

3308291 CPL JAMES (JIM) WOOD

*1st Battalion of the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders
6.3.1928 – 24.1.1946 (17 years 287 days)*



DOB: 8 a.m. 9TH Feb 1910.

Born in: 37 Abercorn Street, Glasgow.

Family lived at: 24 Grove St, Glasgow, Scotland.

Father – Alexander Brown Wood.

Mother – Isabella Wood (Ms Henderson).

Who were married 8th Sept 1893, Hutchesontown, Glasgow.



As they were Presbyterians, it is possible that they were married here:

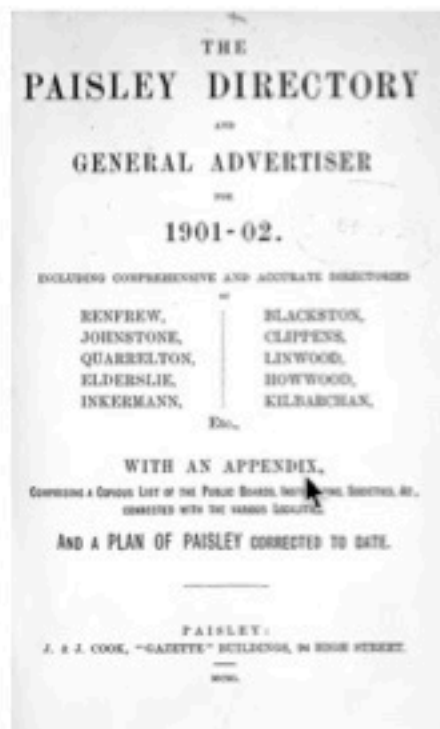
Hutchesontown United Presbyterian Church, 1875.

Originally a Relief Church, it was built at 61 Hospital Street at the junction with Ballater Street in the Gorbals in 1799. The building was refurbished and modernised in 1855. The congregation terminated in 1924 on uniting with Caledonia Road United Free as Hutchesontown and Caledonia Road U.F. Church.

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Alexander Brown Wood was Wine & Spirit merchant located at 6 High Street,

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By the mid-19th century the area around High Street had degenerated into a slum and was an area where only the poorest lived. Many once-fine buildings were overcrowded with tenants and their families, many of them newcomers to the city, and J F S Gordon noted in 1872 that the upper storeys of the tenement were occupied by "hordes of Irish."



Looking up High Street from Duke Street in the early 1900s.

Two policemen are strolling down the High Street among the shoppers, enjoying the sunshine. A smart carriage with its top-hatted coachman is heading east along Duke Street. On the left is a pawnbrokers' shop, easily identified by the three golden balls hanging above the doorway.

The upper part of High Street was known as "Bell o' the Brae." Its old buildings had degenerated into slums by the end of the 19th century and they were swept away by the City Improvement Trust and replaced with modern tenements, 1899-1902.



Old buildings in High Street, 1870s.

The Public Health Act, 1867 introduced new rules and regulations for the keepers of common lodging houses such as those shown here, defined as "a house or part thereof where lodgers are housed at an amount not exceeding fourpence [just over 1.5p] per night for each person." The control of lodging houses was transferred from the police to the local authority.



An aerial view of the High Street, looking south from Rottenrow, 1900. The view was reproduced as a postcard, which is also available on this website.

Glasgow's population rose from 77,000 to 762,000 during the 19th century, creating considerable housing problems. In the old city centre the demand for more houses often led property owners to build over the traditional long gardens behind the existing small houses. This led to a jumble of three, four, or even five story tenements divided by passages or closes so narrow that legend has it that neighbours could shake hands across them. The resulting unsanitary and polluted living conditions led to regular and devastating outbreaks of infectious

James Wood

Registered, as being born at 37 Abercorn Street, Glasgow, but his registered home address was 24 Grove St, Glasgow, Scotland.

FACT OF AN ENTRY IN A REGISTER OF BIRTHS, of 17 & 18 VICTORIA.			kept in the undermentioned PARISH or DISTRICT, in terms Cap. 80, §§ 56 & 58.		
Name and Surname	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Rank, and Social Condition of Father, Name, and Social Condition of Mother, Name and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Registrar, and Signature of one of the Clergy to whom the Entry is made.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
Wood	1870 February Ninth, 8h. Am. 37 Abercorn St., Glasgow.	M	Alexander Brown Wood, Wine & Spirit Salesman. Isabella Wood, M. S. Henderson. 1893, September 8th Hutchesonsburgh, Glasgow.	(Signed) A. B. Wood, Father	1870, March 2nd At Glasgow (Signed) Alexander Dewar, Registrar.
Extracts from the Register Book or Books, for the URGH of GLASGOW, this 28th day of January 1899			DISTRICT of MILTON January 1899		

Johnston

If the 5th Section of the Act 17 & 18 Vict. c. 50, every Extract of an Entry in the Register Books kept by a Registrar under the provisions of the Registration of Births, (Scotland) Act, duly witnessed and signed by the Registrar, is admissible as evidence in all parts of His Majesty's dominions without any other or further proof of such Entry, and who falsifies any of the particulars on this Extract or makes use of such falsified Extract as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.



Grove Street, Glasgow

James joined the Territorial Army on the 6th March 1928, as a Private in the 5TH Battalion, Highland Light Infantry. (Aged 18 years and 64 days)

He then transferred to the Regular Army as a Cook on the 16th April 1928 – 5th Battalion, Queens Own Cameron Highlanders.

[A...](#)



His statistics were:

Height: 5 foot 3 ½ inches.

Weight: 9 Stones.

Waist: 34 inches.

Blue eyes.

Brown hair.

Religious denomination:

Presbyterian.

[A...](#)

Company Notes.

A Company.

As usual, life in the "Hut o' Health" pursues the even tenor of its way with scarcely any incidents of sufficient excitement to record.

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The drafts may come and the drafts may go, but methinks the rain in the Depot will continue for ever, unlike another "reign" which terminated abruptly recently. Well! well! the ladder of success was ever slippery, and that rung seemed to be too greasy. We wonder if the ground was "bumpy" where the ladder stood.

