Heroes of Strathkerbet


Lest we Forget
Heroes of Strathkerbet


“Lest we forget”

Dedicated to Uncle Will Scott, a regular soldier in The Black Watch, and to that Regiment itself, whose motto, “Nemo me impune lacessit,” (wha’ dar meddle wi’me), truly reflects the indomitable determination and irresistible spirit of the men of The Black Watch.

We trust that the new Royal Regiment of Scotland will continue to manifest this same spirit in years to come.

Elma Reid (nee Scott).
World War I 1914-1918

INVERARITY

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‘Heroes of Strathkerbet’ records the names of local men and women who left from the parishes of Kirkbuddo, Inverarity and Kinnettles to serve in the wars of the 20th century.
World War I 1914-1918

INVERARITY

Roll of Honour - The Great War 1914 - 1918
(Courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

Seven Inverarity men from THE BLACK WATCH regiment died in The Great War.

Died of wounds; France and Flanders. 21st Nov. 1916. Etaples Military Cemetery.


Died of wounds France and Flanders 19/4/1916. Liillers Communal Cemetery

Died of wounds France and Flanders 14/10/1916. Mesnil Communal Cemetery Ext.

Killed in action France and Flanders 1/10/1918. Dadizeele New British Cemetery.

Killed in action France and Flanders 14/10/1916. Connaught Cemetery, Thiepval.

Died of wounds 13/10/1916. Carmyllie Parish Church Yard.

The Regimental Badge and famous Red Hackle of The Black Watch.
Roll of Honour - All Other Regiments

Apart from The Black Watch, men from Inverarity joined a number of other regiments including THE SCOTS GUARDS. Three names on the Inverarity Roll of Honour were Scots Guardsmen.


**John Reid Private, The Scots Guards.**
Killed in action. (Middle name Elliot or Fairley).

THE ROYAL SCOTS lost three men from Inverarity and their names appear on the Roll of Honour.

**David Tait Kinnear** 17130 Corporal, 15th Battalion, The Royal Scots.

**John Norrie** 97887 Private, The Royal Scots (Machine Gun Corps).
Killed in action 2nd. September 1918 aged 20 years. Panel 10 Vis-En-Artois.

**Henry Urquhart** Sergeant, The Royal Scots. France.
Missing 22/3/1917.

THE ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY lost three men from Inverarity.

**William Downie** 640555 Private, Gunner Royal Field Artillery.

**David Nairn** 97012 Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.
Killed in action 18th. October 1917 France, aged 23 years. Panel 4 to 6 and 162 Tyne Cot Memorial.

**Alexander Spence** 636127 Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.
Killed in action 10th. October 1917, France. 1E11 Minty Farm Cemetery.
A further eight men from Inverarity died in The Great War. They belonged to a number of different regiments.

**David Bruce** 241541 Private, Seaforth Highlanders.
Wounded 9th. April 1917; died 13th. April 1917 France, aged 21 years. 11C33 Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension.

**Peter Kerr Crighton** Trooper, Scottish Horse. Gallipoli, France.
Missing 1917. 94-96 Tyne Cot Memorial.

**Alexander Gourlay** 2/329 Able Seaman, Royal Naval Brigade.


Born 1895, son of Mr. William Tait Kinnear and Mrs. Janet Agnes Kinnear, Schoolmaster, Kirkbuddo, and later, Walden, Linksfield, Leven, Fife. Pupil of Forfar Academy 1906-1911. Proxime Accessit Edinburgh Angus Club Latin Medal and Miss Lowson Prize for Physical Education 1911. Passed into St. Andrews University but left when the war broke out.


**Robert Marr** 95634 Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery,
Killed in action 1918 France, aged 26 years. V1 H 10 Tincourt New lBritish Cemetery.

**Charles Irvine McKiddie** S/23588 Private, Gordon Highlanders.
Killed in action 22nd. July 1918 France, aged 18 years. Soissons Memorial.

**David Robertson** Private, Highland Light Infantry.
Missing March 1917.

24 men from Inverarity are recorded on the Roll of Honour of The Great War.
Military Awards


David Kinnear, Kirkbueldo. Mentioned in Despatches.

Robert Pattullo Sapper, Royal Engineers. *The Military Medal*.

Andrew Thom Corporal, Black Watch. *The Military Medal*.

Civilian Awards

*Officer of the Order of the British Empire.*

Lady Baxter of Invereighty. In recognition of her devoted service on many War Committees.

*Member of the Order of the British Empire.*

Miss Erskine Jackson of Kirkbueldo. In recognition of her devoted service on many War Committees.

Roll of Service. - The Great War 1914 - 1918
(Collated by Rev. George Bremner, Parish Minister)

David Alexander Private, Scottish Rifles and Highland Light Infantry and Royal Scots. France. (Possibly Gallowfauld, page 50 Inverarity book)).


George Lewis Baxter (see Military Awards). Invereighty House.

Herbert Home Baxter (see Military Awards).

Alexander Beattie Private, Scots Guards, France.


Peter Bruce Private, Black Watch, France. Prisoner of war. Sept. 1915.

Robert Bruce Private, Black Watch, France.

William Bruce Corporal, Black Watch, France.

David Buchan Trooper, Scottish Horse and Black Watch. Salonica.

William Buchan Trooper, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry and Black Watch.
(Blacksmith Whigstreet, page 103 Inverarity book).

Wounded May 1915.

David Butchart Private, Black Watch. France.

Robert Cargill Private, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.


Robert Christie Gunner, Royal Artillery.

Andrew Clark Private, Highland Light Infantry, Egypt, India, France.

Robert Coupar Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery. Salonica.

George Crighton, Scottish Horse. Gallipoli.


John Cuthill Private, Black Watch. France.

Charles Dickson, Royal Field Artillery and Royal Garrison Artillery, France.

James Duncan Private, Lovat Scouts and Cameron Highlanders, France.
Wounded July 1918.

William Duncan Private, Gordon Highlanders, France.
Wounded Sept. 1918.

George Duthie Trooper, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, Lovat Scouts, Black Watch. Dardanelles, Palestine, Egypt and France.
(Possibly the gamekeeper at Kirkbuddo, page 102 Inverarity book).

John Duthie Private, Army Service Corps, France.

Ernest Elder Private, Royal Marines.
(Possibly son of Mr and Mrs. Andrew Elder, Tarbrax, page 92 Inverarity book).

Rodger Findlay Private, Black Watch.

Robert Finlay Trooper, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry; Labour Battalion.

(Fothingham House, page 120/1 Inverarity book).

George French Private, Black Watch, France.


John Harris Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.

G. Erskine Jackson (see Military Awards.) Kirkbuddo House, (page 124 Inverarity book).

George Johnston Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery. France.

James Johnston Private, Black Watch. France.

George Joiner Private, Black Watch. France.


Andrew Kydd Private, Royal Scots, France.
James Kydd Private, Scots Guards.
John Kydd Private, Black Watch, France.
William Law Private, Black Watch, France.
James Low Private, Black Watch, France.
Robert Middleton Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, France.
(Family home - Smiddyhill, Guthrie).
David Millar Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, France.
Invalided March 1917.
Robert Millar Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, France.
Robert Millar Private, Black Watch, France.
Wounded Sept. 1918.
Frederick Y. Milne Private, Black Watch.
France. Wounded Sept. 1918.
James Mitchell Private, Black Watch, France.
William Murray Driver, Royal Field Artillery.
France. Invalided Spring 1916.
George McKenzie Private, Black Watch, France.
Worthy McLean Private, Seaforth Highlanders.
France. Wounded Decr. 1914.
David McNicoll Private, Black Watch, France.
Prisoner of war 1916.
John Nairn Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, France, (the Nairn family, Kirkbuddo).
James Napier Lance Corporal, Black Watch.
France, Mesopotamia, Palestine.
David Nicoll Private, Black Watch, France.
(Brothers whose father farmed Cotton of Ovenstone then moved to Kemphills leaving son David to farm the Cotton before being called up). Mary Nicoll, sister of the boys, married and became Mary Middleton whose daughter Jean married Robert Nicoll of Middle Brighty, brother of Dave at Greenburn and Chic, formerly Newton of Fothringham, (page 107 Inverarity book). Jean’s brother Willie Middleton was the Co-op vanman for many years, mentioned on page 29 of the Inverarity book. Brother Bob Middleton had a fruit and vegetable shop in Forfar, (see Robert Middleton, Gunner. Royal Artillery).
David Norrie Private, Scots Guards.
David Pattullo Sapper, Royal Engineers. France.
Robert Pattullo (see Military Awards).
Robert Pearson Private, Black Watch, France.
Robert Peters Private, Black Watch, France.
Walter Peters Private, 1st. Royal Scots.
Malcolm Sharpe Company Sergeant Major, Gordon Highlanders, France.

Wounded Ypres 1917. (The Sharpe family late of Mid Lodge, Fothringham, page 38 Inverarity book).


Andrew Sharpe Corporal, Canadian Mounted Rifles, France.


John Smith Corporal, Cyclists’ Corps.


Joseph Stewart Private, Black Watch.


Joseph B. Sturrock Sapper, Royal Engineers (Wireless Section) France. (page 99 Inverarity book)


Peter S. Syme Trooper, Scottish Horse, Gallipoli, Egypt, Struma and France. (Uncle of John Syme).

George Tasker Private, Scots Guards.

John Tasker Private, Black Watch.

Andrew Thom (see Military Awards).

Charles Thomson Sapper, Royal Engineers, France.

Robert Todd Private, Gordon Highlanders. France.

Alexander Todd Lance Corporal Instructor, Gordon Highlanders.

George Urquhart Corporal, Royal Scot and King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. France and Italy. Wounded Oct.1917.


112 men from Inverarity served in The Great War. (1914-1918).
Some Background Information about The Black Watch and The Great War

The link which bound together each platoon, company and battalion of The Black Watch was the Regimental spirit, of which the Red Hackle worn on the Tam o’ Shanter, was the symbol.

During the course of the First World War, more than 50,000 men passed through the Regiment, and of these, 8,000 were killed and more than 20,000 wounded.

It is recorded that, “in no part of the Empire was there a more hearty response to the call for men than in Scotland.” Twenty five battalions of The Black Watch served in The Great War. (92% of the officers and men were Scottish).

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, battalions of The Black Watch were the Regular Army whilst the 4th, 5th, 4/5th, 6th, and 7th. battalions were the Territorial Force along with the Allied Regiment, The Royal Highlanders of Canada. The New Army consisted of the 8th.to 14th. battalions.

(The Black Watch was originally formed from the Independent Companies in 1725).

When The Great War broke out in 1914 the 1st Battalion The Black Watch were in training at Aldershot where they had been since February 1913 under the command of one of the most experienced soldiers in the army, Lt. Col. A. Grant-Duff C.B. Twenty eight officers and over one thousand other ranks of the battalion landed at Havre on the 14th. August 1914 where they were cheered on by the French people. However, within a month of their arrival in France, The Black Watch took a bitter blow. Their leader Lt. Col. Grant-Duff was killed on the 14th. September 1914 and second in command, Major J.T.C. Murray died of wounds five months later. Meanwhile the third in command, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant A.S. Lawson, died on 11th. November 1914 as Second Lieutenant (having earlier been granted a Commission). By October 1914 A and B company had lost their leaders and C company had lost a Second Lieutenant whilst D company lost their leader by November 1915.

At the Battle of Aubers Ridge in May 1915, the companies advanced to the skirl of the pipes, “Highland Laddie” being the theme tune of The Black Watch. Although it was probably not possible to recognise “their” tune because of the noise of gunfire, the pipes themselves undoubtedly raised the spirits of the Scottish soldiers. Unfortunately this was thought to be the last time that the pipes were played in battle because gas helmets were issued shortly afterwards and all sound was muffled and indistinct from then onwards.

Near Passchendaele, in 1917, the 42nd. Canadian Battalion gave great assistance to The Black Watch and Canadian Sergeant Stewart was responsible for leading C company to safety. Four days later The Royal Highlanders of Canada were given the honour of the right to wear the red hackle in recognition of their gallantry in action when serving beside The Black Watch.

Many tales are told of individuals who showed great gallantry and one such individual was Sergeant Swan who, at Givenchy, saw his brother Lt. Colonel Swan of C Company, shot at close range amongst some houses. Sergeant Swan marked the individual who had killed his brother and, regardless of his own safety, relentlessly pursued him from house to house until. after ten minutes, he confronted and killed him. Another soldier, of The Black Watch regiment, battled and marched for days until he could fight no longer because he could walk no longer. He reported to the medical unit that he had a foot which was very painful. Upon taking off his boot, a bullet fell out. He had been shot through the foot but, due to determination and sheer guts, had fought on, only giving up due to weariness. He had not really noticed the pain, or so he said.

Such tales were told of human bravery but animals too showed great fortitude in the face of loud noises and bullets. At Boue one battalion purchased a mess-cart and an old white horse to go with it! They called the horse, “Allez-vous-en.” This creature went through the whole war, earning three wound stripes before coming home with the battalion! Another horse, captured by B Company, answered to the name of “German Jimmy,” and he too remained with them until the war ended and he came back with the troops to Scotland.
**One Local Hero**

The story is told of a former schoolmaster of Inverarity School, Lt. Col. Robert Forbes, Black Watch, (married to Isabella Syme), who, whilst serving with the 10th. Essex, one of the best fighting units of WW1, became involved in one of many dangerous missions.

