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The National Lottery
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WHITBURN FAMILIES OF **The Great War**



We Will Remember Them

Whitburn Remembers Families of The Great War Project

Whitburn (originally Whiteburn) is a small town in West Lothian, Scotland, halfway between Scotlands's two largest cities, about 23 miles east of Glasgow and 22 miles west of Edinburgh.

Originally a small farming & weaving community centred around the burn that runs through, it was once a district of Linlithgow until 1973 and a parish of Livingston until 1730 when it established into its own as the population began to rise.

About the Project

The Association is named after the Ancre British Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, France.

Our aim is to educate young people about our British Armed Forces heritage from WW1 and WW2 to the present day.

We remember all those who have paid the supreme sacrifice for our Sovereign and Nation – past, present and future.

The Association received support from Heritage Lottery Fund in 2018 to support our 'Whitburn Families of the Great War'.

Who's Involved?

Ancre Somme Association Scotland would like to acknowledge, recognise and thank the following for their valued support to this project:

West Lothian Council Museums who facilitated the project.

West Lothian historian Meg Stenhouse who taught Whitburn Academy how to research military and local information and shared her knowledge, expertise and research of the Families of Whitburn.

There are War Memorials in Whitburn and East Whitburn as well as the recently erected cairn in memory of those men and woman who were killed in various wars and conflicts.

The research into those individuals has taken over 12 months. As a result, we have learned a lot about how they and the local community were affected by the human cost of the war.

This project researched local stories about local families, purchased WW1 artefacts to use in schools and across the community. We taught young people how to research, present and create a museum.

We are grateful to everyone who has supported our Association and the schools during this project. Ancre Somme Association delivered the project in partnership with West Lothian Council Museums Service.

Whitburn Academy pupils, West Lothian who did some research on the families and town.

Greenrigg Primary School, West Lothian who learned about the impact on the families of the Great War. They learned how to create and present/display artefacts. The school also created Memorial Poppy pebbles, leaving a legacy at their school.

Whitburn Brass Band, who shared their archive knowledge of band members who served in the Great War.



How it All Began

World War I (often abbreviated to WWI or WW1), also known as the First World War, the Great War, or the War to End All Wars, was a global conflict originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised in one of the largest wars in history. Over nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as a result of the war (including the victims of a number of genocides), a casualty rate exacerbated by the belligerents' technological and industrial sophistication, and the tactical stalemate caused by gruelling trench warfare. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history and precipitated major political change, including the Revolutions of 1917-1923 in many of the nations involved. Unresolved rivalries at the end of the conflict contributed to the start of the Second World War twenty-one years later.

The war drew in all the world's economic great powers, assembled in two opposing alliances: the Allies (based on the Triple Entente of the Russian Empire, the French Third Republic, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) against the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Although Italy was a member of the Triple Alliance alongside Germany and Austria-Hungary, it did not join the Central Powers, as Austria-Hungary had taken the

offensive against the terms of the alliance. These alliances were reorganised and expanded as more nations entered the war: Italy, Japan and the United States joined the Allies, while the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria joined the Central Powers.

The trigger for the war was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914. This set off a diplomatic crisis when Austria-Hungary delivered an ultimatum to the Kingdom of Serbia and, as a result, entangled-international-alliances, formed over the previous decades, were invoked. Within weeks the major powers were at war, and the conflict soon spread around the world.

Russia was the first to order a partial mobilisation of its armies on 24-25 July, and when on 28 July Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia declared general mobilisation on 30 July. Germany presented an ultimatum to Russia to demobilise, and when this was refused, declared war on Russia on 1 August. Being outnumbered on the Eastern Front, Russia urged its Triple Entente ally France to open up a second front in the west.

Japan entered the war on the side of the Allies on 23 August 1914, seizing the opportunity of Germany's distraction with the European War to expand its sphere of influence in China and the Pacific.



Over forty years earlier in 1870, the Franco-Prussian War had ended the Second French Empire and France had ceded the provinces of Alsace-Lorraine to a unified Germany. Bitterness over that defeat and the determination to retake Alsace-Lorraine made the acceptance of Russia's plea for help an easy choice, so France began full mobilisation on 1 August and, on 3 August, Germany declared war on France. The border between France and Germany was heavily fortified on both sides so, according to the Schlieffen Plan, Germany then invaded neutral Belgium and Luxembourg before moving towards France from the north, leading the United Kingdom to declare war on Germany on 4 August due to their violation of Belgian neutrality.

After the German march on Paris was halted in the Battle of the Marne, what became known as the Western Front settled into a battle of attrition, with a trench line that changed little until 1917. On the Eastern Front, the Russian army led a successful campaign against the Austro-Hungarians, but the Germans stopped its invasion of East Prussia in the battles of Tannenberg and the Masurian Lakes. In November 1914, the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers, opening fronts in the Caucasus, Mesopotamia, and the Sinai Peninsula. In 1915, Italy joined the Allies and Bulgaria joined the Central Powers. Romania joined the Allies in 1916. After the sinking of seven US merchant ships by German submarines, and the revelation that the

Germans were trying to get Mexico to make war on the United States, the US declared war on Germany on 6 April 1917.

The Russian government collapsed in March 1917 with the February Revolution, and the October Revolution followed by a further military defeat brought the Russians to terms with the Central Powers via the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which granted the Germans a significant victory. After the stunning German Spring Offensive along the Western Front in the spring of 1918, the Allies rallied and drove back the Germans in the successful Hundred Days Offensive. On 4 November 1918, the Austro-Hungarian empire agreed to the Armistice of Villa Giusti, and Germany, which had its own trouble with revolutionaries, agreed to an armistice on 11 November 1918, ending the war in victory for the Allies.

