

A VILLAGE REMEMBERS



North Queensferry War Memorial Archive

2016
North Queensferry Heritage Trust

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**They shall grow not old, as we
that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor
the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.**

from

“For the fallen” by Laurence Binyon, 1914

This booklet is the result of a decision in 2014 by some members of North Queensferry Heritage Trust to seek to discover the stories behind the names on our village War Memorial. By this time, all living memory of those in the First World War was lost and increasingly few were left, who had direct memory of the participants in the Second World War. This has inevitably complicated the task of research.

The obelisk, which was first completed in 1921, consists of a block of Granite, brought from the now silent Carlingnose Quarry a few hundred yards away. This is particularly suitable, as a number of those commemorated, or their families, had worked in the local quarries. It is some 4 metres high on a 1 metre square base and was designed by Mr H. Motion and unveiled on 19 June 1921, by Field Marshal, Sir William R. Robertson. This was quite a significant event, as Sir William, apart from then being the Lord Lieutenant of Fife, was the only man ever to rise through the army from Trooper all the way to Field Marshall. He had been Chief of the Imperial General Staff and famously quarrelled with Prime Minister Lloyd George. In retirement he became President of the British Legion.

We have been able to analyse the 1911 Census and find that the total population of the South part of the parish (village proper) was 953, of whom 461 (48.5%) were male and 492 (51.5%) female. The males between the ages of 10 and 50 were 299. The Northern portion (Jamestown etc) had a population of 380, of whom 226 (59.5%) were male and 154 (40.5%) female. The males there between 10 and 50 were 159. From these figures we estimate that there

were some 450 men of military age in the village prior to the start of the First World War. There are 28 names from the First World War on the memorial and while not all of them (as we shall see) had actually been living here in the immediate pre-war period, this represents a significant proportion of the population. There was also at least one casualty who was not named on the memorial. Thus some 6.2 percent of the “available” manpower of the village (and a very much bigger proportion of the number actually serving) was killed. This compares with the national figure of around 736,000 killed from a male population of perhaps 22 million (roughly 3.3%). This does not take account of the fact that perhaps only some 15 million men were of military age, which would make the figure almost 5 percent nationally. In fact some 6 million actually served, with 11.5% of those in uniform killed. We are unable to produce an authoritative number of those from the village who actually served, since unlike in many other places, no list seems to have been drawn up at the time.

Local figures for the Second World War are not so readily available, but the impact on the village is considered to have been less, with ten names on the Memorial, although nationally, due in part to civilian casualties, the overall number of deaths was even higher.

It may come as surprise, to find the modern village actually has a slightly smaller total population than was the case pre-First World War, but is now less densely packed, with smaller households.

The Memorial originally stood in Main Street on the other side of the Brae, in front of what was then North Queensferry Free Church. It was moved to its present



location on Main Street in 1963 after the Church (by then in the hands of the Church of Scotland) was declared beyond economic repair. The site was bought by Fife Council in order to construct what is now Old Kirk Road and thus provide better access to the east side of the village.



There initially appear to have been 26 names on a bronze plaque (supplied by Arthur Morton, Sheffield), but two further First World War names were added subsequently (although this was done in time for the unveiling ceremony).

It will be noticed that the names are grouped with Royal Navy first, in rank order, they are followed by

the Army, again by rank and alphabetically. Unfortunately the regiments in which the men served were not included and this has made it much harder to correctly identify those who bore frequently occurring names.

Following the end of the Second World War, a second bronze plaque (Made in Inverkeithing Foundry), bearing the names of ten men who fell in this war, was added to the Memorial and unveiled on Armistice Day 1949 by Lt.Col. Napier, President of the local British Legion.



The men of the Second World War have their regiment included, although, we now believe that one is actually not shown correctly, of which more later.

Research with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, has also revealed that they have a record of a further four fatalities, one from the First and three from the Second World War, all with recorded connections to North Queensferry, who are not named on the Memorial. They are:-

1914-1918
Charles Robert West

1939-1945
John Hadden
George Gordon McGregor
David Valentine

We have also learned that in the course of the 1914-18 war there were actually two fatalities to soldiers in the parish itself, apparently in training accidents. They were:-

George Cyril Olquin Paton
Henry Ernest Stewart

It seemed only fitting that we should include these six in our research.

We initially consulted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle (SNWM), Imperial War Museum UK National Inventory of War Memorials and the 1911 Census. A list of sources and acknowledgements appears at the end of this booklet, but we would particularly like to acknowledge the assistance of the members of the web-based Scottish War Memorials Project.

It is noticeable that all those commemorated here are men. Women played their part in both wars, but this village appears to have been fortunate enough not to have had to record the loss of any. Naval vessels in the Forth, Rosyth Dockyard and the Forth Rail Bridge were the potential targets of the first air raid on Britain during the Second World War but the village itself escaped any direct attacks in both wars.

All but a couple of the men from the First World War are also mentioned on Inverkeithing War Memorial, but none of those from the Second.

The following details of fatalities are in the order in which they appear on the actual memorial, followed by those who were not included, in a separate section. We have managed to find a great deal of information about some, rather less about others and have, sadly, struggled to correctly identify some at all. The search has also thrown up some curiosities, not least the presence of several Canadians on our memorial.

For those interested in a particular individual, and unfamiliar with such things, it should be noted that during the First World War soldiers were allocated numbers within their regiment and not a unique number allocated by the army, as in the Second World War.

1914 – 1918 War

Bedell-Sivright, David Revell, MB, BA



i David Bedell-Sivright

Rank: Surgeon Sub Lieutenant, Royal Naval Division

Service number: Not issued.

Born: 8 December 1880 at Edinburgh

Parents: William Henry Revell Bedell-Sivright (35) landed proprietor, born Calcutta and Grace Edith Bedell-Sivright (28) born Victoria, Australia. They lived at Northcliff, North Queensferry. His brothers and sister were John, William and Eleanor.

Date of Death: 5 September 1915 (Aged 34).

Grave: Buried at sea off Cape Helles, Gallipoli.

Other memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial Panel 7, Portsmouth Naval Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: Former Scottish Rugby Football International. His brother John was also capped for Scotland.

Added to his reputation as the toughest rugby forward of his day, in 1909 he became Scottish heavyweight boxing champion. "When I go on to that field I only see the ball," the Rugby Football Internationals' Roll of Honour quoted him as saying, "and should someone be in the road, that is his own lookout."

His boxing style was based on raw punching power rather than technique, and his reputation was such that no policeman felt like intervening when he blocked Princes Street for an hour while lying down on the tram rails to celebrate a famous victory. When he got up, he went to a cab rank and reportedly tackled a horse.

Nicknamed "Darkie", supposedly because of dark rings under his eyes.

He attended Fettes College, where he learned rugby and eventually was in the XV. In 1899 he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, intending to read Law. He earned four Blues and played in the Varsity Match. He was first selected for Scotland in 1900 (aged 19) in a match against Wales. After playing in all of Scotland's Home Nations Championship matches in 1901, 1902 and 1903, Bedell-Sivright toured with the British Isles – now known as the British and Irish Lions – side that toured South Africa in 1903. After playing the first 12 matches of the tour, he was injured and so did not play in any of the test matches against South Africa. The next year he was appointed captain for the British Isles team that toured Australia and New Zealand. Due to a broken leg he

played only one test match during the tour – against Australia – but was involved in a notable incident during a non-test match. Despite not playing, Bedell-Sivright pulled the British team from the field for 20 minutes after disputing the decision by a local referee to send-off one of their players. Bedell-Sivright eventually allowed his side to resume play, but without their ejected team-mate.

After his second tour, he spent a year stock-rearing in Australia before returning to the UK, having asked himself: "What was I, with an average amount of brains and rather more of money, doing? Simply prostituting the one in order to increase the other. It wasn't good enough." He entered Edinburgh University to read Medicine. From 1905-9 he played for Edinburgh University, and as he was Captain of the XV for two seasons, thus he enjoyed the rare distinction of having been Captain of two University fifteens. When he retired from the game, he had been capped for Scotland 22 times.

Bedell-Sivright joined the Royal Navy on 25 January, 1915; trained at Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, and at Royal Naval Division camp at Blandford, before proceeding with the Hawke Battalion, Royal Naval Division to the Dardanelles in April 1915. He was loaned to the Royal Scots Fusiliers from 8 to 20 June, and was then posted to the Portsmouth Battalion of Royal Marine Light Infantry. About this time he wrote to a former boxing opponent, "It makes me swear that I am a medico. I'd be ten times more useful with a parcel of jam-tin bombs and a few Turks in front of me, than as a sort of qualified vet". After a period onshore in the trenches while serving at an

advanced dressing station, he was bitten by an unidentified insect. He complained of being fatigued and was taken offshore and transferred to the hospital ship HMHS *Dunluce Castle*. Two days later, on 5 September, he died of acute septicaemia and was buried at sea off Cape Helles.

Cuthbert, Henry Kenmore Duff

Rank: Midshipman (probationary) RNR, HMS *Good Hope*.

Service Number: 2205

Born: 21 May 1896 at Hopesay, Shropshire.

Parents: Henry Pierce Cuthbert (47) born England, Medical Practitioner and Catherine S. Cuthbert (44) born England. In 1911 they lived at Bankton House, North Queensferry. Mother moved to Craigeach, Pitlochry after the death of her husband.

Date of Death: 1 November 1914. (Aged 18)

Other memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial.