“Immediately in front of the Essex position at Petiti Planty lay the open rising ground of Mont Carmel and beyond this rise the country dipped into a labyrinth of orchards and small fields, fringed with thick hedges running up to the northern outskirts of the village of Preux. Before the German occupation this picturesque little hamlet nestled closely up against the thickly wooded forest, but the depredations of the invader had bitten large clearings into the forest edges, in order to supply the trenches with timber. In the middle of one of these clearings, situated just behind the village, there stood an imposing German sawmill. This clearing and the sawmill formed the main goal of the Battalion. To get there it had to pass through a maze of orchards and streams and hedges and deploy on the clear ground beyond.

To the 54th. Brigade was assigned the task of clearing these orchards and the village of Preux, after which the Essex would push on to the further objective. But the village proved a hard nut to crack, and obstinate resistance was met on its northern outskirts, so that the Essex attack appeared to be frustrated. When Lt. Col. Forbes, now in command of the Battalion, reconnoitring forward, discovered a gap of a couple of hundred yards in the enemy lines, he saw his chance. Through this gap he determined to manouuvre his command, and, leading them in person through a single gate within the German posts, he performed the phenomenal feat of forming up the Battalion behind the enemy’s front line, advancing to the attack of the support lines and gun positions, while the enemy’s forward posts were still in action. The manouvre was a brilliant success and contributed very largely to the capture of a big haul of prisoners in Preux, and the complete breakdown of any further resistance in the forest. “Six days later the Armistice was signed.” (Taken from Records).

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**Syme family** From left to right

*Back row:* Peter Syme, Cooper Syme

*Middle row:* Janet Syme, Colin Syme, William Syme


(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Anne Sim (Syme), daughter of Robert (Bob) Syme, Little Lour).
“Dark is thy tartan, Freimdun Dhu;
Black and green, and green and blue;
Now in it I see thread of red -
The blood our Highland host has shed.”

The 5th Battalion The Black Watch was the local descendant of the 1st and 2nd. Volunteer Battalions of The Black Watch. In 1909 the 5th Battalion of The Black Watch consisted of eight companies with headquarters in:

- A Company Kirriemuir
- B Company Forfar
- C Company Montrose
- D Company Brechin
- E F Companies Arbroath
- G H Companies Dundee
- Dundee

Dundee was the home of the 4th Battalion Black Watch whose men prior to 1914, had worked in the jute mills and jam factories of that city. In 1915 it was amalgamated with the 5th Battalion which was drawn in general from Forfar and the surrounding area.

On Wednesday 5th August 1914 the local Black Watch mobilised and left for Dundee and reservists were summoned and told to rejoin their regiments. A large proportion of young men immediately enlisted and took their part in the momentous conflict. All the recruiting agencies in the county of Angus were, before the end of August 1914, linked up into one general depot with Forfar as their centre, the headquarters being in the Drill Hall.
A Sergeant’s Voice

Now a Sergeant’s voice is a thing that’s renowned
It shatters the air and makes holes in the ground;
He opens his mouth, gives vent to a roar,
Down crash the houses from ceiling to floor.

To hear that brave voice engaged at its best
Is to find for its efforts a really good test;
Artillery, massed bands, with thunder thrown in,
Would have a hard task if they wanted to win.

One day our battery broke down on the way,
As the Huns were advancing to engage in the fray;
But our Sergeants were ready, each roared at those Huns;
They fell down in thousands, as though swept by guns.

The Huns that were captured will ne’er hear again,
Their nerves were all shattered, they wish they’d been slain;
They tremble each time they think of that roar;
They say it killed thousands, and paralysed more.

Nothing on earth can compare with that voice,
It’s a gift, or affliction, according to choice;
So if to three stripes your ambition should soar,
Remember it’s useless unless you can roar.

Composed by Corporal Milligan (6th. Dorsets).

On Sunday night there was a mighty stir around Forfar Railway Station. Above the sound of the howling wind could be heard the skirl of bagpipes, a chorus of excited voices and the tramp of a company of men. On to the platform there confidently strode soldiers and officers about to board a train taking them on their first journey towards the War. Music and dancing, hand shakes and kisses – this send off was a last salute to their parting heroes who were off to an unknown world; a world where these lads from the Braes of Angus, before their return, were to experience untold danger as they passed through the valley of the shadow of death.
The Forfar Bus

On the Forfar bus in a morn of spring,
A nipping wind and the frost's sharp sting;
And I can't tell you why, but you want to sing
If your heart's like the heart o' me.
The folks in the bus, they stretch their legs,
And talk of the fall in the price of eggs,
Of milk by the pint, and butter in kegs,
With — “Drop in some day for your tea.”

And my mind goes back to the days that were —
Days of turmoil and days of stir,
And a bus from Albert to Pozieres,
And fellows that rode with me.
We cursed the night, and we cursed the wet;
We envied the luck of the men we met
Coming out of the trenches at Courcelette —
A deuce of a place to be.

The Forfar bus brought me back once more
As the clock at the pillars was striking four;
Though the wind may blow and the rain may pour,
There's a chair and a fire for me.
But the lads that jumped off at the duckboard track
(Cold was the night and heavy the pack)
They didn't join on when the bus went back
And they'll never come in for their tea.

J.B. Salmond.
(Recorded in “Forfar and District in the War 1914 – 1919”).

The Move to France and Trench Warfare

On mobilisation, in August 1914, the 4th. and 5th. Territorial Battalions proceeded to their war station which was Dundee. Cheering crowds saw them off at Tay Bridge station and pipers of the 6th. Black Watch played “Hielan’ Laddie” and “Happy we’ve been a’ the gither.”

The 5th. was the first to go to France entering the line at Neuf Berquin with the 24th. Brigade, 8th. Division on November 13th. 1914. Both the 4th. and 5th. battalions took part in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March and Festubert in May 1915 and again both were engaged in battle at Loos on September 25th.; the 4th. at Fauquissart where it lost 20 officers and 300 other ranks, and the 5th. near Neuve Chapelle. The 4th. battalion, on 29th. February 1916, lost its separate identity and amalgamated with the 5th., the new unit being known as the 4th./5th. Battalion.

This new Battalion was present at the battle of the Ancre successfully attacking near the Schwaben Redoubt 13th. November 1916, then in December 1916, the 4th./5th. had their first experience of Ypres and “The Salient”. There they spent the whole of 1917, a far longer period than any other
battalion in the regiment had spent in that area. The 4th/5th, 6th. and 7th. battalions took part in the third battle of Ypres; 31st. July 1917, (the attacks on the Steebeek river positions). The 4th./5th. lost so heavily that they had to be reorganised into one company after the fighting. Drafts soon brought it back up to strength and on 27th. September 1917 they fought in the third phase of the Ypres battle near Zwartelen.

In January 1918 the 4th./5th. left Ypres for the Somme and at one point two companies of the 4th./5th. became separated from their battalion but attached themselves to another brigade until the survivors were able to rejoin their own battalion ten days later.

A composite battalion was formed and all went back to Ypres where they remained until May 1918 when they moved to Barlin. In July 1918 the 4th./5th. fought with the French when on the 28th. the 15th. Division broke through the enemy lines at Buzancy, thereby enabling French troops to commence the “Advance to Victory,” which ended on November 11th. 1918. The Frenchmen paid a very graceful and much appreciated compliment to the division by erecting a monument on the spot where they found the body of “a Scottish soldier who had advanced the furthest that day.” The body was that of a man of the 4th./5th. Black Watch. The monument bears the words, “Here the noble thistle of Scotland will flourish for ever amid the roses of France.”

*(Battles and dates were taken from “The Story of The Black Watch,” by Captain John Stewart 1938).*

**The Truth About The Great Adventure**

Trench warfare was new to the 4th. but the 2nd. Battalion were old hands and were able to help and offer advice. Arrangements for the issue of rations, and training in how to cook in the trenches, were made. Boots and half putties were found to be more serviceable than shoes and spats. The khaki bonnets, recently issued, proved a better headdress than the Glengarry, and the red hackle could still be worn in the bonnet.

The truth was that at the end of battle, the landscape was a filthy quagmire, cold rain had muddied and flooded many trenches and decomposing bodies floated to the surface. Crude duckboards barely kept soldiers dry, but few were eager to shelter in mucky hideaways that might contain even worse evidence of war. Unless soldiers moved about they would sink into the liquefying mud and many slept erect if they could, leaning against the dripping trench walls. It was a stomach churning atmosphere for eating their rations. Latrines were almost non-existent and
accomplishing bodily functions, a nightmare. The trenches were described by one German Expressionist artist, Otto Dix, as fortified ditches full of lice, rats, fleas, shells, bombs, underground caves, corpses still hung on barbed wire, blood, mice, cats, artillery, bullets, mortars, fire, steel, and filth. He stated, “That’s what war is. It is the work of the devil.”

Perhaps this was one of the reasons for the shooting to suddenly stop on Christmas Eve 1914. One of the few things about which the combatants agreed was the centrality of Christmas, even though both sides knew that there would be no real let-up in the war itself.

It was reported fairly recently in the newspapers of December 1999 that a groups of nine “quirky Khaki Chums” crossed the English Channel to Flanders with the idea of commemorating the Christmas truce of 1914 somewhere near where it may have begun, Ploegsteert Wood in Belgium.

Wearing makeshift uniforms made to look like those of 1914, and working in the rain and snow, these nine men reportedly dug trenches, reinforcing them with sandbags and planks which, like many of their counterparts, literally sank into the endless sea of mud. For some days they tried to emulate the conditions of the trenches of 1914-18, cooking their rations, reinforcing their parapets and sleeping soaked to the skin. Unlike the men of war, these nine enjoyed the attention of the local spectators and media alike. The “Khaki Chums” must have succeeded in creating in their own minds something of the hell of The Great War because they decided to erect a wooden cross in memory of the dead of WW1. They managed to put up a cross in the squelching, moving Flanders mud and, after filling in “their” trenches, trudged back towards home. The local people were so impressed with the perseverance and compassion of these men that they decided to help to make their wooden memorial more permanent and set about fixing it in a concrete base where now poppies grow in summer. Despite the thousands of “grand” memorials to the war dead of 1914-1918, this simple cross is almost certainly the most moving, and probably the only one to commemorate the Christmas truce of 1914.

Tommy’s night thoughts in the trenches

“When our wrath is expended,
When the world war is ended,
It seems like to me
That this old earth will be
More broken than mended.”
Life Underground

It was said that almost as much fighting went on underground, in The Great War, as did above ground – an exaggeration of course, never-the-less there was much digging and activity under the soils of France.

Men who had been miners in a “previous life” were selected and ordered to do the work and tunnels of all descriptions were dug; communication tunnels, fighting tunnels, support tunnels, listening chamber tunnels, explosives chambers, supplies tunnels; tunnels which after a collapse, became burial chambers, tunnels to be used for all manner of purposes. Each group of digging men carried the proverbial lamp and a canary (to check for gas). Death waited all around.

The enemy too had dug tunnels and one soldier described theirs as being like “all the conveniences of life as if he were above ground”.

Leaves from the note book of a soldier out on night patrol

10.10 pm. Patrol starts.

11.30 pm. Fall into shell hole. Tread on our listening patrol. They swear. Reprove them for swearing. Curious smell. Crawl under wire into decaying cow. Remove portions of dead cow from my face. Corporal suggests more open formation.

Patrol spreads out. Patrol falls into disused trench full of water. Corporal falls over another wire and into a line of tin cans. Swear at Corporal. Decide to lie low and listen.

11.45 pm. Soldier brings me a drink. Notice he is wearing a respirator.

Discover a good deal of dead cow still adhering.


2.15 am. Went to observe path of patrol by daylight. Distance appears less than it seemed at night.

3.00 am. Fetch Company Commander and ask him how far it is. Company Commander says about fifty yards.

4.00 am. Woken by Company Commander who asks me if I realise I am on duty until 8.00 am.

Leaves from a soldier’s diary

November 21st. Relieved from the trenches by the 2nd. Gordons.

November 24th. Returned back to trenches. Took four and a half hours to go two miles owing to German snipers at work at the communications trench leading to the firing line. Two men killed and four wounded. Fighting all night. Seven men wounded.

November 25th. Snipers at work. Shot six men getting water. Killed two and wounded four. One man shot in the eye. Died same night. Told to go off and draw rations with eleven men, but coming back five men got shot – three killed and two wounded so we lost half the rations. A and B Company had to go on half rations the next day.
November 26th. Relieved out of the trenches. Raining torrents and up to our knees in mud. Two men of the Borders killed. One Officer of the Royal Engineers killed and two men of the Scots Guards wounded.

December 1st. Lieutenant killed while looking over, through loop hole. One of the best Officers in the Border Regiment. He was laid to rest at twelve midnight.

December 11th. Went into trenches and we had the best fight we have ever had as it was a fight for three days. We were well entrenched and could have a good go at them. Only twelve of our men killed and four wounded but the Germans must have had heavy losses as they seemed to leave off all at once.

