

**Seafield Cemetery,
Edinburgh, Scotland,
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6297 GUNNER

J. R. REID

ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY

4TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 39

*We'll Meet Again
When Time Is Done*

John Riddell REID

John Riddell Reid was born in 1879 at Echt, Aberdeenshire, Scotland to parents Joseph & Doriath Reid.

The 1881 Scotland Census recorded John Riddell Reid as a 2 year old, living with his family at High Street, Banchory Ternan, Kincardineshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Joseph Reid (Gardener, aged 28, born Newhills, Aberdeenshire) & Doriath Reid (aged 26, born Cluny, Aberdeenshire). John was the youngest of three children listed on this Census – Isabella Reid (Scholar, aged 6, born Skene, Aberdeenshire), Mary Jane Reid (aged 4, born Echt, Aberdeenshire) then John.

The 1891 Scotland Census recorded John R. Reid as a 12 year old Scholar, living with his family at Corsee House, Banchory Ternan, Kincardineshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Joseph Reid. His parents were listed as Joseph Reid (Gardener, aged 39) & Dorothea Reid (aged 29). John was one of three children listed on this Census – Mary Reid (aged 14) then John & Joseph Reid (aged 2, born Banchory Ternan, Kincardineshire).

A daughter – Janet was born on 10th November, 1900 at Leith, Midlothian, Scotland.

A son – Thomas was born on 13th June, 1902 at Leith, Midlothian, Scotland.

John Riddell Reid married Janet Maclaren on 6th April, 1906 at Leith, Midlothian, Scotland.

A daughter – Dorothy Reid was born on 14th October, 1906 at Leith, Midlothian, Scotland.

A daughter – Christina Reid was born on 1st February, 1908 at Leith, Midlothian, Scotland.

A daughter – Isabella Riddell Reid was born on 1st March, 1910 at Leith, Midlothian, Scotland.

John Riddell Reid enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery on 23rd July, 1915 at Edinburgh, Scotland. He was a 36 year old, married, Wood Sawyer from 6 Burlington St, Leith & his religion was Presbyterian. John Reid stated he had served with Aberdeen Reserve Volunteers. The next of kin was listed as his wife – Janet Reid of 6 Burlington Street, Leith.

Gunner John Reid was given a service number on SR/6297 & was attached No. 4 R.G.A. Depot at Yarmouth. He was posted 12th Company R.G.A. at Tynemouth on August, 1915 then transferred to 46th Siege Battery on 15th August, 1915 then transferred to 60th Siege Battery of Royal Garrison Artillery on 18th September, 1915.

Royal Garrison Artillery

The Royal Garrison Artillery (R.G.A.) was formed in 1899 as a distinct arm of the British Army's Royal Regiment of Artillery serving alongside the other two arms of the Regiment, the Royal Field Artillery (R.F.A.) and the Royal Horse Artillery (R.H.A.). The R.G.A. were the 'technical' branch of the Royal Artillery who were responsible for much of the professionalisation of technical gunnery that was to occur during the First World War.

From 1914 when the army possessed very little heavy artillery, the R.G.A. grew into a very large component of the British forces on the battlefield, being armed with heavy, large-calibre guns and howitzers that were positioned some way behind the front line and had immense destructive power.

With the new long-range small arms available to the infantry in the era before World War I, artillery fighting in the infantry line was increasingly brought under fire. The solution to this was the principle of standing off and engaging the enemy with indirect fire. Henceforth the artillery would be positioned well behind the infantry battle line, firing at unseen targets, at co-ordinates on a map calculated with geometry and mathematics. As the war developed, the heavy artillery and the techniques of long-range artillery were massively developed. The R.G.A. was often supported by the Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) who had devised a system where pilots could use wireless telegraphy to help the artillery hit specific targets. The R.F.C. aircraft carried a wireless set and a map and after identifying the position of an enemy target the pilot was able to transmit messages such as A5, B3, etc. in morse code to a R.F.C. land station attached to a heavy artillery units, such as Royal Garrison Artillery Siege Batteries.

The R.G.A. significantly increased in size, especially the Heavy Batteries, which increased from 32 Regular and Territorial Force batteries in 1914 to 117 by the end of the war. Similarly the Siege Batteries increased from just three Regular batteries in 1914 to 401 by the end of the war.

