

Research File Report

Reported By: Richard Laughton, April 2008 rlaughton@gmail.com

Soldier Name: Mary Paterson (Civilian)

Unit Affiliation: Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, British Army

Date of Death: May 30, 1918

Reported Link: Daughter of Private and Mrs. John Paterson of Milton
Milton Historical Society Publications (MHS)

Census Reports: Not located on 1901 or 1911 Canadian Census Documents
Not located in United Kingdom Genealogical Records

Action Required: Remove name from Milton Victoria Park Cenotaph
Correct references in MHS WWI Publication

Web Site References: [Milton Historical Society – WWI Records](#)
[Imperial War Museum QMAAC](#)
[Abbeville Cemetery Reports](#)
[Abbeville Cemetery Extension Reports](#)
[U.K. National Archives](#)
[Scarlet Finders](#)
[Australian War Museum](#)
[Scotland's People – Genealogical Records](#)
[Library and Archives Canada](#)

Summary Comments:

Mary Paterson's name was incorrectly added to the Milton Cenotaph in Victoria Park in 2004 as the result of historic newspaper reports. There were no authoritative records searched or located to substantiate the addition of that person's name to a Canadian War Memorial. It now appears that person did not exist and thus the name needs to be removed from the Milton Victoria Park Cenotaph.

A letter was sent from the QMAAC to Private and Mrs. John Paterson reporting the death of Mrs. Paterson's daughter on May 30, 1918. The nursing sisters and associates were killed in their bunker as the result of an aerial torpedo. The letter does not refer to the daughter by the name "Mary Paterson" and there are no records to indicate that a Mary Paterson was killed on that date or was buried at the cemetery where all those killed were interred. There is no record in the United Kingdom Genealogical Records of that era to record a person by the name of Mary Paterson. There are no records in the United Kingdom National Archives relative to any person serving in the Great War with the name of "Mary Paterson" in the QMAAC. Most significantly, there is no record of a "Mary Paterson" being buried with the nursing sisters at any of the facilities associated with the Abbeville Cemetery.

There are no records in Canada of a Mary Paterson from the QMAAC having resided in the Town of Milton, the County of Halton or in fact anywhere in Ontario or Canada. If this "Mary Paterson" did exist, which is unlikely, that person never resided in Canada and thus should not be reported on a Canadian War Memorial. Researchers in the United Kingdom suggest that It is highly unlikely that a resident of Canada would have been a domestic in the United Kingdom who served with the QMAAC.

It is my belief that the person thought to have been "Mary Paterson" was in fact the person known as "Mary Blaikley". She was one of the nursing sisters killed in the aerial torpedo attack and is buried in the Abbeville Cemetery Extension. This "Mary" was an illegitimate child, the daughter of Elizabeth Blaikley. There is no information for or against a supposition that John Paterson was the father of the illegitimate child, although he is known that have been from that area. Mary could have been the daughter of Mrs. Paterson through a previous relationship.

There is no evidence that this "Mary" ever travelled to or resided in Canada, so even if she was the child of John Paterson, it should not be shown on a Canadian War Memorial.

Research Details:

The following information is available for the review of this matter.

1. Mary Paterson on the Milton Cenotaph

The cenotaph showing Mary Paterson's name is in Attachment #1.

Mary Paterson is the only female listed on the Milton Ontario Cenotaph. Her name was not added to the Cenotaph until 2004. She was reported to have been serving with the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps of the British Expeditionary Force. Although a civilian unit, the women were at the front undertaking tasks that would free the men to move to the front lines. It is reported that 8 officials (civilian officers) and 75 members (civilian soldiers) were killed during the war.

Mary Paterson's name was added to the cenotaph on the basis of a number of pieces of circumstantial evidence that would have logically led one to believe that she was in fact Mary Paterson, daughter of Private and Mrs. Paterson of Milton. It is only when one tries to follow the path to confirm these facts that the case begins to crumble.

It would appear that the name should not be on the cenotaph as this person did not live in Canada. In addition, her last name was not Paterson. There are NO RECORDS anywhere to support the contention that there was a Mary Paterson whose name should be on the Milton Cenotaph to honour Canada's war dead.

2. Library and Archives Canada

The document is provided in Attachment #2.