December 16th. Received my first pay of 20 francs – amounting to 16/8d. It caused a good deal of commotion when they shouted to turn out for pay.

December 18th. About 4.45 pm. The Officer came down the trench and told us there was going to be a charge that night at 6.00 pm. A and C Companies made the charge with B and D Companies as our support. The Scots Guards were on our right and the 2nd. Gordons on our left. Somehow or other the left was too soon with their charge and as soon as their voices went up the Germans let them have it. We followed them but we were going down like raindrops as our trenches were only seventy yards apart so we retired and made the charge again only to receive the same again. We retired again and stopped in mid-field. It was like being in a blacksmith’s shop watching him swing a hammer on a red hot shoe and the sparks flying all around you but, instead of sparks, they were bullets. It was pitiful to see and hear our comrades dying and we could not get out to help them as it meant certain death. Orders came down the line to retire to our trenches but we could not as the fire was so heavy. After lying out there for six and a half hours most of us managed to crawl back but some men were shot about five yards from safety.

December 25th 1914 On Christmas morning about 5.30 am. a German officer showed a white flag on the trench then walked across to our trench and asked to speak to an Officer. A Scots Guards Officer went out to meet him and they talked for a time then returned to their trenches. Once the German Officer had returned, their voices were heard shouting, “Happy Christmas to all you English,” so we wished them the same. It was decided that we should all bury our dead that day and we did so, side by side, then made a cross out of a biscuit box and knelt in prayer for the brave men who had died in Honour.

Time to think that Christmas day

I often pause and wonder
In philosophic vein;
My thoughts take wing and wander
Till sergeants grow profane.
I think of times departed
Before the shindy started,
When I was lighter-hearted,
And all was right as rain.
So who makes these decisions to call men to kill each other?

And who wrote about it? Who challenged men and women to enlist?

Who should have written about it!

Those who served and survived it!
Even Time for Humour

Then there was the famous misinterpretation. Did the game of Chinese Whispers start on the front line?

“Send reinforcements – we are about to advance.” Passed down the line, when delivered became,
“Send three and fourpence, we are going to a dance.”

And so they try to keep the humour going despite all the odds. Another incongruous moment as a man-of-the-cloth
rolls up on a bicycle a couple of miles behind the line where a crowd of rough, dishevelled soldiers lie, having
just come out of the trenches they await a Sunday afternoon voluntary service. No ornate church setting here; just
the debris of war; piles of barbed wire, ammunition boxes, entrenching tools and weary soldiers.

Yet another seemingly inconquerable army. The flies. They were forever on active service. Men tried gassing
them, burning them, treacle paper traps but the German fly evaded capture and continued to attack. What was the
effect of the flies on the military campaign one General asked.

“Well when my men went over the parapet the flies were so thick that they formed a curtain barrier, from German
machine guns,” came the reply. A wry attempt at humour followed by an even drier response.

“Do you think the Germans have the same problem?”

“No,” came back the reply, “flies only like good stuff so they keep away from the Germans.”

Some examples from a glossary of military terms, (written by a soldier with a wry smile).

ATTENTION (pronounced “shun”). This is one of the strangest words in the military language. Strange because
it is never spoken or whispered, it is always shouted, bellowed, shrieked or screamed! The effect of the command,
“Shun,” on a battalion is both electrical and hypnotic. The word “Shun,” when a General or Colonel is on parade
has got Haley’s Comet beat fifty different ways as a silencer.

BARBED WIRE. At the front it is used for giving an artistic finish to a trench. No trench is complete without it.
It is planted at night in order that the artillery may plough it up in the morning. A good crop of barbed wire has
been known to prevent opposing armies from arguing the “point.”

BILLET. On active service a billet may be anything from a shed to a chateau – usually the former. When troops
are to be moved from one part of the Front to another, a billeting party is sent in advance. These men receive
explicit instructions to locate the most draughty and leaky barns in the country. At this they are experts.

DUG-OUT. A hole in the ground with a lid on. There are three kinds of dug-out at the Front. The “Bungalow,”
for Officers, the “Love in a Cottage,” for Sergeants, and the “Noah’s Ark,” for Privates. They are built for men,
mice, rats and cats to sleep in. A dug-out is decorated with jam, cheese, photographs and fleas.
DAM. This is what the Engineers do to a river or ford. By adding the letter N we have a suitable prefix for referring to the weather, a heavy pack, a route march, a dirty rifle, a working party, a leaky dug-out and barbed wire.

DRESSING STATION. The home of pills, poultices, plasters, castor oil and cat-gut, needles, knives and “nerves.”

DEFAULTER. A man who has made up his mind to be more careful “next time.”

ENGINEERS. The wise men of the army. They teach the ignorant infantry how to carry sandbags, barbed wire and bath-mats, and how to work intricate machinery like picks and shovels.

FORM FOURS. All military experts agree that it is absolutely imperative that a man be able to form fours before he is fit to defend the Empire. Lack of space prevents forming fours in the trenches, but the War Office has the matter under consideration.

FIX BAYONETS. This command has caused more casualties among Drill Instructors than all the Bucking Broncos or Bertha Barkers than ever went to create a battle. Never mind, when we get out of here, a generous Government will see to it that your bayonet troubles will be over. There will be one for toasting, one for poking the brazier, one for opening tins of peaches, one for scraping the mud from one’s boots, bread, puttees etc., one for a candlestick and a hundred and one other things.

(Their sense of humour never diminished. This, added to their guts, determination and sheer bravery, got them through it all).

The Reality of War

The Nairn Brothers, Kirkbuddo

*What was it really like for the people left behind to wait and worry?*

Below is an account (in photographic form) of the life, and death, of one of our own community. We are extremely privileged to have been given material of this kind to use as part of this tribute to the local people who served in The Great War. These photos and pictures tell the story of how it must have been. The anguish of those left at home can only be imagined. Mr. Ian Nairn of Arbroath, kindly loaned the following material which relates to his uncle David Nairn, a Gunner with B Battery, Royal Field Artillery, during WW1.

David Jeffery Nairn R.F.A. was the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. James Nairn, Whig Street, Kirkbuddo. He was killed in France on the 17th./18th. October 1917, aged 23 years.

(Permission was sought and obtained, from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to use their material).
Somewhere in France
July 26th, 1916.

Dear Brother,

I received your letters all right and glad to hear that you are still getting along all right. So you have got another shift have you, I suppose there will be a lot of wounded coming home just now, for the fighting is something terrific in some parts. What kind of a test is this that you have to go through, if you are not careful the war will be finished by the time you are ready to come out, however I hope you succeed in your test, and I hope you enjoy your leave when it comes. What like is the weather with you just now, it has been rather rough up north I believe, and caused considerable amount of damage. We have had it fairly good out here and I hope it has been the same with you. I don’t suppose you would get the last letter all right I sent I was rather long in writing you, but I hope you get this one all right. Now I will close hoping this finds you in the best of health as this leaves me the same. I am B. K.
### CASUALTY DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>NAIRN, DAVID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initials:</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationality:</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank:</td>
<td>Gunner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regiment:</td>
<td>Royal Field Artillery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Text:</td>
<td>&quot;B&quot; Bty. 123rd Bde.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age:</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Death:</td>
<td>18/10/1917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service No:</td>
<td>97012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Information:</td>
<td>Son of Mrs. Mary Nairn, of Whig St., Kirkbuddo, Forfar.</td>
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<td>Casualty Type:</td>
<td>Commonwealth War Dead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grave/Memorial Reference:</td>
<td>Panel 4 to 6 and 162.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery:</td>
<td>TYNE COT MEMORIAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TYNE COT MEMORIAL

Belgium
Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen

There are two separate registers for this site - one for the cemetery and one for the memorial. The memorial register will be found in the left hand rotunda of the memorial as you face the memorial. The Panel Numbers quoted at the end of each entry relate to the panels dedicated to the Regiment served with. In some instances where a casualty is recorded as attached to another Regiment, his name may alternatively appear within their Regimental Panels. Please refer to the on-site Memorial Register for introduction to determine the alternative panel numbers if you do not find the name within the quoted Panels. Wheelchair access to the cemetery possible via main entrance. For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on telephone number: 01628 507200

The Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery, which is located 9 kilometres north-east of Ieper town centre, on the Tynecotstraat, a road leading from the Zonnebeekszweg (N332). The names of those from United Kingdom units are inscribed on Panels arranged by Regiment under their respective Ranks. The names of those from New Zealand units are inscribed on panels within the New Zealand Memorial Apse located at the centre of the Memorial.

The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Broadly speaking, the Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Poilsesteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war. The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defence. There was little more significant activity on this front until 1917, when in the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele. The German offensive of March 1918 met with some initial success, but was eventually checked and repulsed in a combined effort by the Allies in September.
In Memory of
Gunner DAVID NAIRN

97012, “B” Bty. 123rd Bde., Royal Field Artillery
who died age 23
on 18 October 1917
Son of Mrs. Mary Nairn, of Whig St., Kirkbuddo, Forfar.

Remembered with honour
TYNE COT MEMORIAL

Remembered with honour
HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardiness, faced danger; and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.

Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

Gunner David Nairn
Royal Field Artillery
The Harsh Reality of Death
BSG/22.

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

82, BAKER STREET.
W.1.

27th January, 1922.

Madam,

With further reference to my letter of the 27th February, 1920, I very much regret to have to inform you that information has now been received to the effect that no trace of the grave of Gunner D. Nairn can be found.

As was explained in a previous letter to you, Gunner Nairn was believed to be buried in an isolated grave at a point in the vicinity of Ypres. A cross was found at this spot on which Gunner Nairn’s name appeared and this was registered as being his grave.

When, however, steps were taken to move the isolated graves in this district into permanent military cemeteries in order that they may be maintained and cared for, it was found that this cross did not mark an actual grave but that it was apparently erected as a Memorial Cross to your son’s memory. This cross has now been moved and re-erected in the Memorial Plot at Perth China Wall Military Cemetery, near Zillebeke.

I very much regret having to send you

Mrs. N. Nairn,
Whig Street,
Kirbuddo,

By Forfar,
N.B.
this information, but I feel sure you will
realise that in many areas which have been under
constant heavy shell fire the whole surface of
the ground has been so completely altered that
landmarks and grave registration marks have been
obliterated. As a consequence the work of
accurately tracing graves has been and is one
of extreme difficulty.

I am,
Madam,
Your obedient Servant,

[Signature]

for PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Mr. and Mrs. Nairn’s second son was also called up to serve in The Great War. Bombardier, John Nairn, 152 Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, brother of Gunner David Nairn. Both fought at Ypres. (John Nairn was Ian Nairn’s father).

Above, a receipt for a package which Mrs. Nairn sent to her son John in France, signed by the Postmistress at Kirkbuddo Post Office, Mrs. Webster, (mother of Isabella Mudie, page 26 Inverarity book).
### UNIT REGISTER CARD

| 1. Dispersal Area in U.K. to which proceeding: | Muness |
| 2. Industrial Group on A.F.Z.B.: | Ploughman |
| 3. Trade or Profession: | Group Man. |
| 4. Demobiliser or Pivotal Man: | |
| 5. Date of release slip: | 2.6.45 |
| 6. Married or Single: | Single |
| 7. If for Repatriation: | Overseas |
| (a) Country: | |
| (b) Regional No.: | |
| 8. Length of service in years: | 3 |
| 9. Service in the Field in years, in the present War: | 2.6.45 |
| 10. Service Category: | H.I. |
| 11. Medical Category: | Gun Layer |
| 12. Specialist Qualification: | |
| 13. Year of Birth: | 1898 |
| 14. Corps: | P.C. |
| 15. Unit: | 152 Siege Battery |
| 16. Number & Rank: | 1111 Corporal |
| 17. Surname & Initials: | Nairn, J. |

(See para. 7, Chapter XIX, Army Demobilisation Instructions—France.)

### MOVEMENTS FROM CONCENTRATION CAMP TO EMBARKATION CAMP

(See Chapter V, Army Demobilisation Instructions—France.)

To be completed by Concentration and Staging Camp Commandants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLUMN No. 1</th>
<th>COLUMN No. 2</th>
<th>COLUMN No. 3</th>
<th>COLUMN No. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(See para. 20, Chapter I, Army Demobilisation Instructions—France.)
Bombardier John Nairn, centre back.

Ypres. Bombardier, John Nairn is one of the men sitting on this wagon.
Communication with Those Back Home

A Christmas Card from John Nairn dated 1918.

A Postcard sent to Mrs. Nairn.

Love from Jim*, The Royal Engineers. Might this have been Jim Burns who spent the entire war serving under his trade as a Shoeing Smith. If so, Jim was the son of Joseph Burns, blacksmith at Whigstreet. They all lived just a few hundred yards along the road from each other.
Thoughts of Loved Ones Back Home

Two beautifully embroidered Greetings Cards, typical of their day.
More Kirkbuddo Heroes

Two sons of the Schoolmaster at Kirkbuddo School were lost in WWI.