A draft of 25 recruits left the Depot to join the 2nd Battalion on 17th April, conducted by Capt. A. F. MacGillivray, who returned to the Depot on completion of duty.

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A draft of 27 recruits left the Depot on 14th June, joining the 2nd Battalion at Inshes Camp, and at the time of writing are on the long long trail to Redford, but we are sure that they will bear the Regiment in mind and foot it as merrily as the more inured, arriving with smiling face and head erect.

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We were very pleased to have the 2nd Battalion near for the few days when they were at Inshes Camp, and offer them our many thanks for the splendid rank and file dance given in the Gymnasium on the last night of their stay. All agreed it was a splendid success and very much appreciated.

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In the Spring a young man's fancy turned to thoughts of "Love" seems to have been well borne out recently, judging by the number who have turned and sprung among the Depot Staff.

Our congratulations go out to the three who have taken the plunge, and we wish them every success in double harness. Wonder who is going to hold the reins!

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We offer our congratulations to "Peter McKeechie" on digging out the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Eighteen years of undetected crime deserves a medal.

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THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW :-

Who was the dutyman getting married recently was told by the registrar, "The banns will cost you 7/6," and replied, "I don't want any banns; I'll have a piper to play at my wedding!"

Did "Tosh" take a "Pop" before "Popping the question"?

Who was the N.C.O. who forgot he was married and on the night of his marriage slept in barracks?

BONZO.

Orderly Room Notes.

NOMINAL ROLL of RECRUITS Enlisted for the Regiment since last issue.

Name and Place of Enlistment.	Date.	Place of Birth.
F. Watson, Edinburgh	20/3/28	Edinburgh
J. McAllister, Edinburgh	21/3/28	Glasgow
A. Hunter, Edinburgh	21/3/28	Edinburgh
J. Forbes, Inverness	20/3/28	Inverness
J. Jeffrey, Liverpool	22/3/28	Irvine, Ayr
J. Ritchie, Edinburgh	29/3/28	Edinburgh
J. Oliver, Inverness	30/3/28	Kemora, Canada
J. G. Macaulay, Inverness	30/3/28	Dingwall
R. Burns, Perth	2/4/28	Dundee
H. Love, Edinburgh	2/4/28	Edinburgh
A. Blair, Glasgow	7/4/28	Glasgow
T. Wyness, Glasgow	11/4/28	Wishaw
J. McGuire, Glasgow	11/4/28	Belfast
F. Buchanan, Glasgow	11/4/28	Glasgow
M. McBain, Edinburgh	11/4/28	South Queensferry
W. McColgan, Glasgow	12/4/28	Glasgow
R. Campbell, Glasgow	12/4/28	Govan, Glasgow
A. Green, Glasgow	13/4/28	Glasgow
J. Wood, Glasgow	13/4/28	Glasgow
J. I. Margach, Forres	11/4/28	Munlochy, Ross-shire
W. S. Taylor, Edinburgh	18/4/28	Edinburgh
S. McIlwain, Edinburgh	19/4/28	Clydebank
R. Miller, Edinburgh	20/4/28	S. Leith
T. Brady, Glasgow	20/4/28	Glasgow
W. S. Pritchard, Liverpool	21/4/28	Liverpool
J. Dewar, Edinburgh	26/4/28	Dundee
T. R. McCall, Edinburgh	26/4/28	Edinburgh
T. Molloy, Glasgow	26/4/28	Glasgow
S. Copland, Glasgow	2/5/28	Glasgow
G. McLean, Glasgow	1/5/28	Glasgow
T. Grier, Hamilton	7/5/28	Irvine
G. Rhodes, Edinburgh	1/5/28	Edinburgh
W. Calderbank, Preston	7/5/28	York
H. Harrison, Edinburgh	7/5/28	Edinburgh
D. McIntosh, Edinburgh	7/5/28	Edinburgh
J. Gallacher, Edinburgh	8/5/28	Edinburgh
W. Rowan, Glasgow	14/5/28	Glasgow
W. Forsyth, Glasgow	16/5/28	Glasgow
D. Grant, Perth	26/5/28	Perth
J. Paterson, Edinburgh	28/5/28	Edinburgh
T. Beattie, Edinburgh	29/5/28	Edinburgh
R. Greig, Edinburgh	29/5/28	Edinburgh
J. Shields, Edinburgh	31/5/28	S. Leith
J. Scobbie, Inverness	2/6/28	Thurso

Certificates of Education.

The undermentioned were awarded 3rd Class Certificates of Education at an examination held at Inverness, 20th April, 1928 :-

2926442 Pte. D. Macdonald
298612 Pte. D. Fraser
2926449 Pte. C. McLellan
2926429 Pte. R. Doran
2926434 Pte. C. Brown
2926451 Pte. J. McIntosh
2926428 Pte. H. McIlwain

The combined Pipe Bands of the Depot and the 4th Battalion played in the British Legion Square on the evening of 17th August on the occasion of the anniversary of the raising of the Regiment. A large crowd of inhabitants and visitors were present.

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In the eliminating events of the Scottish Command Sports, the recruits of the Depot won to the Depot Seaforth Highlanders, and in the Scottish Command Sports were 2nd in the Command Inter-Depot Recruits' Competition.

Orderly Room Notes.

NOMINAL ROLL of RECRUITS Enlisted for the Regiment since last list.