These records were used to show that John Paterson, Service Number 57706 listed a

Mrs. John Paterson of his next of kin when he attested on November 17, 1914. His birth date is given as July 7, 1875 so he was 39 years old when he attested and would have been 43 when "Mary" was killed in the aerial torpedo attack. There are no records to show any link between Private John Paterson and a daughter by the name of "Mary", in the United Kingdom or in Canada.

John Paterson was old enough to have had a 20 year old daughter in 1918.

3. The Letters to Private and Mrs. Paterson

Copies of the letters are provided in Attachment #3.

There were two (2) letters written to the Paterson family in Milton, as recovered by Jim Dills of the Milton Historical Society during his research of the archived copies of the Milton Champion.

A letter from Mary's superior dated June 1, 1918 reports that Mary (no last name given) was killed by an aerial torpedo dropped from an enemy plane at 2 o'clock in the morning of May 30, 1918. She and her comrades were in an underground shelter. The bombs were dropped on Camp 1 and eight (8) were killed immediately, one (1) later and seven (7) others were slightly wounded.

The details in the letter describing the funeral of those killed are in general agreement with the historical details of the funeral service and burial at Abbeville Cemetery Extension (see also attachments 4 and 6). That would lend support to the supposition that the Mary referred to in the letter was one of those killed in that attack and that Mary is buried in the Abbeville Cemetery Extension.

It is important to note that the letter is addressed to "Madam" (Paterson perhaps at that time) and that there is no reference to her being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paterson, nor is she ever referred to as a Paterson in the letter. She is only referred to as her "daughter". Whoever wrote the story in the July 4, 1918 edition of the Champion refers to her as the "eldest daughter of Private and Mrs. John Paterson", which they may have logically (but incorrectly) assumed to be the fact. No evidence was found to suggest that Mr. and Mrs. John Paterson had a daughter named "Mary Paterson".

A second letter dated June 9, 1918 was referenced in the Champion of July 4, 1918. This letter came from Gartcosh, Scotland from a May Harris. It directly refers to her whole life being spent in her grandfather's home (an important link to be discussed later – see attachment #8), where her Aunt Jennie (sister to the person now married to John Paterson). Mary was noted as being the first and only girl to leave Gartcosh to serve her King and Country (another important link). **There was only one Mary from Gartcosh killed in the Great War and that was Mary Blaikley.**

4. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The records of the CWGC pertaining to Mary Blaikley are provide in Attachment #4 as there are no records of Mary Paterson.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is an international body that catalogues all known war dead in the Great War and maintains all of the cemeteries where they are buried and the grave registrations. The CWGC has one of the most used and authoritative reference data bases in the world, which is routinely updated and corrected. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial reports the death of all Canadian's who perished in the Great War, based on the CWGC records. There is neither a Mary Paterson nor a Mary Blaikley listed on the federal registry, so there is no acknowledgement of the existence of either of these names as a Canadian War Casualty.

There are no Mary Paterson names listed in the CWGC for the Great War. That is strong confirmation that no person by that name was killed in the Great War, as either a civilian or a soldier. Mary Blaikley and all the other Nursing Sisters who were killed in the aerial torpedo attack of May 30, 1918 are recorded on the CWGC site and are buried in the Abbeville Cemetery Extension.

The fact that Mary Paterson is not listed on the CWGC site should have been the first indication that Mary Paterson did not exist. If there was any proof that there was a Mary Paterson, the CWGC would research that name and determined if that person should be added to the database. Unfortunately, there is insufficient evidence to even convince the CWGC that there may have been a Mary Paterson, as she is never mentioned by name in any of the records reported.

5. Information from Scarlet Finders

The Nominal Roll of those killed on May 30, 1918 is provided in Attachment #5.

Sue Light is a primary researcher of nurses and nursing assistants in the Great War. Sue was able to provide a copy of the "Official List" (Nominal Roll) of the QMAAC that were killed in the torpedo attack of May 30, 1918. We were able to enhance that list using modern computer technology so that we could read all the names, service numbers, employment and next-of-kin.

The official list has no reference to anyone by the name of Mary Paterson or anyone with the last name Paterson. However this list does lend support to the supposition that the person thought to have been Mary Paterson was in fact Mary Blaikley (#31503), as that person lists her grandfather (Mr. James Blaikley) as her next of kin.

6. Australian War Museum

The records of the AWM are provided in Attachment #6.