Panel 6, Portsmouth Naval Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: HMS *Good Hope* was sunk with all hands at the battle of Coronel. She was a *Drake* Class armoured cruiser. When war was declared in August 1914, the ship was ordered to reinforce the 4th Cruiser Squadron and became the flagship of Rear Admiral Christopher Cradock. Cradock moved the available ships of his squadron later that month to the coast of South America to search for German commerce raiders. He was then ordered further south to the Strait of Magellan to block any attempt of the German East Asia Squadron to penetrate into the South Atlantic. He found the German squadron on 1 November off the coast of

Chile. The German squadron outnumbered Cradock's force and were individually more powerful; they sank Cradock's two armoured cruisers in the Battle of Coronel.



ii HMS Good Hope

The German Admiral, Spee immediately turned to close and signalled his ships to open fire at 19:04 when the range closed to 12,300 yards (11,200 m). Spee's flagship, *Scharnhorst*, engaged HMS *Good Hope* while *Gneisenau* fired at HMS *Monmouth*. Cradock's flagship was hit by the *Scharnhorst*'s third salvo, when shells knocked out her forward 9.2-inch turret and set her forecastle on fire. Cradock, knowing his only chance was to close the range, continued to do so despite the battering that Spee's ships inflicted. By 19:23 the range was almost half of that when the battle began and the British ships bore onwards. Spee

tried to open the range, fearing a torpedo attack, but the British were only 5,500 yards (5,000 m) away at 19:35. Seven minutes later, *Good Hope* charged directly at the German ships, although they dodged out of her way. Spee ordered his armoured cruisers to concentrate their fire on the British flagship and she soon drifted to a halt with her topsides all aflame. At 19:50 her forward magazine exploded, severing the bow from the rest of the ship, and she later sank in the darkness. Spee estimated that his flagship had made 35 hits on *Good Hope*, suffering only two hits in return which did no significant damage and failed even to wound one crewman. HMS *Good Hope* was sunk with all hands, a total of 919 officers and men being lost.

Thomson, Robert

Rank: Leading Seaman, RNR, HMS *Armada*
Castle

Service number: B 3593

Born: 16 June 1883 at Cellardyke, Fife

Parents: Alexander and Annie Thomson

Date of Death: 17 October 1918 (Aged 35)

Grave: Kilrenny Parish Churchyard, Fife

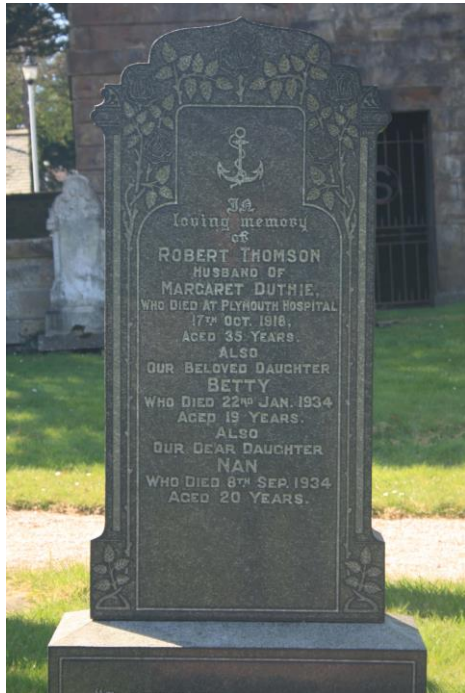
Other Memorials: SNWM

Additional information: 5 feet 9 inches tall, with brown eyes. He joined the RNR in 1905 and seems to have been a fisherman, serving in the fishing boat Guerdon FY283 in 1910 and 1911 before joining HM Dredger *St Lawrence*, HM Dockyard, Rosyth until the beginning of the war. He undertook training in the cruiser HMS *Sappho* in 1905 and the “pre-

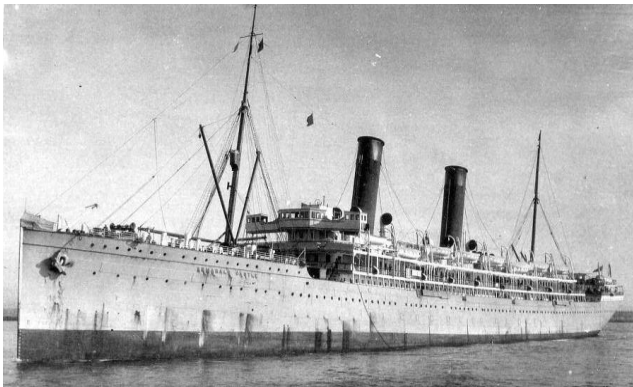
Dreadnought” battleship HMS *Irresistible* for 28 days in 1911/12, and the battleship HMS *Bulwark* in the early part of 1914. He appears to have been called for regular service at the outbreak of war, initially serving in HMS *Pembroke* (Chatham Barracks), then aboard the Armed Merchant Cruiser HMS *Kinfauns Castle* from 8 August 1914 until 30 August 1915. During this period she was engaged in support of operations against German South West Africa (Namibia), including the capture of the enemy steamer *Heinz*.

Subsequently she operated similarly against Tanganika (Tanzania), before cruising to India and returning by the same route to Devonport. He was in HMS *Victory* from 30 August until 22 October 1915 before being promoted to Leading Seaman

and joined HMS **iii Grave of Robert Thomson** *Armada* *Castle* which was a similar Armed



Merchant Cruiser on 29 November 1915.



iv HMS Armadale Castle

She operated from Simonstown, South Africa for a time, carrying troops and stores to East Africa. She then became a convoy escort from Sierra Leone to Devonport for a time, before switching to convoy escort in the North Atlantic. The ship's logs for the last few months of the war are not readily accessible, but Robert died in RN Hospital, Plymouth of bronco-pneumonia, which might have been caused by the flu epidemic. His wife Margaret (Maggie) lived at 10 Pier Place (Pierhead Buildings), North Queensferry. They had daughters Nan in 1914 and Betty in 1915. After his death, Margaret moved to Fraserburgh.

Monk, Fred

Rank: Stoker 2nd Class, Royal Navy, HMS *Cumberland*.

Service number: K/49994

Born: 7 April 1887 in Fareham, Hampshire

Parents: Thomas and Ann Monk, 17 Olive Street,
Aberavon, Port Talbot

Date of Death: 30 September 1918 (Aged 31)

Grave: 23.7 Port Talbot (Holy Cross) Churchyard,
Wales

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial

Additional information:

HMS *Cumberland* was an armoured cruiser which spent most of the war on convoy escort duties.



v HMS Cumberland

The ship had 32 Belleville water tube boilers to be stoked.

Fred appears in the Census 1911 at Simpson's Cottage, North Queensferry, aged (24) born England, Loco Engine Driver, Naval Base Works, living with Brother-in-law Charles Haycroft who was also a Loco Driver. Fred joined the navy for "Hostilities Only" on 7 March 1918. He was 5feet 7 ½ inches tall, with fair hair and grey eyes and had suffered the amputation of the fourth finger of his left hand. After brief training at RN Barracks Devonport, he joined his ship.

He died in Mill Road Hospital, Liverpool of Influenza. A Petty Officer, another Stoker and a Royal Marine from the ship all died the same day.

Aikman, Wilfrid Hudson



**vi Grave of
W.F. Aikman**

Rank: Lieutenant, 1st/6th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry

Service number: 2173

Born: about 1894 at Dunfermline

Parents: William C. Aikman, Linen Manufacturer and Margaret Aikman. They lived at Tigh-na Mara, Ferryhills Road, North Queensferry.

Date of Death: 29th September 1918 (Aged about 24)

Grave: IV. D. 43, Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial

Merchiston Castle School Memorial

Additional information: Attended Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh 1908-10. Census 1911 at Ferry Hill, Tigh-na-Mara, Wilfred H. Aikman (17) born Dunfermline, Bank Clerk, son of William C. Aikman (55) born Dunfermline, Linen Manufacturer and Margaret Aikman (55) born Lanark.

Wilfred joined the army as Private 2713 in the 4th Bn, Royal Scots. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st/6th Battalion Highland Light Infantry with effect from 6 June 1915. This was a Territorial battalion. He arrived in Gallipoli on 1 December 1915 some six months after the battalion had arrived and just in time for the withdrawal on 6 January 1916. At the time of his arrival the battalion appear to have been in the line at Achi Baba Nullah. They seem to have worked a rota of one week in the forward trenches, followed by four days in the rest area, however this area was under shellfire and occasionally also bombed by enemy aircraft. On 8 January 1916 they began to be evacuated over the beaches, initially to Mudros and then onward to Egypt, arriving at Alexandria on 4 February. They spent the next month being re-equipped and undergoing training prior to moving east of the Suez Canal and sending patrols towards the enemy. The battalion were part of 157th Brigade (along with the 1/7 and 2/7 Bns) serving in the 52nd Lowland Division. Although there were some minor skirmishes and attacks by enemy aircraft, most of the time was spent in training until 5 August, when they began a limited advance. His battalion war diary records the fact that on the 25th August 1916 he was wounded and admitted to hospital after returning with his Lewis

Machine Gun Team from their front line post N9 “Blair’s Post”, which seems to have been near “Hoder Rabah” or “Kilo 43”. At this time he was the Lewis Gun Officer for C Company. He returned to active duty again on 12th September 1916. The battalion seems to have been heavily involved in training, including the use of baggage camels, until advancing on 15 October 1916 to Salmana. His promotion to temporary lieutenant was gazetted on 12th March 1917 with effect from 18th December 1916 and on 20 March 1917 he was seconded to the staff as a Railway Transport Officer (back dated to 1 January). By this time the battalion appears to have advanced to the vicinity of Gaza, but had not been involved in heavy fighting. Wilfrid’s exact duties on the staff have not been determined, but in general RTOs acted as a liaison between the army and the civilian railway authorities. They also acted as a kind of military travel agent, arranging for men and supplies to be put on the correct train. They were also expected to ensure that sufficient vehicles were available to convey the traffic, while insisting that the units involved neither overloaded the train, nor spread themselves out and wasted valuable loading space. These were heavy responsibilities for a junior officer. His promotion to Lieutenant was confirmed, being gazetted on 18th July 1917 with effect from 1st June 1916.

It is unclear when Wilfrid rejoined the battalion, which early in November 1917 was engaged a successful attack near Esdud, but he was promoted to takeover command of C Company on 25th November 1917 at Beit Izza. The diary for December appears to be missing, but in January they were at Al Haram and once again mainly engaged in training for most of the

month. In March they were in the line at Balutah. They sailed for France in April 1918, In July they were at Vimy and by August, the battalion were serving in the Arras sector near Oppy. The war diary records that Wilfred returned to the UK for 14 days leave on the 8th August 1918 (this was recorded as the *black day* for the German Army as the allies launched their massive offensive against the Germans at Amiens). Sadly, this would prove to be Wilfred's last visit to the UK. On 24 August the unit were engaged in an attack on the Hindenberg Line and sustained heavy casualties. It is unclear on what day Wilfrid was hurt, but he died of wounds on 29th September 1918 – only some 6 weeks from the end of the war and at the time of his death appears to have been acting Captain.

Anderson, Andrew



vii Grave of Andrew Anderson

Rank: Corporal, 52nd Division Signal Company,
Royal Engineers (previously in London Scottish).

