

The Battle of the Somme

Pipe-Major William Lawrie

A musical score for the pipe tune 'The Battle of the Somme'. The score is written in 9/8 time and the key of D major (two sharps). It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some dotted rhythms. Chords are indicated by letters A, D, and G above the notes. The second staff includes first and second endings, marked '1. A D' and '2. A D'. The music concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

arr. Peter McLaren



William Lawrie (1881-1916) was born in Ballachulish, Argyll, and served in France with the 8th Argyllshire Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders as Pipe-Major. He composed quite a few tunes for the pipes and about twenty of them survive today. Lawrie died on 28 November from illness contracted in the trenches, leaving behind a wife and three children.

The Battle of the Somme took place between 1 July and 18 November 1916. On the first day of the battle the British forces suffered 57,000 casualties. By the end of the battle more than 1,000,000 soldiers were wounded or killed making it one of the bloodiest battles in human history. The Battle of the Somme was also noted for the debut of the tank into modern warfare.