

Lance Corporal Peter McDonald®
Regimental number: G/5331
Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment

born: 1894 - died: 6 April 1916

Lance Corporal Peter McDonald was born in Bannockburn, Stirlingshire, Scotland, some time in 1894.¹ He was likely orphaned at a young age because in 1901, though still in Bannockburn, he was living with his aunt, Agnes McDonald (aged 53).² The household also included Agnes's son, Charles (37); her sister, Janet McDonald (51); and Mary (15), described as Agnes's niece. Mary may have been Peter's sister, but he seems to have had another sister, because his sole legatees upon his death were Janet Baird and Thomas Baird, being described as Peter's brother-in-law.³



**Grave marker for
Lance Corporal P. McDonald**

Source: "Global, Find a Grave Index for Burials at Sea and Other Select Burial Locations, 1300s-Current," *Ancestry.com*

Peter enlisted in nearby Denny, Scotland. Although it is not known exactly when he signed up, he likely enlisted at the beginning of 1915.⁴ His battalion, the 8th Battalion of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment was formed in September 1914.⁵ After training, the battalion arrived in France at the end of August 1915.⁶

When Peter died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, the chaplain's records indicate that he was a private and that he succumbed to his wounds on 7 April 1916.⁷ However, other official sources put his death as 6 April 1916 and his rank as lance corporal.⁸

Peter is buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Plot II D 58 218, in the Pas-de-Calais region of northern France.⁹ Except for a white cross, his headstone is unembellished, without even his age.¹⁰

Peter was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theater) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).¹¹

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¹ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 12 August 2019), entry for Peter McDonald

² "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 12 August 2019), entry for Peter McDonald, Enumeration district: 4, Household schedule number: 53, Line: 18, Roll: CSSCT1901_163

³ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 12 August 2019), entry for Peter McDonald

⁴ Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratiuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," entry for Peter McDonald

⁵ "The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)," *The Long, Long Trail* (www.longlongtrail.co.uk: accessed 12 August 2019)

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2018), entry for McDonald, P.

⁸ "Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org: accessed 12 August 2019), entry for McDonald, P., Service No: G/5331

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 12 August 2019), entry for Peter McDonald