The records of the Australian War Museum contain the only known photographic evidence related to this matter, in that they have a photograph of the funeral procession to the Abbeville Cemetery Extension. They also have a photograph of the nurses tending to the graves of their fallen comrades. The photograph taken on May 31, 1918 lists the names of those killed in the raid, as well as all others that were listed as the 25 pall bearers.

This list provides independent confirmation that there was no Mary Paterson in the group, as one of those killed or as one of the comrades. Mary Blaikley is reported as one of those killed. The photograph is unique in that the people in the photograph are numbered and their names are listed.

7. United Kingdom National Archives

The UKNA Medal Index Card for Mary Blaikley is provided in Attachment # 7.

The National Archives of the United Kingdom have medal cards for all of those that served in the Great War. If there was a Mary Paterson, she would have had a medal card, as she clearly served in a front line position and was killed in action. There are no records in these archives of any Mary Paterson in the QMAAC, so this is strong evidence that this person did not exist by that name. There were five (5) Mary Paterson's in the Great War, but none associated with the event listed.

There was a Mary Blaikley listed and we retrieved her medal card, which matches the information that was already on hand. Mary Blaikley was born in Gartcosh, Scotland (where Mary Paterson was reported to have resided) and did perish in the aerial torpedo bombing on May 30, 1918 (where Mary Paterson was reported to have been killed).

8. Scotland's People – Genealogical Research Database

The Birth Record of Mary Blaikley is provided in Attachment #8.

The Death Record of Mary Blaikley is provided in Attachment #9.

There are no similar records for a "Mary Paterson" of that era.

The purpose of researching the Genealogical Records of Scotland was to try to determine if Mary Blaikley could be who is reported as Mary Paterson.

Mary McLachlan Blaikley was found in the records, born in 1897 in the Glasgow Area (District of Cadder, County of Lanark). She was born at 10:45 pm to Elizabeth Blaikley, a farm servant. Mary Blaikley was an illegitimate child. There are absolutely no records for any birth, marriage or death for a Mary Peterson in that same period, although there are 14 Mary Paterson births in the records.

There is a statutory death certificate for Mary Blaikley which agrees with all the other information. She was listed as killed in action on May 30, 1918 at the age of 20. Her birth records show that she was born to Elizabeth Blaikley at 10:45 pm on December 24, 1896 in Cadder, Lanark.

Most important to this research is that she was born in GARTCOSH, Cadder, which is a match to the community in the letter sent to the Paterson's in Canada. What are the odds that the person that is suspected of being the person shown as "Mary Paterson"

came from the same town and also lived with her grandfather?

A search of the marriage records for John Paterson in this era and area showed 11 records but no marriages to an Elizabeth Blaikley.

9. Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps

QMAAC records have been searched online and no record was found of Mary Paterson. Independent researchers have checked the QMAAC records in the United Kingdom and they have confirmed that there is no listing, at any time, for a Mary Paterson.

The women listed as being killed on that fateful day in May 1918 are as follows (plus one who died of wounds) are Blaikley; Campbell; Connor; Grant; Moores; Thomasson; Parker; Caswell and Watson (died later of wounds)

Concluding Remarks:

There is evidence to suggest that the person reported is one "Mary Blaikley" and that she was the illegitimate child of Elizabeth Blaikley, who may or may not have been Mrs. John Paterson who might later be from Milton, Ontario. If she was, John Paterson may have been Mary's father and Elizabeth Blaikley may have been John's wife, but there are no records to support that possibility. John Paterson may have married Elizabeth Blaikley after the birth of Mary Blaikley.

There is no evidence whatsoever to support any claim that there was a person by the name of "Mary Paterson" that was killed in the aerial torpedo attack of May 30, 1918.

Even if this "Mary" was the daughter of Private and Mrs. John Paterson, she never traveled to or resided in Canada and thus is not entitled to have her name on a Canadian War Memorial. If she was, the name should read "Mary Blaikley" and not "Mary Paterson" as there is no such person registered in Canada or the United Kingdom at that time.

It is important to maintain the integrity of historical investigations, If this error is not corrected now, some 4 years after the error was made, there is a chance that the error will be perpetuated and that at some future time another researcher will use the Victoria Park Cenotaph as evidence of the existence of Mary Paterson. One error in 2004 will thus perpetuate an error past 2008.

Action Required:

The name "Mary Paterson" should be removed from the Cenotaph and the error in the Milton Historical Society book "Milton Remembers WWI" should be corrected.