Name and Place of Enlistment.	Date.	Place of Birth.
H. Britton, Glasgow	8/6/28	Glasgow
G. Coffield, Inverness	12/6/28	Glasgow
N. Laycock, York	15/6/28	Gateshead
A. Watt, Edinburgh	23/6/28	Edinburgh
J. Benton, Inverness	3/7/28	Edinburgh
T. MacRae, Kingussie	3/7/28	Kingussie
D. Stevenson, Fort-William	4/7/28	Walkerburn, Peebles
L. Smith, Aberdeen	3/7/28	Meldrum
R. Fraser, Kingussie	7/7/28	Cawdor
G. Currie, Edinburgh	9/7/28	Newton, Cambuslang
J. Ainslie, Edinburgh	10/7/28	Haddington
G. Mathew, Edinburgh	19/7/28	Hawick
G. Hamilton, Edinburgh	14/7/28	Edinburgh
D. MacDonald, Inverness	18/7/28	Inverness
W. Alexander, Ayr	16/7/28	Ayr
H. MacVicar, Hamilton	23/7/28	Cambuslang
J. McCullum, Glasgow	24/7/28	Glasgow
F. McMenemy, Glasgow	25/7/28	Glasgow
L. Seagriff, Edinburgh	26/7/28	Wishaw
G. Burnett, Edinburgh	26/7/28	South Leith
A. Steele, Edinburgh	30/7/28	Edinburgh
H. Sinclair, Glasgow	30/7/28	Glasgow
J. Smith, Glasgow	31/7/28	Glasgow
J. Blyth, Edinburgh	31/7/28	Edinburgh
R. McGuinness, Glasgow	1/8/28	Glasgow
E. Walker, Aberdeen	30/7/28	Aberdeen
G. Fraser, Inverness	4/8/28	Inverness
W. Stewart, Edinburgh	2/8/28	Edinburgh
J. Cassidy, Glasgow	4/8/28	Glasgow
P. Taggart, Glasgow	4/8/28	South Shields
D. Adamson, Carlisle	1/8/28	Dumfries
J. Thomson, Edinburgh	7/8/28	North Berwick
R. Gault, Edinburgh	7/8/28	Edinburgh
T. Barclay, Glasgow	9/8/28	Hamilton
P. Swinton, Edinburgh	8/8/28	Edinburgh
M. Waxter, Edinburgh	8/8/28	Edinburgh
M. MacKenzie, Edinburgh	9/8/28	South Leith

Name and Place of Enlistment.	Date.	Place of Birth.
S. Logan, Edinburgh	9/8/28	Edinburgh
W. Bishop, Edinburgh	9/8/28	Edinburgh
W. McCairns, Glasgow	10/8/28	Glasgow
T. Mullens, Glasgow	10/8/28	Glasgow
A. MacNeill, Glasgow	10/8/28	Glasgow
H. C. Love, Liverpool	8/8/28	Liverpool
L. Lawson, Inverness	15/8/28	Paisley
W. Reid, Glasgow	14/8/28	Glasgow
F. Byrne, Glasgow	14/8/28	Glasgow
W. Lawson, Glasgow	14/8/28	Paisley
W. McDonald, Inverness	15/8/28	Invergarry
J. Graham, Ayr	16/8/28	Stranraer
T. Toomey, Fort-William	17/8/28	Egremount, Cumberland
A. Clark, Hamilton	20/8/28	Larkhall
A. Smith, Edinburgh	20/8/28	Edinburgh
A. Caldwell, Edinburgh	20/8/28	Edinburgh
W. McKinnon, Glasgow	23/8/28	Dumfries
J. Quinn, Inverness	25/8/28	Glasgow
R. Crowe, Newcastle	23/8/28	Whitley Bay
J. Blackstock, Glasgow	27/8/28	Glasgow
J. Murphy, Glasgow	27/8/28	Glasgow
J. Kerray, Edinburgh	28/8/28	Edinburgh
R. Lees, Hamilton	3/9/28	Motherwell
M. C. Cook, Glasgow	3/9/28	Paisley
J. Murray, Glasgow	4/9/28	Belfast
D. Wilson, Glasgow	5/9/28	Wishaw
P. Burns, Edinburgh	10/9/28	Edinburgh
J. Gunn, Glasgow	12/9/28	Glasgow

Certificates of Education.

2925436 Pte. L. Cooper, awarded 2nd Class Certificate of Education at Inverness, 6/6/28.

The undermentioned were awarded 3rd Class Certificates of Education at an examination held at Inverness on 18th July, 1928:—

2926311 Pte. A. Blair
2926610 Pte. R. Burns
2926325 Pte. T. Brady
2926416 Pte. F. Buchanan
2926320 Pte. R. Campbell
4472947 Pte. W. Calderbank
2926326 Pte. J. Dewar
3051668 Pte. J. Gallacher
2926321 Pte. A. Green
2926337 Pte. T. Grier
2925006 Pte. H. Greene
2926304 Pte. J. Jeffreys
2926317 Pte. M. McBain
2926324 Pte. S. McIlvain
3307602 Pte. G. McLean
2926319 Pte. W. McColgan
2926305 Pte. J. McAuley
2816924 Pte. J. Margach
2926466 Pte. J. McKenzie
2815860 Pte. J. Oliver
2926338 Pte. G. Rhodes
2563362 Pte. W. Taylor
3308291 Pte. J. Wood
3308326 Pte. S. Copland
2925713 Pte. D. Ross
2926521 Pte. R. Miller
3031640 Pte. D. McIntosh

Postings:

13.4.28 – 9.1.31 Home

18.7.28 176 3rd Class 6 of 6 Inverness.

29.3.32 1/41/32 2nd Class

1932 Transport training.

10.1.31 – 27.12.34 India – Kailana

Kailana was a very small station in the North of the United Provinces, about 60 miles from Dehra Dun and 8000ft above sea level. It was isolated and the surrounding hills had particularly steep gradients. Along with other regiments, there was room for 1000 men. It is recorded that 550 men of the 1st Black Watch had the pleasure of spending 3 months there in 1933.

The first part of the journey from Meerut to Kailana was made by train to Dehra Dun. From here the trip uphill was by bus, to Kalsi via Jumnipur. Kalsi rest camp lay in a perfect setting at the bottom of the thickly clad lower slopes of the Himalayas. Kalsi was also well known for its bat like mosquitoes.

All of the baggage would be offloaded from the buses on to A.T carts and then in the cool of the evening a route march was begun to Saiah. Saiah rest camp was besides an ice cold stream, which had its source in the Pindari glacier. An early start the next day brought the troops to the bottom of the infamous "Short Cut" - a narrow and very steep hill road leading to Kailana camp.