By the end of the war or soon after, the German Empire, Russian Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire ceased to exist. National borders were redrawn, with nine independent nations restored or created, and Germany's colonies were parcelled out among the victors. During the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, the Big Four powers (Britain, France, the United States and Italy) imposed their terms in a series of treaties. The League of Nations was formed with the aim of preventing any repetition of such a conflict. This effort failed, and economic depression, renewed nationalism, weakened successor states, and feelings of humiliation (particularly in Germany) eventually contributed to the start of World War II.



Background Picture:
Zonnebeke, West Flanders, Belgium – August 8, 2015.
Tyne Cot, resting place of 11,900 servicemen of the British Empire from the First World War, is the largest Commonwealth Cemetery in the world.

The impact of the First World War on Whi

On the eve of the First World War, Whitburn was a small burgh of just under 1,900 people. Whitburn was a mining town and had few other significant sources of employment. When the war broke out, Whitburn's men were as patriotic as elsewhere and rushed to volunteer. East Whitburn, a hamlet of miners' rows, was said to have a man on active service from practically every household. (*Courier* 7 Jan 16, p6). So many miners volunteered for the forces that the government eventually had to restrict the numbers allowed to leave the industry.

Meantime, work on the new Polkemmet colliery came to a halt because the men had been re-directed to some urgent Government war work. While the disastrous campaign in Gallipoli was being fought in 1915, the pit was being sunk and it acquired the nickname 'the Dardanelles', a name that will stick to them as long as the pits continue to be a landmark, and a name that will register the tragic time of their birth to future generations. In 1917, work on the new pit had to be halted again because so many pit sinkers were being called up to the army. The pit was not eventually brought into operation until after the end of the war. Miners unable to join up had the option of joining the Whitburn platoon of the Volunteer Force, set up in Whitburn in early 1917 – a WW1 forerunner of the Home Guard in WW2.

Seven members of Whitburn Bluebell Football Club enlisted and were in training at Bramshott Military Camp in June 1915.

Women were called upon to undertake work that had never been open to them before the war. Coalmining however did not open up to women during the war, but some Whitburn women are known to have taken up jobs in the foundries of Armadale and Bathgate. Others worked at driving and delivery jobs, as bus conductresses, railway porters, postwomen, clerks, shop assistants and farm-workers. Such was Whitburn's

success in contributing savings to War Weapons Week in 1918, that a tank was named 'Whitburn'.

Several local women trained in first aid to become VAD nurses and worked at the Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital at Polkemmet House. Sir Gawaine Baillie of Polkemmet (21) was killed in September 1914, the very first West Lothian casualty. He had already offered the use of his house as a hospital, and his mother honoured his promise and supervised the conversion and running of the hospital from 1915 to 1918. Women also worked tirelessly in fundraising for war causes, comforts for the troops, and treats for the patients at Bangour War Hospital in West Lothian.

Dr Michie, the local GP, was the last Whitburn casualty of the war. He had offered his services to the army, but was not called up until September 1918. His departure was delayed by the Spanish flu outbreak in Whitburn, but he left the town at the end of October and was sent to Archangel with the 10th Royal Scots (the local battalion) shortly after the Armistice was declared, and was reported missing, believed killed.





ROLL OF HONOUR
SERGEANT JOHN CLARK
-- ALEXANDER MATTHEW
THOMAS WALKER
CPT WILLIAM J. P. STEWART
LTC DAVID FORBES
CAPTAIN WILFRED LANE
PVT WILLIAM AITKEN
-- JAMES H. BELL
-- ALBERT ALLEN
-- ALEXANDER BOSS
-- HENRI GLELAND
-- GEORGE SHANNON
-- WIL DONALD
-- THOMAS BROWNIE
-- WILLIAM BAYTON
-- MATTHEW CLARKE
-- ARTHUR WINTYRE
-- JAMES ROBERTSON
-- DAVID ROBERTSON
-- WILLIAM TONG
-- WILLIAM TOWERS
ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS
LTC ALEXANDER DALRY
PVT JAMES MICALLEW
-- THOMAS FERRANT

PVT MILTON BRIDGEMAN R.A.S.
1917 JOHN P. 1918 R.A.F.
PVT DAVID KERR R.A.F.
PVT JAMES W. BRIDGEMAN R.A.F. W.R.
1917 JAMES BRIDGEMAN R.A.F. W.R.
1918 ALBERT MICALLEW R.A.F.
1933 WILLIAM WILSON R.A.F. 1945
1917 WPT JOHN MICALLEW R.A.
1918 ALBERT WILSON R.A.
LIEUTENANT MATTHEW AITKEN
1918 GEORGE BRIDGEMAN R.A.
1918 PETER BRIDGEMAN R.A.
1918 JAMES W. BRIDGEMAN R.A.
1918 JAMES WILSON R.A.
PVT ROBERT DEAN R. N. 1914-1915

ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS
PVT DAVID FORBES
-- THOMAS LANE
LTC JAMES FERRANT
PVT ALEXANDER THOMPSON
JOHN LEGG
WILFRED LANE
R.A.F.
SERGEANT DAVID BAYTON
ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS
SERGEANT WILLIAM CLARKE
ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS
LTC JAMES FERRANT
LIEUTENANT JOHN BRIDGEMAN
-- DAVID CLARK
R.A.F.
PVT JOHN BRIDGEMAN
R.A.
LIEUTENANT ROBERT MICALLEW
R.A.S.
LIEUTENANT JOHN R. BROWN
PVT JOHN C. PETER R.A.
PVT WILLIAM L. PETER R.A.F.

LWF



REFLECT IN SILENCE AT THE
SACRIFICE MADE

1st JULY 1916



THE SOMME

WE OWE THEM A MASSIVE DEBT,
THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS
REMEMBER THEM

Battle of the Somme: Worst Day in British Military History

At Zero Hour on 1 July 1916, five battalions recruited in Scotland went over the top on the Somme.