Kinnear, David Tait

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASUALTY DETAILS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
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<td>Rank:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Grave/Memorial Reference:</td>
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<td>Cemetery:</td>
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</table>

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL
France
Somme
11.03.2003 PLEASE NOTE In May and June this year there will be restricted public access to the Thiepval Memorial whilst it is being cleaned. The memorial suffers from both biological and non-biological staining such as carbon grime. The cleaning to be carried out will remove the biological growth which forms the greatest part of the problem. Once this has been carried out we will then be in a position to assess what additional cleaning will be needed in the following year. Cleaning will take place between 5-16 May and 9-20 June 2003. During this work only the external faces being treated will be inaccessible to the public. However, the MEMORIAL will be COMPLETELY SHUT TO THE PUBLIC for 4 DAYS from 5 to 8 MAY whilst the main arch is being treated. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to visitors during this time. The Panel Numbers quoted at the end of each entry relate to the panels dedicated to the Regiment served with. In some instances where a casualty is recorded as attached to another Regiment, his name may alternatively appear within their Regimental Panels. Please refer to the on-site Memorial Register Introduction to determine the alternative panel numbers if you do not find the name within the quoted Panels.

The Thiepval Memorial will be found on the D73, off the main Beaumont to Albert road (D929). Each year a major ceremony is held at the memorial on 1 July.

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Marcourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter. In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918. The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died.
In Memory of
Corporal DAVID TAIT KINNEAR

17130, 15th Bn., Royal Scots
who died aged 27
on 04 August 1916
Son of William Tait Kinnear and Janet Agnes Kinnear, of “Walden,”
Linksfield St., Leven, Fife.

Remembered with honour
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Kinnear, Alexander Hope

<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>CASUALTY DETAILS</strong></th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Regiment:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Casualty Type:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grave/Memorial Reference:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cemetery:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DOZINGHEM MILITARY CEMETERY**

Belgium
Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen

The track leading to the cemetery is suitable for vehicles in dry weather. Wheelchair access to the cemetery is possible via main entrance. For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on telephone number 01628 507200.

The cemetery is located to the north-west of Poperinge near Krombeke. From leper follow the directions to Poperinge along the by-pass. At the end of the by-pass at the traffic lights turn right into Oostlaan. Follow Oostlaan over the roundabout to the end of the road. Turn left into Veurnestraat and follow along here to the first turning on the right. (From Poperinge centre, follow the directions to Veurne along the Veurnestraat to the second turning on the left.) Turn into Sint-Bertinusstraat and follow this road up the rise and round a left hand bend. After the bend, take the right hand turning in the direction of Krombeke along the Krombekezweg. Follow the Krombekezweg past the "De Lovie" centre and past a cafe on the left. Shortly after the cafe on the left, you will see a sign for the cemetery pointing to a track on the right into the woods. The cemetery is along here at the end of the track.

Westvlieteren was outside the front held by Commonwealth forces in Belgium during the First World War, but in July 1917, in readiness for the forthcoming offensive, groups of casualty clearing stations were placed at three positions called by the troops Mendinghem, Dozinghem and Bandaghem. The 4th, 47th and 61st Casualty Clearing Stations were posted at Dozinghem and the military cemetery was used by them until early in 1918. There are now 3,174 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery and 65 German war graves from this period. The cemetery also contains 73 Second World War burials dating from the Allied withdrawal to Dunkirk in May 1940. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

3305
In Memory of
Second Lieutenant ALEXANDER HOPE KINNEAR

6th Bn., Cameron Highlanders
who died aged 22
on 19 July 1917
Son of William Tait Kinnear and Janet Agnes Kinnear, of “Walden,”
Linksfield St., Leven, Fife. Native of Forss, Thurso.

Remembered with honour
DOZINGHEM MILITARY CEMETERY

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Duthie, William of Kirkbuddo
(Duthie Family - Inverarity Book page 102)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASUALTY DETAILS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: DUTHIE, WILLIAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initials: W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationality: United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank: Private</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regiment: Scots Guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Age: 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Service No: 15349</td>
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<td>Cemetery: ARTILLERY WOOD CEMETERY</td>
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ARTILLERY WOOD CEMETERY

Belgium
Ieper, West-Vlaanderen

Wheelchair access with some difficulty. For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Department on telephone number: 01628 834221

Boezinge is located north of the town of Ieper on the N369 road in the direction of Diksmuide. The Cemetery is located in the Poeselstraat, east of the village. From the station turn left along the Diksmuidseweg then take the second turning right into Brugstraat. Go to the end of Brugstraat, over the bridge, and straight on along Molenstraat. Poeselstraat is the second turning on the right after the bridge and the cemetery is on the right hand side, about 200 metres from the junction of Molenstraat.

Until July 1917, the village of Boesinghe (now Boezinge) directly faced the German front line over the Yser canal, but at the end of that month, the Battle of Pilckem Ridge pushed the German line back and Artillery Wood, just east of the canal, was captured by the Guards Division. They began the cemetery just north of the wood when the fighting was over and it continued as a front line cemetery until March 1918. At the time of the Armistice, the cemetery contained 141 graves, but it was then greatly enlarged when graves were brought in from the battlefields and small burial grounds around Boesinghe. There are now 1,307 First World War casualties buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 506 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate 12 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

801
In Memory of
Private WILLIAM DUTHIE

15349, 2nd Bn., Scots Guards
who died age 20
on 31 July 1917
Son of James and Mary Duthie, Kirkbuddo, Forfar.

Remembered with honour
ARTILLERY WOOD CEMETERY
Inverarity Heroes

McKiddie, Charles of Kincaldrum Lodge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASUALTY DETAILS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: McKIDDIE, CHARLES IRVINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initials: C I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationality: United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank: Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regiment: Gordon Highlanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Text: 6th Bn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age: 18</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Service No: S/23588</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cemetery: SOISSONS MEMORIAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOISSONS MEMORIAL

France

Aisne

Names are listed on the memorial by Regiments in order of precedence, under the title of each Regiment by rank, and under each rank alphabetically.

The town of Soissons stands on the left bank of the River Aisne, approximately 100 kilometres northeast of Paris. From R.N.2 (Soissons bypass coming from Paris/Meaux/Compiegne/Rouen or from Laon): Exit the R.N.2 dual carriageway at the Reims exit and turn right (coming from Laon) or turn left (coming from Paris/Meaux/Compiegne/Rouen) at the traffic lights and head into the town. After crossing the railway bridge, bear left onto Rue de Villeneuve, keeping the railway marshalling yards to your left to arrive at Soissons Railway Station. From Soissons Railway Station by foot/car: At the Railway Station traffic lights turn right onto the Avenue du General de Gaulle in the direction of the Centre Ville to the large roundabout (Place de la Republique). Take the second exit marked Centre Ville and bear right into the main street, Rue St. Martin (one-way). Continue along the Rue St. Martin until you see the Post Office (La Poste) on the right and then take the side road on the right, Rue du Mont Revers (one-way), immediately after the small chapel style building. The Soissons Memorial is situated to the rear of this building and is easily identified by its massive white Portland stone construction. There is parking available on the adjacent streets. The memorial register is kept at the Mairie where it may be consulted.

The original British Expeditionary Force crossed the Aisne in August 1914 a few kilometres west of Soissons, and re-crossed it in September a few kilometres east. For the next three and a half years, this part of the front was held by French forces and the city remained within the range of German artillery. At the end of April 1918, five divisions of Commonwealth forces (IX Corps) were posted to the French 6th Army in this sector to rest and re-fit following the German offensives on the Somme and Lys. Here, at the end of May, they found themselves facing the overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the Allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. Having suffered 15,000 fatal casualties, IX Corps was withdrawn from this front in early July, but was replaced by XXII Corps, who took part in the Allied counter attack that had driven back the Germans by early August and recovered the lost ground. The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave. The memorial was designed by G H Holt and V O Rees, with sculpture by Eric Kennington.

3881
In Memory of
Private CHARLES IRVINE MCKIDDIE

S/23588, 6th Bn., Gordon Highlanders
who died age 18
on 22 July 1918
Son of David McKiddie, of The Lodge, Kincaldrum, Forfar.

Remembered with honour
SOISSONS MEMORIAL
Latto, William of Fothringham

**CASUALTY DETAILS**

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<thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Son of Helen and the late Mr. Latto, of Sawmill Cottage, Fothringham, Forfar. Born at Glasgow.</td>
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<td>Cemetery:</td>
<td>AVESNES-LE-COMTE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION</td>
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**AVESNES-LE-COMTE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION**

France
Pas de Calais

Wheelchair access possible via main entrance. For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on 01628 507200.

Avesnes-le-Comte is a large village in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, approximately 20 kilometres west of Arras and 18 kilometres south-east of St. Pol. The Communal Cemetery lies on the CD No. 8 between the road to Manin and a side road called "Petit chemin de Manin" on the north-west side of the village and the extension is on the western side of it.

The village of Avesnes-le-Comte was for some time the VI Corps headquarters. The 37th and 30th Casualty Clearing Stations were there from April 1916, the 42nd in June 1916, and the 41st in January 1917. The communal cemetery contains two Commonwealth burials of the First World War, both made in April 1916. Thereafter, burials were made in the extension, which contains 333 graves. Most of these were from the 37th CCS which stayed in the village until July 1917. The extension also contains one Second World War burial. The extension was designed by Charles Holden.

333
In Memory of
Private WILLIAM LATTO

21333, 7th Bn., Cameron Highlanders
who died age 27
on 18 March 1917
Son of Helen and the late Mr. Latto, of Sawmill Cottage, Fothringham, Forfar.

Remembered with honour
AVESNES-LE-COMTE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
The Bruce Family - Washingdales

Andrew Keith Bruce of Washingdales, recalls how, at the age of eight, he lost his father when he was killed in World War II in August 1944. George Bruce, originally from Dundee, was a piper with the Black Watch. He died in France and is buried at Bayeux. In 1994 a Jubilee medal was struck in honour of the men who died and Keith now holds this medal, along with many others, as his proud possession. Likewise, Keith lost his grandfather in WW 1, also named George Bruce, from Dundee. He also holds the medals awarded to his grandfather, Andrew Keith.

Keith first came to Washingdales as a baby in his uncle’s arms. As he grew up, every spare moment was spent at Washingdales and as soon as he could leave school, Keith did so – in order to come to Washingdales - to work on a more permanent basis.

A selection of medals treasured by Keith Bruce.

1. Victoria Regina Imperatrix on front and South Africa on reverse side. A Keith inscribed around the edge (Boer War).
2. The France and Germany Star 1939-45.
3. The Great War for Civilisation 1914-1919.
4. The crossed swords star was awarded to Pte. G. Bruce 1/5 Royal Highland Regiment. 1914.
5. What we think is a lapel or cap badge.
President Rene Garrec sent to Mrs. Catherine Bruce the following letter dated, CAEN 30th. November 1994.

Dear Madame,

I have the pleasure and honour to send you, in this exceptional case, the medal of the Jubilee of Liberty offered by the Regional Council of Lower Normandy.

Signed: R. Garrec.

The British Cemetery at Bayeux where George Bruce (Keith’s father) is buried.
The album of the day! This was where most folk stored all their treasured memories in those days.

An old newspaper clipping showing George Bruce (far left) playing his pipes.

Keith’s father – Private George Bruce, 5th Black Watch, complete with the pipes.
Bombs from Heaven

One morning in April sometime around eight,
At Washingdale farm on Kincaldrum estate,
Whilst the farmer and his men, were in the midst o’ a thrash,
Eight bombs dropped from heaven wi’ a terrible crash.

They fell all around them, to left, and to right,
Smashing and splintering - an alarming sight.
They crashed through the roofs and tore up the ground,
One bomb is still missing and cannot be found.

They proved to be smoke bombs, be that as it may,
They were missiles of death, as they sped on their way,
By a stroke of good fortune, those bombs did not harm,
The men at their work upon Washingdale farm.

A poem by J. Shaw, Craignathro
A Gordon Highlander - Newton of Fotheringham

The following items were kindly submitted by Louise Nicoll, Newton of Fotheringham. 4177 Sergeant William McDowall, 9th. Battalion Gordon Highlanders, was her great uncle, on her mother’s side of the family.
The Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

Central Prisoners of War Committee.
The Rt. Hon. Sir STARR JAMES, Bt., C.B., Chairman.
Lt.-Col. L. IMPEY, C.B.I., C.S., Secretary.

Cheques should be made payable to Sir Starr Jameson, and crossed Barclays Bank Co., not negotiable.

Nearby Stations: Brompton Road Tube. South Kensington.

4, Thuloe Place.
(London, S.W. 7)

20th November, 1917.

Dear Madam,

We beg to inform you that we have today after all this time received a letter dated 17.10.17 from the Red Cross in Berlin in which they inform us that 4177 Srgt. William McDowell, Gordon Highlanders, died on the 27th September, 1915 in the Field Hospital 6 at Bourges and was buried in the local cemetery at that place.

We beg to forward this information in confirmation of any news you may in the meantime have received.