Kailana

"Short cut"





Kailana Barracks & Signal Section



Kailana Bazaar in the local village

United British Provinces of
Northern India early 1900s.

Kailana

Meerut



As usual sport dominated the activities here along with Khud walks but there was unfortunately only one football pitch. Soldiering was confined to route marches and musketry, which were often interrupted by torrential rain or made impossible by the terrain. Other amusements were few. The Bazaar was indifferent and the Soldiers Club many weary miles away which was made worse by the complete absence of the "tat".

It is here where James is known to have taken part in boxing matches.

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Boxing—Banikhet Area.**INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

(October 11th and 12th).

This Tournament was run on the collective team, i.e., individuals, but to equalise the points in both classes, Novices and Opens, the only points to count were:—Two points for the winner of the weight in either class; one point for the runner-up of the weight in either class; disqualification, no points.

The team consisted of ten men, Novices and Opens combined in whatever proportion desired. Our team consisted of three Opens and seven Novices, and all are to be congratulated for having won the Team Cup by the narrow margin of one point. Team results:—

Cameron Highlanders	9 points.
Cameronians (S.R.)	8 "
East Yorkshire Regiment	6 "
Prince of Wales' Volunteers	5 "
Loyal Regiment	5 "

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS.**Bantam—Open.**

Pte. Urquhart had no difficulty in winning his weight, beating his two opponents with comparative ease.

Feather—Open.

Pte. Hughes easily outpointed Rfn. Frank (Cameronians) in the semi-finals, and lost narrowly on points to Pte. Sweeney (P.W.V.'s) in the final.

Feathers—Novice.

L. Cpl. Dingwall knocked out Pte. Thorn (Loyals), and in the semi-finals lost on points to Pte. Trowel (E.Y.).

Open Light.

Pte. Strang fought a splendid fight throughout the three rounds, and lost on points to Rfn. Mutholland (Cameronians), a stronger and more experienced boxer, who also won the best boxer's cup.

Novice Light.

Pte. Yorke lost on points to Pte. Elsom (E.Y.R.) through reason of Elsom having forced the fight in the last round. Pte. Shambley, Novice Light winner.

Novice Welter.

Pte. Wood lost on points to Pte. Peet (Loyals). L/Cpl. Turnbull beat Pte. Rodgers (E.Y.R.) by a k.o. in the 2nd round, and in the semi-finals lost to Pte. Overton (P.W.V.'s) on points. Pte. Overton, Novice Welter winner.

Novice Middles.

Pte. Cartwright won easily against Pte. Dickson (E.Y.R.).

Pte. Dailly knocked out his two opponents in the 1st and 2nd round respectively.

This brought Cartwright and Dailly together in the final, and, after a very tame exhibition, Dailly gained the decision.

Novice Light Heavy.

L/Cpl. Stone fought a very close decision with Pte. Champion (Cameronians), and just managed to get the verdict.

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BOYS' TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (October 11th and 12th).

This Tournament was run on the same lines as the men's—two points for the winner of the weight, and one for the runner-up. There were only two teams entered, and the results were:—

Cameron Highlanders	9 points.
Cameronians (S.R.)	7 "

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS**Flys.**

Boy Fraser easily beat Boy Crossan (S.R.), and in the final beat Boy Auld (Cameronians).

Bantams.

Boys Rodham and McLean outpointed their opponents in the semi-finals, and fought together in the final, Boy Rodham losing narrowly.

Feathers.

Boy Phillips lost to his old opponent, Boy Hunter (Cameronians), who was too strong for him.

Boy Gillan easily beat Boy Collerton (10th Hussars), but in the final lost to Boy Hunter (Cameronians).

Lights.

Boy Allan had Boy Graham (Cameronians) on the verge of a k.o. in the 3rd round, and was a deserved winner on points.

Welters.

Boy Kinnear was knocked out with a right to the jaw in the 1st round. Boy Steen (P.W.V.'s), Welter winner.

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LUCKNOW, MEERUT AND D.I.R.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS—INDIVIDUALS

(19th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd August, 1933).

Seven men were entered for the Individuals, and three were left to fight on the night of the Finals. The four men who lost their eliminating contests only did so by the referee's casting vote, i.e., the points were even, but a decision had to be made.

One of the most outstanding and noticeable points about both our team and individuals was that, although competitors from other Units were repeatedly being warned by the referee for incorrect hitting and minor offences in the ring, our boxers were seldom, if ever, checked for any offence.

Silver Cups were presented to the winning team, and Medals to the runners-up.



6.4.35 Extended service to complete 12 years

28.12.34 – 8.4.36 Sudan



Sudan is a country in North East Africa. It is bordered by Egypt to the North, the Red Sea to the Northeast, Eritrea to the East, Ethiopia to the Southeast, South Sudan to the South, the Central African Republic to the Southwest, Chad to the West, and Libya to the Northwest.

9.4.36

Home

16.9.36

Army School of Catering, Aldershot

Wife – Vina Sophia Dobing (Shown c1937)



Her first & second registered addresses:

(Extract from another residents recollections of the same time in those streets)

3 Brentwood Villas, Beverley, Yorkshire.

"About tea time once on a Sunday I was going to take a can of tea to my uncle who was a milkman in Flemingate. Because he wasn't in his dairy I knew he would be in the field milking so I took it Mr and Mrs Cross who lived in the bungalow and left it there for him. On the way back the plane came over and dropped some bombs on Beverley hitting houses in Beverley. One bomb hit the bungalow. I am here to tell the tale, but unfortunately Mr and Mrs Cross died. My uncle came back from milking and was disappointed that he couldn't have his tea because the can had been squashed. There were houses in Flemingate bombed. I believe they were called Brentwood Villas".

21 Benson Street, Norton on Tees, Co Durham.

"On the 19th August 1941, a bomb, believed to be a para mine, fell in-between houses in Benson Street and Pine Street. 12 houses were demolished in Benson St – Nos 25 - 41 and 32 - 36 and 32 – 36 on Pine St. 21 people were seriously injured and 7 killed".