As the day progressed they would be followed by others thrown into the battle plan of their fellow Scot, Gen. Douglas Haig.

Haig had masterminded one of the biggest artillery attacks the world had ever seen or heard; an incredible seven-day bombardment of one and a half million shells fired by 50,000 gunners.

They were confident they had destroyed the enemy's deep dug-outs and defensive systems and cut the barbed wire in No Man's Land, thus allowing even the most inexperienced volunteer soldiers to storm not just the German front line, but the second and the third line too.

Wire not cut

But the bombardment was not concentrated enough and too many shells were poor quality and failed to explode. The barbed wire was not cut. The Germans were not all dead. Their big guns were not all out of action.

Their machine gunners might have been demoralised by tons of high explosives falling on their bunkers, but soon they were galvanised by the opportunity to hit back. And hit back they did.

Of the five battalions moving off, four of them were made up of friends and workmates recruited from their local area: from Edinburgh, the 15th and 16th Royal Scots – the latter the famous McCrae's Battalion, noted for its football connections; while from Glasgow, came the 16th Highland Light Infantry (the Boys' Brigade Battalion) and the 17th City of Glasgow.

All would suffer heavy casualties, but probably the worst affected was the 16th HLI. Most of them didn't even make it to the uncut wire, let alone the enemy trenches beyond. They were cut down in their masses by machine guns and artillery.

Within 10 minutes they had lost half their strength. Those who made it to the wire, and got caught there, would be slaughtered at the enemy's leisure. And it achieved nothing.

Soon others were joining the fray. The King's Own Scottish Borderers went in next in the attack on the village of Beaumont Hamel. They too were mown down without taking an inch of enemy trench.

Minor gains

Those who had got across: the Royal Scots, the 17th HLI, the 2nd Gordon Highlanders, now fought grimly in their hard-won bites of German redoubts.

By 09:30 the 2nd Seaforths were in action doing the same. By 10:00, there was one small ray of good news: the 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers in the south with the Manchesters, took their objective – Montauban. Their losses were light.

Much later in the day the 2nd Gordons too would take their target: the fortified village of Mametz, but for a heavier price.



Families in the Whitburn district – who had

Clark Brothers

375147 Sgt John Clark 13th Btn Royal Scots was an ex-soldier and immediately re-enlisted at the outbreak of war. Both he and another Whitburn soldier **Sgt Alick Mathieson** had both successfully completed their 'Army System of Physical Training' course and passed out as Instructors. Sgt Clark was sent to the 2/10th Royal Scots and Alick Mathieson to the 15th Royal Scots. They were promoted to Sgt on passing their course.

Sgt Clark had been sent to France in July 1917 and had been wounded in the abdomen on the 22nd August that same year. His wife received formal notification that he had died of wounds in a clearing station at the front on 31st August 1917.

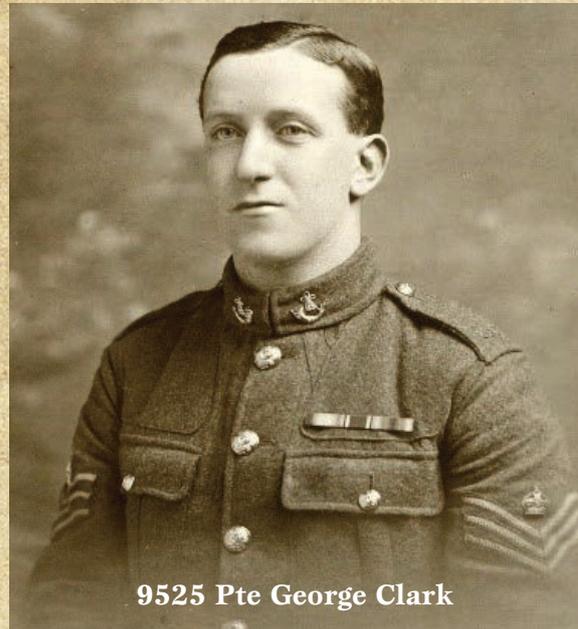
The West Lothian Courier of 7th September 1917 reported the following information:- "Sgt Clark leaves a wife and two children for whom much sympathy is felt. In his younger days he joined the Army and served his time as a soldier with the Seaforths and saw service in Egypt with his regiment. When war broke out he joined the 2/10th Royal Scots at Bathgate. He went with his battalion to Berwick and latterly he was an instructor in bayonet fighting. About a month ago he was sent with a draft to France and had only been a short time in the trenches when he was knocked out."

9525 Pte George Clark, 10th Btn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Within 7 months of the death of Sgt John Clark, his family received the news of the death of his younger brother George which took place on the 7th March 1918.

The "Courier" dated 15th March 1918 reported the following:-

WHITBURN SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS – Mr William Clarke, 12 West Main Street, Whitburn received intimation last Friday that his son Pte George R Clarke Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders had been severely wounded in France and on Tuesday further



9525 Pte George Clark

letters were received intimating that he had died of wounds. It appears that he had been wounded in the abdomen and in both thighs and arms. The following is an extract from a letter written by the Chaplain who attended him: – "Before he died, I asked him if he had any message for you, and he said I was to tell you only of his left arm being broken and his right thumb being wounded – not to mention the wound in the stomach. He said this was the kind of wound from which his brother died, and he did not want you to be made anxious about him. He spoke a lot about you and sent his love.

Pte Clarke enlisted 2.5 years ago, and he had been in France for about eighteen months. He was 22 years of age and before the war played for Whitburn Bluebell Football Club.