Yours faithfully,

L. IMPEY,
Lt.-Col. Colonel.
Secretary.

Miss Blackett,
S.R.O.S. Forthshire Branch.
Official information of death (from the Army Record Office)
The Dreaded Letter. The fold-over side of the official letter confirming death

Sergeant William McDowall shortly before he left to go to war.
I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying 1915, 15/20,
which would have been conferred upon Lt. Gaunt
 sesión No. 777/2576, W. M. Howell Gordon &c.
had he lived, in memory of his services with the
British Forces during the Great War.

In forwarding the Decoration I am commanded
by the King to assure you of His Majesty's high
appreciation of the services rendered.

I am to request that you will be so good as to
acknowledge the receipt of the Decoration on the
attached form.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
A. B. Johnson

For Officer of Infantry & Records
Part of a letter sent by Sergeant William McDowall to his parents whilst he was training, prior to being sent out to France.

Part of a letter sent home to his parents. It contains a list of items which they were allowed to take with them to France.
The last letter from “somewhere in France,” written by Sergeant McDowall before he died on 27th. September 1915.

Tributes to a Dead Soldier - A True Scot

The decorations conferred upon Sergeant William McDowall Gordon Highlanders, including:

1. “The Dead Man’s Penny”, an inscribed disc given to the parents (or relatives) of each soldier who died in The Great War.
3. The Crossed Swords Star awarded to Gordon Highlander 4177 Sgt. W. McDowall.
**Tributes to Earl Haig - Another True Scot**

Courier newspaper clippings dated 31st January 1928 (courtesy of Davie Ramsay) told of the death of Earl Haig.

**Earl Haig**

Tributes to the Great Soldier.

Typical of the Best Side of the Scot. These were the headlines and the sub headings of the day.

The text read; The King expressed his sympathy with Lady Haig in a telegram which she received when she went to Prince’s Gate yesterday morning. The Prince of Wales and Prince Henry expressed their deep regret.

There were other tributes paid. Mr. Lloyd George said, “Earl Haig was a man of unfailing courage and tenacity of purpose and he never lost heart during the worst moments in our military fortunes.”

Sir Ian Hamilton said; “Earl Haig was typical of the best side of the Scot.”

The Earl of Oxford, “I feel his loss is not only personal but national.”

Sir John Gilmore, “Both as Secretary of State for Scotland and Acting Secretary of State for War, I wish to express my admiration and regret for the passing of a great soldier and a loyal and personal friend and neighbour.”

The British Legion; “Lord Haig was mainly responsible for the formation of the Legion. He refused any honour for himself until pensions had been raised to a level commensurate with the cost of living, and it is true to say that ever since the war, his life had been devoted to the cause of assisting ex-servicemen, widows and orphans. His loss will be deplored by every member of the Legion and by the whole of the ex-service community. His memory will be a lasting inspiration to us all to carry on his work for comradeship, unity and peace – ideals which he always insisted to be the mainspring of the Legion and which he knew would bring the Legion into that high position for which it is destined.” Lieut. Col. G.R. Crosfield, Chairman of the British Legion.

Lord Provost of Edinburgh; “One of the lessons of Earl Haig’s life was that in every great emergency a man arises fitted to meet it. Scotsmen especially are proud that Earl Haig was not only a true Scot, but a man who rose to the occasion when the country’s call came.”

**Notable Visits to Dundee**

The late Field Marshal paid three visits to Dundee after he had won fame in the field. It was on 15th. May 1919, during the reign of the late Sir William Don, as Lord Provost, that Earl Haig was made a burgess of the city. The ceremony took place in Kinnaird Hall in presence of a large and distinguished gathering.

Earl Haig, as Chancellor of St. Andrews University, accompanied Sir James Barrie, the then Rector, to Dundee University College in May 1922. On that occasion, Earl Haig, in performing the ceremony of opening the new college sports grounds at Fairmuir, said, “Proper recognition of the important part that mainly outdoor exercises play in the life of a people is more necessary than ever today, when there is so much overcrowding in our towns and so large a proportion are concentrated in big towns and cities. It is only right that our University should take the lead in this matter, and set a good example in this, as in other things.”

Sir James Barrie, of Kirriemuir, at the function, made humorous reference to his association with Earl Haig. He said that he would not be able to make a speech because Lord Haig was always interfering with his speeches. (Laughter). Lord Haig had told him that he had to catch a train in a quarter of an hour and it depended on him (Sir James), whether he caught it or not. (Laughter). He would therefore just like to make one remark. He would say what had been obvious to them for days, that Lord Haig was the dour and practical half, and he, (Sir James) was the fanciful half.”
The great soldier’s last public appearance in Dundee was in May last year (1927) when he took part in the annual conference of the British Legion in Scotland. On that occasion he addressed himself specially to the need for united effort on behalf of the ex-servicemen, expressing the hope that they would, before long, see one truly representative body able to speak in the name of the ex-servicemen of Great Britain, and with the weight and influence of all British ex-servicemen to back his words.

**Dundee Messages of Sympathy**

The following messages of condolence were despatched from Dundee to Countess Haig on the death of the Earl. “The citizens of Dundee are deeply grieved to learn of the death of Earl Haig and beg to offer their sincere and heartfelt sympathy with yourself and family in your bereavement. Lord Provost; Dundee.”

“On behalf of the Dundee Branch of the Earl Haig Fund I beg to tender our heartfelt sympathy on the sad loss which you have sustained. Turnbull, Secretary, City Chambers, Dundee.”

**Flanders Poppy Wreaths at Funeral**

Lady Haig has expressed the hope that those contemplating sending a floral tribute will purchase Flanders poppy wreaths made by severely disabled ex-servicemen in the factories at Richmond and Edinburgh which the Field Marshal himself established and in which he took so much pride.

The mark of respect and remembrance is still paid to this day at the 11th. hour, of the 11th. day, of the 11th. month of each year.
KINNETTLES

Roll of Honour - The Great War 1914-1918
(Courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission).

Ten men from Kinnettles died in The Great War. Their bravery was honoured by the women of the Parish who, wishing the ultimate sacrifice of their men to be commemorated forever, had their names engraved in glass plates which were then incorporated into two stained glass windows in Kinnettles Kirk.


- **Charles S. Hadden.** Dragoon Guards. Died of wounds. No details found.


The middle section of the two windows showing the glass panels with the names of the men from Kinnettles who died in The Great War.
The two commemorative windows in Kinnettles Kirk.

Roll of Service - The Great War 1914-1918

**William J.S. Anderson.** Transport Service.

**David Balfour.** Royal Engineers.


**Peter Stewart Bell.** Royal Garrison Artillery.

**William Blyth.** Transport Service.

**David Brown.** Black Watch.

**James Cattanach.** South African Infantry.

**Alexander Chalmers.** Royal Engineers.

**Laurenson Chalmers.** Royal Field Artillery.

**David Clark.** Army Service Corps.

**Bertie Crabb.** Royal Engineers. Awarded Military Medal.

**William Dallas.** Black Watch.

**William Charles Douglas.** C.B. D.S.O. Brigadier General. 2nd/5th Black Watch and 3rd Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), grandfather of Mrs. Macmillan Douglas of Brigton.


**Patrick Duncan.** Gordon Highlanders.

**Grace Findlay.** Nurse, Military Hospital.

**Robert Gray Fleming.** Black Watch.

**John Fyfe.** Black Watch.

Killed in action. (Roll of Honour), uncle of Anne (Fyfe) de Vos, Canada, (formerly Mill of Kinnettles).

**William Fyfe.** Royal Army Medical Corps.
James Gray. *Gordon Highlanders.*

Thomas Greig. *Gordon Highlanders.*

Andrew Hadden. *Piper, Black Watch.*


John Francis Hardie. *Black Watch.*


James Kerr. *Scottish Rifles.*


Mrs. MacHardy. *Red Cross.* Matron of Briars Hospital, Forfar.

David MacHardy. 2nd. Lieutenant, *Royal Engineers and Highland Light Infantry.*
Killed in action 1st July 1916, aged 20 years, son of Rev. J.F. MacHardy Minister of the United Free Church of Kinnetles. Worked in the Corporation Electrical Dept., Dundee. (Roll of Honour).

James MacHardy. *Army Service Corps.*

Thomas McKay. *Gordon Highlanders.*

James McNicoll. *Army Service Corps.*

Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal, October 1918. D.C.M. – 2000791 Sergeant W. McNicoll, 4th. Battalion, Tank Corps. (Kinnetles, Forfar.) When in command of a Tank, he fought it for five miles into hostile territory, until it was put out of action by two direct hits, seriously wounding him and all his crew except one. He then ordered the crew to evacuate the Tank, but he remained to cover their withdrawal by machine-gun fire. Eventually, when the infantry arrived, he was removed to a dressing station. His gallantry and devotion were most praiseworthy.


John Murdoch. *Army Reserve.*

William Neave. *Fife and Forfar Yeomanry.*

Anna Pattullo. *Queen Mary's Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.*

David John Pattullo. *Hussars.*

Evelyn Pattullo. *Queen Mary's Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.*

James Scott Pattullo. Sergeant. 72nd. *Battalion Canadians.*
Killed in action, March 1917 aged 27 years, son of Mr. James Pattullo, Mid Ingliston. (Roll of Honour).

David Ramsay. *Royal Engineers.*

Francis Rattray. *Royal Field Artillery.*

James Allan Robertson. *Scots Guards.*

Killed in action. (Roll of Honour), Son of David Roy and Margaret (Norrie) Roy, and brother of Jessie (Roy) Davidson, Kincaldrum Mill; also brother of David Roy grandfather of Rev. Bert Reid of Letham, Angus.

A. Simpson. Northumberland Fusiliers.

James Smith Simpson. Black Watch.

Sydney Small. Black Watch.


Hector H. Smith. Scottish Horse. (Grandfather of Hamish and Fraser Smith).

Herbert Smith. Army Service Corps.


Thomas Soutar. Royal Garrison Artillery.

John Spink. Black Watch.

Alexander Watson. Army Veterinary Corps.


58 men from Kinnettles served in The Great War 1914-1918.
The Smith Brothers


Roy Alexander, Private 33368 17th. Battalion, Highland Light Infantry

Alexander Roy was the son of David Roy (b.1850) and Margaret Norrie (b.1850), sometime of Kinnettles. Alexander’s great grandfather and grandmother on his mother’s side came from Inverarity. (Robert Norrie (b.1787 and Agnes Stark). David Roy and Margaret Norrie had, as well as Alexander, another eight children. David Roy Jnr. (b. 1880) married Jane Wilson (b. 1888). They were the grandparents of Rev. Bert Reid, now retired and living in Letham, Angus, from whom this information came. Alexander Roy was his great uncle and sister Jessie was Bert Reid’s great aunt. Jessie married David Davidson (b1876) and they lived at Kincaldrum Mill.

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NEW MUNICH TRENCH BRITISH CEMETERY, BEAUMONT-HAMEL
France

Sommé

Beaumont-Hamel is a village about 24 kilometres south-west of Arras. Using the D919 from Arras to Amiens you will drive through the villages of Bucquoy, Puisieux and Serre les Puisieux. On leaving Serre les Puisieux, 3 kilometres further along the D919 turn left onto the D174 following the signs for Auchonvillers. After 1.3 kilometres turn left onto the D163 in the direction of Beaumont. At the crossroads in the village of Beaumont, continue straight ahead in the direction of Miramont.

Beaumont-Hamel was attacked again and taken on the 13th November, 1916, by the 51st (Highland) and 63rd (Royal Naval) Divisions. Munich Trench was occupied by the 51st (Highland) Division on the 15th November, 1916; New Munich Trench was dug on the previous night by the 2/2nd Highland Field Company and a company of the 8th Royal Scots, and strengthened by the 8th Devons in December.

The cemetery was made by the V Corps in the spring of 1917, when their units cleared the battlefield, and it was known also as V Corps Cemetery No. 25. There are now nearly 150, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, almost 20 are unidentified. All fell in the period November, 1916, or January 1917, and the majority belonged to the 10/11th, 16th or 17th Highland Light Infantry. The cemetery covers an area of 404 square metres and is enclosed by a low stone wall.

In Memory of
Gunner A ROY

33368, 17th Bn., Highland Light Infantry who died on 18 November 1916

Remembered with honour

NEW MUNICH TRENCH BRITISH CEMETERY, BEAUMONT-HAMEL

Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Commemorative Windows

The two pictures below show the memorial windows in Kinnetles Church (now a private residence). The lower picture shows the panel which is dedicated to Private Alexander Roy.
John Fyfe was the uncle of Ann Fyfe (de Vos, now Canada), whose father Robert Fyfe was the miller at Kinnettles Mill (as was his father John, before him).

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<td>YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL</td>
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The Ypres Salient was one of four memorials in Belgium. The Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town on the road to Menin (Menen) and Courtrai (Kortrijk). Each night at 8 pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the Memorial's arches.

The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shoring up of the line of defence. There was little more significant activity on the front until 1917, when in the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dragged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele. The German offensives of March 1918 met with some initial success, but was eventually checked and repulsed in a combined effort by the Allies in September. The battles of the Ypres Salient claimed many lives on both sides and it quickly became clear that the commemoration of members of the Commonwealth forces with no known grave would have to be divided between several different sites.
In Memory of
Private JOHN FYFE

240206, 4th/5th Bn., Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)
who died age 20
on 31 July 1917
Son of John Fyfe, of Kinnettles Mill, Forfar.

