

John Philp Royal Scots Reg. No: 7580

Died: 24th April 1917: France

John Philp was born in Inverleithen in the county of Peebles and lived part of his life with his parents in Blairlogie.

At the time of joining the army, John was 19 years and 6 months old and his profession was gardener. He was a member of the 7th Volunteer Battalion the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and on attesting he joined the Royal Scots. He was attested on 28th May 1901.

Promoted to Lance Corporal 11th September 1901.



Cap Badge of the Royal Scots

From his medical records it is clear that John's height was 5 foot 8¼ inch and he weighed 120 pounds. His chest measurement was 32 inches and 34 inches when expanded, his complexion was listed as fresh, his eyes blue and his hair light brown. John's religion was marked as Presbyterian. On 6th September 1901, recruit John Philp had another medical and at this time his measurements were: Chest 35 inches and when expanded 38 inches and his weight was now 130 pounds. The medical officer recommended retention of Recruit Philps and noted that he had reached the appropriate standard, but mentioned that his teeth were defective.

On 27th November 1903 Lance Corporal John Philp reverts to being a private soldier.

On 2nd April 1904, private John Philp requested permission to extend his service to complete 8 years. At this time he had 2 years 10 months service and one good conduct badge. This would move the date when his army service would expire from 27th May 1908 to 27th May 1909 and would mean that he would receive a higher rate of pay. On 29th December 1908 Lance Corporal John Philp again extends his army service, this time to 12 years and he is a holder of 2 good conduct badges.

From 4th February 1904 until 9th March 1909, John was serving in India with his regiment.

On 6th April 1904 Lance Corporal Philp is promoted to Corporal.

John was involved in a Board of Officers in August 1907 by command of Colonel A Broadwood, Commander 1st Regimental District for the purpose of investigating and reporting on the circumstances under which No. 7580 private J Philp, "D" Company, Depot Royal Scots sustained an injury. The president of the Board was Major Halleded and the members were 2nd Lieutenant D.G. Rooke and 2nd Lieutenant CL Gordon of of the Royal Scots. John reported that "*when I was leaping over the water jump he felt a pain in his left testicle, he thought nothing of it at the time, but by the Sunday or Monday the 4th or 5th August it began to swell, and on Wednesday 7th August I became sick and was admitted to hospital.*" The Sergeant who was present reported that John had completed the course and had not reported any injury. The medical officer sent a note indicating that John would be perfectly all right for military service. The Board found that the injury was sustained as the result of an accident and no further action was recommended.

From 10th March 1909 until 4th December 1914, John was serving at home.

Promoted to Corporal 16th August 1909.

John Philp

Promoted to Lance Sergeant on 22nd February 1911.

Promoted to Sergeant 12th August 1912.

On 2nd April 1913, Sergeant John Philp again extended his service, this time to 21 years, at this time John was at the Depot in Glencorse.

Records exist which show that John had acute synovitis in his right shoulder and he was hospitalised in Glencorse hospital on two occasions 2nd February 1914 for 4 days and then 6 February 1914 for 37 days.

On 9th June 1914, Sergeant John Philp attended and passed a course on keeping all marks of Rifle Short, M.L.E. in order.

From 4th December 1914 until his death, John was serving in France.

On 4th March 1915, "*acting Company Sergeant Major John Philp solicits the Commanding Officers permission to get married with a view to be borne on the strength of the married establishment.*" The Orderly Room stamp of the 3rd Royal Scots shows that the Commanding Officer approved the marriage.

John Philp married Helen Bonfield on the 19th March 1915 at Weymouth Registrar.

Promoted to CSM on 21st May 1915.

John was shot in action in the field on 1st May 1917 and died of a gunshot wound to the abdomen on 5th May 1917.

On 24th October 1917 Helen Philp received a letter containing the articles and private property of her husband CSM John Philp. The articles returned were as follows: Photos, letters, watch and strap, whistle, scissors, corkscrew, badge, photos, disc, torch in case, pocket case, flask, handkerchief, coins, card, rubber, companion, cigarettes and pencil. At the time of receipt, Helen was staying at 5 The Square, Penicuik, Midlothian. Helen received a war pension of 18/9d from 19th November 1917. Shortly after this Helen moved to stay with Mrs Smith, 3 Egmont Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey. By 12th June 1920 Helen had moved to 39 Douglas Road, Surbiton, Surrey. Records show that Helen and John did not have any children and that he no brothers alive in 1920.

At the time of his death John Philp was a CSM in the 13th Battalion, Royal Scots and he received gunshot wounds in action in the field, France on 24th April 1917.

CSM John Philp lies buried at Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, France.

Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, France

Location Information

Duisans and Etrun are villages in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, about 9 kilometres west of Arras. The Cemetery lies in Etrun but takes its name from the nearer village of Duisans.

It is one kilometre north of Duisans on the D339 road off the Route nationale N39 (Arras-St Pol), in the angle of the Arras Habarcq road and a track leading to Haute-Avesnes.

Visiting Information

Wheelchair access to this site is possible, but may be by an alternative entrance. For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on 01628 507200 or 01628 507200

Historical Information

The area around Duisans was occupied by Commonwealth forces from March 1916, but it was not until February 1917 that the site of this cemetery was selected for the 8th Casualty Clearing Station. The first burials took place in March and from the beginning of April the cemetery grew very quickly, with burials being made from the 8th Casualty Clearing Station (until April 1918), the 19th (until March 1918), and the 41st (until July 1917).

Most of the graves relate to the Battles of Arras in 1917, and the trench warfare that followed. From May to August 1918, the cemetery was used by divisions and smaller fighting units for burials from the front line. In the Autumn of 1918 the 23rd, 1st Canadian and 4th Canadian Clearing Stations remained at Duisans for two months, and the 7th was there from November 1918 to November 1920.

There are now 3,205 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated at Duisans British Cemetery. There are also 88 German war graves.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.



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Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, France