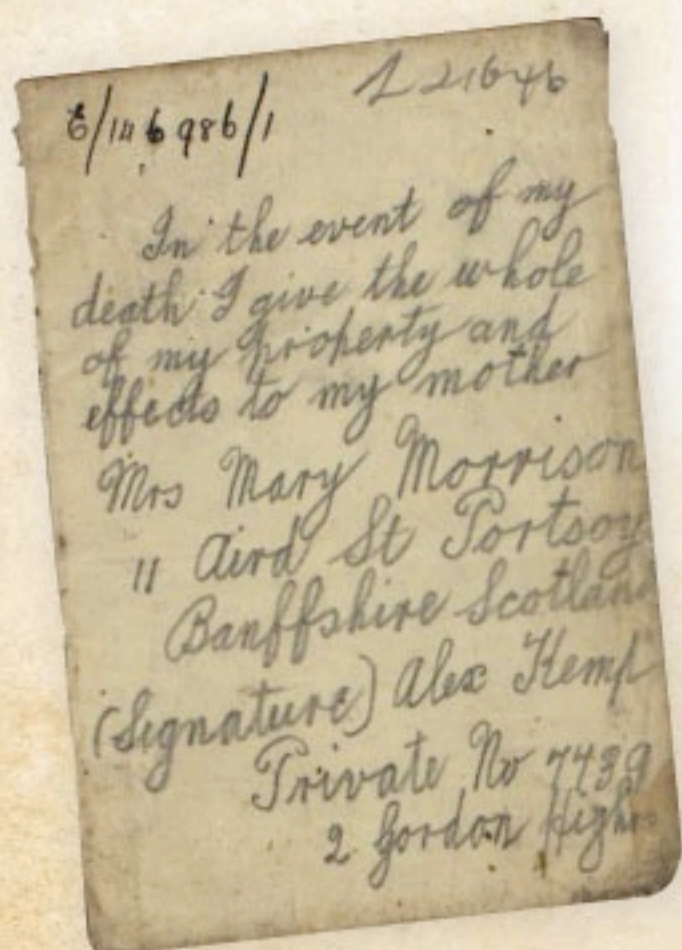


LAST DAYS

Over 147,000 Scots lost their lives in the course of the war

More than a quarter of all Scots who fought had been lost. But not all who died in the hostilities were killed in battle; many women and men, like John Badenoch for example, died while trying to save the lives of others.

All soldiers on active service were required to write wills. Most unmarried soldiers left all their belongings to their next-of-kin.



Alexander Kemp's will

Alexander was killed in action in France on 25th September 1915 and his belongings were duly forwarded to his mother

Courtesy of National Records of Scotland SC70/8/151/22

JOHN BADENOCH'S STORY

Surname (Block letters): **BADENOCH**

Christian name: **John**

Date of birth: **March 18th 1877**

Education: **Portsoy Public School, Fordyce Academy, Aberdeen Grammar School, Aberdeen University**

Occupation: **Mathematics teacher; subsequently a student of Divinity (1914)**

Name and address of next of kin: **James Badenoch (Auctioneer and Valuator) 18 Cullen Street, Portsoy**

Enlistment date and location: **14th January 1916 (aged 38) Aberdeen**

Service number and rank: **83906; Private**

Regiment or Corps: **Royal Army Medical Corps**

Date and place of death: **11th July 1917, Basra, Mesopotamia**

Where buried and/or commemorated: **Basra (now in Iraq)**

Summary of service in WWI

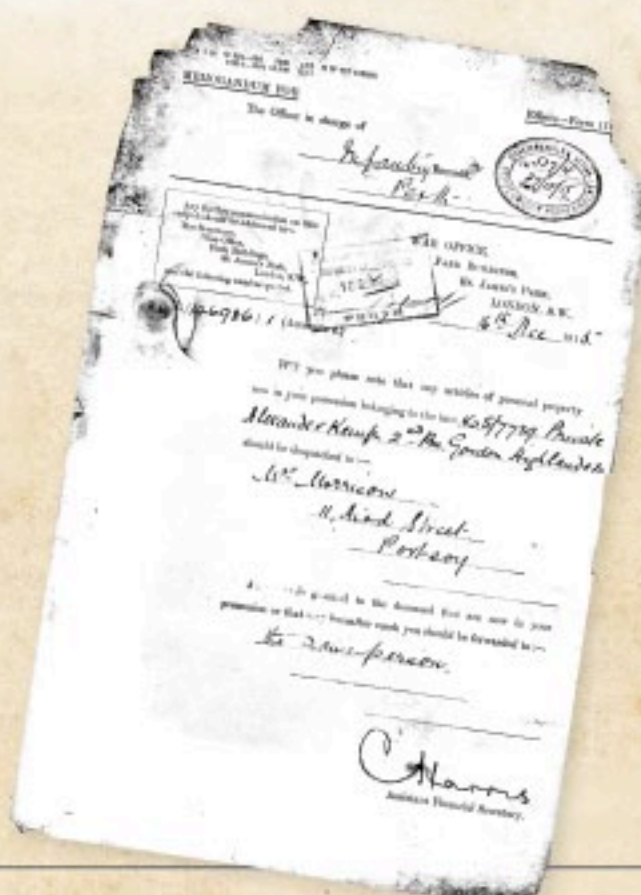
John Badenoch entered the war in Basra on November 15th 1916, where he was posted to No.133 British General Hospital. General Hospitals were set up to treat the sick and wounded once they had been transported from the front lines. A patient would remain there until fit to be returned to his unit; or sent via hospital ship to the UK for specialist work; or be discharged from the forces.

2 million men were sent back to the UK for medical treatment during the course of the war, many of them to be treated for illness rather than battlefield injuries. Influenza, malaria, pneumonia and trench foot claimed thousands of victims. Doctors were under great pressure from the military authorities to pass men as fit to fight, to return them to the front as quickly as possible.

John fell ill himself on three occasions, suffering from dysentery and sand fly fever. On July 9th 1917, he was admitted again, with stomach pains, headache and a high temperature. By 4.14 p.m. the following day he had gone into a coma and was diagnosed with heat stroke. He died at 4.30 a.m. the next morning.

"He was beloved by all who knew him... While engaged in his strenuous work in the RAMC, he played the manly and Christian part"

Tribute by Army Chaplain



George Goodall from Portsoy, a Lance Corporal with the 4th Gordon Highlanders, was awarded the Military Medal in December 1918. He had died on August 6th near Marnac, in France. There is no record of the circumstances of his death, or of his bravery in battle



Remembrance Day began in 1920 when people gathered at the new Cenotaph in London

The Cenotaph was built in London in 1920, in memory of all British soldiers who had died between 1914 and 1918. Cenotaph literally means 'empty tomb'. Scotland also made its own national war memorial, in Edinburgh; and towns throughout the country erected monuments to commemorate their sons who had been lost. There was not one place in Scotland - so called 'Thankful Villages' - where all the serving men had returned.

The memorial, of course, does not commemorate those from the town who served in other ways: nurses, volunteers on the Home Front and in the Red Cross, and so on.

Likewise, those who returned from the Western Front and elsewhere, often injured in body and mind, are not represented. They came home to a country deeply changed by four years of war and faced an uncertain future.



Portsoy's war memorial, made of granite, was unveiled on November 11th 1923 by Colonel J.J. George of Macduff