With regards to Sgt Mathieson, we know from an article in the "Courier" of July 1917 that he had been sent a postal order (sent by Mrs Balloch to each of Whitburn's wounded soldiers as a result of her fund-raising efforts in selling flowers), and she received this reply from Sgt Mathieson:-

G6 WARD, CRAIGLEITH HOSPITAL, EDINBURGH – Dear Mrs Balloch I take this opportunity of thanking the people of Whitburn for their

more than one son serving

kindness to me. I am making very little headway in the way of recovery. It is a year past Sunday since I was admitted to hospital, but I feel and I know that other Whitburn boys who are fixed the same way as myself will bear their troubles with more heart when they know that somebody from their home is thinking about them.

Sincerely yours Alick T Mathieson.

Whiteford Family

Of the five surviving sons of Isaac & Janet Whiteford, 3 enlisted in Army in WW1 – James, Robert and William.

2976 Pte James Whiteford, 1st Btn Highland Light Infantry – The “Courier” dated 2nd April 1915 reports the news of his death as follows:-

“WHITBURN MAN REPORTED KILLED – The sad news has reached Whitburn, that Pte James Whiteford, West End, Whitburn of the HLI, has been reported killed at the recent Battle of Neuve Chappelle. The news has been conveyed by a comrade, named L/Cpl Edward Swain who has written a



2976 Pte James Whiteford

touching little letter anent the tragic end of a brave and worthy soldier, who had served 20 years with the colours. L/Cpl Swain says;- “It is with the greatest sorrow that I have to break the very sad news to you, of the death of Pte Whiteford. He was next to me when we went into action on the 12/3/15. He was shot through the head. He died very peacefully and hardly lived a second. He was buried on the battlefield and I put a cross over his grave. He was respected by all, and everybody had a good word to say about him. He was always ready to do his work, and to do it well. His Section Sgt had nothing but the highest praise for him. You have the honour of knowing that Pte Whiteford did his little bit in the great British success. He served in India, Malta, and other countries and had gone through the Boer War, successfully. While in India Pte Whiteford was reckoned the crack shot of the regiment.

Pte Whiteford was a much-esteemed member of the Whitburn Angling Club and was known to be a keen and enthusiastic angler. Although his death has not been officially reported by the War Office, the sad event has been corroborated in another soldiers’ letter which has just been received through a Harthill source.

A younger brother **Sgt Robert Whitford** is serving in the 13th Btn Royal Scots. He survived the war and came home to Whitburn and became the Registry Officer for Whitburn & District Registry Office, there may well be some in the town whose Birth/Marriage Certificates still bear his signature.

The West Lothian Courier of 28th January 1916 tells the following story:-

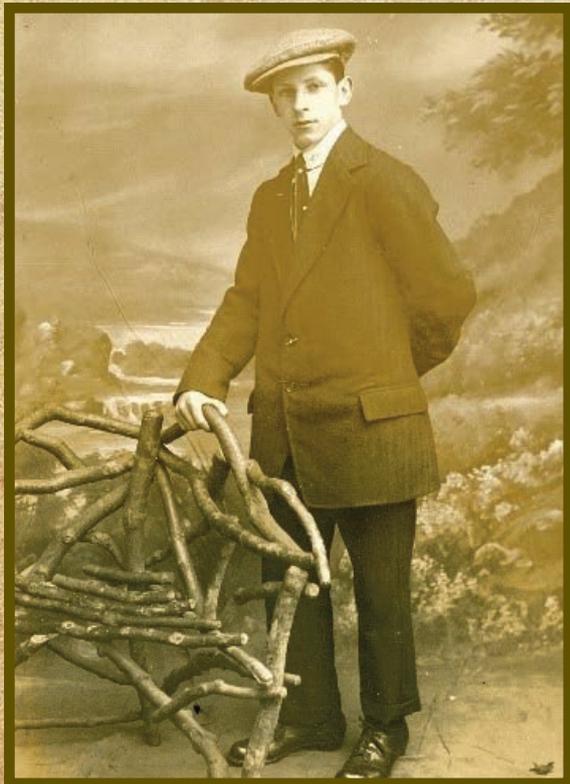
WHITBURN SOLDIER’S NARROW ESCAPE – SAVED BY HIS TESTAMENT – Among the soldiers home in Whitburn on furlough this week are Sgt Robert Whiteford and Cpl Richard Cleland, both of the 13th Royal Scots. They enlisted together on September 1914, along

with six companions one of whom has since been killed. They were in the big battle at Loos, but both came through without a scratch. Sgt Whiteford received his stripes since going to France and has had several narrow escapes. On one occasion a bullet went almost right through his testament in his breast pocket which undoubtedly saved his life. It is one of his most cherished possessions. All the leaves are holed and one cover but not the second board. On another occasion a bullet went through his bonnet and on a third occasion his equipment was shot away or destroyed. He has brought one or two souvenirs of the war home with him including the nose of a German shell and the latest hand grenade, etc.

Pte William Whiteford – *The West Lothian Courier* dated 4th October 1918 reports the following:-

WHITBURN SOLDIER WOUNDED – Information has been received that Pte William Whiteford has been wounded and is in a hospital in Birmingham.

William was a Fireman at Polkemmet Pit, where he died on 29th March 1949 of fractured ribs and perforated lung.



