819. 4. 10.

5. Disposal of Medals

Produced by Mitchells, Johnston & Co.
160. West George St.
Glasgow.

and to whom returned by R. P. 14. 1. 1918.

W14577 H2512 15,000 2/17 HWV H2551 R17/355

hms 17/1

Probate

Any further communication on
this subject should be addressed to—
Secretary,
War Office,
Imperial Institute,
South Kensington,
London, S.W.7,
and the following number quoted.

WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W.1,

8th May, 1919.

9/7/6456. Accounts 4. (P. & S.)

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to
inform you of the wish of H.M. Government that
the next-of-kin of all officers and men who have fallen
in the defence of their country should receive a plaque
and scroll, bearing the name and regiment, as a
memorial of their patriotism and sacrifice.

In order to ensure that the plaque and scroll
reach the next-of-kin of the late 2nd Lieutenant
Charles Douglas Reid,
9th Bn. Highland Light Infantry.
I am to enquire whether you can inform this Depart-
ment of the name and address of the late Officer's
nearest relative now living, in the following order of
relationship:—

Widow	...	...	...	...
Eldest Son	...	...	...	...
" Daughter	...	...	...	...
Father	...	...	...	...
Mother	...	...	...	...
Eldest Brother	...	...	...	...
" Sister	...	...	...	...
" Half-Brother	...	...	...	...
" " Sister	...	...	...	...

The Council regret that owing to the great
number of these memorials it is not possible to say
in any individual case when their receipt may be
expected.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Reid. 2nd Lt.
15. Montgomery Crescent
Glasgow.
R. Wade

2nd Lieut. Charles Douglas
Reid was unmarried
and I, his father, am
his nearest relative
and will be glad to
receive the plaque and
scroll at this address.
James Reid
15 Montgomery Crescent
Glasgow, W.

Plaque accepted by father James Reid

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
REID			
Charles Douglas	9/H.L.I. (TF)	x 2/Lieut	

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY H.L.I. x BRITISH	Off: 1111	165.	Dec 15/7/16 Missing 19/5/22 NW/7/17913
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in	France		
Date of entry therein	25.5.16		

