

In Memory of

Private

John H. Curtiss

S/10371, 1st Bn., Gordon Highlanders who died on 02 March 1916

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private John Harold Curtiss

Ist Battalion, Gordon Highlanders

Died: 2 March 1916 Age: 19

How Died: Killed in Action

Country of burial: Belgium

Cemetery or Memorial: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

Town Memorial: Altrincham

Extra Information:

Born at Edinburgh in 1896, the only son of Charles Measures & Charlotte Alice Curtiss.

1901 Census - 33 Joppa Road, Portabello, Edinburgh, Scotland. Boarder - aged: 5 - Edinburgh. Head of household - James Forth Mcpake - Married - aged: 23 - occ: Clerk (wholesale Provision) - born: Edinburgh. Also Maude Ann Mcpake - Wife - aged: 23 - born: Edinburgh. Plus their 1 year old son.

1911 Census - No Trace.

His father was a well known actor, born at Edinburgh and his mother's stage name was Madame Alice Brickman (Alice Vickmann according to the MEN).

Educated at Taplow Grammar School and Bowdon College. On leaving school, he went into the Cotton trade, then later on became a Clerk for the Castleton Steam Packing Co. Broadheath.

Enlisted at the end of May 1915 and was drafted overseas in August 1915. MIC - states that he was posted to France on the 3rd August 1915. He was awarded the 15 Star, the BWM & the VM.

WO363 - Attested at Chester on the 1st June 1915. He was then aged: 19 years 58 days, employed as a Clerk and resided at 36 Ashton Avenue, Altrincham. His next of kin was his mother - Charlotte Alice Curtiss, 38 The Downs, Bowdon. Joined the Gordon Highlanders at Aberdeen on the 2nd June 1915. He was 5 feet 6 inches in height - weighed 116 lb - had a chest

measurement of 32½ to 24½ inches fully expanded. Posted to the 1st Bn, Gordon Highlanders on the 3rd August 1915.

He embarked at Southampton on the 4th August 1915. Suffered from Influenza on the 15th December 1915 - returned to duty on the 5th January 1916. 1st Bn, Gordon Highlanders served in the 3rd Division, 76 Brigade. Based at Reninghelst, March 1916 opened with final preparations for an attack. This was later to be known as the "Actions of the St. Eloi Craters". Reached assembly points and relieved the 9th Bn, Northumberland Fusiliers. The British assault began at 04.30 hrs on 2nd March with some initial success on the night, left section failed, 3 platoon practically annihilated ('A' Company). Very heavy casualties suffered under the stream of German rifle and machine gun fire and the Bn suffered 245 killed and wounded. All counter attacks were repulsed, heavy shelling of the British lines, and reserve and support lines. One of those killed was John.

In the early hours of 02/03/1916 his Bn attacked the German trenches and he fell under the stream of rifle and machine gun fire.

His death was reported in the 31/03/1916 edition of the Altrincham Guardian.

Listed simply as Harold Curtiss on the Altrincham & District Roll of Honour. Listed in the Guardian Year Book - Roll of Honour for 1917.

Memorials found on:

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Altrincham

Altrincham & District Roll of Honour