Remembered with honour
YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL
MacHardy David Scott

2nd. Lt. H.L.I., son of Rev. J.F. MacHardy, formerly Minister of the United Free Church, Kinnetles. (Cemetery details on page 36).

In Memory of
Second Lieutenant DAVID SCOTT MacHARDY

16th Bn., Highland Light Infantry
who died
on 01 July 1916

Remembered with honour
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL
The Real Thing... As Told by a Soldier on Active Duty

A bullet is nicer than a shell! A bullet’s nothing; you don’t see it or hear it; well you hear it whistling by your ear, and once the shrieking noise is past you don’t think of it again. But a shell announces its arrival with a peculiar kind of noise which can never be forgotten. From its whistling scream you follow its course very exactly, and you feel it coming quite close to you. At this moment you seem to lose all powers of sensation; you are not afraid, but you are anxious, and expect either to be knocked down or to see your own head torn off your shoulders. Mechanically you try to duck. Then comes the explosion, and you hear cries all around you. Then immediately after, another shell followed by another – and another. Five or six burst close by. At the moment of the shock of the explosion there comes a heavy blow on the back. It hardly produces any pain. The experience can even seem to be quite interesting.

My shoulders seem heavy. I suppose one of the shells bursting so near to me must mean I have been peppered with earth and pebbles. I try to rise but it no good. I feel rather guilty as my company has gone on ahead. Once more I try to get up, but am unable to do so and my shoulders are burning.

My company commander came running up and took cover twenty paces from me. He looked at me inquiringly and I felt even more ashamed. I again tried to rise, calling out to him to tell him something must have hit me in the shoulders. The commander called out to an under-officer to take command in my place, while I was left where I was, awaiting whatever events were to come.

The shelling began again. I managed to get my pack off and thrust my head behind it. I was suddenly afraid. What if I were hit again! After about five minutes I tried raising my head; the shells were falling farther off now. My company was right ahead of me and a few men were stretched out around me. Then I happened to catch sight of my hands; they were streaming with blood, and so was my chest and my shoulders too.

“Oh”, I thought, “so I am wounded!”
World War II 1939-1945

Before it all began AGAIN.

A quiet stream and a still tree at the Auld Brig', Inverarity.

Suddenly it all changed!

They issued gas masks in the city. And in the country too.
The evacuees found it all to be great fun and a grand adventure.

Do we ever learn?

Relics of the last war; captured German guns, being removed at Arbroath.
World War II 1939 - 1945

This war was declared on the 3rd of September 1939. Given the slaughter which occurred during World War I some twenty five years earlier, one might have thought that there would be no volunteers willing to risk putting themselves in the same position again, yet many of the very first volunteers for World War II were men who had served and survived World War I.

An Angus soldier recalls the horrors of World War II. “On the coastal road from Calais, men women and children lay dead in ditches.” This was the ordinary British soldier’s first introduction to the ruthlessness of war. A night bombing raid by the Luftwaffe around Boulogne finally convinced them that this was for real! Names such as La Cappele, St. Omer, Bren gun, Stuka and Fifth Column became part of their new vocabulary. Some men had had little training prior to being sent to France and often had to work out a strategy for survival all by themselves. Instinct took over and sometimes it worked, but for many it did not and they died during the first few months of the war.

Wounded, our soldier was patched up and taken off, to become a Prisoner of War at the dreaded Stalag VIII. In complete contrast now – the men had time to pause and think at length. Most men took advantage of this situation by trying to learn something new. Unlike the stories which had circulated during WWI where it was said that the war would be over by Christmas 1914, none of these men believed that they would be going home Christmas 1939 or even 1940. History had shown this was highly unlikely so most tried to find an interest, or hobby, which they had held prior to the war. Soon the music makers found each other, as did the book worms and academics, the sportsmen and the outdoor enthusiasts. There had to be an escape committee of course and they endlessly planned how The Great Escape would take place! Most settled down to this lifestyle after a period of time. Some men never settled and became “Stalag Happy,” existing in their own weird world, their minds crippled, some forever.

After a very hard winter, it was a relief to feel the bright sunshine of Spring and some men volunteered to join one of the many “working parties.” Any ideas of a better life were soon squashed, as was the idea of “escape.” The German sergeant in charge made sure of that. Recaptured escapees were taunted until they retaliated, whereupon he shot them dead! Because of their very poor diet and the lack of bulk in the food, men became weak and unfit for the hard labour demanded by their masters. Many prisoners did not survive this experience and others had to be sent back to the main camp. Transporting prisoners to and fro meant another hardship for these men. They were simply thrown into the back of a closed wagon and left. Food was flung inside and the doors banged shut. These men were transported around for days – no toilets of course, but a loose floorboard provided the necessary “place” and sanitation was maintained to a degree of tolerance. Eventually the crippled men arrived back in the main camp where the boring lifestyle began all over again. Inevitably the plan for yet another escape attempt began. It was the only thought that kept many men sane – the anticipation of getting away from that place! Some did make it only to be turned back when they tried to steal on to a boat bound for home. They were returned to a Stalag and put into “solitary” for their “crime.”

World War II differed from World War I in that there was now The Royal Air Force and a number of people left their homes along the Kerbet valley to join the RAF.

From Inverarity there left to fight in World War II, Willie Sharpe, younger son of Dick Sharpe, Keirton (page 43 Inverarity book). He left Forfar Academy and joined the RAF then became involved in the war of 1939-45. He finished up in London then joined the Civil Service, ending his career back in Tayside Region.

Grace (Gleig) Skea, (sister of Ruby Lawrence), (page 53 Inverarity book), left to join the WAAF and was stationed at St. Andrews and Ruby’s brother-in-law, George Lawrence was killed whilst serving with the Royal Air Force during the second world war, (see page 91). Others did their bit by nursing the wounded. Miss Nettie Walker, daughter of Mr and Mrs C Walker, Carrot Farm, Inverarity, trained in London and became a State Registered Nurse in 1942.

Meanwhile Work Parties stayed back home and helped by knitting garments for the troops to wear; gloves, socks etc. Dora (Sharpe) Johnson, formerly Mid Lodge Fotheringham (page 38 Inverarity book), recalls knitting body belts, amongst other things, for the soldiers. Many events were held in the area to raise funds for the war effort.
The Home Guard

Marching down The Bents in Inverarity.

The Home Guard rolling out the barrels.

Local Defence Volunteers

The Local Defence Volunteers should be mentioned, drawn from local men in reserved occupations such as farming. Most of the farmers and their men were involved and we have a photograph of one of their route marches at the Bents.
Kinnettles Home Guard held a dance in the Duncan Hall. April 1941.
Working on the Land During Wartime

The following article is about farming during the second World War and was kindly submitted by Mr. Eric Galloway of Oathlaw. In it he recalls fond memories of working for Sir Harry Hope of Kinnettles.

Sir Harry’s son, Robert Hope, farmed at Oxwell Mains, Dunbar, East Lothian. He looked after his father’s estate for his father and sister (who became Mrs. Dudley Lloyd Evans). The farms on the estate were Foffarty, Mains of Kinnettles and Hillhead of Kinnettles). Mains of Brigton was farmed by his brother James Hope.

Oxwell Mains was a mixed farm; grain, potatoes, store cattle and a large vegetable unit which was labour intensive, employing both men and women to plant and harvest. The vegetables were sent to Edinburgh and Newcastle markets by rail; Oxwell Mains had a railway siding, as it was situated right alongside the main Edinburgh Berwick line.

The farm workers worked the harvest down at Dunbar first because the grain crops were earlier then travelled up to Kinnettles on a lorry. Eric and the grieve’s son from Dunbar stayed in the Lodge with Mr. and Mrs. G. Liddell, “Geordie” being the gamekeeper on the estate. They were very well fed on rabbit stew and such like.

At Foffarty there were two large bothies lined with bunk beds, tables and chairs; quite comfortable as there was heating too. The food was prepared in the farm kitchen by the cooks from Dunbar; Bella Bisset was one of them. The food was simple but sufficient – rationing was in force then but no one complained.

Many of the workers took themselves off to Forfar on the Saturday night bus. There they went to the pictures; either the Regal in East High Street or the Pavilion (The Gaffe), which is now a Bingo Hall. The evening was rounded off with a fish supper from Geordie MacLean’s chip shop at the East Port.

At the time of the grain harvest Callander’s lorries were used in the fields to transport the sheaves to the stackyards to be built into stacks, later to be threshed out. It was a time where the working horse was seen to be slow, but tractors were few and far between, although Kinnettles had a John Deere and an Allis Chalmers.

Eric recalls how, after he had built the lorries with sheaves all day, he spent the evenings trying to get thistles and eye nettles out of his fingers.

After the grain harvest the workers then went on to the potato harvest.

The grieve at Kinnettles at that time (1943), was Mr. McIntosh, and at Foffarty, Mr. Peter Young.
Refuge for children - Sir Harry Hope of Kinnettles

House Evacuees in Mansions

Strain Too Great for Householders

"People's Journal" Special.

ANGUS people have been greatly interested in the scheme propounded by Sir Harry Hope for utilising empty mansion-houses in the county for the accommodation of evacuee children.

The first question which suggests itself is—Are there sufficient houses to go round? The answer is—"No, unless you bring shooting lodges as well into the scheme, and they are furnished."

Most of the mansion-houses in the county are already either actively in operation or work connected with the war or are earmarked for hospitals.

Those that would be available for such a scheme are:—Pannair House, at Muirdrum; Ascot House, a refuge near Kingoldrum; Pannair House; Ballochly, near Auchterhouse; and Gray House, in Liff and Bervie parish, besides some of the near-at-hand shooting lodges.

Dr Sinclair, M.O.H. for the county, suggested such a scheme in connection with Pannair House more than a year ago, but it was turned down.

"Pannair House would accommodate fully 3000 children and their teachers," Dr Sinclair told me. There would have to be some structural alterations, but that need not be costly. If need be huts could be erected to supplement the accommodation in the house.

Lord Dalhousie, who is on active service, has offered Pannair House as a refuge for the children, and it is anticipated that the others will readily be made available should the proposal be carried further.

Building of Huts.

"The building of huts would be a good idea if we could get the wood and the labour," Sir Harry Hope said to me. "The great merit of the wooden houses in Dundee was that they could be erected quickly, and I suppose the same applies to the huts.

"The point which we must stress," Sir Harry added, "is that if, as the Government seem to anticipate, the war is to be a long one, the householders would not be able to stand the physical and mental strain of having these families in their homes."

Dr Sinclair thinks that many of the shooting lodges are too remote to be of much use for the purpose, though those nearer at hand might, he thinks, be utilised.

"The great merit of the scheme is that it ensures equal treatment for all the children," he said.

"It should be borne in mind that the County Council or whoever ran the home would be able to claim the billeting allowances in respect of each of the children and their teachers. The home would therefore practically run itself.

"Should Not Wait."

This is a proposition the country itself should go in for without waiting for the Government," suggested Dr Sinclair.

"People I have come in contact with would be glad enough to pay an extra rate to bring the chance about," he said.

"To appeal to the Government would probably cause delay, and it is necessary to do something now because they are making up a fresh list of evacuees in Dundee."

A suggestion has been made that county huts might be used, but Dr Sinclair says these are too small. The minimum number which could be entered for economically is 260, he thinks.

The County Council will only move in the matter if the Government, to whom they have appealed, give their sanction.

The death has taken place in San Francisco, California, of Captain David Alexander, a native of Arbroath. A son of the late Captain Alexander, ship owner, Arbroath, deceased went to sea in the sailing ship days, and later became an officer with the Clan Line. When in Arbroath Captain Alexander resided at Mervile Cottage, Strachan Street.
Reserved Occupations - World War II

Those in reserved occupations had a task to do as well. They had to keep the nation fed.

PROTECTING THE POTATO CROP

A scene at Spittalburn Farm, on the Forfar Dundee road, where farmers are spraying the potato crops with acid to prevent blight and disease.

Spreading fertiliser on a field of oats at Kirkbuddo.
A common sight in the country these days. Potato lifters - await the passing of the digger.

Helping Dad! A speedy method of “happin’ the tatties”.
DERBY RUNNER PLOUGHED ANGUS FIELDS

A BLACKSMITH'S shop in Angus has come to be recognised as an eventide home for superannuated horses, which included an animal that had run in the Derby.

Owners of the "home" are two brothers, Sylvester and William Gleig, Forthriumph Smithy. Sylvester is over 70, and William 65.

They are blacksmiths, as were their father and grandfather, at the same smithy, and they have such a reputation for kindness to horses that when anyone with a sense of conscience about sending an old servant to the knacker wants to find a home for it the brothers are usually appealed to.

In their stall just now are two old pensioners—Jack, a white, who is 27, and Letty, a brown, who is also 27. Letty spent the last years of her life ploughing the cobbled streets of Forfar, first in a grocer's van and then for 14 years between the shafts of a fashionable cart.