14.8.22

CPW/7/17913

K. 1380

Medal Card

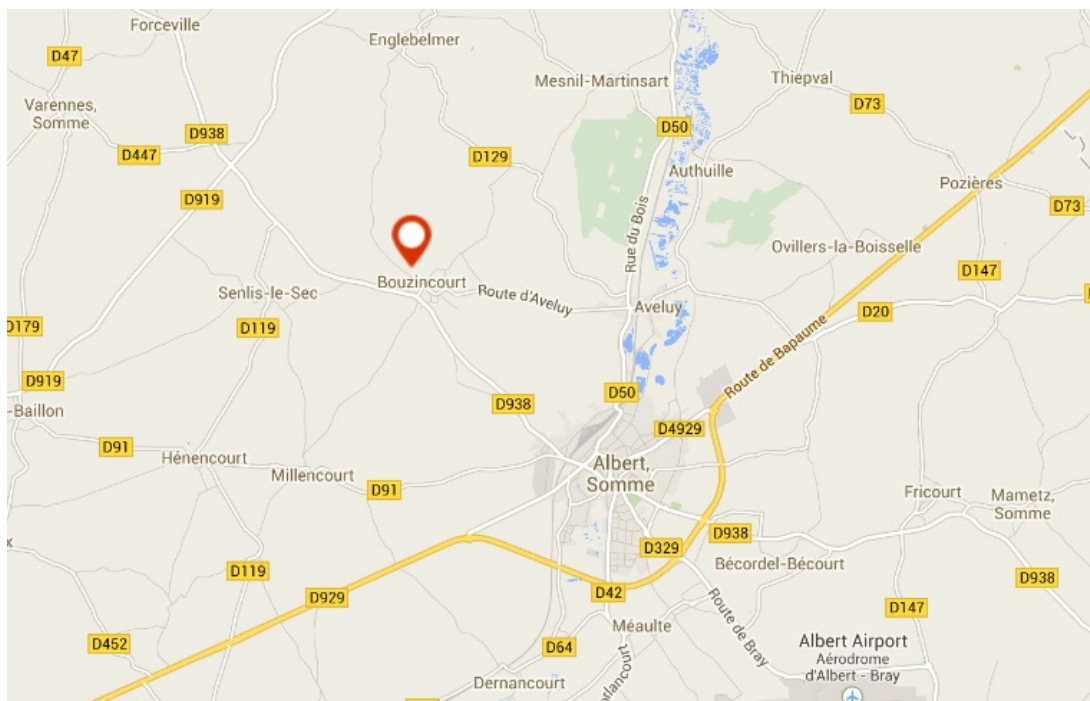
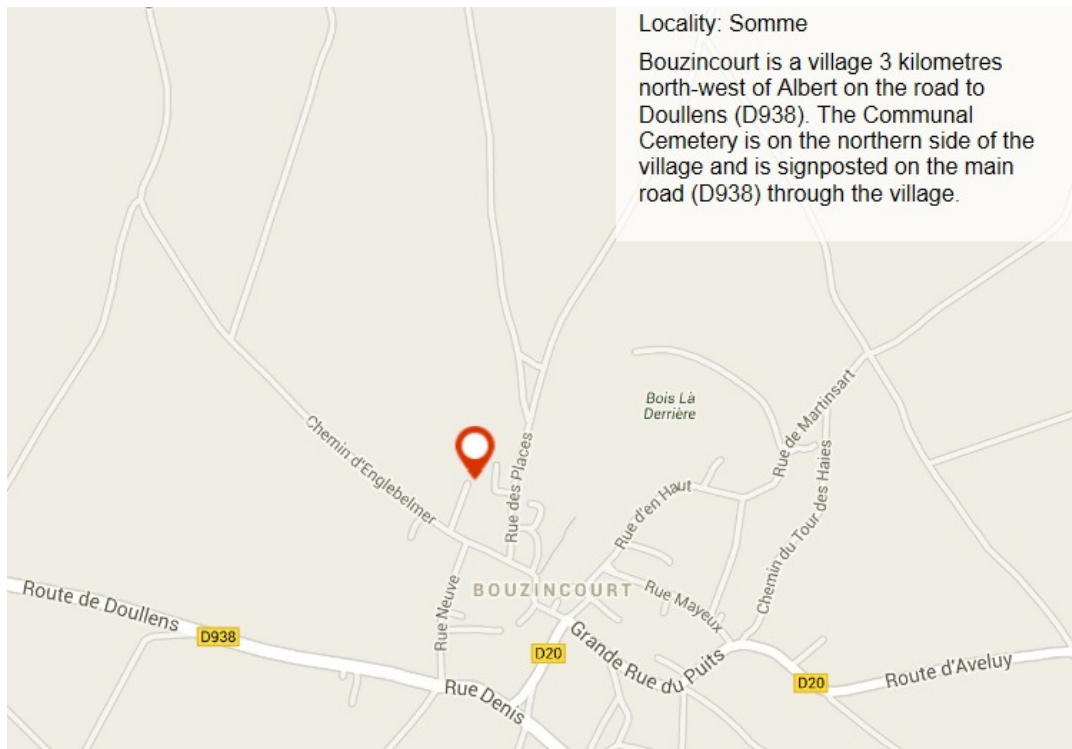
Burial