If anyone has information contrary to the above, please contact me at rlaughton@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Attachments:

1. Milton Cenotaph Photograph
2. John Paterson Attestation Papers
3. Milton Champion Letters of 1918
4. Commonwealth War Graves Commission Records
5. Nominal Roll of the QMAAC Killed in Action on May 30, 1918
6. Australian War Museum – Photographs of QMAAC Funeral
7. United Kingdom National Archives Medal Index Card
8. Scotland Genealogical Record – Birth of Mary Blaikley
9. Scotland Genealogical Record – Death of Mary Blaikley

1. Milton Cenotaph Photograph

1939

1945



1914

AUGER · A · G ·

BLACK · L ·

BEATY · W · S ·

BOWRING · F · C ·

COLLIS · J ·

COXE · K · A ·

COXE · W · A ·

CLEMENTS · J ·

DOLBY · E · G ·

DILLOW · W · E ·

FRENCH · G · V ·

SMILLIE · J · F ·

PATERSON · V ·

1915

1916

1917

1918

GALBRAITH · R ·

HARROP · D · E ·

MORLEY · G ·

MACARTHUR · T · J ·

MCLELLAN · G ·

MAGNABB · D · S ·

ROBERTSON · J ·

SCOTT · W · D ·

SNOW · W · O ·

TURNER · C · O ·

WELLER · F · J ·

WILSON · D ·

DIXON · D ·

OUR HONoured DEAD WHO FOUGHT IN THE
FOLLOWING COUNTRIES IN THE SECOND
GREAT · WAR ·

2. John Paterson Attestation Papers

30th Reg 57706
ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. ☒
 Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

- (ANSWERS) *Paterson*
1. What is your name? *John Paterson*
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Wainwright, Saskatchewan, Canada*
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Mrs. John Paterson*
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Wainwright, Sask. Ont.*
 5. What is the date of your birth? *July 4th 1875*
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? *miner*
 7. Are you married? *yes*
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *yes*
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *no*
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? If so, state particulars of former Service. *South Africa*
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *yes*
 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *yes*

John Paterson (Signature of Man).
Paterson (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *John Paterson*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

John Paterson (Signature of Recruit)
Paterson (Signature of Witness)
 Date *Nov 1st* 1914.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

John Paterson, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

John Paterson (Signature of Recruit)
Paterson (Signature of Witness)
 Date *Nov 1st* 1914.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Wainwright* this *17th* day of *November* 1914.

McDonald (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

Mark Major (Approving Officer)

Description of John Paterson on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 39 years 5 months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Height 5 ft. 4 ins.

Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded 37 ins.
Range of expansion 1 ins.

Complexion Fair

Eyes Blue

Hair Brown

Religious denominations. { Church of England x
Presbyterian
Wesleyan
Baptist or Congregationalist
Other Protestants (Denomination to be stated.)
Roman Catholic
Jewish

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date Nov 7 1914.

Place Toronto, Ont

Earl Hard
Medical Officer.

*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

Left missing

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

John Paterson having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

John Paterson (Signature of Officer)
Date Nov 7 1914.

3. Milton Champion Letters of 1918

From Jim Dugg

Oct. 23, 2007

Richard: The first letter about Mary Paterson is reprinted in WWI book. It, with the second letter quoted below, seemed quite clear. We tried contacts in England and found, as you did, that the records had been largely destroyed in WW II. That was the research done.

The second letter here may be helpful from the UK side. See the family references and her living with her aunt and her grandfather's home.

The Paterson or Patterson name is very common in Milton area but I was unable to find any in that connection who knew of Mary.

As you see the family left Milton in 1919 and so there is unlikely to be any further contact in the Champion pages. (I have researched to 1929,)

Good luck with Mary. I would be delighted to have the blanks filled in. The thought of a different name is interesting after you read the relationships mentioned in letter 2.

First Letter

From Canadian Champion July 4, 1918

Gave Her Life for her Country (Mary Paterson)

On May 30th Mary, eldest daughter of Pte. And Mrs. John Paterson of Milton, was killed in France where she was serving in the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. Mrs. Paterson has received the following letter of sympathy:

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps

Date 1, 6, 18

Dear Madam

I want to send you my very deep sympathy in your loss and I know that all your daughter's comrades in Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps would like to send you the same. We are very proud of your daughter, who, with eight others, is the first of us who has had the great honor of giving her life for her country.