Service number: 418249

Born: about 1890 in North Queensferry

Parents: Helen and the late William Anderson, The
Brae, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 20 June 1918 (Aged 28).

Grave: I. D. 10, Ligny, St Flochel British Cemetery,
Averdoingt, Pas de Calais, France

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial.

Hope Street Cemetery, Inverkeithing

Additional information: Having been a member of the
Prince of Wales Own Middlesex Volunteers for a
short time, he enlisted in the London Scottish

Regiment of the
brand new
Territorial Army
on 10th April
1908 at which
time he was a Boy
Clerk in the Civil
Service, living in
West Kensington.
He was just over 5
feet 6 inches tall.
He continued as a
Territorial and
meantime became
a Telegraphist
with the Post
Office. He is not
in 1911 North
Queensferry
Census, but his
mother Helen (46),



viii Andrew Anderson

born Torryburn, was at School Brae with her two younger sons.

In 1914 he was a Private in 14 Bn London Regiment (London Scottish) and arrived in France 15 September 1914. He received a slight bullet wound in the left arm and a few days later a shell wound in the right arm and was sent to hospital in Glasgow. On 23 November 1914 he was transferred at his own request, to the Royal Engineers (who were looking for telegraphists) and posted to the 52nd Lowland Division Signal Company, on duty with them as from 5 May 1915. He was sent to Gallipoli in July 1915 and returned to the UK in April 1916 before being sent back to France.

Mentioned in Despatches - 26th June 1917.

Appointed acting Corporal 1 September 1917 and confirmed in rank 2 May 1918.

He died of wounds received in action.

Gilmour, James

Rank: Corporal, "V" 32nd Heavy Trench Mortar Battery, Royal Field Artillery

Service number: 109098

Born: about 1892 in Burntisland

Parents: Andrew and Charlotte Gilmour of Battery Cottage, North Queensferry.

Date of Death: 3 June 1917 (Aged 25)

Grave: P 14 Pond Farm Cemetery, Vest-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: Census 1911 at Brunton's Buildings. North Queensferry, James Gilmour (19) born Burntisland, Boatman, son of Andrew (63) born

Granton, Pilot and Agnes (54) born Tongue, Sutherland.

His Service Record does not appear to have survived, but his unit provided the divisional artillery close support fire for units of the 32nd Division. Generally the heavy mortar was the preserve of the Royal Garrison Artillery rather than the RFA, but this appears to be an exception. They may have had the 9.45 inch mortar designed during the war and nicknamed the “Flying Pig”. The projectile weighed 150 lbs and hence was awkward to load. The battery would have had four of the weapons. The effective range was in the bracket 600 to 2,400 yards, meaning that the crews were well within range of their German opponents.

Kirkhope, James T.

Rank: Corporal, 13th Battalion, Royal Scots

Service number: 16170

Born: about 1896 in Balerno, Midlothian

Parents: James (wood turner) and Isabella Kirkhope

Date of Death: 23 April 1917 (Aged about 21)

Grave: Has no known grave.

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial.

Bay 1 and 2 Arras Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: Census 1911 at Mount Hooly, James Kirkhope (15) born Balerno, Message Boy in Naval Base Works, boarder with William Reddie, pilot and family. He first went to France on the 9th July 1915. The 13th Battalion Royal Scots formed part of 45th Brigade in the 15th Scottish Division. On the 9th April 1917 the battalion were one of the front line

assault battalions taking part in the Battle of Arras. His battalion attacked near the area of the famous railway triangle stronghold and took severe casualties. James survived this battle, but sadly was killed in action two weeks later while his battalion took part in what became the 2nd Battle of the Scarpe. Service record does not appear to have survived.

Bald, Robert

Rank: Lance Corporal, 2nd Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers

Service number: 44044

Born: about 1894 at Edinburgh.

Parents: Walter, (builder) and Helen Bald

Date of Death: 2 September 1916 (Aged 22)

Grave: Il B.37 La Neuville British Cemetery, Corbie, Somme, France

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information:

Son of Mr and Mrs Walter Bald, Priory Cottage, North Queensferry and husband of Hilda, whom he married on 18 November 1915.

Census 1911, at Main Street, Robert Bald (16) born Edinburgh, Apprentice Mason, son of Walter (39) builder and Helen (37).

In 1911 there were also Bald families at Priory Cottage (John and Mary and children – no Robert), 1 Post Office Lane (James & Christina and children – no Robert) and Craigdhu (James & Mary)

Although his service record appears not to have survived, it appears from his medal record, that he was a pre-war Territorial in the Highland Cyclist Battalion, which was based in Kirkcaldy, before being

transferred to the KOSB. His widow claimed a pension and this record shows that he was promoted Lance Corporal on 9 August 1916.
Died of wounds.

Dow, John Mitchell, MA
(Born as John Mitchell **Findlay**)

Rank: Lance Corporal, 9th Battalion, Black Watch
(Royal Highlanders)

Service number: S/11185

Born: 19 March 1890 at Partick, Glasgow

Parents: David Gordon Findlay,
(House Factor, Coal Merchant
and Insurance Agent) and
Agnes, m.s. Quinney. Father
died when John was 3 and
mother re-married, William
Dow, (step-father, mason and
sett maker). They lived at
Battery Road, North
Queensferry. John seems to
have thereafter always used
surname Dow.

Date of Death: 29 April 1916
(Aged 26)

Grave: I.B.7, St Mary's A.D.S. Cemetery, Haisnes,
Pas de Calais, France.

Other Memorials:

Inverkeithing War memorial

North Berwick War Memorial.

Abbey Church War Memorial, North Berwick

Edinburgh University Roll of Honour. SNWM



Additional information: Killed in Action. Attended Dunfermline High School and Edinburgh University, Faculty of Arts 1908-11 and graduated MA in 1911. Became a Teacher in North Berwick School, East Lothian. Enlisted 1915.

Census 1911 at Battery Road, J. Mitchell Dow (21) born Partick, Teacher Student, son of William (42) born North Queensferry, Mason, Sett maker, and Agnes (52) born Glasgow,

Lockhart, Archibald Frederick James

Rank: Sapper, 12 Field Company, Royal Engineers
Service number: 4922

Born: Almost certainly in the first quarter of 1877, in Dunstable, Bedfordshire

Parents: Frederick Lockhart, grocer and Emily Davis (Lockhart)

Date of Death: 2 March 1916 (Stated age 43 –but now thought actually have been only 39)

Grave: Vl. D. 23, Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. France

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial

Additional information: Husband of Mrs. E. Lockhart, of Caroline Court, 1058, Nelson St., Vancouver, British Columbia

While he was a boy his family moved to Alston, Warwickshire and then to 21 Rope Walk, Ipswich, where by 1891 he was an Errand Boy. Although his service record has not survived, it appears he enlisted

at Ipswich into the regular army as a Sapper, Royal Engineers, probably about 1895. They trained him as a carpenter. He does not seem to appear in the 1901 census and may have been overseas. He was posted to Carlingnose Barracks sometime prior to 1909, when he married Helen (or Ellen, sometimes called “Nelly”) Syme of Battery Road, North Queensferry. They had a son Frederick, born in 1910 and baptised in the United Free Church, North Queensferry in October 1911. He may have been posted to India or Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in 1911. His wife and child may well be the Mrs Lockhart and child who sailed from Liverpool to Montreal on 11 October 1912 on the SS *Virginian*, Allan Line. When war was declared, the War Office issued orders for mobilisation of the British Expeditionary Force in accordance with the existing plan. The 13 Field Companies then at home on a peacetime establishment were reorganised to create twelve Field Companies, two for each of the six Divisions of the BEF. Men required to bring these Companies up to war establishment units came from the RE Training Depot at Aldershot (mounted men) and the RE Reserve Battalion and Depot Companies at Chatham (dismounted men). The 12 Field Company were part of the 6th Division. His medal index card shows that he first went to serve on the Western Front on the 12 August 1915 disembarking in France. He died of wounds, apparently in Etaples, which was a major base and hospital area.

Anderson, William Fyfe

Rank: Private, 2 Bn Bedfordshire Regiment

Service number: 13176

Born: about 1892 in Broughty Ferry

Parents: George Anderson (Gardener at Northcliff) and Ann

Date of Death: 12 October 1916 (Aged about 24)

Grave: No known grave

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial.

Pier and Face 2C Thiepval Memorial

Additional information: Killed in action (presumed to be in the battle of Le Transloy, Somme. During this two day battle the battalion had 15 officers and 242 other ranks killed).

Census 1911 at North Cliff Lodge, William Anderson (19) born Broughty Ferry, Domestic Gardener, son of George (61) Domestic Gardener and Ann

Assumed to have moved south for employment and enlisted in the local regiment.

Campbell, John Fife

Rank: Private, 43 Bn, Australian Imperial Force

Service number: 635

Born: about 1885 at Peterhead.

Parents: John and Isabella Campbell

Date of Death: 31 July 1917 (Aged about 32)

Grave: Has no known grave

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial.

Ypres Memorial (Menin Gate).

Australian National Memorial, Canberra. SNWM

Additional information: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists 337 Private John Campbell

in their records, however we are now satisfied that we have identified the correct individual.

Census 1901 at Forth Bridge Huts, North Queensferry has a John Campbell (16) born Peterhead, Roperunner, son of John (58) rigger, born Nairn, rigger and Isabella (54) born Kinmundy, Aberdeenshire.

He emigrated to Australia and married Amy Dorothy Chalmers on 31 May 1911 at Wayville, South Australia. He became a Coal Lumper, but enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 4 February 1916. The battalion were part of the 11th Australian Infantry Brigade serving in the 3rd Australian Division. They sailed from Adelaide in the transport *Afric* on the 9th June 1916 disembarking in Marseilles in France on the 20th July 1916. He and at least some of the unit seem to have been at Larkhill in England in September, when he went absent without leave for a morning, which earned a seven day confinement to barracks and the loss of a day's pay. He was sent back to France on 25 November 1916. The 43rd Battalion War diary records that the battalion moved out of camp at 8:00 p.m. on the 30th of July 1917, in preparation for the great infantry assault which was the start of the 3rd Battle of Ypres. They were transported by 32 Lorries close to the front at Souvenir Farm. In the assault, the battalion suffered 221 casualties, killed, missing or wounded, including John, whose body was never identified.

