**Second Lieutenant James McIntosh**



**Gordon Highlanders**

**1st Gordon Highlanders**

**Rank:** Second Lieutenant

**Date of Death:** 13/11/1916

**Age:** 31

**Regiment/Service:** Gordon Highlanders,1st Bn.

**Panel Reference:** Pier and Face 15 B and 15

 C.

**Memorial:** [THIEPVAL MEMORIAL](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/80800/THIEPVAL%20MEMORIAL)

**Additional Information:**

Son of John and Margaret McIntosh, of "Craigrothie," Pollokshields, Glasgow. A Solicitor. M.A., LL.B. (Glasgow), LL.B. (London).



**Thiepval Memorial**

**Country:** France

**Locality:** Somme

**Identified Casualties:** 72195

**Location Information**

The Thiepval Memorial will be found on the D73, next to the village of Thiepval, off the main Bapaume to Albert road (D929).
Each year a major ceremony is held at the memorial on 1 July

**Visiting Information**

The Panel numbers (or Pier and Face) quoted at the end of each entry relate to the panels dedicated to the Regiment served with. In some instances where a casualty is recorded as attached to another Regiment, his name may alternatively appear within their Regimental Panel (or Pier and Face). Please refer to the on-site Memorial Register Introduction to determine the alternative panel numbers (or Pier and Face) if you do not find the name within the quoted Panels (or Pier and Face).

**Historical Information**

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter.

In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1 August 1932 (originally scheduled for 16 May but due to the death of French President Doumer the ceremony was postponed until August).

The dead of other Commonwealth countries, who died on the Somme and have no known graves, are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.

**1911 census**

The 1911 census shows that James McIntosh was staying with his parents at 223 Nithsdale Road, Pollockshields, Glasgow in 1911.He was living with his parents in a large house which had 10 rooms with windows. His father was John McIntosh, aged 58 and he was a solicitor, bank agent and an employer. James’s mother was Margaret and she was 53 years old. Margaret and John had been married for 29 years and she had delivered 7 children, 6 of whom were still living in 1911.

James was listed as 25 years of age and a solicitor to trade. His brother, Harold was 22 years of age and a Law Clerk, the next eldest was John A, who was 19 and an apprentice Law Clerk. The next two brothers were Arthur aged 16 and Kenneth aged 13, were scholars. The last child was a daughter called Janet, aged 11 years.