They were killed by an aerial torpedo thrown from an enemy aeroplane at about 2 o'clock in the morning of the 30th May. She and the others were in an underground shelter, covered with sandbags and as safe as the skill and the care of the soldiers could make it. The chance of a direct hit is very, very small but when it happens protection is of no avail.

Her death was instantaneous so she could not have suffered and as she was well protected she had no fear before hand. During her short time in France she did excellent work for the armies and everyone liked her.

You will care, I am sure, to know that your daughter had a soldier's funeral yesterday. Her body was taken to the hospital and cared for by the nurses and her coffin was covered by the Union Jack. The Artillery wagons in which the coffins were carried were piled high with flowers sent by the regiment and divisions in the neighborhood, by Generals and nurses and soldiers. Four of your daughter's comrades walked beside the wagon and all the members of the corps in the district who could leave their duties

followed, as well as many officers and soldiers. The greater part of the road to the cemetery was lined with soldiers waiting to salute as she went by, and our aeroplanes circled above the procession around the cemetery. Over her grave the firing party fired three volleys and the bugles played the Last Post,

Her grave is marked with the plain wooden cross which is used for all our soldiers and flowers have been planted on it. Some of our gardeners are working in the cemetery so if you would like any flowers planted for you I can promise that it will be done. Perhaps you would like to choose some seeds or bulbs and send them out. If you address them to the Chief controller, H.Q., Q.M.A.A.C., B.E.F., France, I will see that every care is taken.

With renewed sympathy,
Yours faithfully,
H.H. Gwynne Vaughan, Chief Controller
Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps
British Expeditionary Force.

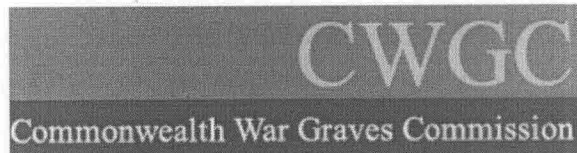
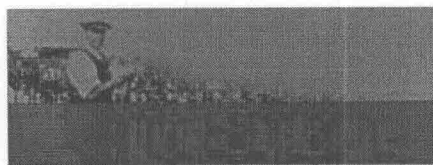
Canadian Champion - July 4, 1918- Casualty- On May 30th Mary, eldest daughter of Pte and Mrs. John Paterson of Milton was killed in France where she was serving in Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. (These letters would have been supplied to The Champion by members of the family. The paper, at that time, would not have had reporters searching them out.)

Second letter:

3 St. Andrew's Place, Gartcosh, June 9th 1918

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Paterson. It is with deep sympathy I am writing you these few lines. I supposed by the time you receive this letter you will have heard the sad news of your daughter Mary's death. It has come a great blow to everyone here, especially to her grandfather's home, where she has spent almost her whole life. It is a great loss to your sister Jennie, Mary's aunt, for Mary was her sole companion in every way. Well, Mrs. Paterson, I have the pleasure of telling you that your daughter has left behind her a splendid character, but at home and with Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. Mary has not been away very long altogether, but when she went, she went with a good heart and splendid courage. It would have done you good to see Mary going away, as she is the first and only girl to leave Gartcosh to serve her King and country, and I can assure you we are all proud of her today as she was one of our main chums for a good few years past and she was a good chum, one of the best. Our minister is very good and as he is having a service for Mary another chum and I are just going to church.... Well Mrs. Paterson, I expect you will receive a letter in a short time from your sister Jennie, as she is too brokenhearted just now to write.... May Harris.

4. Commonwealth War Graves Commission Records



Cemetery Details

Cemetery:	ABBEVILLE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION
Country:	France
Locality:	unspecified
Visiting Information:	Visitors should be aware that there are Plots 3, 4, 5 & 6 in both the Communal Cemetery and the Communal Cemetery Extension. Those in the Communal Cemetery will be found in the upper terrace.
Location Information:	The town of Abbeville is on the main road from Paris to Boulogne (N1), about 80 kilometres south of Boulogne. The communal cemetery and communal cemetery extension are located on the left hand side of the road when leaving the town in a north-east direction for Drucat. CWGC direction signs will be found within the cemetery. Enter the Communal Cemetery by the left hand side main gate and follow CWGC signs within the Cemetery. The extension may be entered from the communal cemetery or from the side lane.
Historical Information:	For much of the First World War, Abbeville was headquarters of the Commonwealth lines of communication and No 3 BRCS, No 5 and No 2 Stationary Hospitals were stationed there variously from October 1914 to January 1920. The communal cemetery was used for burials from November 1914 to September 1916, the earliest being made among the French military graves. The extension was begun in September 1916. During the early part of the Second World War, Abbeville was a major operational aerodrome, but the town fell to the Germans at the end of May 1940. On 4 June, an attempt was made by the 51st Division, in conjunction with the French, to break the German bridgehead, but without success. Towards the end of 1943, eight large ski shaped buildings appeared near Abbeville. These proved to be storage units for flying bomb components and they were heavily bombed by Commonwealth air forces. Abbeville was retaken on 4 September 1944 by Canadian and Polish units. Abbeville Communal Cemetery contains 774 Commonwealth burials of First World War and 30 from the Second. The Extension contains 1,754 First World War burials and 348 from the Second. The Commonwealth sections of both cemetery and extension were designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.
No. of Identified Casualties:	1995