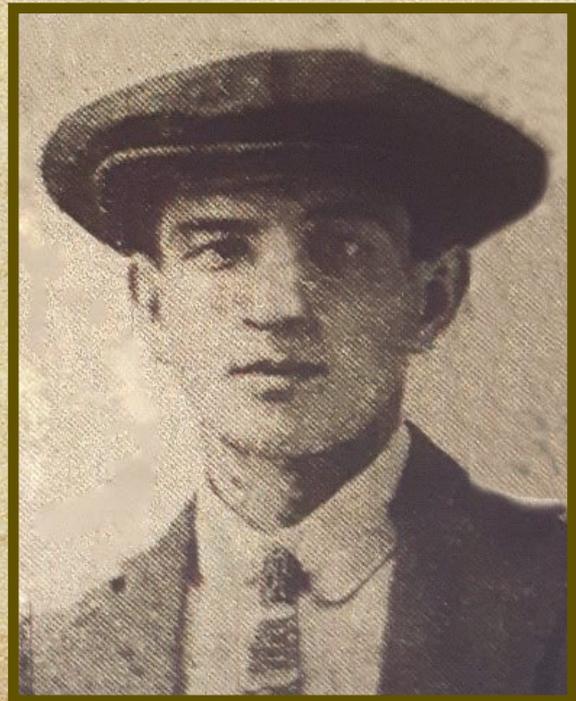
Pte William Whiteford

Tennant Family

The West Lothian Courier dated 23rd April 1915 relates the following story of the claim of the Tennant Family to hold the distinction of having four sons serving in the Army:-

WHITBURN – A Whitburn family has four sons serving in the army – that of Mr and Mr Willian Tennant, East Main Street, and it is believed that this is the only family with this distinction in the burgh, The four sons are; – **Pte Alex N Tennant**, (the well-known carpet bowler and billiardist), 2/10th Royal Scots in Berwick, **Pte Smith Tennant** West Barns, 1/10th Royal Scots, **Robert Tennant**, 2/10th Royal Scots, Aytoun, and **Peter Tennant**, 1st Royal Scots, who is at present serving in the trenches.

It is interesting to note that Pte Peter Tennant was practically the last man to speak with Pte Smith, Paulville, Bathgate ere that lad got killed by a German bullet. At that time Pte Tennant was passing Pte Smith on the road to the trenches and had handed over to him a copy of the Courier.



Smith Tennant

On the 7th May 1915 the "Courier" also reported another snippet of news from Pte Peter Tennant:-

WHITBURN MAN AT THE FRONT – **Pte Peter Tennant**, 1st Btn, Royal Scots, Whitburn, has sent an interesting letter from the front. He says they have had some heavy fighting on left and right and they have had to do a little longer in the trenches than they usually do. He remarks that amidst turmoil one forgets the days and the dates of the week out there. He added that he had seen **Pte Davie Lambie**, Whitburn the other night and he was till sticking it. The weather was now pretty warm out there, so was the fighting!

The Courier of 27th August 1915 notes the following:-

WHITBURN – Quite a number of soldiers have been home recently visiting their old haunts on the usual leave of absence. Without exception, they are looking exceedingly well, and it is very evident that "sojering" is agreeing with them.

The men included **L/Cpl James Ferguson**, Royal Engineers, (home from the front), **Pte Thomas Johnston** Scottish Rifles, **Pte J Wallace** (Cyclist Cops), **Pte George Clark**, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, **Pte Alex N Tennant** Royal Scots and **Pte Jim McCallum**.

On the 21st December of 1917 the "Courier" reports:-

WHITBURN – Mr William Tennant East Main Street Whitburn, has received official information that his son **Pte Peter Tennant**, Royal Scots has been wounded in Salonica.

The Courier dated the 4th January 1918 delivered the news:-

WHITBURN ROYAL SCOT KILLED – Pte Smith Tennant, Royal Scots Fusiliers (son of Mr William Tenant, East Main Street, Whitburn), who has been reported missing since 13th November 1916, is now officially presumed killed on that date or since. He was a County Territorial when war broke out in 1914 and was stationed for some time with his battalion on the East Coast. He went to France in August 1916 and passed out some three months later and the following week, 11th January 1918 published the following:-

WHITBURN BANDSMAN KILLED – We publish portrait of Pte Smith Tennant, RSF, who, as we noted in our issue last week, is now officially held to be killed. He was notified missing on 13th November 1916.

East Whitburn Hannan Family
Midlothian Advertiser 25th June 1915

WHITBURN MAN'S RECORD – **Pte John Hannan**, East Whitburn, of the Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons) is at present home on leave of absence, he having to return this week. This is his first-time home since the war broke out. He has been through the whole terrible ten months of war, taken part in all the big engagements, and has been lucky enough to escape scathless practically. He was one of the men who saw Lieut Sir Gawaine Baillie falling in the taking of a village, an event that threw a gloom over the company. Naturally Pte Hannan could tell a long story about his experiences but he like many others home from the front, prefers to say as little as possible about the war. It could early be seen from what he did say that he had been in many a tight corner and had had many narrow escapes particularly in several dashing bayonet charges. Pte Hannan is a member of that family of four sons who responded to the country's call. In addition to himself, there are **Pte J and P Hannan**, who have been wounded, **Pte H Hannan** and **Pte Jack Mayes** – a brother in law.



Did You Know?

Many men killed in the trenches were buried almost where they fell. If a trench subsided, or new trenches or dugouts were needed, large numbers of decomposing bodies would be found just below the surface. These corpses, as well as the food scraps that littered the trenches, attracted rats. One pair of rats can produce 880 offspring in a year and so the trenches were soon swarming with them.

Some of these rats grew extremely large. One soldier wrote: *"The rats were huge. They were so big they would eat a wounded man if he couldn't defend himself."* These rats became very bold and would attempt to take food from the pockets of sleeping men. Two or three rats would always be found on a dead body. They usually went for the eyes first and then they burrowed their way right into the corpse.

One soldier described finding a group of dead bodies while on patrol: *"I saw some rats running from under the dead men's greatcoats, enormous rats, fat with human flesh. My heart pounded as we edged towards one of the bodies. His helmet had rolled off. The man displayed a grimacing face, stripped of flesh; the skull bare, the eyes devoured and from the yawning mouth leapt a rat."*

The picture above shows the result of 15 minute's rat-hunting in a French trench. Note the Jack Russell Terrier in the gentleman's arms at left.