Carmichael, David

Rank: Private, 5th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders

Service number: 4170

Born: about 1890 or 1892 at Govan, Glasgow

Parents: David and Annie Carmichael, Brae Cottage, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 13 November 1916 (Aged 25)

Grave: I.H. 25, Maily Wood Cemetery, Maily-Maillet, Somme, France

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: KIA during his battalion's assault on the village of Beaumont Hamel (see John Rankine).

Census 1911 at School Brae, David Carmichael (19) born Govan, Clerk, Whinstone Quarry. Son of David (42) Blacksmith's striker, Forth Bridge and Annie (42). Judging by ages of children they had then been in North Queensferry for 17 years.

Although here is no evidence to prove it, it seems probable that David enlisted in the Seaforths at the same time as John Rankine. Their service numbers are close together. The Seaforths Medal Roll of Honour lists them consecutively. David enlisted in Edinburgh and his Medal Index Card shows that he landed in France on the 5th December 1915. Both John and David were serving with the Seaforths in November 1916 as part of 152 Brigade part of the 51st Highland Division. This division had the unfortunate nickname of *Harper's Duds*. Having been given the name during the failed attacks on High Wood on the Somme in July/August 1916 – named after the Divisional Commander Major General Sir Montagu Harper.

On the morning of Monday 13th November 1916, the Seaforths were one of the lead battalions positioned in the British front line near Hawthorn Ridge close to the village of Beaumont Hamel. They were flanked on the left by the 8th Argyll's and on the right by the 6th Black Watch. Their objective was to capture the

village of Beaumont Hamel – which had been an objective for the British since the 1st July 1916. There are many accounts of this battle and of note is the fact that the weather was described as atrocious, with heavy rain, thick mist and mud with a consistency of porridge. History records at the end of the day that the village of Beaumont Hamel (or more accurately its broken ruins) were in British hands. Unfortunately, neither David nor John lived long enough to witness their success. They were both killed in action on the day and are buried close together in Mailly Wood Cemetery, in Mailly-Maillet on the Somme.

Clark, John

Rank: Private, 1 Bn Highland Light Infantry

Service number: 23124

Born: about 1890 at North Queensferry

Parents: John Clark

Date of Death: 8 March 1916 (Aged about 26)

Grave: Has no known grave

Other Memorials: Basra Memorial.

Scottish National War Memorial

Additional information: Killed in action in Mesopotamia (Iraq).

Census 1911 at Main Street, Bowie's House, John Clark (20) born North Queensferry, Stone Cutter Admiralty naval base. Grandson of John Clark (67) labourer in Whinstone Quarry and (presumably) son of John (39) Kerb Dresser. There were other Clark families in North Queensferry, but this seems the most probable. His service record has not been located, but he served in the regular battalion of his

regiment, so it is possible he had enlisted prior to the outbreak of war, however his service number seems more likely to have been that of a wartime enlistment. The 1st Battalion was in Ambala, India as part of the Sirhind Brigade in the 3rd (Lahore) Division at the start of the war and moved to France via Egypt, landing at Marseilles 1 December 1914 (some weeks after the other Brigades of the Division). In December 1915 they moved to Mesopotamia. The date of his death suggests involvement in the particularly arduous attempts at the relief of Kut, where other British troops had been besieged for months. A different John M. Clark (from Inverkeithing) is remembered on the Inverkeithing Memorial.

Coutts, Albert Julian

Rank: Private 14th (Fife & Forfar Yeomanry) Bn
Royal Highlanders [Black Watch]

Service number: S/22207

Born: 21 June 1887 at Aberdeen

Parents: Jane Coutts

Date of Death: 24 September 1918 (Aged 31)

Grave: Has no known grave

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial.

Panel 7, Vis-en-Artois Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: This is the only Albert J. Coutts listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (“Soldiers died in the Great War” gives his birthplace as “Balno” Aberdeenshire, which may be a reference to a place near Crathie with which his family had some connection) and his Birth Certificate does not list his father. In 1911 he appears in the census in Edinburgh, working as a carriage groom and

lodging with another groom. We have been unable to confirm his link to North Queensferry. His service record appears not to have survived, but his Campaign Medal Card indicates he firstly joined the Army Service Corps as Private R/4/095941. He enlisted in Edinburgh and was in Egypt from 1 November 1915. He transferred to the 14th Battalion Black Watch at an unknown date. In the autumn of 1918 his battalion were part of the 229th Brigade part of the 74th (Yeomanry) Division. The battalion took part in the allies final 100-day advance to victory in Vis en Artois in northern France. During the period his battalion were in the front line between Bony and Bellicourt and he possibly became a casualty from enemy shelling.

Cram, William Anderson



ix W.A. Cram on Vimy Memorial

Rank: Private, 5th Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles

Service number: 136591

Born: 18th August 1891 at North Queensferry

Parents: William and Helen Cram (nee Bett), Beamer Cottage, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 1st October 1916 (Aged 25)

Grave: Has no known grave.

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial.

Vimy Memorial, France. SNWM

Additional information: Emigrated to Canada in 1913 and worked as a Labourer. Enlisted: at Toronto, 25th November 1915. He was 5ft 6in tall with blue eyes and brown hair.

Census 1901 at West Sands, North Queensferry, William Cram (9) born North Queensferry, scholar, son of William (45) mason and Helen. There were also his four sisters.

Census 1911 there is a Cram family, William (56) born North Queensferry, mason and Helen (50) and daughters at Main Street, Davidson's Buildings.

William Cram was born in North Queensferry on the 18th August 1891. William had immigrated to Canada prior to the war and his attestation papers show that he was working as a Labourer when he enlisted on the 25th November 1915. His address was 44 Fenning Street, in Toronto. In October 1916 his battalion was in the Battle of the Somme. The battalion was part of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade which had Regina Trench as its objective on Sunday 1st October 1916. The Canadian Corps had been attacking in this sector since 15th September and would ultimately take 24,000 casualties during this phase of the battle. On 1 October William was one of his battalion's 224 casualties. William served in A Company, which was the leading company to attack Regina Trench – Zero hour being 03:15. The war diary records that the company suffered many casualties during the advance

from machine gun and rifle fire. They did, however, capture the German first line trench which was described as “Pretty well blown in”.

Donaldson, Thomas

Rank: Private, 16th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry

Service number: 43069

Born: about 1889 in Kingskettle, Fife

Parents: George and Margaret Donaldson

Date of Death: 11 July 1917 (Aged about 28)

Grave: I.B. 5, Coxyde Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: Brother of James Donaldson, Salisbury House, North Queensferry

Census 1911 at Chapel Close, North Queensferry, Thomas Donaldson (22) born Kingskettle, labourer in Whinstone quarry, son of George, council water officer (widower).

Thomas appears to have been in the Territorial Army as Private 2373 in the Highland Cyclist Battalion, based at Kirkcaldy, prior to transfer to 16Bn, HLI.

This battalion served in 97th Brigade of the 32nd Division. In July 1917 the battalion were in the front line in the north of Belgium near the town of Nieuport. A massive German bombardment was directed at the battalion on the 10th and 11th July 1917 and this was also the first occasion on which the Germans used the deadly mustard gas.

Dowie, Robert

Rank: Private, 8th Bn., Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

Service number: S/13696

Born: 24 March 1880 at North Queensferry

Parents: James Dowie, quarryman and Jane McKenzie, Back Lane, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 3 May 1917 (Aged 37)

Grave: Has no known grave

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial.

Bay 6, Arras Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: **Awarded Military Medal.**

Brother of William (following). Husband of Jane Blackwood Dowie, of Viewfield, Chirnside, Berwickshire.

Census 1881 at Battery Road, (1) born North Queensferry, son of James (29) quarryman and Jane (30)

Robert became a Contractor's Timekeeper. He married Jane Blackwood, on 7 Aug 1905 at Edinburgh. They had sons David, born 1911 at Wick and Robert born 1913 at Cromarty. He worked for a contractor named Nott, on the construction of the ill fated Cromarty and Dingwall Light Railway, which was intended to run from Cromarty to the Highland Railway station at Conon Bridge. This was beset with legal and other difficulties. The first six miles of track had been laid and additional works over a further two miles were underway when construction was halted at the outbreak of the First World War (the tracks were lifted and re-used by the army in France). Robert joined up early in the war and was posted to the 8Bn Black Watch. He gained a reputation for taking part in trench raids. He was wounded by a grenade in 1916 and spent some time in hospital at Aberdeen before returning to the trenches. He was awarded the Military Medal in December 1916. At the start of May 1917 the battalion were taking part in the Battle

of Arras when he was initially reported Missing, subsequently updated to “Killed in Action”.

Dowie, William

Rank: Private, 8th Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

Service number: S/12648

Born: 21 January 1891 at North Queensferry

Parents: James Dowie, quarryman and Jane McKenzie, Back Lane, North Queensferry.

Date of Death: 30 June 1916 (Aged 25)

Grave: ll.H.9 Maroeuil British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: Brother of Robert (above)

Census 1891 at Back Lane, (2 months) born Dunfermline, son of James (39) quarryman and Jane (40)

Census 1901 at The Lane (10) born North Queensferry, Scholar, son of James (49) Whinstone Quarryman [mother not mentioned]

Census 1911 at School Brae (20) born North Queensferry, Labourer in Whinstone Quarry, brother in law of John Brown (34) Machine Rock Driller in Whinstone Quarry.

He enlisted early in 1916 and was posted to the same Battalion as his brother. He had only been at the front for a few weeks when he was killed.

McCulloch, George Haig

Rank: Private, 1st Bn. Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

Service number: 9741

Born: 10 June 1886 in Dunfermline

Parents: William (Merchant seaman) and Georgina McCulloch

Date of Death: 16 September 1914 (Aged 28)

Grave: Has no known grave

Other Memorials: La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial. Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: His family lived for a time in Church Street, Inverkeithing and George attended Inverkeithing School. He first became a Grocer's Apprentice, but then enlisted as a Private in the regular army, serving nearly 7 years in India, before going into the reserve. He moved to North Queensferry and became a Quarryman and Sett Maker. In 1913 he married Margaret Cant Armit, who subsequently lived at Dunrobin Cottage, Alma St., Inverkeithing. As a reservist, he was recalled to the colours at the outbreak of war and arrived in France on 13 August 1914 with the regular battalion. Shortly afterwards he was made acting Lance Corporal and attached to his company's machine gun section. The 1st Black Watch formed part of 1st Brigade in the 1st Division. George would have taken part in the first major action in which the BEF engaged the German Army in the Battle of Mons from 23rd – 24th August 1914. It was here in Belgium that the long retreat started for the allies – all the way to the river Marne in France (a retreat which lasted some three weeks). It was here on the river Marne that the allies halted the German advance towards Paris – the Battle of the Marne from 7th – 10th September 1914. It appears that George was wounded during this battle – or just shortly afterwards. He was reported as wounded and missing, but subsequently as “died of wounds” on Wednesday the 16th September 1914. As he was

recorded as having died of wounds it might seem likely that George would originally have been buried, but due to subsequent fighting the burial location was lost. The initial report of him as “missing” tends to emphasise the general confusion of the moment. Consequently, George is commemorated on the La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial.

