# In Memory of Private Charles Ernest Harrott

**1886 - 1916**

*(4th Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders)*

**Age:** 30
**Sibling:** Mabel (Munro) Welch
**Conflict:** World War I, The Great War
**Country Enlisted In:** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
**Country of Death:** Département de la Somme, Hauts-de-France, France
**Relation:** Birth Brother of Paternal 1st Great Aunt

*Sergeant in the 4th Battalion Gordon Highlanders*

Sergeant Charles Ernest Harrott was thirty years old when he was killed on the Somme in the summer of 1916. He served with the 4th Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, one of Scotland's proud regiments, whose men carried their kilts and bayonets into the maelstrom of the Western Front.

By July 1916, the Battle of the Somme was in full fury. The British Army, swollen with volunteers from across the kingdom, was locked in a desperate struggle to break the German lines. The Gordon Highlanders were among those ordered forward across ground that had been shattered by weeks of shelling yet still bristled with uncut wire and hidden machine guns.

On the 23rd of July, the Highlanders went into action near High Wood, one of the most bitterly contested points of the Somme battlefield. The air was thick with smoke and the stench of explosives, the ground a chaos of shell craters and shattered trees. Machine-gun fire scythed through the advancing troops, and shells burst overhead with relentless violence. Amid this storm, Sergeant Harrott fell, one of thousands lost in that terrible month.

His body was never recovered. Like so many who vanished into the churned earth of the Somme, he has no known grave. Instead, his name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, the great arch that bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South Africa who

died in the Somme sector with no resting place. Among them is Charles Ernest Harrott, remembered in stone though the battlefield claimed his remains.

At thirty, he was older than many of the young men who fought around him, yet he shared their fate. His story is one of courage, endurance, and loss on the bloodiest battlefield of the Great War. Today, his name endures at Thiepval, standing in solemn witness among tens of thousands, a reminder of a life given in the service of his country and a sacrifice that will not be forgotten.

*Thiepval Memorial to the Missing*
*Thiepval, Picardy, France*