Whitburn Children Learn

Young people from Greenrigg Primary School, learned about WW1 artefacts that would have been the only memories of local men after the Great War ended. They learned about local men who fought for King & Country, they handled medals, the dead man's penny, old uniforms, post cards, regiments, Royal Navy, Merchant Navy, British Army, Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force. They learned how to label and create an exhibition. They also painted pebbles, leaving a legacy of this HLF project in memory of WW1 soldiers and families of the Great War from Whitburn.



Whitburn Band

The Midlothian Advertiser of 16th July 1915 reports eight of the local bandsmen have enlisted in the 5th Royal Scots. It is expected that other four members of the band who are serving in other regiments will be transferred so as to assist in competing the band. A complete set of instruments await the men. Other members of the Band are expected to follow the example of those who have gone to Peebles. A week later the Midlothian Advertiser of 23rd July 1915, states that Band members who enlisted are now at Peebles and may soon be heard in the county at a recruiting rally. The departure of so many members left a number of blanks, but these are being gradually filled up. Later on, the Advertiser of 17th September 1915, reports that some 14 Whitburn members of his Majesty's fighting forces were home for the week-end, making the largest number of Whitburn solders in the burgh at one time. Amongst them were six of the Whitburn bandsmen who joined the 3/5th Royal Scots (Queen's Edinburgh Rifles), who along with a number of Carriden and Laurieston bandsmen make up the regimental bands. It wasn't long before the first casualty was reported in the West Lothian Courier of 20th November 1914 that a promising young soldier in the person of Pte Thomas Gilchrist gunner in the KOSB and son of Mr Thomas Gilchrist East Main Street Whitburn has been killed in action on the 14th ult. His father received the sad news on Friday last. Much sympathy is extended to them in their great bereavement. The deceased solder who was only 23 years of age had prior to joining the KOSB, in the machine gun section, served as a baker with Mr J Hunter, Whitburn. He was well known and respected amongst the young men of Whitburn and in the Whitburn Public Band of which his father had been conductor for a long so long and had just retired from that post, he had been a valued member. While in the KOSB he was a member of the tug of

war team and was considered a fine gymnast and athlete. He was one of the first of the British soldiers to out to the front and took part in the Mons affray in which the machine gun section of the KOSB did excellent work. No details are to hand yet as to how the brave and cheery lad met his death.

The next death of a bandsman to be reported was that of Pte Matthew Glasgow, in the West Lothian Courier of 25th August 1916 when it was reported that Pte Matthew Glasgow, whose wife resides at West Whitburn has been killed in action, but no official confirmation has yet been received. Pte Glasgow was in the 2/10th Royal Scots and attached to the KOSB. Information was sent in a letter from a chum, Pte Hector Smillie to Mrs Glasgow, mother of Pte Glasgow who lives in Shotts Road, Fauldhouse. He said Pte Glasgow had fallen by his side and never felt his death. Pte Glasgow went to France about four weeks ago, with a draft from the 2/10th Royal Scots. He was employed in Polkemmet Pit before he enlisted and was an accomplished bandsman.

The West Lothian Courier of 1st December 1916 reports that Pte Thomas Johnstone, Scottish Rifles, whose home is in Johnstone's Buildings, West Whitburn is reported to have been wounded in the head at Salonika. He is now in hospital but has so far recovered that he has been able to write home. He was a member of Whitburn Band for many years. Then Pte Johnstone was reported wounded for the second time in the West Lothian Courier of 1st June 1917, the report stated that Thomas Johnstone, a private in the Scottish Rifles, whose home address is Lea Street, Whitburn is reported to have been wounded at Salonika. This is the second time he has been wounded. On the first occasion, he was severely wounded in the head and was a considerable time in hospital. On the second occasion, he was



(Photograph from the Courier 4th January 1918)

wounded in the left hand only two days after he had rejoined his regiment. He joined the forces voluntarily about two years ago and has never been home on furlough. He was at one time was a member of Whitburn Public Band.

Another bandsman was reported in the West Lothian Courier 31st March 1916 which stated that a photograph of Pte Johnstone, Hunter's Close, appeared in the "Daily Record" this week. Pte Johnstone is the father of 13 children and is a bandsman in the Royal Scots. Before he enlisted he played in Whitburn band with which he has been connected since his early days. His father before him also took an active interest in Whitburn Band and was sometimes called the "father of the Band."

Not all of the Bandsmen were in Salonika or the Western Front, the Courier of 27th July 1917 printed a copy of a letter from No 43237 Pte F M Brown, No 4 Camp, 36 Hut, D Coy, Royal Scots SC Depot Randalstown, Ireland - Dear Madam, I can hardly express my gratitude to Whitburn people for their kindness and I kindly thank the Committee and yourself for raising the sum of money to divide among the boys as a reminder from the Whitburn people. I am sure the boys will appreciate the kindness. Well I may say I got

a surprise when got the letter and the PO in it, for I was past thinking about the Gala Day at the time I got the letter and I am sure the boys would be like me - wishing they had been at home for that day. I have played in the band every Gala Day except this one, but I trust the war will be finished soon and all the boys back for the next Gala Day. Well I am getting on splendid, but I am still getting electric treatment and massage yet. But I will be lucky if I get another month or so here, then I will be sent to Glencorse, I am yours sincerely, F M Brown.

The last member of the Band to be reported killed in the West Lothian Courier of 4th January 1918 states that Mr W Aitken, Ochil View, Whitburn, has received official intimation that his son William Aitken Royal Scots was killed by a shell in France on 3rd December 1917. No other particulars or letters regarding the young man's death have yet come to hand. He joined the Queen's Edinburgh Rifles two and a half years ago when he was only 17 years old, and before proceeding to France was for a short time in Egypt. Before enlistment he was a member of Whitburn Public Band which he joined when he was twelve years old. He was only in his 20th year at the time of his death.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

MILITARY WING



VACANCIES EXIST

FOR

Men aged 18 to 30 of various mechanical trades, and others of good education.