Mill, William Guthrie

Rank: Private, 1st/ 7th Battalion. Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

Service number: S/13414

Born: about 1899 at North Queensferry

Parents: William Guthrie Mill, master mariner and Elizabeth Mill, Seabank, North Queensferry.

Date of Death: 25 March 1918 (Aged 19)

Grave: Has no known grave

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial.
Bay 9, Arras Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: Census 1911 at Seabank, William G. Mill (12) born North Queensferry, son of James G. (81) retired master mariner born Arbirlot, Forfar and Elizabeth (49).

William enlisted in Dunfermline at an unknown date and served with the 1st/7th Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The battalion were part of 154th Brigade in the 51st Highland Division. On the 21st March 1918 the German Army launched the huge offensive which became known as Operation Michael – named after the patron saint of Germany. This offensive resulted in the Division suffering some 5,000 casualties, of which William was one.

Morris, William

Rank: Private, 1st / 5th Bn., Seaforth Highlanders

Service number: S/41974

Born: about 1899

Parents: James F. and Alice Morris, of Helen Place, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 12 October 1918 (Aged 19)

Grave: A 3, Avesnes-le-Sec Communal Cemetery extension, France (Nord)

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: Not found in Census. The family lived for a time in Church Street, Inverkeithing. William enlisted in Kirkcaldy and served first as Private 293248 in the Black Watch. He was later transferred to the 1/5th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders This battalion formed part of 152nd Brigade in the 51st (Highland) Division. The battalion took part in the 100 day Allied Advance to Victory. His elder brother James served in the RFA and was killed in Mesopotamia in 1917, but does not seem to have been regarded as having a connection to North Queensferry although he is also on Inverkeithing Memorial.

Rankine, John

Rank: Private, 1st/5th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders

Service number: 4177

Born: about 1889 at Leith

Parents: Thomas and Mary Rankine, of Chapel Place, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 13th November 1916 (Aged 27)

Grave: I.G.14, Maily Wood Cemetery, Maily-Maillet, Somme, France

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: KIA during his battalion's assault on the village of Beaumont Hamel on the



x **Grave of John Rankine**

Somme (also see David Carmichael)

Census 1911 at Chapel Place (22) born Leith, Grocer's Assistant, son of Thomas (59) riveter on Forth Bridge and Mary (61)

He was killed on the same day as David, in the same awful conditions in the attack on the village of Beaumont Hamel on the Somme. They are buried close together.

Richardson, James Edward

Rank: Private, 5th Bn Royal Scots

Service number: 3079

Born: 15 Nov 1891 in Leith

Parents: Henry (ship's steward) and Emilie Richardson

Date of Death: 27 August 1915 (Aged 23)

Grave: Buried at sea, off Cape Helles

Other Memorials: Helles Memorial

Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: Died of wounds.

He was only 5 feet 3 inches tall. He enlisted on 26 December 1914, technically as a Territorial, but was immediately active. He joined the 5th battalion which in March 1915 became part of 88th Brigade of the 29th Division. The 29th Division served in the 1915 Gallipoli campaign against the Turkish army. The Division embarked at Avonmouth on 16th-22nd March 1915 and went via Malta to Alexandria. On the 7th April re-embarkation began for the first units to have arrived at Egypt, for the move to Mudros. The Division landed at Cape Helles on Gallipoli on the 25th April 1915 and his unit was one of the first ashore. His service record shows that in July and August 1915, like so many of his colleagues, he suffered from sickness and diarrhoea while serving in the trenches. He then received a gunshot wound in the shoulder and was removed to HM Hospital Ship *Nevasa* where he died on Monday 27th August 1915 and was buried at sea off Cape Helles The Scotsman Newspaper reported his death on Tuesday the 28th September 1915. His mother re-married (Mrs Pedersen) and lived in Seaview, North Queensferry.

Robertson, Andrew Black

Rank: Private, 7/8th Bn Kings Own Scottish Borderers

Service number: 40039

Born: 18 March 1873 at Church Street, Inverkeithing

Parents: Andrew and Elizabeth Robertson

Date of Death: 22 August 1917 (Aged 44)

Grave: Has no known grave

Other Memorials: Panels 66-68, Tyne Cot, Belgium
Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: Andrew's father worked as a Butcher and soon after he was born the family moved to Dunfermline.

The family lived at various locations in Dunfermline; 9 Pittencrief Street, 46 Chalmers Street and finally 83 James Street. Andrew followed in his father's footsteps also becoming a Butcher In the 1901 census he is still recorded as living at home with his parents at 83 James Street in Dunfermline. At the time of his enlistment, Andrew was living in Rosyth. He served originally in the Royal Scots as Pvt. 300982. At some point he transferred to the 7th/8th Battalion the Kings Own Scottish Borderers. The battalion were part of 46th Brigade serving in the 15th (Scottish) Division. His battalion took part in the Third Battle of Ypres which began on the 31st July 1917. In August 1917, they took part in the Battle of Pilkem Ridge, North East of Ypres in Belgium. It was during this period that Andrew was killed in action.

Miller, Robert

We now believe that his name was miss-spelled on the plaque and he was actually:-

Millar, Robert

Rank: Private, 2/7th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Service number: 267270

Born: about 1894 at Carnwath, Lanarkshire

Parents: Robert and Susan Millar

Date of Death: 5 Dec 1917 (Aged about 23)

Grave: Has no known grave

Other Memorials: Panel 3, Cambrai Memorial Inverkeithing Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: The family were living in Carnwath parish in 1901, but by 1911 had moved to Post Office Lane, North Queensferry. Robert's father was now a joiner in HM Naval Base, Rosyth, but Robert was not present at the time of the census. He joined the Highland Cyclist Battalion of the Territorial Army at Kirkcaldy and during the war was transferred to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. This may mean that he had actually gone to England for employment, but as his service record has not survived, this is unclear. The 2/7th Bn. were part of 182nd Brigade in the 61st (2nd South Midland) Division. In late November 1917 the British Army had achieved significant gains (with the support of tanks) into the German positions near the city of Cambrai in Northern France. However, they were unable to secure these gains and in early December succumbed to a large German counter attack. It was during one of these attacks that Robert was killed in action.

Pearce, Herbert Charles

Rank: Leading Signalman, Royal Navy, HM Submarine *E35*

Service number: J/1343

Born: 24th March 1892 at Ongar, Essex

Parents: Thomas Pearce and Lottie m.s. Berry

Date of Death: 1st November 1918 (Aged 26)

Grave: Atlantic Ocean

Other Memorials: Inverkeithing Memorial (where his name is wrongly spelled)

Panel 28, Chatham Naval Memorial

Additional information:

A regular in the Royal Navy (having briefly been a bricklayer), he married Minnie Bell of Pierhead House, North Queensferry on 24 July 1911 at Edinburgh Sheriff Court. At that time he was a Signaller in HMS *Africa*, Home Fleet.



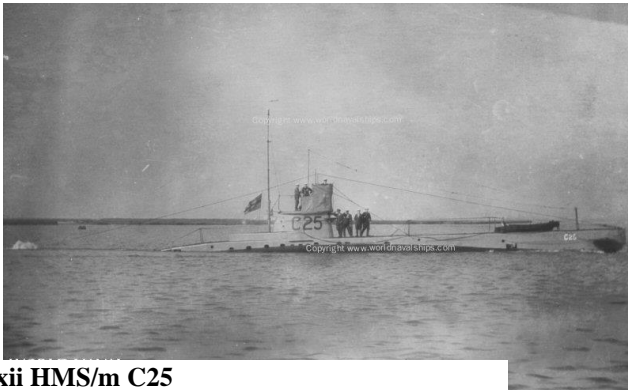
xi Herbert & Minnie Pearce

They resided at: Rock House, North Queensferry and had children Marion C. Lottie Pearce, born 1915 at Inverkeithing and Christina, born 1917 at Inverkeithing. He had joined the Royal Navy, aged 16, as a Boy Signaller on 7 April 1908 in HMS *Ganges* the shore training establishment for boys, at Shotley,

near Ipswich. At that time he was only 5 feet 4 inches tall. He had grey eyes and scars on the top of his head and on his left knee. On the 8 August he was drafted to HMS *Impregnable*, an old three-decker screw steamer, based at Devonport for training purposes, where he was made Boy 1st Class on 5 November. On 5 December he transferred to HMS *Victory*, Nelson's flagship, a holding base, until 19 March 1909 when he moved to HMS *Pembroke* 1 [Chatham RN Barracks], and two days later to HMS *Cochrane* an Armoured

