

Richard Kirk Died 17th May 1915

Died: 17th May 1915 ~ France
Lance Corporal Richard KIRK Reg No: 2559

Richard's death is recorded on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, France and that he had served in the 1st/7th Bn., Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; he died on 17 May 1915.

At the time of Richard's enlistment on 9th September 1914, he was staying at 44 Queen Street Alva. He had previously 10 years' service, 4 years as a volunteer and 6 years with territorials and was discharged in 1913. He was 28 years of age at the time of his enlistment and was 5 foot 9 ½ inches tall with a 36 inch chest when fully expanded and a 2 inch expansion. His vision was good as was his physical condition.

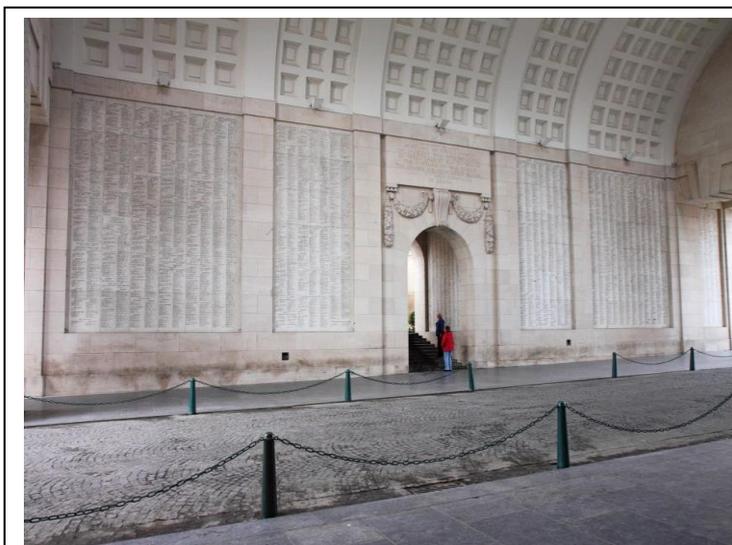
Richard embarked for France from Southampton on 17th February 1915 and was soon promoted to Lance Corporal on 10th May 1915. Sadly he was killed in action in the field on 17th May 1915.



Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders
Cap Badge

On 7th December 1915, Richard's widow Mrs Jean Miller Kirk received a letter indicating that she had received a widow's pension of 10/- per week from 6th December 1915. At that time she was staying at 3 Long Row, Menstrie.

Mrs Kirk remarried and was listed as Mrs G Robb of 3 Long Row Menstrie during a series of exchanges of correspondences with the War Office concerning her husband's medals and Richard's mother was supporting her with these exchanges. Richard's mother was Mrs A McLaren and she is listed as staying at 41 Cobden Street, Alva.



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The Menin Gate

The Menin Gate

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Broadly speaking, the Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war.

The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force

succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side. The violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defense.

There was little more significant activity on this front until 1917, when in the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele.

The German offensive of March 1918 met with some initial success, but was eventually checked and repulsed in a combined effort by the Allies in September.

The battles of the Ypres Salient claimed many lives on both sides and it quickly became clear that the commemoration of members of the Commonwealth forces with no known grave would have to be divided between several different sites.