The date of where and when and where James met his wife to be is a little sketchy. Our family was always told that they met when he was at or in the area of Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire where she worked as a lady in waiting or house keeper at the Fleece Hotel, Richmond, North Yorkshire. (It is also possible that he had some connection with the Green Howards who have a museum at Richmond).



The Fleece Hotel c1900 and current



Researched & written by Leslie D Wood (Grandson). Material sourced from personal Army records and the WWW. 23 Jan 2019

During this period back home in England, James and Vina were married at Aldershot on the 12th Jan 1939 and placed on the Army register as married on the 11th March 1939.



All Saints Garrison Church

It is possible that they were married here.

Around Jan 1938 (possibly after a New Years eve party), James and Vina must have had had a night of "intimacy", because nine months later, on the 9th November at 1 O'clock in the morning, my father (Leslie George Robert Wood) was born in the Glasgow Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital in the district of College, Central Glasgow.

However, his birth was not registered until 17th Jan 1939, until after the wedding. On his birth certificate, his birth was witnessed by his Uncle Robert Wood of 7 Scotia Street Glasgow.

The Royal Maternity Hospital was founded in 1834 and was originally called the Glasgow Lying-In Hospital and Dispensary. It moved from Greyfriars Wynd to St Andrew's Square in 1841 and then in 1860 to the Rottenrow.

In 1914 the hospital became the Glasgow Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital but it retained its popular nickname, "The Rottenrow". (Because Rottenrow describes a place where there was once a row of tumbledown cottages infested with rats and goes back to the 14th century or earlier).



The entrance arch is all that remains of Rottenrow hospital. Nurses and babies at Rottenrow c1920s. On the left in the front row is Mary McKillop Brown, who later worked as a midwife and as what was popularly known as a "green lady" - a health visitor.



19.9.39 - 30.5.40 BEF - France. (British Expeditionary Force, Dunkirk).

18.1.40 Docked 1 days pay by Commanding Officer.

23.2.40 Docked 1 days pay by Commanding Officer.

3.3.40 Granted war-time Proficiency pay

Not much is know of his time here, as he never talked much about his military service in general. Along with the unofficial Dunkirk medal, this is a certificate issued by the town of Dunkirk in recognition of the allied members commitment during Operation Dynamo.



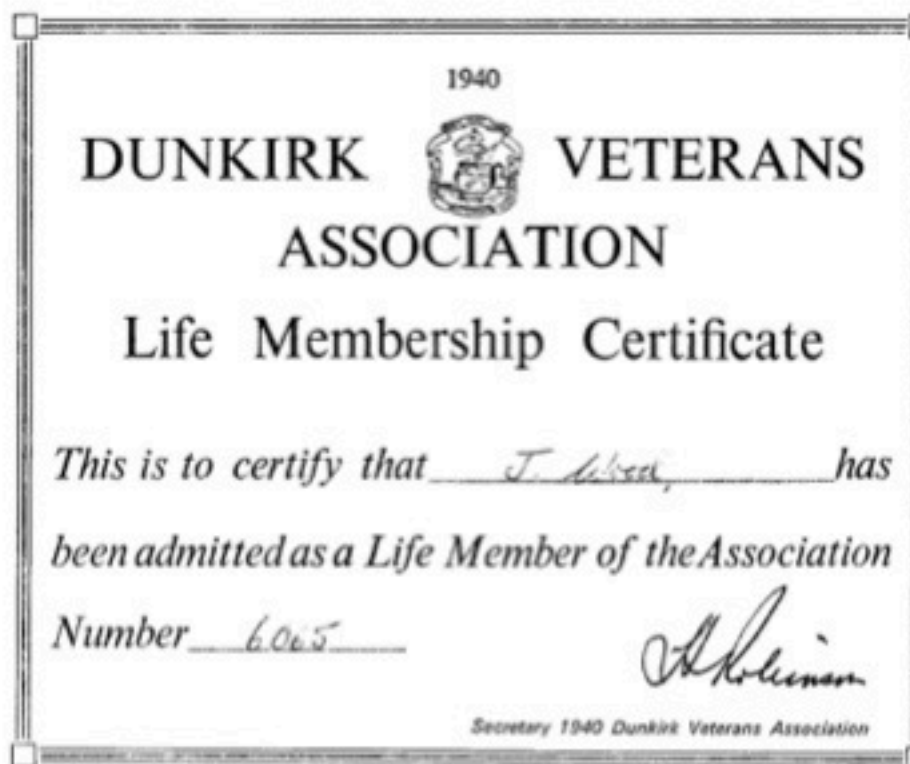
The Dunkirk Medal

Awarded to any Allied member involved in Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of Allied forces from the Dunkirk sector between 29 May and 3 June and those soldiers evacuated from the beaches.

It is an unofficial commemorative medal created by the town of Dunkirk to commemorate the defence of the town and surrounding area during May and June 1940. The allocation of the award was managed by *Association nationale des anciens combattants de Flandres-Dunkerque* 1940, the French National Association of Veterans of the Fortified Sector of Flanders and Dunkirk (and later administrated by the now disbanded Dunkirk Veterans Association).

Initiated in 1960, the award was initially awarded to only French service personnel (with approximately 30,000 medals issued). In 1970 it was also awarded to any Allied member involved in Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of Allied forces from the Dunkirk sector between 29 May and 3 June and those soldiers evacuated from the beaches. All British servicemen from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Merchant Navy, and the civilian little ship volunteers were eligible to receive the award.

Note: The medal is to be worn on the right breast, but as it is *not designated an official medal* it is not to be mounted with other British official medals and awards



SB. Hachles o' Blue o' the
Baroness at Jumbuk.

For King and for country they gallantly stood,
Resolved to give Britain their best and o' blood,
As fierce as the lions on Scotia's flag,
As wild as the mountains as green as the bay,
They fought in the daylight, they fought in the
The scally, sublimed at Jumbuk, Jumbuk,
Like devils and devils they slaughtered and,
No was there a slain on their hachles o' blue.