This figure includes Foreign and Non-World War graves in CWGC care

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Casualty Details

Name: BLAIKLEY, MARY McLACHLAN

Initials: M M

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Worker

Regiment/Service: Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps

Date of Death: 30/05/1918

Service No: 31503

Additional information: Niece of Robert Blakley, of Brown's Land, Cartcosh, nr. Glasgow.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: IV. C. 4.

Cemetery: ABBEVILLE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION

**5. Nominal Roll of the QMAAC Killed in Action
on May 30, 1918**

Nominal Roll of Members of C.I.A.M.C. killed at Abbeville.

No.	Name.	Next of Kin.
31577. Mr.	Plaikley Mary Melchior. Gen.Dom.	Mr. James Plaikley (Grandfather)
31673. Mr.	Campbell Beatrice. Gen.Dom.	Mrs. Duncan (Sister)
34567. Mr.	Connor Catherine. Gen.Dom.	Mrs. Connor (Mother)
15703. Mr.	Caswell Margaret. Waitress.	Mrs. Caswell (Mother)
31918. Mr.	Grant Jeannie McKerral. Gen.Clark.	Mrs. Andrews Grant (Mother)
15695. Mr.	Moore Annie Elizabeth. Gen.Dom.	Mrs. Moores (Mother)
30503. Mr.	Thomasson Alice. Gen.Dom.	Miss D. Thomasson (Sister)
3042. Mr.	Parker Ethel Mary Frances. Waitress.	Mrs. C. Parker (Mother)
34664. Mr.	Watson Jeannie. Gen.Dom. <i>Miss Cliphant</i> (Died of wounds)	Mrs Cliphant (Mother)

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**6. Australian War Museum –
Photographs of QMAAC Funeral**



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[View Workarea](#)
[Sign In](#)

Records by collection:

ALL records	10
Art	0
Photograph	9
Film	0
Sound	0
Private Record	1
Ephemera	0
Heraldry	0
Technology	0

Number of records with:

Images	8
Documents	0

**ID Number:****Maker:****Place made:****Date made:****Physical description:****Summary:**

E02354KRIGHT

Unknown

France: Picardie, Somme, Abbeville

31 May 1918

Black & white

Right hand side of reference image only to provide position detail for those named. This image is not for sale. Abbeville.

Full Details

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Untitled

ID Number: E02354KRIGHT

Maker: Unknown

Place made: France: Picardie, Somme, Abbeville

Date made: 31 May 1918

Physical description: Black & white

Summary: Right hand side of reference image only to provide position detail for those named.

This image is not for sale. Abbeville, France. 31 May 1918. Members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC), marching from No. 2 Stationary Hospital at 1.45 p.m. in the funeral procession of their comrades, who were killed in the air raid, on the night of 29-30 May 1918.

Bombs were dropped on Camp 1, one bomb fell into a protection trench, killing eight members, while one died of wounds shortly after, and seven others were slightly wounded.

