
Bombardier Archibald Rae DCM

Royal Field Artillery 811th Trench Mortar Battery

Service No: 12768

Born / Resided

Coatbridge / 103c Bank St, Coatbridge

Died

Killed in Action 24/10/1916

Enlisted

Coatbridge

Employed

Regular Soldier

Age

39

Buried / Remembered

Auchonvillers Military Cemetery, Somme, France

Family Information

Son of Thomas and Christina of 103c Bank St, Coatbridge. Brother of Stoker John Rae of the Royal Navy, `HMS Invincible` who Died on the 31/05/1916 at the Battle of Jutland 5 months before Archibald fell. Archibald had 2 other brothers serving at the time of his death, Thomas with the Gordon Highlanders and William with the Seaforth Highlanders. His younger brother George was a Hairdresser in Coatbridge. There were also 2 grandsons and 2 nephews of Thomas and Christina serving. Archibald left an undated Will leaving everything to his mother

Additional Information

Archibald was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in action the day before he was Killed. He died instantaneously whilst encouraging his men under heavy fire just over 2 weeks before the Armistice. Archibald was 19 years in the Army and was a lifelong Temperance Advocate and was decorated 13 times for his efforts in getting recruits to join the Good Templar Order in the Army. See newspaper clippings for letters to Archibalds mother from a E M Gifford and the Officer Commanding 2nd Lieutenant W H Brown. Also remembered on the Dundyvan Parish Church Roll of Honour with his brother John (see photos) and in the St Augustines Parish (book) Roll of Honour. His grave inscription reads " IN REMEMBRANCE OF MY DEAR SON BY HIS WIDOWED MOTHER "



Likeness

1914-15

Campaign: -- (A) Where decoration was earned.
(B) Present situation.

Name	Grade	Rank	Reg. No.	Unit in which included (if any)
(A) <i>RAE</i>	<i>R9A</i>	<i>Subs</i>	<i>12718</i>	<i>R. 28. 125th USM</i>
(B) <i>Archibald</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>B. 11. C. 12</i> <i>40 40</i> <i>15 15</i>
Action taken				<i>Decorated 25/1/16</i>
THEATRE OF WAR <i>(3) Egypt</i>				
QUALIFYING DATE <i>1/4/15</i>				

(8 24 44) W284-1175000 500,000 479 HWV(P240) K008 [Over]

Correspondence.

Address.

Medal Index Card

Buchanan Street.
Dr. Surgeon James Orr, Scottish Rifles, 127
Buchanan Street.
Second Lieutenant Gavin Kirkland Paterson,
Royal Scottish Fusiliers, Blairpark (died
at Armstrong College Hospital, New-
castle-on-Tyne, 21st January, 1915.)
Private Robert Paterson, H.L.I., Blairpark.
Bombardier Archibald Rae, R.F.A., 103 Bank
Street.
Stoker John Rae, Royal Navy, H.M.S. In-
vincible, 103 Bank Street.
Corporal George Rankin, 1st L.D.R.E. (T.),
Bury's Stables.
Private John Robertson, H.L.I., Douglas St.
Private Walter Robertson, L.D.R.E. (T.),
Douglas Street.
Private James Scott, H.L.I., Mount Vernon
Avenue.
Private James Scott, Scottish Rifles, Inver-
lochy, King Street.
Corporal Matthew Smith, Royal Highlanders
(Black Watch), 122 Buchanan Street.
Private W. P. Snedden, Royal Highlanders
(Black Watch), Ross Cottage, Finlaystone
Street.
Driver Charles Stirling, R.F.A., 268 Dandy-
van Road.
Private William Strachan, Gordon High-
landers, 20 Dandyvan Road.

Coatbridge Express 27/01/1915 Dundyan Parish Church Roll of Honour

COATBRIDGE D.C.M. HERO KILLED IN ACTION.

Mrs. Rae, 103c Bank Street, Coatbridge, has just been officially informed that her son, Bombardier Archibald Rae, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on Tuesday last. Deceased was nineteen years in the Army and on the day prior to his death he was recommended for the D.C.M. He was a life-long temperance advocate, and was thirteen times decorated for his labours in getting recruits to join the Good Templar Order in the Army. The death of Archibald is a terrible blow to his mother, who is a widow. What makes the circumstances all the more sad is the fact that her son John lost his life with the Invincible in the Jutland battle. Mrs. Rae has other two sons serving, namely, Thomas, with the Gordon Highlanders, and William with the Seaforth Highlanders, while she has also two grandsons in France and two nephews in France. Mrs. Rae, for whom we are sure, the utmost sympathy will be felt, has received the following letter from an officer:—Dear Madame,

following letter from an officer:—Dear Madame,
—I write you a few lines to say how much I sympathise with you in the loss of your son, Bombardier A. Rae. I conducted the funeral service this afternoon and learned from his comrades of the circumstances of his death and of his devotion to duty. It was particularly sad that he should have been taken the day after he had been recommended for the D.C.M. He was killed in action whilst encouraging his men under a heavy fire, and his comrades are all very distressed at having lost him. I am afraid the news of his death will be a great blow to you, but I trust you will find consolation and comfort from the thought that your boy died doing his duty bravely.—E. M. Gilford.

Mrs Rae has also received a letter from the officer commanding the Battery, in the following terms:—“Dear Mrs Rae,—It is with intense regret that I have to inform you of the death in action to-day of your brave son, Bombardier A. Rae. You will doubtless receive the usual official intimation through the War Office, but I thought that you might like to have my assurance that his death was instantaneous and painless, and I cannot imagine a better or happier death than his. I would like to add that I feel intense personal grief in the loss of your son, as he was indisputably the best man in my battery, and one for whom I had a very real affection and respect. Asking you to accept my sincerest sympathy, believe me to be yours very sincerely, W. S. Brown, 2nd Lt., O.C., H.T.M.B.”

Coatbridge Express 01/11/1916 (2)



Grave

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