She has been evicted since just before the war. When she began to show signs of wear and tear, her owner, Mr. Allan, could not think of selling her, so, through the good offices of a friend, she went to Forthriumph Smithy.

There she met Jack, who had already been installed a couple of years. He came from the Kirriemuir area. They have been transmuted since, and they share the same stable.

Light But Willing.

They work for their keep, for there are 15 acres of land attached to the smithy, which William ploughs and both brothers cultivate.

"They are all the better of being worked now and again," said William, "It supplies them up a bit." But they are out at the grass all the summer.

Man like, Jack likes his comforts. He lies down on a good bed of straw to take his rest. But Letty is feeling her age, and for years she has not dared to lie down. She takes her rest sitting in a padded chair which William has considerably fixed across the end of her stall.

"She's as quiet as a dog," he says.

"Letty is the third pensioner we have been asked to look after," Sylvester told me. "One of them was a horse that had run in the Derby. We called it Derby, too. It belonged to a lady who was living in Forthriumph House, and it went lame, and we were asked to take it.

"The beast had never been in the plough, and was light in the leg, maybe, but it was a good horse, and wasn't long in learning. Besides, walking on the land helped the lameness.

"The other was an old horse we took from a farmer who retired. We had both of them for quite a number of years.

"Folk sometimes come and ask for the sound of the horses, but we never lend them out. We feel that is part of our trust."
Some of the Land Girls at lunch in the farm canteen.

Preparing seed potatoes for dispatch at Gateside Farm, Inverarity.

A Polish prisoner-of-war working in a harvest field on an Angus farm.
Others Worked and Waited at Home for the Dreaded Word; ‘MISSING’

Lt. Cpl. William Milne, Cameron Highlanders, formerly Mains of Kinnetles, is reported missing.

Discharged, But Missing.
Mr. Arthur Milne, Mains of Kinnetles, has received intimation from the War Office that his son, Lt. Cpl. William Milne, Cameron Highlanders, serving in the Middle East, is posted as missing.

He was discharged from hospital after recovering from wounds on 10th June, and was posted as missing eleven days later.

Another son, Frederick, was killed in action in the same zone in December of last year.

Missing Farm Worker.
Corporal Robert Grant, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. James Grant, South Tarbat, by Forfar, is missing in the Middle East. He is 22 and was a farm servant when he joined the Cameron Highlanders in 1938. He was serving in India when war broke out.

His elder brother, Private William Grant (34), Black Watch, was badly wounded last November and is still in hospital.

He joined up in 1927.

Cpl. Robert Grant.

That is how it was! Families left waiting and worrying...

George Webster and his brother John.

"It was like meeting a perfect stranger."

This statement was contained in a letter received from a Kirkbuddo soldier when he met his brother in the Middle East.

The two brothers were Pte. George Webster, of the Australian Imperial Forces, and Pte. John Webster, of the R.A.M.C.

They had not seen each other for 21 years. When George emigrated to Australia John was only two years of age, and it is not surprising that he looked upon his brother as "a perfect stranger."

George has been serving in the Middle East for nearly two years, and when he learned that his youngest brother had been posted to the same district he at once set out to try and trace him.

After two months he at last reached the camp where John was stationed. They hope to spend future leaves together.

Three other brothers are in the forces. James is serving with the R.A.A.F., Alexander with the Pioneer Corps, and Robert with the Cameronians.

Lost and found again! Brothers’ reunited after 21 years.
The Women Who Served in the Second World War

The wedding, in 1945, of Miss Marion Elizabeth Charlotte Douglas of Brigton, Kinnettles, and Major Ian L. E. MacMillan, M.B.E., Gordon Highlanders. Two pipers from the Gordons and a number of Red Cross nursing friends of Miss Douglas formed the guard of honour.

Mrs. MacMillan Douglas of Brigton recalls fond memories of those far off days when she, as a member of the mobile Voluntary Aid Detachment, was posted to nurse in places far and near; Edinburgh Castle, Reswallie (which was a Camp Reception Station), Dingwall, then Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen and back to Reswallie.

Major MacMillan saw service overseas where he fought in Burma and was wounded. He received his MBE for quelling a riot in India.

Miss Isobel Cargill of Kinnettles

Isobel Cargill recalls how she left her home in Kinnettles to join the W.A.A.F. (Women’s Auxiliary Air Force), in 1942. First Isobel became a radio operator, next a wireless operator then, as a Corporal, she finished her Air Force career as a P.T.I. (Physical Training Instructor), in Blackpool in 1944.
Isobel and some of her Air Force friends.

Isobel – middle row, third from right, with “the girls”.
Red Caps from Angus

“Red Caps” From Angus

Located in Edinburgh, they are members of one of the only two sections in existence. The other is in London.

Here’s what they think of their new job.

LCE-CPL. JEAN WILSON, FORFAR.
was a cinema usherette before she joined the A.T.S. two years ago.

“My father has a farm at Kirkbuddo,” she said, “and quite a number of people wonder why I did not join the Land Army. I have had too much farming already. Life in the A.T.S. is grand, and being a Red Cap will be most interesting.”

LCE-CPL. ANNE M’KEATING, FORFAR, was born at Hamilton. She joined the A.T.S. half an hour after war was declared, and saw service in France with the B.E.F.

“I worked in a shop before I joined up,” she said, “but became a typist in the A.T.S. We certainly get around, and I would not leave it for the world. I think this police work will be right in my barrow.”

The girls have been taught the art of self defence in order to give them confidence, but actually what they do require is tact and sympathy.

L. Cpl. Jean Wilson, Forfar. Her father farmed at Kirkbuddo
L.Cpl. A. McKeating, Forfar.
Local Ladies Serving with the Forces

A.C.W.1 Nessie Jolly, W.A.A.F., Whitebrae, Kirkbuddo.

A.C.W.2 E.M. Joiner, W.A.A.F., Mains of Kinnettles, by Forfar.


Happy Events Still Went On

War-time Weddings

One never-to-be-forgotten occasion for a little girl during the war-time

Little Miss Elizabeth Ramsay, who was a trainbearer at the wedding in Forfar of Miss Marion Douglas, of Brigton, and Major I.L.E. MacMillan. November 1945.

A Kirkbuddo war-time wedding

A Kinnettles Golden Wedding during war-time

An Inverarity 1940’s war-time wedding
People’s Journal - News of the War 1944

Whether involved in the fighting, or left back at home, the spirit of Angus was evident at all times, and in all places.

“Angus Lads Won The Race.”

The Angus Battalion of The Black Watch who crossed the Rhine cleaned up the outskirts of Rees, drove into Isselburg, took over 500 prisoners, and completely broke the crust of enemy defences.

The Commander of the leading buffalo had brought a Union Jack, intending to be the first man to plant the British flag on the east bank. But the Jocks said, “Sorry, sir,” as they swept past him, and the Union Jack was planted by one of their number.

North of Rees, the attackers encountered opposition in the railway station but used wasp flame-throwers very effectively. A hard battle was still going on in the town but the Black Watch linked up with the Gordons, and the Germans then realised they had no hope of success. Next morning a white flag flew from a house in the open. A Black Watch patrol went over to investigate. They found over 70 Germans waiting to surrender. The house itself was a complete fortress.

The Black Watch then launched an attack south of Isselburg. They encountered practically no opposition and took several German prisoners who had been left behind. They then pushed on into Isselburg and entered the town, capturing a bridge intact.

“Compared with Gennep and Goch, the whole Rhine-crossing battle was very easy,” one of the company commanders said, “But there were one or two sticky patches and there would have been more if our lads had given the Jerries a chance. But they let nothing stop them. They went straight for their objectives no matter how heavy the fire, and nine times out of ten, it came off.”

Notes from Rural Angus - 1944

“Salute the Soldier”. The County of Angus decided to hold a “Salute the Soldier” campaign during the week 3rd – 10th June 1944

INVERARITY

The sum of 10s in ship halfpennies was collected by Miss Annie Menmuir for “Salute the Soldier,” week.

Mr. Joseph B. Rodger, East of Scotland College of Agriculture, gave an interesting demonstration on bee-keeping. Three strong stocks at the apiary of Mr. W. Anderson, Gateside, were examined. Mr. Rodger visited several apiaries in the district to give advice to individual bee-keepers.

Savings invested by the school group during “Salute the Soldier” week, totalled £87.16s

KINNETTLES

A Basket Whist was organised by W.R.I. members. Winners: 1 Miss A. Hill, 2 Mrs. W. Smith, consolation Miss J. Brown. Lucky Table – Mrs. H. Smith, lady as gentleman- Mrs. Allan Smith. Hostess – Mrs. Fyfe.

Gentlemen; 1 Mr. D. Allardice, Jnr. 2 Mr. J. Milne, consolation, Mr. J. Hill. Lucky Table; Mr. Strathearn, A sum of £20.10s was realised.
KIRKBUDDO

Diddling Competition. The sum of £30 and one penny was raised by means of a diddling competition.


Piano accordian J. Dowall.

Comic singing D. Dakers, R. Stewart, R. Henderson.

Violin J. Gall.

Modern singing R. Henderson, Ann Johnston, Mrs. Matthewson.

Jew’s Harp R. Stewart, A. Milne, G. Allan.

Diddling D. Dakers, R. Stewart, C. Findlay.

Whistling E. Findlay.

Mouth-organ A. Cant A. Davidson, D. Sim.

Potato peeling C. Johnston, Jessie Sturrock.

Highland dancing B. Taylor.

Lemonade drinking A. Spalding, W. Peddie, J. Drummond.

Elocution D. Dakers, E. Findlay.

Piano playing Joy Sturrock.

Beauty competition, J. Dowall, A. Findlay, A Johnston.

The total contributed for “Salute the Soldier” week by the parish was £460.

It all went on in the countryside!

Welcome Home Fund

INVERARITY

In aid of the Welcome Home Fund, a play, “Uncle Josh’s Hidden Hoard,” was staged by local artistes. Those taking part were; Mrs. Elrick, Mrs. Lawrence, Miss B. Todd, Mrs. Garrock, Mrs. Howie, Misses D. Sharpe, M. Elrick, A, Menmuir, N. Mowbray, E. Howie and Messrs. Dorward, Joiner, Garrock and Glen.

KIRKBUDDO

A diddling competition and dance held in the school in aid of the Welcome Home Fund, realised £27.00.
Welcome Home

SCOTLAND is to say it with hundreds of thousands of pounds to the men and women who have been on service.

Almost every town and village in the country has its Welcome Home Fund, and their success has been astounding.

Some of the funds have already closed. Others are employing every conceivable method of "raising the wind" to reach the figure which they have set themselves.

Each locality will decide how the money is to be disbursed, but it is generally understood that there will be no memorials of the type so popular after World War No. 1.

The following list shows the progress made with the Welcome Home Funds in Scotland.

Kincardine

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Aberdeenshire

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Pinning the clothes peg contest to raise funds.
History and Heroism at Home and Abroad

Rescue Of Pilot From Crashed Plane

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

"I was afraid for fire," he told me. "Once before I had seen a crashed plane. There was fire then, and we could not get near to rescue the crew.

"This time I was relieved to see there was neither fire nor smoke. But the plane had turned over on its back, and I thought the pilot must be killed.

"When I got to the plane, however, I could hear movement inside, so I said to the pilot, 'Can you tell me the quickest way to get you out?'"

He directed me to a panel in the side of the fuselage, and I was able to get my fingers in behind it and wrench it open.

Pet Gone

"Once I got the pilot released from his harness I was not long in getting him clear of the plane. What I have marvelled at since is how such a tall man could get into such a small space in the plane.

"By the time I had got him clear my wife had arrived. With her assistance the airman was able to walk to the farmhouse, where we bathed his injuries and put him to bed until a doctor arrived.

"Only when the excitement had passed and the airman was on his way to hospital did Jane remember her bunny, which she had left alone on the green when she ran to the house to raise the alarm. But bunny had gone—back to the wild companions from whom he had been separated in body but not in spirit.

"She was sorer about that than anything," her father told me.

The folk of St Valery turn out in force as the pipers and drummers of the 51st Division paraded when the town celebrated its freedom with a day of ceremonies.
Promotions, Commendations and Medals

Marion Elrick’s uncle Jim (mother’s brother), James Irons, was a regular in The Black Watch and his sword hangs in the museum in Perth. After demob he became a Prison Governor in Cyprus and also in Uganda. The story goes that Uncle Jim had a prisoner in one of his jails who could neither read nor write. He thought he could make something of this man so he patiently taught him to read and write over the long stretch of his detention period. Feeling greatly satisfied he watched as the time came for the man’s release and, after a few words of encouragement and good wishes, they said goodbye. Imagine Uncle Jim’s feelings when this man returned after a few years in the “outside world”, to serve yet another lengthy stretch inside – his offence this time – forgery!
The Falklands War

The Falklands War 1982

*Chief Petty Officer George Scott Elrick (Scott) 1941-2001.*

Scott lived at Kincaldrum Post Office, Gateside, and attended Inverarity Primary School and Forfar Academy. On leaving school in 1956, aged 15, he joined the Fleet Air Arm and served with it until 1986. The winter of 1981/2 saw him working as senior weapons electrical trade manager at Portland, Dorset, where he was fitting and evaluating a very new type of equipment.