No. 2 Army Supply Depot workers killed were 31503 M. M. L. Blaikley, general domestic; 31673 B. V. Campbell, general domestic; 34767 C. Connor, general domestic; 31918 J. McK. Grant, postal clerk; 15695 A. Moores, cook; 35588 A. Thomasson, general domestic; 9048 E. F. Parker, waitress, Officers Club, EFC; 15703 M. S. Caswell, waitress, Officers Club, EFC. 34864 J. Watson, general domestic, died of wounds. The following members of QMAAC were detailed as pall bearers: 5483 Forewoman Beecham; 1906 Worker Beattie; 33953 Worker Norbury; 8 Forewoman Shalders; 7682 Worker Battersea; 14673 Worker Rogers; 1490 Worker Green; 4842 Worker Purdie; 5555 Worker Purse; 800 Forewoman Maxton; 5847 Forewoman Fenwick; 15841 Forewoman Hall; 1760 Worker Bellingham; 6 Worker Mutum; 13650 Worker Milburn; 32715 Worker Lynch; 1935 Worker L. Johnman; 6747 Worker R. Laseelles; 12700 Worker J. Robertson. Identified: 14859 Worker J. Price (2); 22727 Worker C. J. Cavanagh (3); 6366 Worker S. M. Theobald (4); 5767 Worker V. McCail (5); 13730 Worker E. Roberts (6); 26438 Worker E. M. Rowe (7); 847 Worker E. E. Bowen (8); 715 Worker B. M. Hassell (9); 3902 Worker A. L. Hafford (10); 44420 Worker L. J. Gill (12); 2869 Worker C. Watkinson (13); 2866 Worker E. Trusler (14); 21751 Worker G. E. Pitt (15); 1380 Worker M. G. Kier (16); Miss A. C. Frod (17); Mrs C. C. Gwynne-Vaughan (18); Dr C. M. S. Sandeman (19); Miss U. A. Welsford (20); Miss A. A. Reid (21); Miss A. A. Lightfoot (22); 32365 Worker E. Gooding (23); 15408 Worker E. M. Dean (24); 32742 Worker J. Hudson (25).

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**7. United Kingdom National Archives
Medal Index Card**

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BLAIRIE	V.A.D.	Nurse	
Mattress. V.			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	VAD/101	113	
BATTAL	do	do	
15 STAFF	Nurses/7	10	
Theatre of War first served in	(3) Egypt		
Date of entry therein	26.10.15		

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BLAINE	French R.X.	Canteen Worker	
Sara C			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	FR/101B	40	
BATTAL	do	do	
STAFF			
Theatre of War first served in	10		
Date of entry therein	10-15		

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BLAIRLEY	R.M.A.A.C.	Worker	1503
Mary. 110			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	RMAA/101B	753	
BATTAL	do	do	
STAFF			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BLAINVILLE	GAIDNSR	T/Mural	
E M	DAMNSI		

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	N-19/1624-22		
BATTAL	do	do	
STAFF			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

See (Index) to Carpenter

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BLAIN	T.F.N.S.	Sister	
Nellie			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
V.F.N.S.	Nurse B	301	
BATTAL	X	do	
STAFF			
Theatre of War first served in	Salonica		
Date of entry therein	1. 8. 16		

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BLAIR	V.A.D.		
Ada. M			

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	V.A.D/101B	106	
BATTAL	do	do	
STAFF			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			



**8. Scotland Genealogical Record –
Birth of Mary Blaikley**

MARY BLAISKLEY WAS AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD BORN TO SERVANT ELIZABETH BLAISKLEY

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You searched for: Surname: **"Blaikley"**; Use Soundex: **Off**; Forename: **"Mary*"**; Sex: **"Female"**; Year From: **1855**; Year To: **1906**;

Page **1 (Free)** of 1 (2 records)

No	Year	Surname	Forename	Sex	District	City/County/MR	GROS Data	Image	Extract
1	1876	BLAIKLEY	MARY	F	OLD MONKLAND (MIDDLE DISTRICT)	/LANARK	652/02 0604	VIEW (5 CREDITS)	ORDER
2	1897	BLAIKLEY	MARY MCLACHLAN	F	CADDER (EASTERN)	/LANARK	626/A2 0006	VIEW (5 CREDITS)	ORDER

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1897 BLAIKLEY, MARY MCLACHLAN (Statutory Births 626/A2 0006)

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Page 2.

1897. BIRTHS in the E. Dist. of Cadder in the County of Leith

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
4	Samuel Morgan (illegitimate)	1896. December Seventeenth 11h 55 m. p.m. Gartloch, Cadder	M.	Sarah Morgan, Domestic Duties.	Sarah Morgan, Mother.	1897. January 6th At Christchurch George W. Isaac, Registrar.
5	Mary Louise Cross	1897. January Eleventh 2h 20 m. a.m. Gartloch, Cadder	F.	Mr. Martin Cross, Ironworks Labourer. Mary Cross Mrs. Cross 1891. Decomb. 1st. Wishaw	Martin Cross, Father.	1897. January 11th At Christchurch George W. Isaac, Registrar.
6	Mary M. Blaikley (illegitimate)	1896. December Twenty-fourth 10h 45 m. p.m. Gartloch, Cadder	F.	Elizabeth M. Blaikley, Groom's Servant.	Elizabeth Blaikley, Mother.	1897. January 14th At Christchurch George W. Isaac, Registrar.

