

# Beith New Burial Ground, Beith, Scotland War Grave



*Lest We Forget*

## World War 1



8175 PRIVATE

**A. JOHNSTON**

ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS

11TH MARCH, 1918 Age 21

*Not Dead But Sleepeth*

## Alexander JOHNSTON

Alexander Johnston was born at Manchester, Lancashire, England around 1897 to parents William & Christina Ann Johnston (nee Birss).

[The 1891 England Census recorded Alexander's parents living at 9 Woodley Street, Manchester, Lancashire, England with their 1 year old son – William.]

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded Alexander Johnstone as a 4 year old (born England) living with his family at 390 Garscube Rd, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as William Johnstone (Upholsterer, aged 36, born Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland) & Christina Johnstone (aged 37, born Perth, Perthshire, Scotland). Alexander was one of four children listed on this Census – William Johnstone (aged 10, born Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland) then Alexander, Christina Johnstone (aged 6, born England) & Dorothy Johnstone (aged 2, born Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland). Also listed was Elizabeth Birss, sister-in-law of William (Bakers Shopkeeper, aged 28, born Glamis, Forfarshire).

Alexander Johnston enlisted with the British Army on 13th October, 1914 & was attached to 1/4th Royal Scots Fusiliers with a service number of 8175.

### 1/4th Royal Scots Fusiliers

The 1/4th Royal Scots Fusiliers were stationed at Kilmarnock on 4th August, 1914. Part of South Scottish Brigade, Lowland Division. They moved in August, 1914 to Stirling. In May, 1915 the formation became 155th Brigade, 52nd (Lowland) Division. They sailed from Liverpool, England on 21 May 1915, going via Mudros to Gallipoli, where the battalion disembarked on 7 June 1915. They moved to France with the Division in April 1918 for service on the Western Front.

Private Alexander Johnston was discharged on 9th August, 1915 due to sickness - Kings Regulations 392 xvi.

Private Alexander Johnston was issued a Silver Badge No. 144139 which was issued on 12th March, 1917.

### Silver War Badge

The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom and the British Empire to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from military service in World War I. The badge, sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", was first issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement.

The large sterling silver lapel badge was intended to be worn on civilian clothes. The decoration was introduced as an award of "King's silver" for having received wounds or injury during loyal war service to the Crown's authority. A secondary causation for its introduction was that a practice had developed in the early years of the war in the United Kingdom where some women took it upon themselves to confront and publicly embarrass men of fighting age they saw in public places who were not in military uniform, by ostentatiously presenting them with white feathers, as a suggestion of cowardice. As the war had developed substantial numbers of servicemen who had been discharged from His Majesty's Forces with wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance, found themselves being harassed in such a manner and the badge, to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress, was a means of discouraging such incidents being directed at ex-forces' personnel. It was forbidden to wear the badge on a military uniform. *(Wikipedia)*



Private Alexander Johnston died on 11th March, 1918.

Private Alexander Johnston was buried on 14th March, 1918 in Beith New Burial Ground, Beith, Ayrshire, Scotland – Plot number C.757 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Medal Index Card for Private Alexander Johnston does not show that he entered a Theatre of War, nor does it record any military medals received.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alexander Johnston – service number 8175, aged 21, of Royal Scots Fusiliers. He was the son of William and Christina A. Johnston, of “Stoneyford”, Clayfield, Brisbane, Queensland.

Private Alexander Johnston is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (*Capital Photographer*)



### Connected to Alexander Johnston:

Older brother William Johnston – Lance Corporal, 407, 9th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force. Enlisted 21st August, 1914 as a 24 year old Clerk from (care of) P. Garrow, Dalby, Queensland. Next-of-kin – mother – Mrs C. A. Johnston, 12 Cross, Beith, Ayrshire, Scotland. Embarked from Brisbane on 24th September, 1914. Killed in Action at Gaba Tepe on 25th April, 1915. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Remembered on Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey as he has no known grave.



Lance Corporal William Johnston

### Newspaper Notices:

#### ROLL OF HONOUR

JOHNSTON – Killed in action in the Dardanelles, Corporal Wm. Johnston, 9th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, Australian Expeditionary Force, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Wm. Johnston, Beith, Ayrshire, Scotland.

He rose responsive to his country's call,  
And gave for her, his best, his life, his all.

Inserted by Mr and Mrs McNeill, Albion

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland, Australia – 11 August, 1915)*

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#### ROLL OF HONOUR

JOHNSTONE – Killed in action at Gallipoli, 25th April, 1915, Corporal Wm. Johnstone, 9th Battalion, A.I.F., eldest son of Mr and Mrs Johnstone, Beith, Scotland.

Inserted by his friends, Mr and Mrs McNeill, Albion

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland, Australia – 25 April, 1918)*

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## Beith New Burial Ground, Beith, Ayrshire, Scotland

On the road to Lochwinnoch and Kinbairnie, now belongs to the County Council. It contains 13 War Graves of the 1914-18 war and 10 of the 1939-45 war. *(Information from CWGC)*



*(Photo by Izzy and Tim, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland – Find a Grave)*



Photo of Private A. Johnston's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Beith New Burial Ground, Beith, Ayrshire, Scotland.