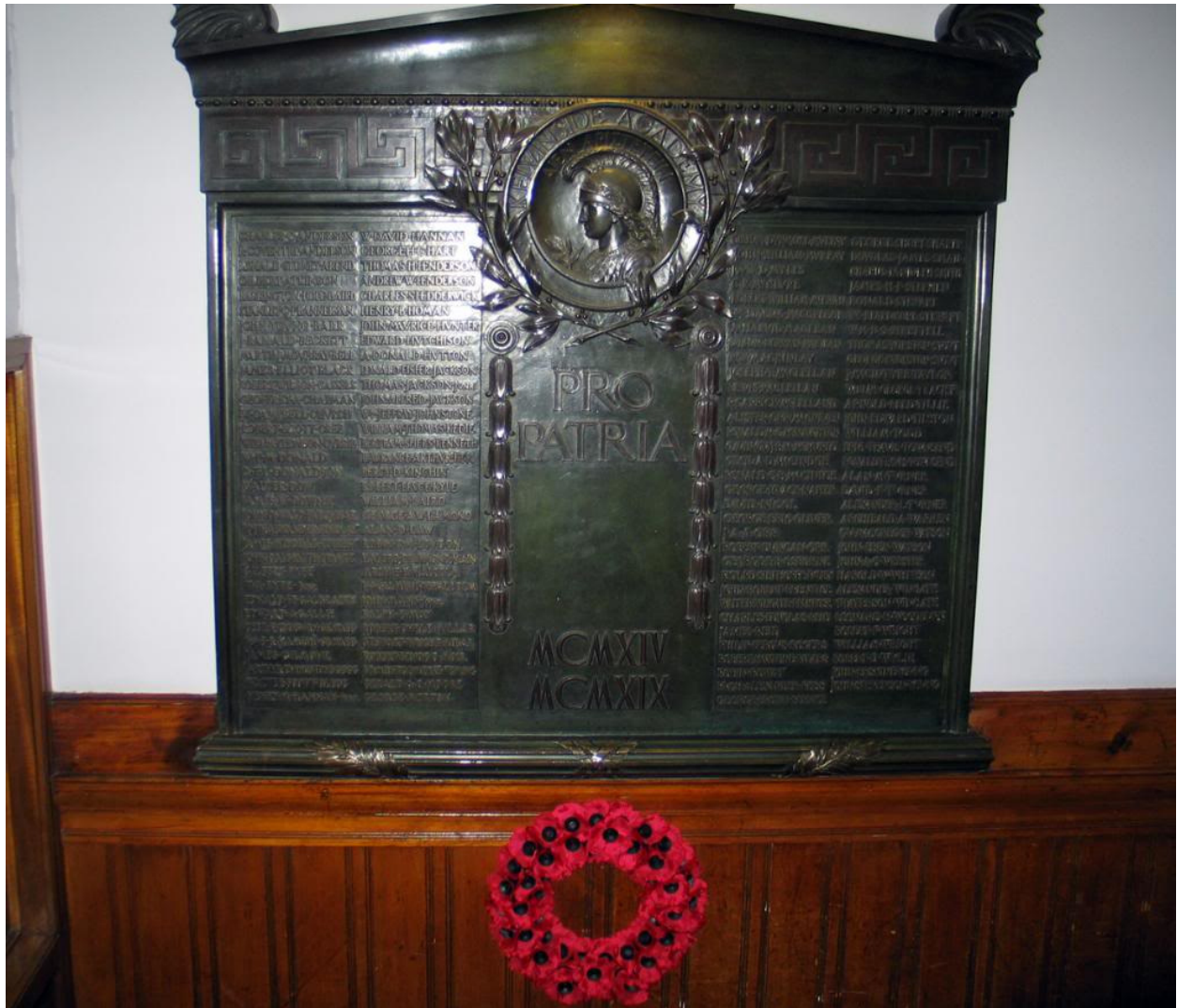
He is buried in Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension. Grave Ref: III. AA. 20.





Bouzincourt Cemetery





Kelvinside Academy War Memorial



Culter War Memorial. Village now known as Coulter (50 miles south west of Glasgow). Major Edward McCosh MC, also in the Glasgow Highlanders, died on 26th September 1918 aged 27, and was the son of Alexander Kirkwood McCosh, and probably the brother in law of Charles Douglas Reid as Charles's sister, Louise Ethel Reid, married a William Waddell McCosh and their son Lieutenant James Reid McCosh R.N.V.R killed on 12th April 1942 by an ME109 aged 25 is also listed.



Memorial at Craigton Cemetery, Glasgow

In Memory of
Eliza Margaret Taylor
wife of
James Reid
Died 7th August 1874
Aged 21 years.

CHARLES DOUGLAS REID
9th Btn H.L.I (Glasgow Highlanders)
Killed in France, at the battle of
The Somme
15th July 1916, aged 19 years.

Patricia Margaret Sillars
wife of the above
James Reid
Died 24th April 1925, aged 70 years.

The above
JAMES REID
Died 30th March 1928, aged 82 years.

Colonel Alexander Kirkwood Reid CB, CBE, DSO, MC, TD, DL



Taken from the Glasgow Highlanders Officers Sketch book

Alexander Kirkwood Reid was born in Glasgow on 18th July, 1884, and was educated at Kelvinside Academy. He became a Member of the Glasgow Stock Exchange on 12th September, 1911.

In 1906 he joined the 5th (Glasgow Highland) Volunteer Battalion, H.L.I., as a Second-Lieutenant, and when the Glasgow Highlanders were mobilized in August 1914 he was a junior company commander. Capt. Reid, H.L.I., was awarded the Military Cross in the King's Birthday Honours of 22nd June, 1915, and exactly one year later was wounded by shrapnel.

On recovery he was posted second-in-command of the 2/9th Bn. H.L.I. which since March 1916 had been stationed at Maldon in Essex as part of the 65th Division, Southern Army Home Forces.

In 1917 Major Reid married Ina Doris Law, the daughter of a Glasgow ship owner.