In May 1982, when war broke out in the Falkland Islands, it was decided to send this equipment to the Task Force in the Falklands, together with someone who had the knowledge of how to fit, operate and maintain it. It was decided that Scott was the best person for the job. Early in May he was flown out to Ascension Island and from there out to the Task Force. He had to parachute from the aircraft into the sea where there were boats waiting to pick him up. (He had never parachuted before). Thereafter, in addition to doing the job he was sent to do, he took part in a number of sorties and operational missions.

After the war ended Scott received a Commendation and a Falklands Medal. (Submitted by his sister Marion).
COMMENDATION

AEMN (L) 1 G. S. ELRICK P957022P

During the initial phases of Operation CORPORATE a requirement arose for the provision of an infra-red viewing system for use in Wessex, Lynx and Sea King helicopters. 772 Naval Air Squadron was chosen to fit, fly and evaluate the equipment during the period 26 April to 3 May 1982.

AEMN (L) 1 ELRICK worked alongside the Squadron AEO in producing the necessary NSMs in the very short time available. His expertise in the electrical field contributed greatly to the success of the trials. It became obvious during this period that there was a need for a skilled technician to accompany the equipment to the Falklands and maintain it once there. CPO ELRICK offered his services immediately and after consultation with AUWE personnel who were involved in the trial it was agreed that he was the ideal man for the task.

On 5 May he flew to HMS INTREPID via Ascension Island with two sets of equipment. He subsequently maintained 6 additional infra-red equipments, 2 of which were already in INTREPID, the other 4 being collected at the Falklands. During the course of the trip from Ascension to the Falklands he was instrumental in the many innovations required to service this highly sensitive equipment, adapting ships' facilities as required.

Operations with the equipment in a hostile environment began on 20 May. CPO ELRICK installed the equipment in various helicopters used for night reconnaissance. The airborne equipment required 2 operators and due to lack of personnel CPO ELRICK volunteered to assist in the sorties. He took part in 6 operational missions totalling 12 hours flying and included special reconnaissance sorties with the SAS and SBS. These arduous and dangerous missions were conducted in addition to his maintenance task on the equipment in use.

Chief Petty Officer ELRICK is highly commended for his loyal and selfless contribution to the success of Operation CORPORATE.
Guerilla War in the Borneo Area

Commander Hilary L. Foxworthy O.B.E. ‘Revverdig’ Kirkbuddo

In the mid-1960’s, the independent state of Malaysia came into being, supported by the UN and the UK. This was strongly resisted by Indonesia, then ruled by General Soekarno. To quote the history books, “British arms, with increasing support from the young Malaysian forces and steadily strengthening will amongst the civilian population, fought and won one of the strangest, most economical, and most brilliant counter-guerilla wars in history, which ended in the internal overthrow of the Soekarno regime.” Commonwealth forces were also involved. Lieutenant Foxworthy, as he was then, served on a two-year exchange with the Royal New Zealand Navy, and was in the frigate HMNZS TARANAKI from early 1965 until mid-66. The ship was part of the UK’s Far East Fleet, and participated in the war, mainly on anti-insurgence patrols in the Borneo area. This was recognised by the issue of a “General Service Medal,” to all who spent at least 30 days on these patrols, which TARANAKI did.

The cross is the insignia of the O.B.E. which Commander Foxworthy was awarded in 1991 and his medal “For Campaign Service”.

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The tale of a Scottish soldier during The Great War

“The Making of Micky McGhee,” by R.W. Campbell

Micky McGhee enlisted for ale, for sleep, and for bread,
To carry the kilt and doublet, the Glengarry on his head.
He was not what men call handsome, his form was rather spent,
And his hair was thin, his nose was stumped, and his eyes of cute intent,
He’d been used to sleeping in “Models,” used to sleeping in gaols;
Drinking the stuff that burneth, and courting the women called “Tails.”

Hunger, sorrow, and sickness were all his eyes had seen;
Hope was not in his keeping. He wasn’t a might-have-been.

Life had made him a rebel. He was a nomad from smelling slums,
Who’d only come for drink and bread, and not for the soul of the drums,
Yet he’d flung his vermined “civvies” off with a shout of joy,
And let a Sergeant scrub away the filth of a strange alloy.

Then he dressed in an ancient tartan; marched to the barrack room
To learn the valour of heroes. The glory there is in doom,
And how the sons of Princes and Peers are pals of men like he,
Sharing with manly pleasure the skirmish, the march, and the spree.

The road was rough and brimful of orders that brook no delay –
It wasn’t all beer and skittles to serve for a “bob” a day;
Reveille ended his blanket dreams; Corporals called, “Show a leg.
Out of that now, you, Micky McGhee, or I’ll put ‘on the peg.’ ”
He was made to wash his teeth and neck – things he didn’t know,
Made to brush his hair in “quiffs,” crease his trews like a beau,
Cursed when he wore his cap at meals and fingered the spuds and stew,
“Pegged” every time he answered, “what the h…’s that tae dae wi’ you?”
“Come along now, you, Private McGhee,” said the old Instructor at drill;
   “You waddle along like a navvy that’s had a pint and a gill.
Step up, step up, now Micky. Hold up your head and eyes,
   Straighten your head like a soldier. Damn it man, look your size!
I’ve trained Ghurkas and Sepoys, Keelies and burglars too;
   I’ll have none of your shuffling, I’ll make you a soldier true.
Halt, there! Halt!” roared the Sergeant. “What was that you said?”
   “Tae h….wi’ you!” roared Micky, striking him on the head.

So Micky McGhee was sentenced to twenty eight days in the cells,
Where he thought, as he picked his oakum, of “Models” and frowsy belles,
   And of one by the name of Sarah, who’d often given him a “chew,”
   A chunk of her pauper rations, a drink of the cheapest brew.
Would he go back to Sarah, the “Model,” and things of sin?
   These were the thoughts that sent his head into a swirling din.
Then the good that’s in the vilest whispered, “No lad, stick out;
The Army is kind to the sinner, and the men that the merchants clout.”

Now the ways of the weak are guided, not by their holy vows,
   But the seeds of sin that’s in their souls – seeds for crime and rows,
   And the thirst that is eternal in a man of Micky’s kind
Is caused through the breed of hunger, sorrow, and sickened mind.
The God who’s the God of all men can pity the mood when he
   Craved for the liquor that burneth on the day that he was free;
Pint and pint he called for, till drunk he lurched once again
   Into the Quarter Guard Room, his vows all rent in twain.

For this he was marched under escort, in front of a Captain and Lord,
   Son of a Duke and a “White Man,” and known to his men as “Bob.”
   Said he, “McGhee, I am sorry you have been a fool once again;
   Still, I feel there’s good in all of you rough and tumble men.
Now, McGhee, let’s make a bargain. If I let you off this time,
   Will you play the game like a sportsman – keep out of drink and crime?
   Come! On the word of honour – you’re going to play the game!”
   “Yes Sir,” said Micky, the sinner, his heart in a righteous flame.

But the battle was stiff and uppish: he was fighting the sins of sires,
   And the craving for drink was hellish – like raging passions’ fires,
   And his nomad spirit suffered, for he’d the love of the road,
   While the craving for Sarah’s comforts piled on another load.
Yet, the spirit of God that’s in all men whispered, “Micky, stick out.”
   The kindly rule of the Duke’s son kept off the Non-Com.’s clout.
And then came the Ultimatum – War and freedom from lures,
   An outlet for hidden glories; the chance that murders or cures.
Thus the son of a Peer and a Pauper, linked in the cause that’s high,
Marched in the march of glory; suffered, and asked not why.
At Mons when hell from the cannon staggered, slaughtered and maimed,
When wave upon wave of Germans charged for the gods they claimed,
Micky, grim-jawed and eager, fired with that aim of Hythe,
Which mows the living to slaughter like the sweep of a Terror-Scythe,
Tho’ left to cover the Great “Retreat,” flanked, then surrounded by foes,
The son of the Peer and the Pauper fought, and wailed not their woes.

Britain, you’ve had noble glories, but none so great as that day
When fifty-five of the Highland host were caught by the Huns’ foray.
Their rounds were fired, and vanished; all that was left was the steel,
As they rose with a cheer and plunged it home into the swine who squeal.
Gad! What a noble ending – plunging, then warding the blows,
Smashing heads with their butt-ends, ripping the hearts of their foes.
But the horde seemed never-ending, and circled like vultures low,
Bent on the mad destruction of “Bob” and Micky & Co.

“We’re done, men. Scatter and go – make for the rear – retire,”
Roared “Bob” as he fell dying at the feet of the slum esquire.
With a rage of a frenzied lover Micky laid two more low,
Then flinging away his rifle, lifted his Captain to go
To the rear for succour and safety, for him he loved so well.
But, alas! The steel of a German ended his life. He fell
Dead by the side of his Captain. Thus the Peer and the Pauper died,
Linked in the sleep of glory – the death that’s an Empire’s pride.

There’s a woman that lives in “Models”; known as Sarah to all –
A broken soul of the scourings, that environment throws to the wall;
Yet she, like the Fairies of Joyland, has her dreams of the past as well;
’Tis the dream of the man called Micky – Micky the man who fell.
And her pride is a silver medal, a letter and statement of pay
From the man who cherished her dearly, and saved on a “bob” a day
Ten pounds to this woman called Sarah – crude, yet kind as a dove,
Whose charity in the mean streets gained her a soldier’s love.

(“Model” means a common lodging-house.)
Acknowledgements

This book would never have come to fruition had it not been for those dedicated people and organisations who quietly furnished information so willingly and helpfully. It all began as a supplement to “Inverarity - a Parish Patchwork,” and gradually developed into a book in its own right. This would not have been possible without the constant support and encouragement from the local community, as well as friends and relatives at home and abroad. Thank you all. (Apologies for any omission or errors in the text).

The Black Watch Museum, Balhousie Castle, Perth. Archivist Mr. Tom Smyth.
Ministry of Defence, Mrs. Nicola Hunt, IPR - CU.
Angus Council Print and Design. Mr. Ian Taylor, Mrs Sharrie Reid.
Forfar Library. Carol, Aileen, Lynne, Jane and Mr. Neil.
Dundee Wellgate Library, Local Studies Department, Eileen and Deirdre.
Cousin Will Scott (son of Uncle Will Scott, a regular soldier with The Black Watch) for books, materials and information.
The Nairn Family, Arbroath. (Mr. Ian Nairn).
Mrs. Ann Sim, Carnoustie. (Syme family).
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Bruce, Washingdales.
Mrs, Louise Nicoll, Newton of Fothringham and her mother Mrs. Robertson.
Hamish and Fraser Smith, The Mill of Invereighty and Turwhappie.
Rev. Bert Reid, Letham.
Miss Isobel Cargill of Kinnettles.
Mr. and Mrs. D. Ramsay, Mains of Invereighty.
Mr. Eric Galloway, Oathlaw.
Mr. Robert Steuart Fothringham for the name Strathkerbet.
Mrs. Nan Joiner, Gallowfauld, Inverarity.
Miss Marion Elrick, Forfar (formerly Inverarity).
Cdr. Hilary Foxworthy, Kirkbuddo.
Ruth and Bill Findlay, Carterhaugh, Kinnettles.
Dave and Mo Walsh, The Whirlies, Kinnettles.
Ron Leslie, Mains of Brigton, Kinnettles.
Ewan Walker Munro, Kinnettles.
Eliane, Andy and Steven Reid, Cuttyhaugh, Inverarity (fixing my computer problems)
Kinnettles and District Heritage Group for constant encouragement and support.
Everyone who has dropped in, telephoned or e-mailed with advice.
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“Forfar and District in the War 1914-1919,” compiled by D.M. Mackie for the Forfar War Memorial Committee MCMXXI (1921). (loaned by Mr. D. Ramsay, Mains of Invereighty).

“Made in the Trenches”. Composed by soldiers, edited by Sir Frederick Treves and George Goodchild.


The War Office (permission to use their materials).

Ministry of Defence Procurement Agency

Commonwealth War Graves Commission, (website).

The People’s Journal. 1939-1945 D.C. Thomson, Dundee.

Forfar Public Library, for access to microfilm copies of local newspapers and books.

Forfar Herald and Kirriemuir Advertiser.

Forfar Review and Strathmore Advertiser.


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“Scottish Units in the World Wars,” by Mike Chappell.


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“Together, you and I
We will see this thing through
to the end”
Who Were They? One final tribute

The names on War Memorials often mean very little nowadays – unless the families still live locally and are able to tell of their relative who died in battle. This publication attempts to pull together the available evidence of sacrifice, heroism, and true grit shown by people of this area when faced with the tragedy of war. Those who died made the ultimate sacrifice. Those who survived returned home as heroes, many to continue their suffering in the years that followed.

Whether at home or abroad; on land, sea or air, it was the tenacity and determination of these ordinary men and women which saw them through. In the limited space available, it is impossible to pay adequate tribute to those of such outstanding courage; instead I simply try to mention a few from each parish; to “trace the rainbow through the rain”. We hope their promise of a brighter future for all of us will not be in vain, and in dying they were born to eternal life.