They should apply to the nearest Recruiting Officer, or write for particulars to Headquarters, Royal Flying Corps, (M.W.), South Farnborough, Hants.



REPAIR LORRY.



ARMY AEROPLANE B.E. TYPE.

PAY.

2nd Class Air Mechanic	2/-	per day.
1st " " "	4/-	" "
Corporal " " "	5/-	" "
Sergeant " " "	6/-	" "
Flight Sergeant " " "	7/-	" "
Warrant Officer " " "	9/-	" "

Men selected to be trained as Flyers will receive in addition 2/- or 4/- per diem.

Free Clothing and necessaries, quarters, rations, fuel and light, and medical attendance.

One month's furlough per annum on full pay.

When transferred to the Army Reserve a soldier of the Corps will receive an annual gratuity of £10 in lieu of Reserve Pay.



If, while serving in the Reserve, he is placed on the first Reserve as a flyer, he receives a further £10 per annum, subject to his performing a Quarterly Flying Test.

Men of the following trades and professions are specially required :

Blacksmiths, Coppersmiths, Acetylene Welders, Instrument Repairers, Motor Fitters, and Aeroplane Mechanics.

GOD SAVE THE KING

Royal
Flying
Corps



1912 - 1918
Lest we Forget

Royal Flying Corps

The Royal Flying Corps (RFC) was the air arm of the British Army before and during the First World War, until it merged with the Royal Naval Air Service on 1 April 1918 to form the Royal Air Force. During the early part of the war, the RFC supported the British Army by artillery co-operation and photographic reconnaissance. This work gradually led RFC pilots into aerial battles with German pilots and later in the war included the strafing of enemy infantry and emplacements, the bombing of German military airfields and later the strategic bombing of German industrial and transport facilities.

At the start of World War I the RFC, commanded by Brigadier-General Sir David Henderson, consisted of five squadrons – one observation balloon squadron (RFC No 1 Squadron) and four aeroplane squadrons. These were first used for aerial spotting on 13 September 1914 but only became efficient when they perfected the use of wireless communication at Aubers Ridge on 9 May 1915. By 1918, photographic images could be taken from 15,000 feet and were interpreted by over 3,000 personnel. Parachutes were not available to pilots of heavier-than-air craft in the RFC, although the Calthrop Guardian Angel parachute was officially adopted just as the war ended. By this time parachutes had been used by balloonists for three years.

On 17 August 1917, South African General Jan Smuts presented a report to the War Council on the future of air power. Because of its potential for the 'devastation of enemy lands and the destruction of industrial and populous centres on a vast scale', he recommended a new air service be formed that would be on a level with the Army and Royal Navy. The formation of the new service would also make the under-used men and machines of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) available for action on the Western Front and end the inter-service rivalries that at times had adversely affected aircraft procurement. On 1 April 1918, the RFC and the RNAS were amalgamated to form a new service, the Royal Air Force

(RAF), under the control of the new Air Ministry. After starting in 1914 with some 2,073 personnel, by the start of 1919 the RAF had 4,000 combat aircraft and 114,000 personnel in some 150 squadrons.

The RFC was also responsible for the manning and operation of observation balloons on the Western front. When the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) arrived in France in August 1914, it had no observation balloons and it was not until April 1915 that the first balloon company was on strength, albeit on loan from the French *Aérostiers*. The first British unit arrived 8 May 1915, and commenced operations during the Battle of Aubers Ridge. Operations from balloons thereafter continued throughout the war. Highly hazardous in operation, a balloon could only be expected to last a fortnight before damage or destruction. Results were also highly dependent on the expertise of the observer and was subject to the weather conditions. To keep the balloon out of the range of artillery fire, it was necessary to locate the balloons some distance away from the front line or area of military operations. However, the stable platform offered by a kite-balloon made it more suitable for the cameras of the day than an aircraft.

For the first half of the war, as with the land armies deployed, the French air force vastly outnumbered the RFC, and accordingly did more of the fighting. Despite the primitive aircraft, aggressive leadership by RFC commander Hugh Trenchard and the adoption of a continually offensive stance operationally in efforts to pin the enemy back led to many brave fighting exploits and high casualties – over 700 in 1916, the rate worsening thereafter, until the RFC's nadir in April 1917 which was dubbed 'Bloody April'.

This aggressive, if costly, doctrine did however provide the Army General Staff with vital and up-to-date intelligence on German positions and numbers through continual photographic and observational reconnaissance throughout the war.

Did You Know?

On September 7th 1920, in strictest secrecy four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme.

None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why. The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-Sur-ter noise.

There the bodies were draped with the union flag. Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and a colonel gell selected one body at random.

A French honour guard was selected, and stood by the coffin overnight. In the morning of the 8th (a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court, was brought and the unknown warrior placed inside.

On top was placed a crusaders sword and a shield on which was inscribed '(a British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for king and country)'

On The 9th of November the unknown warrior was taken by horse drawn carriage through guards of honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle.

Calls to the quayside. There it was saluted by Marechal Foche and loaded onto HMS Vernon bound for Dover . . . the coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths and surrounded by the French honour guard.

On arrival at Dover the the unknown warrior was greeted with a 19 gun salute, normally only reserved for field marshals. He then traveled by special train to Victoria Station London.

He stayed there overnight and on the morning of the 11th of November he was taken to Westminster Abbey where he was



placed in a tomb at the west end of the nave – his grave was filled in using 100 sandbags of earth from the battlefields.

When the Duke of York (later King George VI) married Lady Ellizabeth Bowes Lyons in the Abbey in 1923 she left her wedding bouquet on the grave as a mark of respect (she had lost a brother during the war) Since then all royal brides married in the Abbey have sent back their bouquets to be laid on the grave.