Cruiser. On his 18th birthday, 24 March 1910, he became an Ordinary Signaller, still in HMS *Cochrane*. He was now 5 feet 7 inches tall. With effect from 4 April he was again in HMS *Pembroke 1*, until 24 April 1910, when he joined HMS *Africa*, a “pre-Dreadnought” Battleship, where he was made Signaller with effect from 14 January 1912. *Africa* went into reserve at the Nore from November 1911, but, in January 1912 *Africa* took part in aircraft experiments. She was fitted for flying off aircraft with a 100-foot downward-sloping runway which was installed on her foredeck, running over her forward 12-inch turret from her forebridge to her bows and equipped with rails to guide the aircraft. *Africa*'s crew tested the strength and stability of the rails by jumping up and down on them. They then held the Short S.27 pusher seaplane in place. Lieutenant Charles Samson entered its cockpit to attempt the first British shipboard aircraft take-off on 10 January 1912, while the ship was at anchor in the River Medway. The aircraft moved quickly down the runway, dipped slightly after leaving it, but then pulled up and climbed easily. Samson circled *Africa* several times to the cheers of the crew, although on one pass he came uncomfortably close to the ship. After a few minutes, Samson climbed to 800 feet and concluded his historic flight by landing safely at an airfield ashore. On 5 March Herbert was back in HMS *Pembroke 1* for two months and then joined HMS *Actaeon* a shore training base at Portsmouth associated with HMS *Vernon*, the torpedo training base from 6 May 1912. On 18 October he was back in HMS *Pembroke 1* until moving to HMS *Antrim*, an Armoured Cruiser in the reserve fleet, on 3 December 1912. On 16 May 1913 he was away to HMS *Pembroke* for one week before

joining HMS *Vulcan*, the Portsmouth shore base used for torpedo training. This seems to mark the point at which he became a submariner, on 22 May 1913. As of 1 January 1914 he joined HMS *Alecto*, a Submarine Depot Ship based at Yarmouth, but after six weeks returned to HMS *Vulcan* on 17 February 1914. On 17 April 1916 he moved to HMS *Dolphin*, the submarine shore training base, Gosport, but at this point seems actually to have been in HM Submarine C25 which was usually Harwich based, but assigned

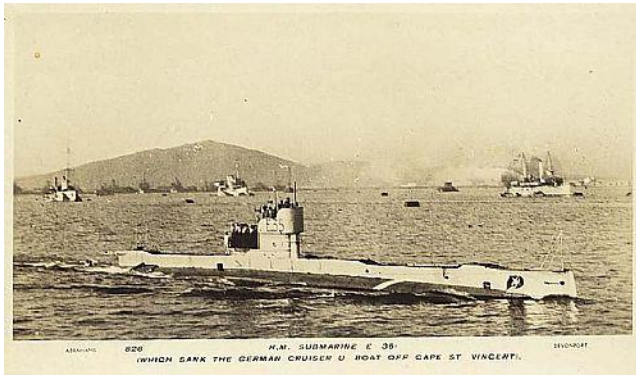


xii HMS/m C25

to 1st Submarine Flotilla in Firth of Forth for a time in 1916.

This vessel had a famous encounter very late in the war - after Herbert had left her - when she was attacked by German aircraft, and her commanding officer, Lt. Ronald Blacklock, and many of the crew were killed. The C Class submarines were 142 feet long and had a crew of only 16 men. On 23 August

1916 Herbert shifted to HMS *Maidstone* another Submarine Depot Ship based at Harwich where he remained until moving to HMS *Vulcan* again on 1 April 1917. It appears to be at this juncture that he actually joined HM Submarine *E35* [although this



xiii HMS/m E35

boat, built on the Clyde by John Brown, was not actually commissioned until 14 July]. The E Class were the first British submarines to be fitted with internal watertight bulkheads. These internal bulkheads strengthened the pressure hull and enabled them to reach greater depths. She was 181 feet long, with a crew of 30 men. He was assigned to HMS *Cormorant II* [a Trawler hired by the Admiralty] from 13 November 1917 at which point he was promoted to Leading Signaller. It is unclear what this posting entailed, but in practice he seems to have remained in *E35*. He was finally moved to HMS *Bonaventure*, yet another Submarine Depot Ship at Gibraltar from 1 April 1918 until his death on 17 November. We should note that Submariners of the First World War appear to have always been shown on the books of the Depot Ship rather than in the individual submarine,

which appears just as an additional entry in their personal record. His submarine was based in Gibraltar on special duties. With the aid of a wireless interception, British intelligence became aware of an intended meeting off Madeira between two German U-Boats. Herbert was part of the crew on 11 May when *E35* under Lieutenant Commander Guy D'Oyly Hughes, succeeded in torpedoing and sinking *U-154* a very large boat intended as a cargo carrying blockade runner. The second U-boat, *U-153*, then attempted to torpedo *E35*, which had to take evasive action. In October the boat went into dock at Gibraltar and Herbert was granted home leave. Along with two other men, he obtained passage in the Norwegian steamer *Glena*, loaded with iron ore and bound for Glasgow. On 1 November, she foundered in a gale about 140 miles North West of Cape Finisterre and he was lost, ten days before the war ended.

1939 - 1945 WAR

Cruickshanks, Duncan Fairgrieve Stewart

Rank: Petty Officer, Royal Navy, HMS *Rooke*

Service number: R/JX179892

Born: 27 January 1911 at North Queensferry

Parents: John Cummings Cruickshanks and Williamina Cruickshanks (maiden name Watson), of 3 Pier Head, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 4 August 1943 (Aged 32)

Grave: 6666 Eastern Division Dunfermline Cemetery

Other Memorials: Scottish National War Memorial

Additional information: Baptised in North Queensferry United Free Church on 19 March 1911.

His father was a crane driver constructing HM Naval Base, Rosyth and came from Resolis in Ross & Cromarty. At the 1911 census, the family lived at New Buildings, North Queensferry. Duncan's father served in the First World War in the Kings Own



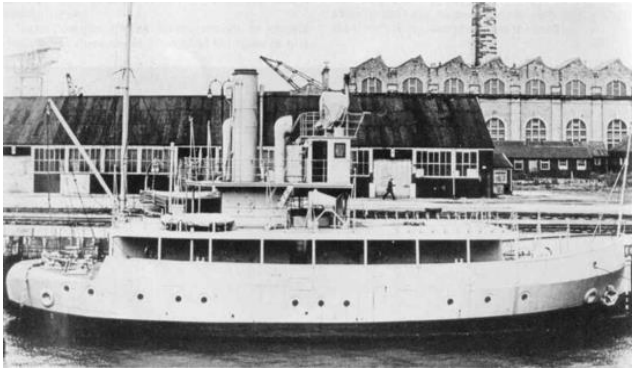
xv Duncan & Euphemia

Scottish Borderers, before being transferred to the Royal Engineers, where his crane driving skills were appreciated. Duncan joined the Merchant Navy in 1928 as a cabin boy in the tanker *British Engineer* and went on to become a ship's cook. In November 1939 he joined the Royal Navy, apparently as a long service regular, cook/seaman specialist, allocated to Rosyth and became a Petty Officer Cook, assigned to



xiv Grave of D. Cruickshanks

HMS *Rooke*, which was the Boom Defence Depot at Rosyth. In 1940, he married Euphemia Smith Allan in Inverkeithing and they set up home in Dunfermline. They had two sons, Ralph, who died in infancy and Allan. Duncan seems to have actually served in HMS *Bishopgate* which was a specialised Boom Defence Gate Lifting Vessel and formed an important part of the defences of HM Naval Base, Rosyth against submarines.



xvi HMS Bishopgate

Not long before his death he dived into the Forth to rescue a man overboard. He died, after 35 days in Port Edgar RN Hospital, of Miliary (or widely distributed) Tuberculosis.

Mitchell, George

Rank: Able Seaman, Royal Navy, HMS *Kite*

Service number: D/JX 369732

Born: about 1924

Parents: William and Marjory Mitchell, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 21 August 1944 (Aged 20)

Grave: Barents Sea

Other Memorials: Panel 87, Column 1, Plymouth Naval Memorial. SNWM

Additional information: HMS *Kite* was a modified “Black Swan”

class sloop.

On 20 August 1944 HMS *Kite* was escorting the aircraft carriers HMS *Vindex* and HMS *Striker*, which in turn were escorting convoy JW-59 to Northern

Russia when the convoy was

sighted in the Barents Sea by German aircraft. Soon a pack of U-boats attacked the convoy and one U-boat was sunk by Swordfish aircraft from one of the carriers. Two more were sunk by other destroyers. At 06:30 on 21 August, HMS *Kite* slowed to 6 knots to untangle her "foxers" (anti acoustic torpedo noise makers, towed astern). She was hit by two torpedoes from *U-344* and sank. Of HMS *Kite's* crew of 10 officers and 207 ratings, 60 survived the attack, but only 14 men were picked up alive by HMS *Keppel* from the freezing Arctic water. Five of the rescued died on board leaving only nine to make it to shore. *U-344* was sunk the next day by depth charges from a single Swordfish plane.



xvii HMS *Kite*

Duff, Ronald Walter James

Rank: Leading Airman, Royal Navy, HMS *Daedalus*

Service number: FX91971

Born: about 1924

Parents: Ronald Thomas Hilliard Duff and Margery Gordon Duff, of Craig Dhu, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 1 March 1943 (Aged 19)

Grave: Grave 112, Dunfermline, Douglas Bank

Other Memorials: Scottish National War Memorial

Additional information: He seems to have been killed in a road accident at Meriden, Warwickshire.

HMS *Daedalus* was RN Air Station, Lee-on-Solent and used as the main training base for the Fleet Air Arm.



xviii Grave of R. Duff

Mathewson, William Kenneth



xix Kenneth Mathewson

Rank: Captain, 2nd Fife & Forfar Yeomanry, Royal Armoured Corps

Service number: 88244

Born: 17 Feb 1919 at Dunfermline

Parents: William Galbraith Mathewson and Frances Gordon Black, Northcliff.

Date of Death: 18 July 1944 (Aged 25)

Grave: Grave 11 D 9 Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, France

Other Memorials: SNWM

Additional information: His father had served in the Black Watch in the First World War and during the Second commanded a searchlight battery. In 1925 the family came to live at Northcliff, North Queensferry (former home of Bedell-Sivright the First World War casualty named above). Kenneth (as he was known) became an Accountant in Edinburgh and joined the



xx 2nd Fife & Forfarshire near Caen

Territorial Army. He was mobilised at the start of the war and in due course the regiment became part of the 11th Armoured Division. They landed in Normandy on Juno beach on 13 June 1944, a week after D-Day. They were involved in the heavy fighting of Operation Epsom as the army attempted to move forward but became tied down in the thick hedgerow “bocage” country in the direction of Caen. They then took part in Operation Goodwood, the attempt to outflank Caen to the east. Again they came up against

fierce German resistance. At 0300 on 18 July they moved forward, following the more experienced 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, but were soon in deep trouble. The enemy was making good use of anti-tank guns, as well as tanks and infantry and in the course of the day the regiment lost 37 tanks, including Kenneth's and a large number of men including the medical officer. As a regiment theoretically only had 78 tanks, this was a serious level of losses. In return they managed to destroy 6 Panther tanks, 2 of the older Mk IVs, 5 German self-propelled guns, and 3 of the deadly 88 mm anti-tank guns and succeeded in advancing a distance of only 5 miles. Kenneth managed to survive the loss of his tank and made his way on foot back to the British lines with other survivors. He was expecting to obtain a fresh tank, but before he could do so, that night he was killed in a severe bombing raid, along with another officer and four men. Over 40 others were wounded in the same raid.