They fought like the bulldogs here Baroness are
The foremost in battle, excelling in war,
The courage undaunted, in battle as real,
They carried the form in could temper steel;
The foremost by odds, often twenty to one,
They battled and butchered and scattered with
And who was misdeed what we had to the
Mistaken the men wearing their hachles o' blue.

They fought in the open, they fought in the street,
The hungry and weary and blistered their feet,
They battled in snows, they battled in rain,
Wounding their comrades both wounded and slain.

No thoughts in their minds but their homes on
The sea,
No thoughts but to die for the land of the
The sea,
True Baroness a having death to win through,
And o' their Baroness and their hachles o' blue.

But fighting wears heavy, like water wears stone,
When tired past their limits, their stamina was
And here as their hearts were could not withstand
The fire o' machines and on land;
Bombs rained down upon them from planes in
The air,
While tanks in their hundreds wrought hell
Everywhere;
Unrightly as sin when they plunged into
The sea,
Sent solely on routing the hachles o' blue.

Delivered by a battle more wild than a night,
The sold his air, to save his air, to save his air,
This damming with father, embracing with son,
The saw his dear country, by ice, by snow,
A house in the street o' a dark, misty night,
No as him a rat, for a rat was his fight,
A king, May a goblin, who wearily
His comrades attacked to the hachles o' blue
Along the coast, the hachles o' blue
Sole found with man on Jumbuk's sandy
Hard pressed as an Curis and crew
Lined down,
Delivered by a battle unfit for a crown,
It seemed as if o' o' them Baroness would
The
Dotted for salvation or drowned in the sea
But Mightier Hands marked the course to
The sea,
And feed were the bonnie brow hachles
o' blue.

By faith and good guidance and learning
as well
A mighty armada rose on the swell-
The sea's deluges, both big ships and small,
A mighty armada, manly and true,
One thought in their wisdom the form of
to fight,
And take back again to their own
native soil,
The dear fellow countryman, American and
Still wearing Baroness and hachles o' blue.

THE HACKLES O'BLUE or THE CAMERONS AT DUNKIRK.

For King and for country they gallantly stood,
Resolved to gie Britain their last drop o'blood, Gie = Give
As fierce as the lions on Scotia's flags, Scotia's = Scotlands
As wild as her mountains, as grim as her crags,
They fought in the daylight; they fought in the mirk,
Tho' vastly outnumbered at stricken Dunkirk,
Like demons and devils they slaughtered and slew,
Nor was there a stain on the Hackles o'Blue.

They fought like the Bulldogs brave Camerons all,
Aye formaist in battle excelling in war, Aye formaist = always first
Wi' courage undaunted, wi' mettle as real,
They harried the foemen wi' could tempered steel,
Tho' favoured by odds, often twenty to one,
They battered and butchered and scattered ilk Hun, Ilk = each
And wha would misdoubt what we ken to be true, Wha = who. Ken = know.
Mistrusts the men wearing their Hackles o'Blue.

They fought in the open; they fought in the street,
Tho' hungry and weary and blistered their feet,
They battled in sunshine, they battled in rain,
Avenging their comrades baith wounded and slain, Baith = both.
No thought in their minds but their hames oe'r the sea,
No thought but to die for the land of the free,
True Camerons a' braving death to win through,
Proud o' their Balmorals and their Hackles o'Blue

But fighting wears hearts heroes, like water wears stains, Stains = stones
When taxed yont their limits, their stamina wained,
And brave as their hearts were, they couldna withstand
The fire o' machines overhead and on land,
Bombs rained down upon them fae planes in the air,
While tanks in there hundreds wrought Hell everywhere,
Unsightly as sin when they plunged into view,
Bent solely on routing the Hackles o'Blue.

Betrayed by a traitor ~~main~~ mair vile than a snake, All this verse is a mystery
 Wha sold his ain people to save his ain sake, don't know the story of
 Thus damming ilk faither, enslaving ilk son, any traitor.
 Wha saw his dear country by vice overrun,
 A knave in the thick o' a dark wicked plot,
 Nor ca' him a rat, for a rat would have fought,
 A king, Nay a guhstain, wha weakly withdrew, Not sure about this line.
 His comrades attached to the Hackles o' Blue. "guhstain" could be a man to be
 hanged.

Alone, nigh surrounded the battle now lost,
 Fate found ilk man on Dunkirk's sandy coast,
 Hard pressed as are louries and deers hunted down, "louries"??
 Betrayed by a buffer unfit for a crown, "buffer"??
 It seems as if a' o' them prisoners would be,
 Destined for starvation or drowned in the sea,
 But Mighty Hands matched snatched the cause to pursue,
 And freed were the bonnie braw Hackles o' Blue.

By faith and guid guidance and learning as well,
 A mighty armada arose on the swell,
 Cruisers, destroyers, baith big ships and sma',
 A quainter armada mankind never saw,
 One thought in the wisdom the foeman to foil,
 And take back again to their ain native soil,
 Their dear fellow countrymen conscious and true,
 Still wearing balmorals and hackles o' blue.

31.5.40 Home

6.8.40 (Appointed Unpaid Acting Corporal.

18.7.41 Home (Inverness)

21.8.41 Home (Fort George)

2.10.41 Turriff, Scotland?

(1000s of ex Dunkirk troops were housed in this area).

21.11.41 "Field"

17.6.42 – 10.10.42 Egypt

3.9.42 Reduced to Private.

3.10.42 Attached to No 510 V.S Convoy No 8 Unit.

28.1.43 Promoted to Lance Corporal.

23.3.43 Reduced to Private.

17.5.43 Attended Cooks course.

Proceed to 155 transit camp awaiting posting.

4.6.43 Posted to 155 8th Army Transit Camp, Tripoli, as Corporal Cook.

28.8.43 Posted 106 Anti Tank Regiment. (Burma, North Africa?)

Attached to 32 Field Regiment (Located Egypt & N Africa 1942-3 - Army & GHQ Troops Support Regiment, Middle East School of Artillery).

