

Copy of article in Inverness Courier relating to HOP Grant.

ATTEMPTS to track down relations of the first Cameron officer to be killed in World War II -so his Belgian grave can finally be named - have unveiled more facts about his life in Drumnadrochit. Second Lieutenant Harry Ogilvy Peter Grant, known as Peter, died during the defence of the River Escaut in Belgium on 21st May 1940 and his remains later reburied in an anonymous grave.

David Delderfield of Tamworth in Staffordshire, who became interested in Lieutenant Grant's story after researching the death of an uncle killed in the same action [*this is slightly incorrect, my uncle was killed in the next village down from Bruyelle on the evening of 21 May 1940*], believes he has uncovered enough evidence to identify the last resting place of the 22-year-old officer. Last week he enlisted The Courier's help in trying to trace living relations of Lieutenant Grant to add their voices to an appeal to the Army Records Branch to have the words on the headstone changed from "Known Unto God" to his name and rank.

Lieutenant Grant is now known to have lived at Polmaily House, which has since become a hotel. Glen Urquhart High School deputy-rector Josie MacKenzie, who has researched the names recorded on the village memorial for Glenurquhart Memorial Trust, confirmed Lieutenant Grant had lived at Polmaily House with his parents James and Mabel. James Grant had been an engineer in Egypt and consequently was known in the area as "Grant Cairo." "By Glenurquhart standards they would have been quite posh and the children would probably have been educated privately at boarding school," Mrs MacKenzie suggested. "They seem to have left Glenurquhart about 1950. There's no trace of them after that."

Glenurquhart resident Agnes Fraser confirmed there had been five children in the Grant family, brothers Innes, Arthur and Peter and sisters Kathleen and Maimie, but added that she knew the parents better than their children. "My late father-in-law, James Fraser, was their gardener," she explained. "They lived at Polmaily House in the summer, but had a home in Bournemouth in the winter. Mr Grant had been married before. He was years older than his second wife - she was nanny or governess to his first family, I believe. He was very kind, but very strict with his family. Severe. You never saw him smile." Though she could not recall Peter or Innes Grant, she remembered their brother Arthur and sisters Maimie and Kathleen. Maimie saw military service with the ATS, while Arthur's wife and two sons had spent much of the war years at Polmaily. "They travelled from Polmaily to Inverness by bus and always had the back seat," she said. However, she could not remember the children's names or when they left Polmaily. Mrs Fraser's number is 01456-450501.

Lieutenant-Colonel Angus Fairrie of the Queen's Own Highlanders Regimental Museum at Fort George is also trying to track down members of Lieutenant Grant's family. "There's nothing positive yet, but we have one or two ideas," he said. Lieutenant Grant's middle name Ogilvy led some locals to speculate on a link with the Earl of Seafield, whose family name is Ogilvie-Grant. The Seafields owned Glenurquhart's Balmacaan Estate until the 1940s, but a spokesman for the Earl's Cullen estate said he had no knowledge of Peter Grant or any connection to the Seafields.