Cunningham, Thomas Reid

Rank: Private, 1st Bn., Royal Scots Fusiliers

Service number: 3066984

Born: 14 January 1924 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Parents: John and Cecelia Cunningham, latterly of 6 Whinneyknowe, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 24 Sep 1944 (Aged 20)

Grave: 7.K.2, Taukkyan War Cemetery, Burma (Myanmar)

Other Memorials: Scottish National War Memorial

Additional information: North Queensferry War Memorial gives his regiment as "Royal Scots", but

Commonwealth War Graves Commission state “Royal Scots Fusiliers” and this is confirmed by other information. His father, who had served in the Black Watch during the First World War, had emigrated to Canada where he found a Canadian bride. Father returned to Scotland in October 1936, apparently to assist his parents and was then followed by Thomas with his mother and three younger siblings, arriving on board the Donaldson Atlantic liner *Letitia* in Scotland on 7 November 1937, bound for the grandparents’ home in Coatbridge. Just prior to the outbreak of war they came to live near other family members in North Queensferry (the war having prevented them returning to Canada). Father and an uncle then managed to buy a house in Post Office Lane for the grandparents. His father obtained a job as a labourer. Thomas was employed by Wimpey Construction. His uncle “Jock” Cunningham, a communist who had led a mutiny while serving in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, went to fight in the Spanish Civil War, which began in 1936. On reaching the age of eighteen, Thomas was conscripted into the army. It is not clear how quickly he completed his training and joined the battalion, but the unit set sail from Greenock on 28 April 1942 for Madagascar via Freetown and Durban. The invasion of Madagascar took place on 5 May and by 20 August 1942 they were ordered to sail for South Africa. In January 1943 they arrived in India and thereafter took part in the Burma Campaign, as part of the 36th Infantry Division and were in action through North Arakan, Mandalay and on the Rangoon Road. Information from one branch of the family states that he was killed by a sniper. After the war the family returned to Canada.

Robinson, Everett Carl

Rank: Private, 2nd Battalion, Highland Light Infantry

Service number: 3328163

Born: 7 Oct 1905 at Golden, British Columbia, Canada

Parents: Edward Clark Robinson (a trapper) and Effie May Robinson, Golden, British Columbia, Canada

Date of Death: 27 June 1944 (Aged 38)

Grave: VI G 6 St
Manvieu War

Cemetery, Cheux,
Calvados, France

Other Memorials:
SNWM

Additional information:

Husband of Elizabeth
Robinson (nee
Brunton), of Golden.

They had three
children. He had moved
his family from Canada
to Scotland in 1936 to
obtain employment. His
wife had aunts in
Innerleithen, who
offered financial

assistance in exchange
for care and they first

went there, but Everett set about improving his
education in order to better his prospects and
completed an ICS course in engineering. They
eventually settled in North Queensferry and he



xxi Everett Robinson

worked in Rosyth Dockyard prior to his enlistment. Everett and Elizabeth arrived with two sons and had a third while in North Queensferry in 1942. The two elder boys were evacuated to their grandparents in Canada in 1940 as part of the government organised Children's Overseas Reception Board programme. Everett's four brothers all served in the war. One fought in Europe with the Canadian infantry, one was killed in the RCAF as an air gunner, one flew as a pilot with the RCAF and the youngest was in the Royal Canadian Navy. Everett's battalion were part of 46th (Highland) Infantry Brigade, 15th (Scottish) Infantry Division and landed in Normandy on 13 June 1944, one week after D-Day. He was apparently killed while on patrol only a fortnight after the landing

McGregor, Francis

Rank: Flight Sergeant, RAF, 70 Squadron

Service number: 551853

Born: 29 August 1921 at North Queensferry

Parents: Francis McGregor, quarryman and Annie Dick Bald (McGregor), 1 Pierhead Buildings, North Queensferry.

Date of Death: 11 February 1942 (Aged 20)

Grave: Has no known grave

Other Memorials: Column 250, Alamein Memorial, Egypt.

Scottish National War Memorial

Additional information: Francis was baptised in August 1921 in the United Free Church, North Queensferry on the same day as his brother Walter, who was a year older. His parents had another son

(Robert) in 1917, at which time his father had been a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. They subsequently had a daughter (Helen) in 1924 at which time they lived in Main Street.

70 Squadron was based in North Africa and operated Wellington bombers in support of 8th Army in the deserts of Egypt and Libya. Francis was the wireless operator in Wellington Z1166, DU-O “Oscar” which took off on the night of 9/10 February 1942 from LG142 (Gambut 2, about half way between Tobruk and Sallum, Libya) to bomb a German airfield at Matruba, Libya (south of Derna and west of Tobruk). The aircraft was listed as 'missing' and apparently no trace was ever found. His younger brother George is mentioned below (but is not on the Memorial).

McCallum, George Ker Loudon

Rank: Sergeant, RAF, 103 Squadron

Service number: 574552

Born: about 1923 at Kingskettle

Parents: Dugald and Isabella McCallum, North Queensferry

Date of Death: 29 April 1943 (Aged 20)

Grave: A 10 5 Esbjerg (Fourfelt) Cemetery, Denmark

Other Memorials: SNWM

Additional information: 103 Squadron was based at Elsham Wolds, Lincolnshire and operated Lancaster bombers. At 2057 on 28 April 1943, Lancaster III serial ED733, marked PM-X, took off from Elsham Wolds on Operation “Gardening”, which throughout the war was RAF code for laying mines. The target area was “Tangerines” which was in the Baltic off Pillau (then in Prussia, now called Baltiysk, Russia).

On the way home, the aircraft was shot down by a night fighter and crashed about 0220 at Jordrup, which is 12 km NW of Kolding, Denmark. All the crew are in Esbjerg (Fourfelt) cemetery.

They were:-

Sgt A D Nicholson (Pilot)

Sgt G L K McCallum (Flight Engineer)

P/O L Meakin (Navigator)

Sgt J C Lilley (Bomb Aimer)

Sgt T J Daley (Wireless Operator / Air Gunner)

Sgt M D Peters (Air Gunner)

Sgt A Segal (Air Gunner)

The Germans photographed the crash and after the war the story was researched by the local Danes.



xxii Lancaster PM-X after crash



xxiii George. McCallum

Hardy, David



xxiv David Hardy

Rank: Master Mariner, serving as Chief Officer, Merchant Navy, SS *Crichtoun* (Leith)
Service number: Merchant Seaman R 193143
Born: 29 May 1918 at Kingskettle, Fife
Parents: James and Catherine M. Hardy (Blyth)
Date of Death: Between 18 and 19 March 1945 (Aged 26)

Grave: North Sea

Other Memorials: Panel 33, Tower Hill Memorial, London

Strathmiglo Churchyard, Fife. SNWM

Additional information: His parents ran the Post Office in North Queensferry. He seems to have gone to sea as 3rd Mate of the SS *Baron Kelvin* in December 1939. He was 5 feet 9 inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair. David married Dorothy Heggie at Strathmiglo, Fife in 1945 and she later lived at Strathmiglo. They had a daughter Catherine who never knew her father.

The SS *Crichtoun*, Master, Malcolmson (1,097 ton steam cargo vessel, with a single triple expansion engine) was on a voyage from Leith to London when she was torpedoed by German E-boats and sunk off Lowestoft, near buoy 4AR, with loss of 22 of 25 aboard (Twenty of them merchant seamen crew and

two of her four gunners). She was probably one of the last two ships to be sunk by E-Boats, on the east coast route.

Others in the crew included:-

Anderson, William, Able Seaman

Black, Samuel, Chief Engineer Officer

Cowie, Alexander Knight, Donkeyman

Farquhar, Alexander, Second Engineer Officer

Fox, Patrick, Fireman and Trimmer

Gillies, John, Fireman and Trimmer

Grant, Robert Graham, Cook

Irvine, David Robertson, Chief Steward

Laing, Charles Ramsay, Fireman and Trimmer

MacLeod, George, Second Officer

Mainland, James Robert, Able Seaman

Malcolmson, Laurence, Master

McPherson, Andrew Ian, Assistant Steward

McSherry, Andrew Colbertson Taylor, Ordinary Seaman

Rendell, Frederick Norman, Ordinary Seaman

Stewart, Gilbert, Quartermaster

Williamson, James John, Boatswain

Wilson, George, Fireman and Trimmer



xxv SS Crichton

Watson, James Wilson

Rank: Fireman & Trimmer, Merchant Navy, SS
Empire Duke

Service number: Merchant Seaman R.343970

Born: 6 Sept 1926 in Cowdenbeath

Parents:

Date of Death: 22 July 1945 (Aged 18)

Grave:

Other Memorials: SNWM

Additional information: He had lived at 2
Whinneyknowe, North Queensferry. He was
accidentally drowned while his ship was in Montreal
Harbour, Canada. It is not known if his body was
recovered.



xxvi SS Empire Duke

The *Empire Duke* was a “Liberty Ship” and had been used for research into the problems of fatigue fractures in these hastily built ships. It is not known when James joined the ship, but she was launched on 20 July 1943 and completed in November. Armament consisted of either a 4-in or a 4.7-inch gun, and six machine guns.

Empire Duke departed from Sunderland on 2 December 1943 for the Tyne, arriving that day. She departed from the Tyne on 18 December to join Convoy FN 1208, and arrived at Methil, the following day. She took part in a variety of convoys in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean until the early part summer 1944 when she took part in the research work for several weeks. She departed from Southend on 12 June as a member of Convoy ETM 7, which arrived at the Seine Bay, France the next day (six days after D-Day). She spent the next three months shuttling between those two places in various ETM and FTM convoys, arriving at Southend on 12 September as a member of Convoy FTM 2A. *Empire Duke* departed from Southend on 30 October as a member of Convoy FN 1526, which arrived at Methil on 1 November. She departed from Methil on 24 November with Convoy FS 1646, arriving at Southend on 26 November. She spent the next four months sailing between Southend and Antwerp, Belgium with various TAM and ATM convoys, arriving at Southend on 28 March 1945 as a member of Convoy ATM 106. She then operated in various North Atlantic convoys until the end of the war. In June–July 1945 *Empire Duke* sailed from Montreal to The Downs, off the coast of Kent and then back to Montreal. She then sailed from Montreal on 11 August, arriving in Casablanca on 24 August. Although killed in a peacetime accident, James is assumed to have been at sea since the middle of the war and hence deemed to be a casualty of the war.