26.12.43 Passed trade test as a Cook class 2.

26.12.43 Compulsorily transferred to the A.C.C

(Army Catering Corps), Corporal - Cook Class 2

The Army Catering Corps did not exist as a separate Corps in the Army until 1 January 1965 when it was granted the status of an independent Corps in its own right, under the direction of the Quartermaster General.

Until then the Catering Corps had been under the control of the Royal Army Service Corps since its formation on 22 March 1941 under Army Order 35 of 1941.



Cooks preparing stew in the kitchens at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, November 1939

20.6.44 Posted to **MEERRA** (Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration), Yugoslavian refugee camp, El Shatt.

At the height of World War II, the Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration (**MEERRA**) operated camps in Syria, Egypt and Palestine where tens of thousands of people from across Europe sought refuge.

MEERRA was part of a growing network of refugee camps around the world that were operated in a collaborative effort by national governments, military officials and domestic and international aid organizations. Social welfare groups including the International Migration Service, the Red Cross, the Near East Foundation and the Save the Children Fund all pitched in to help **MEERRA** and, later, the United Nations to run the camps.

El Shatt was the United Nations refugee camp set up in Egypt during World War II.

More than 30,000 Yugoslavian refugees lived in the camp, for a total of 18 months between 1944 and 1946.

The camp, located near the Suez Canal in the Sinai desert, was established by the British in the summer of 1944 to accommodate the large number of civilians fleeing from what is now Croatia, ahead of a German invasion.

During their time in the camp, there were 300 marriages and 650 children were born.



El Shatt Refugee Camp & Refugee children



Studying



Children on a seesaw

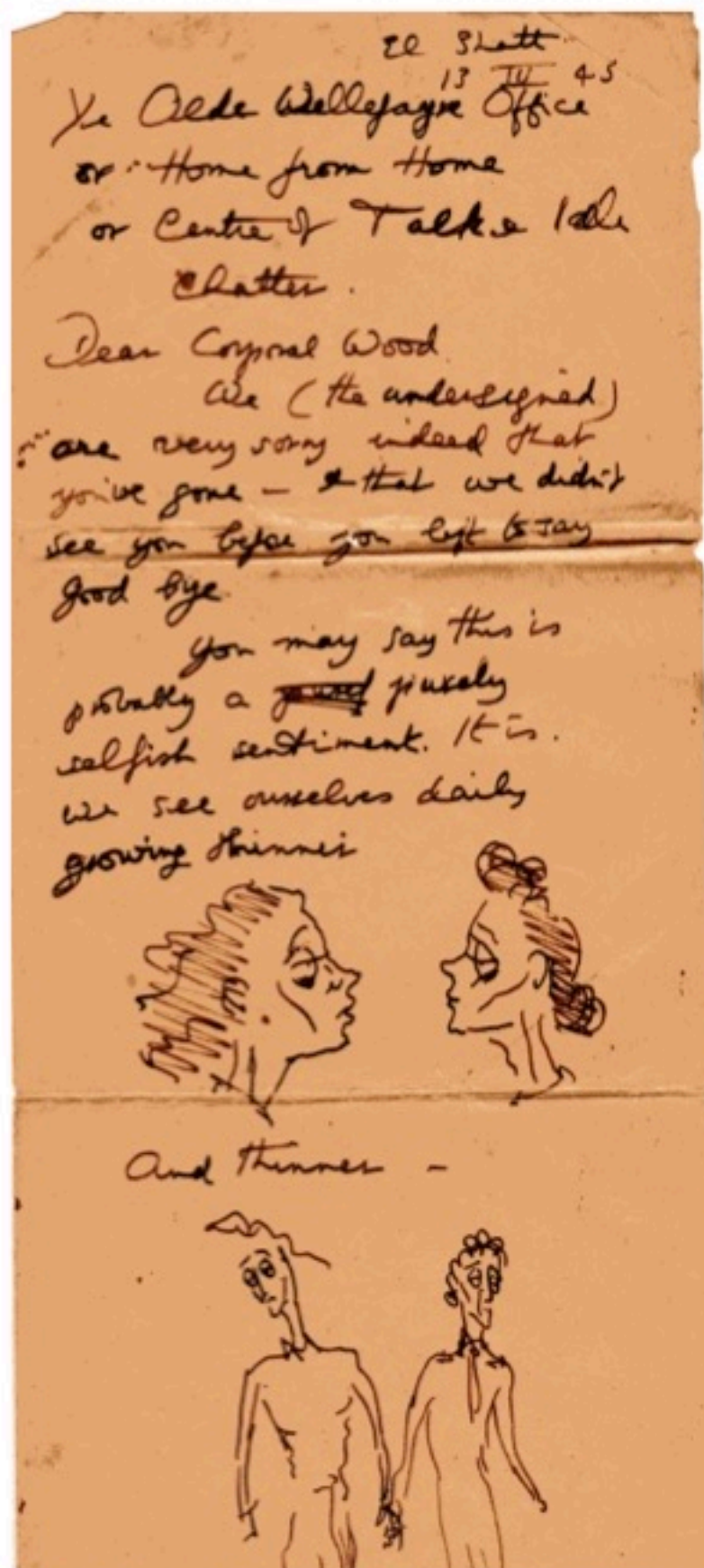


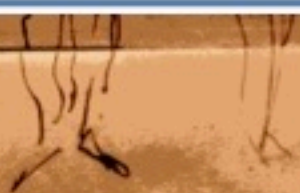
At the place of their exile, rests a graveyard with 825 graves of people who did not withstand the tough conditions of life in the desert.