Siege batteries (such as 9th Siege Battery at the Battle of the Somme) had the largest guns and howitzers; mounted on railways or on fixed concrete emplacements.
(Information from Wikipedia)

Gunner John Riddell Reid embarked from Southampton on 30th March, 1916 & disembarked at Havre, France on 31st March, 1916.

Gunner John Riddell Reid was wounded in action. He was admitted to Hospital on 31st March, 1917. Gunner Reid was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Panama* on 24th April, 1917 from 1st General Hospital.

(Note: The Hospital Admissions form (plus others) in the service record file for Gunner John Riddell Reid is badly marked & some entries are illegible due to the faintness of the writing.)

Gunner John Riddell Reid was admitted to Birmingham Hospital, England on 25th April, 1917.

Gunner John Riddell Reid was admitted to 2nd Scots General Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland on 29th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to both legs. He was discharged on 11th December, 1917.

Gunner John Riddell Reid was posted to R.A. & T.C. (Royal Artillery & Tank Corps) Command Depot at Catterick on 21st December, 1917. He was then posted to 12th Company, C. D. at Ripon in January, 1918. Gunner Reid was transferred & posted to 9th Company, Forth R.G.A. at Downing Point in March, 1918.

Gunner John Riddell Reid was posted to No. 21 Forth Fire Command on 31st August, 1918.

Gunner John Riddell Reid was admitted to Dunfermline Auxiliary Hospital, Dunfermline, Scotland on 31st October, 1918 with Influenza.

Gunner John Riddell Reid died on 4th November, 1918 in Dunfermline Auxiliary Hospital affiliated with 2nd Scots General Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland from Pneumonia. The Hospital "Morning State of Sick" Army form A. 27. recorded that Gunner John Reid, 6297, was with Royal Garrison Artillery – 21st Forth Fire Command.

Gunner John Riddell Reid was buried in Seafield Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number N. 97 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A separation allowance was paid to Mrs J. M. Reid, widow of the late Gunner John Riddell Reid, of 18 Fort Place, Leith. Three children were listed - Dorothy (Born 14 October, 1906), Christina (born 1 February, 1908) & Isabella (born 1 March, 1910). Mrs Reid was also entitled to a pension.

Gunner John Riddell Reid, 60th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, new service number 281297, was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner J. R. Reid – service number 6297, aged 39, of 60th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery. He was the son of the late Joseph and Dorothea Reid, of Echt, Aberdeen, husband of Janet McLaren Reid, of People's Palace, Pirie St., Adelaide, Australia.

Private John Riddel Reid is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



Gunner J. R. Reid 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. *(Note: It appears that Gunner Reid's name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that his next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned it was assumed would be Australian.)*

Mrs Janet Reid, Housewife, aged 48, Miss Isabella Reid, aged 14, Miss Christina C. Reid, Assistant Grocer, aged 16 & Miss Dorothea R. Reid, Factory Worker, aged 17, all of 18 Fort Place, W. Leith were passengers on S.S. *Ballarat*

which departed from London, England on 5th March, 1925 bound for Australia. They all listed their country of intended future permanent residence as Australia.



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

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & National Archives



Seafield Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland

Seafield Cemetery, Edinburgh contains 184 First World War burials, some of them in the military plot in Section B, others in the admiralty plot in Section M (marked by a screen wall bearing the names of those buried there or unmarked in other parts of the cemetery), the rest scattered. There are also 103 Second World War burials in the cemetery, most of them forming a plot in Section P, five of these are unidentified seamen.

There are also two war graves of other nationalities and one non-war service burial. There is only one Australian burial.

Seafield Crematorium, Edinburgh stands within the cemetery and 21 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on a screen wall opposite the war graves plot in Section P.

(Information & Photo from CWGC)



Photo of Gunner J. R. Reid's Commonwealth War Graves headstone in Seafield Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.



Seafield Cemetery & Crematorium

LEGEND

1. CREMATORIUM CHAPEL
2. WAITING ROOM
3. BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE
4. TOILETS
5. GARDEN OF REST
6. FLORAL TRIBUTES
7. CAR PARK
8. SECONDARY CAR PARK
9. CEMETERY LODGE (OFFICE)
10. WAR MEMORIALS
11. BABY MEMORIAL
12. LITTER BINS
13. WATER TAPS

SEAFIELD ROAD GATES

LEITH LINKS GATES