Those not listed on the Memorial, but connected

1914 -1918

West, Charles Robert

Rank: Private, 18th (Pioneer) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Service number: 600

Born: about 1887 at North Queensferry

Parents: Joseph and Susan West, of 27, Commercial St., Middlesbrough

Date of Death: 24 August 1917 (Aged 30)

Grave: III. B. 29. Coxyde Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Other Memorials: SNWM

Additional information: His birth does not appear to have been properly registered. His father was a contractor's engine driver, originally from Yorkshire. The family do not appear to have lived here very long. In 1901 they were living in Llanvaches, Monmouthshire and in 1911 Charles (aged 23) was on his own, lodging in Portsmouth and himself employed as an engine driver on a dock construction project. He told the census enumerator that he had been born in North Queensferry. In 1913 he was living at 21 Glebe Park, Inverkeithing when he married Sarah Turner of the same address, in St Peter's Episcopal Church, Inverkeithing on 22 March. He enlisted at Stafford on 15 March 1915, but gave his home address at that time as 100 Hut, Rosyth, presumably in the Dockyard and his trade as "Navy". Curiously he gave his wife's address as 1 Hut, Guards Crossing, Gretna. He was presumably assigned to the Pioneer Battalion because of his construction background. After training

on Salisbury Plain they landed in France on 15 November 1915. His military career was somewhat chequered as he was reported absent from duty a number of times. He was promoted Lance Corporal (unpaid) in August 1916. In 1917 he was actually court martialled for desertion, after he over-stayed his leave in the winter of 1916. He had two weeks leave at the beginning of December but did not return until the 30th. The charge was reduced to absence without leave and he was sentenced to 3 months field punishment. He was reduced to Private again for inefficiency in June 1917. The battalion were attached to 33rd Division and carried out a variety of tasks, often in the front trenches, but not actually as infantry. Despite this, during the Somme battles they at times became engaged in hand to hand combat in an effort to repulse German attacks, living up to the regimental nickname of “Die Hards”. They also seem to have been involved as infantry in the attack on Mametz Wood. As much of this took place in November 1916 it may help to explain his apparent reluctance to return over Christmas. In 1917 they took part in the battle for the Hindenburg line and then the 3rd Battle of Ypres, often called Passchendaele. It was at this time that he was killed in action.

1939 – 1945

Hadden, John

Rank: Private, 2nd Battalion, Royal Scots

Service number: 3059473

Born: about 1910

Parents: David and Margaret Ann Hadden

Date of Death: 15 December 1941 (Aged 31)

Grave: I. K. 11. Sai Wan War Cemetery, Hong Kong.

Other Memorials: SNWM

Additional information: Husband of Mary Ann Hadden, of North Queensferry. The 2nd Battalion was a regular army unit, based in Hong Kong before the war. This (and his seven digit service number) may indicate that John was a regular soldier, but this is unclear. Hong Kong was attacked by the Japanese on the same day as the attack on Pearl Harbour. The Commonwealth forces were outnumbered by four to one. On 12 December the battalion was withdrawn to Kowloon. The date of his death was the day on which the defence of the mainland was abandoned and the survivors withdrew to the island where they surrendered less than two weeks later.

McGregor, George Gordon

Rank: Private, General Service Corps

Service number: 14029651

Born: 30 April 1927 at 27 Main Street.

Parents: Francis McGregor, and Annie George Dick McGregor (nee Bald), of North Queensferry

Date of Death: 19 June 1945 (Aged 18)

Grave: Centre Section Grave 231-232. Inverkeithing Cemetery

Other Memorials: SNWM

Additional information: His Mother was age 14 in 1911 Census and her brother Robert is on the WW1 Memorial. George's membership of the General Service Corps implies that he was still in his first six weeks of basic training when he died. His elder brother Francis is named on the memorial. George became a Commercial Clerk and lived at 73 Inverleith Row, Edinburgh after his parent's death. He was conscripted into the army and within weeks, died in the City Hospital, Edinburgh of Meningococcal Meningitis and Purulent Pericarditis.

Valentine, David

Rank: Gunner, Royal Artillery

Service number: 1528214

Born: 1916 in Lochee, Dundee

Parents: David and Charlotte Ann Valentine

Date of Death: 5 October 1944 (Aged 28)

Grave: Block "S". Plot 1. Row J. Grave 10, St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

Other Memorials: SNWM

Additional information: According to Commonwealth War Graves Commission he served in 44 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, however this regiment served in Burma, not Europe. Family state he was with Heavy artillery. Before the war he is believed to have been a jute worker for a time. He married Mary Burns, at Dundee in 1942. She had children by a previous marriage. They lived at Battery Road, North Queensferry. The family were told that he collapsed

while in action with his gun, possibly suffering a stroke or similar illness and died a few days later. This seems borne out by his place of burial, which was largely used for casualties who died in hospital. His widow applied for a War Widow's Pension, but this was refused for reasons now unclear.

First World War local fatalities

In addition to all the above, during the First World War, North Queensferry was actually the scene of the death of two soldiers in separate, although broadly similar, training accidents.

Paton, George Cyril Olguin

Rank: Lieutenant, 9 Bn, Royal Scots Fusiliers

Service number: not allocated

Born: 13 Sep 1894 at Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Parents: Robert Paton and Rose Clementine (Olguin) Paton

Date of Death: 20 June 1916 at Port Laing, North Queensferry (Aged 21)

Grave: Hope Street, Inverkeithing

Other Memorials: SNWM

Additional information:

His family background was both diverse and colourful. He was a great-grandson of John Trelawny, (friend of the poets Byron and Shelley). His maternal grandmother was Zella Trelawny, the only surviving child of Trelawny's third wife Tersitza, who was the sister of the Greek warlord Odysseus, with whom Trelawny served during the Greek war of

independence (Byron died on the way). George was baptised in St Johns Anglican Cathedral in Buenos Aires. His Scottish father worked for an insurance company in that city and had married a local lady in 1890. They are noted in the 1895 census of Argentina, but in 1901 George and his mother, older sister and younger brother were living at 34 Hove Villas, Hove, Sussex. It is unclear where his father was at the time, but the family subsequently went back to Argentina.



xxvii Grave of George Paton

Scotsman 24 June 1916. “An Officer’s heroic act. The remains of Lieut. George Cyril Olgum Paton, Royal Scots Fusiliers, were interred with military honours yesterday afternoon. Lieut. Paton was engaged on Tuesday evening with a number of men who were practising bomb-throwing. A live bomb was thrown and it fell short of the objective. Recognising the

imminence of danger to several men, Lieut. Paton rushed forward for the purpose of throwing the bomb further away. He was in the act of lifting the missile when it exploded. But for the promptitude with which Lieut. Paton acted, several men, who had got out of harm's way on being warned by the heroic officer, would have been killed or seriously injured. Lieut. Paton, who is a cousin of Dr Cairncross, Dunfermline, came to this country from Buenos Ayres to enlist shortly after the outbreak of war.”

On 20 June 2016 a commemorative plaque was unveiled near the scene of his death at Port Laing.

Stewart, Henry Ernest (born Henry Ernest Pinfold)

Rank: Lieutenant, 55 Training Reserve Bn, Royal Scots Fusiliers

Service number: not allocated

Born: 10 Sept 1895 at Islington

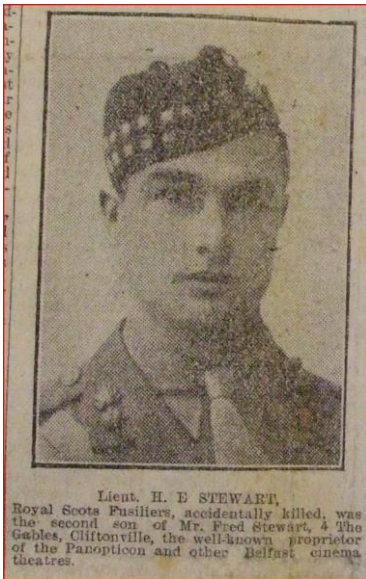
Parents: Frederick Pinfold (Cinema Proprietor) and Lily (Knight) Pinfold, of Cliftonville, Belfast

Date of Death: 19 November 1917 at Cruicks, North Queensferry (Aged 22)

Grave: Hope Street, Inverkeithing

Other Memorials: Scottish National War Memorial
Queens University, Belfast War Memorial

Additional information: Was residing at Garhill (which seems to have been in use as an Officer's Mess – Paton had also been resident there at the time of his death). Killed when a grenade exploded during training.



xxviii Henry Stewart



**xxix Grave of
Henry Stewart**

Sources and Bibliography

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Imperial War Museum
National Archives Scotland
National Archives (UK)
National Archives of Australia
Scotland's People (Births, Deaths, Marriages, Census, Wills)
Scottish National War Memorial (Edinburgh Castle)
War Memorials Trust

Individuals

Brian Armstrong (Some research on RN casualties)
Sarah Austen (grand-daughter of David Hardy)
Herbert Chinnery (grandson of, Herbert Pearce)
Cruickshanks family (for Duncan Cruickshanks)
Anne & Deedee Cunningham (for Thomas Cunningham)
Robert Dowie (for the Dowie brothers)
Robin Dunford, Vesta Darnell, Lyn Swartz & Gordon Best (for G. Paton)
Mrs Greer (for Valentine)
Jonathan Hendry (for James Edward Richardson)
Alex Morris (additional research on most of First World War names)
Alastair O'Riordan (nephew of William Mathewson)
Douglas Robinson & Wendy Robinson (son and granddaughter of Everet Robinson)
Linda Temple (for picture of George McCallum)

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Wikipedia

**Here dead we lie
Because we did not choose
To live and shame the land
From which we sprung.**

**Life, to be sure,
Is nothing much to lose,
But young men think it is,
And we were young.**

[A.E. Housman]

**When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us
And Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our
Today**

[Kohima, attributed to John Maxwell Edmonds]

**WE WILL REMEMBER
THEM**



**If you have been interested by
this book, we ask that you
make a donation to the
Poppy Appeal**