DIY shelving

After being moved from El Shatt Camp, James received a "letter from one of the remaining refugees:



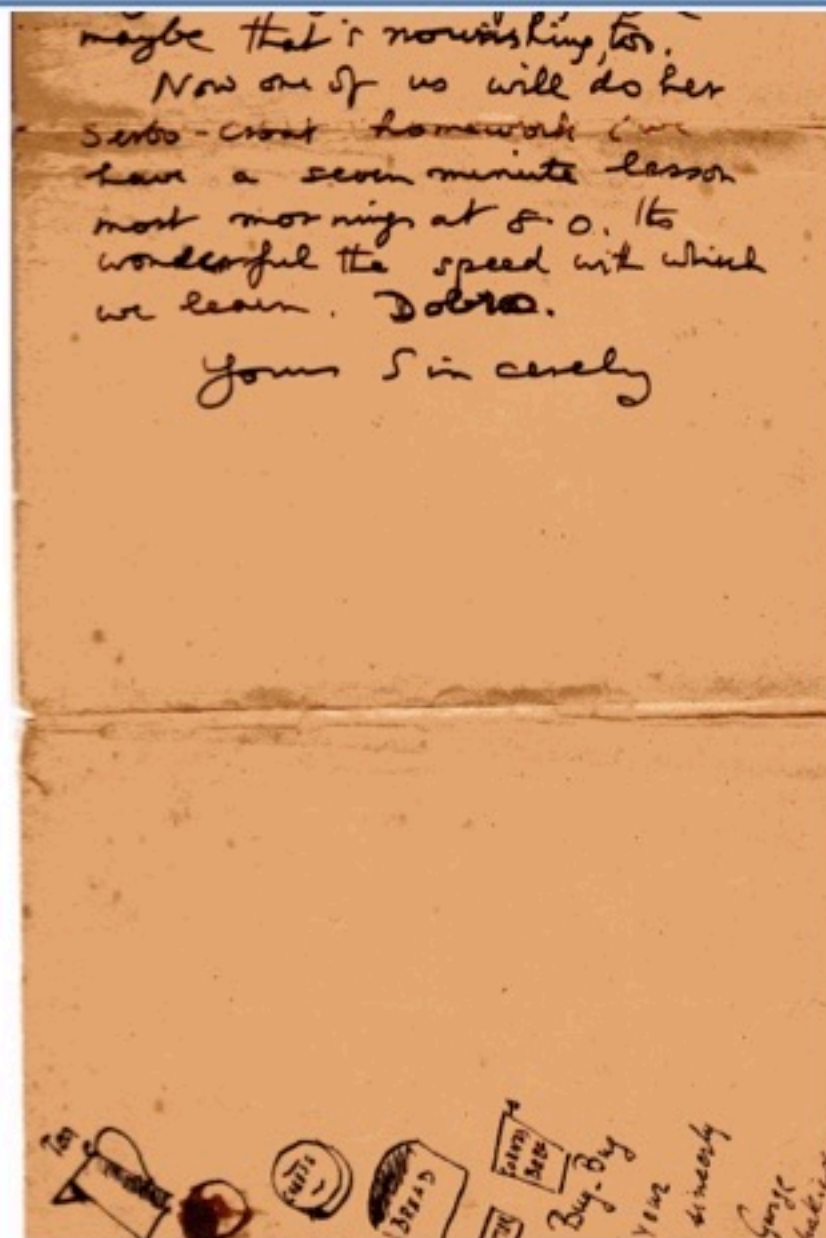


And finally probably
fading away entirely

But possibly coming back to
haunt people as third class
ghosts.

Since writing this we have
held a Conference (its the
American in us) & have come
to the conclusion we also are
sorry you have gone for
yourself alone.

In case it interests you -
we are still eating stew &
old figs (also stewed) in our
mess. But that yesterday
evening we eked it out by
cooking chops from an Unknown
source ~~from~~ on a peculiar
little paraffin stove in the
tent, making the atmosphere
very thick for sleeping but



Transcription below:

- *** This paragraph implies that it may have been written by a female, but it is signed off by George?

Ye Olde Welfare Officer at Home from Home Or Centre of Talk & Idle Chatter

Dear Corporal Wood

We (the undersigned)

Are very sorry indeed that you've gone & that we didn't see you before you left to say good
bye.

You may say this is probably a good selfish sentiment. It is we see ourselves daily growing
thinner

Sketched Faces

and thinner –

Sketched thin people

and finally probably, Fading away eventually

Sketched clouds of smoke and a dog

but possibly coming back to haunt people as third class ghosts.

Since writing this we have held a conference (It's the American in us) & have come to the
conclusion we also are sorry you have gone for yourself alone.

In case it interests you – they are still eating stew & old figs (also stewed) in our mess. But
that yesterday evening we peaked it out by cooking chops from an unknown source on a
peculiar little paraffin stove in the tent, making the atmosphere very thick for sleeping but
maybe that is nourishing too.

*** Now one of us will do her Serbo-croat homework. We have a seven minute lesson most
mornings at 8.0. It's wonderful the speed with which we learn.

Dobro

Pictures of Tea, Cheese, Bread, Butter, Corned Beef

Buy-Buy

Yours sincerely

George Makiedo (?)



James sat in front of two
Yugoslavians at El Shatt.

Maybe one of these wrote the letter?

21.10.44 **Granted Long Service & Good Conduct pay.**

14.9.44 **Posted to Ummra Camp, Nuseirat, Southern Palestine. (Syria).**



Nuseirat was the
largest camp in the
area. It housed
7,805 people in April,
of which 4,769 were
children.

The camp population
to grew to 12,000 by
the end of the
summer.

20.8.45 Army Catering Corps/B.D Training camp.

27.9.45 GHQ Training Camp. Posted to X(VIII)a Sidi Bistro?

24.1.46 Released to Class Z Army Reserves. **

Military Conduct: **Very Good.** *"An independent character who manages men well and when given control of work can be relied upon completely"*

** Following the Second World War, a new Z Reserve of soldiers and officers who had served between 3 September 1939 and 31 December 1948 were available for recall if under 45 years of age.

Medals Awarded



1939-43 Star

Africa Star

Burma Star

Defence Medal

War Medal

Died: 22nd Sept 1989

Strathcarne Nursing Home, Albion Terrace, Saltburn-By-Sea, North Yorkshire.