Early in 1917 the second-line Glasgow Highlanders had moved to Ireland, eventually ending up at Dublin. By the end of that year, however, it had been decided to break up the 65th Division, and with it the 2/9th H.L.I. 'Sandy' Reid. was posted to the 1/9th, and re-joined the first-line battalion in the Ypres Canal support line sector on 19th July, 1918.

From November 1918 to January 1919 he was in temporary command of the battalion. On the 11th February 1919 he was demobilized, and in the King's Birthday Honours of 3rd June, 1919, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. At about the same time he qualified for the Territorial Decoration — war service being counted as double.

When the Territorial Army was revived in 1920, he again became second-in-command of the Glasgow Highlanders under Lieutenant Colonel A. H. Menzies, DSO, until 1923, when he became Commanding Officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Reid commanded the Highlanders until 1929, thereafter becoming a military member of the Territorial Army & Air Force Association of the County of the City of Glasgow, with the rank of full Colonel. In 1933 he was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath; the GB of the Military Division being conferred only on, in the case of the Army, officers above the rank of Major who have been mentioned in despatches, which in Reid's case he had been — twice.

Since 1920 he and Colonel Menzies had been in partnership as Reid & Menzies, Stockbrokers, with an office at 86, St. Vincent Street, in Glasgow. Colonel Reid was Chairman of the Glasgow Stock Exchange for the year 1936 — 1937, and paid for the reconstruction of the luncheon room in the Exchange.

The partnership with Alexander Henry Menzies was dissolved on 14th March, 1938, so during the war that began the following year, Colonel Reid's business affairs were looked after by the firm of Service Brothers & Fraser. From 1939 until 1946 he was Vice-Chairman of the

Territorial Army & Air Force Association and a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of the City of Glasgow. He was also Honorary Organizer, Home Guard, Glasgow Area, and a military member of the Glasgow University Joint Recruiting Board. In 1945 he was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Colonel A. K. Reid, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, TD, DL, died at 5, Huntly Gardens, Glasgow, on 22nd March, 1948. He was survived by his wife, three daughters and a son.

References :

Above taken from Appendix A of 'Shoulder to Shoulder' by Colonel Alexander Kirkwood Reid. (This is available to download at the Royal Highland Fusiliers website <http://www.rhf.org.uk> at their book list at http://rhf.org.uk/rhf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=113 or direct at <http://rhf.org.uk/Books/SH.%20to%20SH..doc> .)

Glasgow Highlanders Officers Sketch Book - Volume 2. Available at Royal Highland Fusiliers museum website at <http://rhf.org.uk/Books/SketchesVol2.pdf>

Author

William Bridge, July 2014. Updated July 2016 with information and photographs about Fettes courtesy of David McDowell, History & Politics Department, Fettes College.

williambridge@stanwardine.com

(1st cousin 3 times removed to Charles Douglas Reid)

References

From Commonwealth War Graves Commission:

Name: REID, CHARLES DOUGLAS

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Regiment/Service: Highland Light Infantry, 9th (Glasgow Highlanders.) Battalion.

Age: 19

Date of Death: 15/07/1916

Additional information: Killed in action at High Wood 15th July 1916. Son of James and Patricia Margaret Reid, of 15, Montgomerie Crescent, Glasgow.

Grave/Memorial Reference: III. AA. 20.

Cemetery: BOUZINCOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION

Summary of movements from "Tracing British Battalions on the Somme by Ray Westlake:

1/9th (Glasgow Highland) Battalion (T.F.) 100th Brigade, 33rd Division:

Entrained at Lillers for Saleux (9th July) and from there marched through Amiens to Vecquemont. To Morlancourt (11th July), Becordel-Becourt (12th July), assembly positions between High Wood and Bazentin-le-Petit (14th July) - 3 platoons going into western side of wood to engage the enemy. Attack on Switch Line (15th July) - driven back by heavy machine gun fire to start positions. Casualties - 421.

Medal Index card:

Served in France from 25.5.16

CPW/7/17913 (National Archives)

Service record: WO 374/56799 (National Archives)

War Diary: WO 95/2431/1 (National Archives)

Come on Highlanders!: Glasgow Territorials in the Great War by Alec Weir.

Shoulder to Shoulder by Colonel Alexander Kirkwood Reid. (This is available to download at the Royal Highland Fusiliers website www.rhf.org.uk at their book list at http://rhf.org.uk/rhf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=113 or direct at <http://rhf.org.uk/Books/SH.%20to%20SH..doc> .)

Email from David McDowell, History & Politics Department, Fettes College.