George W. Isaac, Registrar.

DEC 24, 1896

**9. Scotland Genealogical Record –
Death of Mary Blaikley**

NB • NO DEATH RECORD OF A MARY PATERSON
 • YES DEATH RECORD OF MARY BLAITLEY

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 Forename: ?
☒ Return all forenames that begin with these characters ?
 Other Surnames: ?
 Mothers Maiden Surname: ?
☐ Include Unrecorded Mothers Maiden Surname
 Sex: ?
 Year Range: To ?
 Age Range: To ?
☐ Include Unrecorded Ages in Age Range
 Birth Year: ± Years ?
 County/City/Minor Records: ?
 District: ?
 ABBEY
 ABBEY ST BATHANS
 ABBOTSHALL
 ABDIE
 ABERCORN

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Page 1 (Free) of 1 (1 records)

No	Year	Surname / Maiden Name	Forename	Mother's Surname	Other Surnames	Sex	Age	District	City/County/MR	GROS Data	Image	Extract
1	1918	BLAIKLEY	MARY MCLACHLAN		CAMPBELL	F	20	SERVICE AND WAR RETURNS	/MINOR RECORDS	132/AF 0072	VIEW (5 CREDITS)	ORDER

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1918 BLAICKLEY, MARY MCLACHLAN (Statutory Deaths 152/AF 0072)

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RETURN of MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF PROBATE and for the purpose of the Probate Act 1891. **KILLED in Action**
or who have DIED whilst in Service Abroad in the WAR of 1914 to 1918

NAME	NAME OF WIFE (or MAIDEN NAME)	AGE	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF DEATH	NAME OF WIFE
Blairley	Mary McLauchlan	20	1918	Scotland	Blairley
Blairley	Mary McLauchlan	20	1918	Scotland	Blairley
Blairley	Mary McLauchlan	20	1918	Scotland	Blairley
Blairley	Mary McLauchlan	20	1918	Scotland	Blairley
Blairley	Mary McLauchlan	20	1918	Scotland	Blairley
Blairley	Mary McLauchlan	20	1918	Scotland	Blairley
Blairley	Mary McLauchlan	20	1918	Scotland	Blairley
Blairley	Mary McLauchlan	20	1918	Scotland	Blairley
Blairley	Mary McLauchlan	20	1918	Scotland	Blairley
Blairley	Mary McLauchlan	20	1918	Scotland	Blairley

Copy to be a true copy from the original kept in the office of the Registrar General for Scotland.
For the purpose of the Probate Act 1891, the above names are given as being the names of the deceased.

W. D. Blairley
Registrar General for Scotland

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ARMY FORM W. 202 72

RETURN of ~~WARRANT OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and MEN~~
 of the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps ~~KILLED in Action~~
 or who have ~~DIED~~ whilst on Service Abroad in the WAR of 1914 to

REG. NO.	NAME.	NAME IN FULL (USUALLY FIRST).	AGE.*	COUNTRY OF BIRTH.	DATE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF DEATH.†	CAUSE OF DEATH.
01503	Worles	Alaikley Mary McEachen	20	Scotland	30. 5. 18.	Abbeville	Killed in Action
01673	- Do -	Campbell Beatrice	20	- Do -	30. 5. 18.	- Do -	- Do -
02167	- Do -	Banner Catherine	23	- Do -	30. 5. 18.	- Do -	- Do -
02198	- Do -	Grant Jeanie McKeon	22	- Do -	30. 5. 18.	- Do -	- Do -
02275	- Do -	Leit Evelyn Euphemia	22	- Do -	22. 11. 18.	2nd. 4th. Havre.	Arachnoid Pneumonia
02464	- Do -	Watson. Jeanie	25	- Do -	30. 5. 18.	Abbeville	Bleed of Wounds.

Certified to be a true Record from the Returns of Deaths in the War of 1914-1920.

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps of Members born in Scotland.

W. R. Finck

Assistant Registrar General.