The idea of the unknown soldier was thought of by a Padre called David Railton who had served at the front during the great war and it was the union flag they used as an altar cloth at the front, that had been draped over the coffin.

It is the intention that all relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the unknown warrior could very well be their lost husband, Father, brother or son.



Sir Gawaine George Stuart Baillie

The first West Lothian casualty of the War was also the person with the highest social rank – Sir Gawaine Baillie, baronet, of Polkemmet.

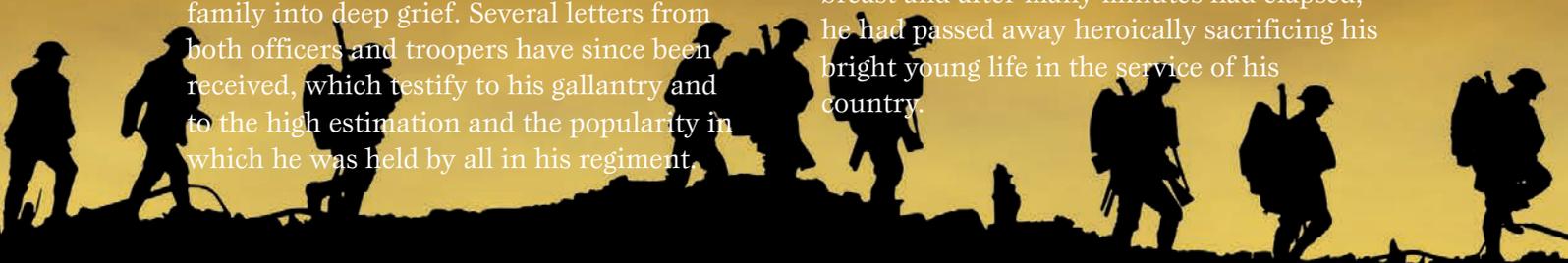
West Lothian Courier 13th November 1914

Sir Gawaine Baillie of Polkemmet, Killed in Battle – How sleep the Brave, who sink to rest, by all their Country's wishes blest! Profound regret was experienced last weekend throughout the whole county when the lamentable tidings arrived announcing the death of Sir Gawaine Baillie, Bart, of Polkemmet, Whitburn. Lieutenant in the Royal Scots Greys, who had been killed in action while bravely and gallantly leading his men to the charge. Cut off in the bloom of youth his death has cast a deep gloom over the Whitburn district. Polkemmet is plunged into sorrow at the tragic, yet glorious end on the battlefield of the young Laird whose frank, sunny disposition towards all with whom he came in contact won him friends everywhere. He was a general favourite with his brother officers and men and was known to be a capable and dauntless officer.

The sad news first arrived at Polkemmet on Friday last, but as the date of the death was as far back as the 7th inst, some doubt was at first felt as to the reliability of the report. Her Ladyship (Sir Gawaine's mother) however, received later an official telegram from Lord Kitchener confirming the regrettable tidings which have plunged the family into deep grief. Several letters from both officers and troopers have since been received, which testify to his gallantry and to the high estimation and the popularity in which he was held by all in his regiment.



It was reported at the outset, that Sir Gawaine had received a wound in his right hand and had been under medical treatment. Impatient to be again in the field, he obtained leave to re-join his men after his wound was completely healed, and it is stated that although he was unable to hold his sword he rode into battle at the head of his men unarmed, determined to do his duty to the last, as far as in him lay. His dauntless conduct and unexampled courage acted as a spur to his men, who responded with a cheer. Unhappily, the intrepid young officer had not gone far when he was shot in the breast and after many minutes had elapsed, he had passed away heroically sacrificing his bright young life in the service of his country.



REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE

ROYAL NAVY

DURING WAR AND PEACE



THEIR SACRIFICE WILL BE REMEMBERED
THROUGH THE AGES
REMEMBER! REFLECT! & RESPECT!

"Lest we Forget"

History Beneath the Waves

Scapa Flow is a body of water about 120 square miles in area and with an average depth of 30 to 40 metres. The Orkney Mainland and South Isles encircle Scapa Flow, making it a sheltered harbour with easy access to both the North Sea and Atlantic Ocean.

The name Scapa Flow comes from the Old Norse Skalpaflói, meaning ‘bay of the long isthmus’, which refers to the thin strip of land between Scapa Bay and the town of Kirkwall.

Scapa Flow has been used as a harbour since Viking times, the name Skalpaflói being given to it by the Vikings. However, it wasn’t until the Napoleonic wars of the early 1800s that the Admiralty first took an interest in Scapa Flow. The Admiralty used the area as a deep water anchorage for trading ships waiting to cross the North Sea to Baltic ports. Two Martello Towers were built on either side of Longhope in order to defend these trading ships until a warship arrived to escort them to the Baltic Sea.

Subsequent wars were waged against countries including France, Spain and the Netherlands – as such a northern naval base became unnecessary. However, by the early 20th century the Admiralty once again looked at Scapa Flow. This time it was to defend against a new enemy: Germany. Scapa Flow was ideally situated to provide a safe anchorage in the north with easy access to open waters. If the Admiralty were to rely on the Firth of Forth further south, there was a real risk their ships could be trapped if a minefield was placed across its mouth.

World War I

At the outbreak of World War I defences were put in place to guard the Grand Fleet in its new home. Coast defence batteries were built and boom defences, including

anti-submarine nets, were stretched over the entrances to prevent enemy vessels from penetrating Scapa Flow. Old merchant ships were also sunk as blockships to prevent access through the channels.

It was from this well guarded naval base that the Grand Fleet sailed in May 1916 to engage in battle with the German High Seas Fleet at the Battle of Jutland. On 5 June in the aftermath of the battle, the Minister of War – Lord Kitchener – visited the Grand Fleet in Scapa Flow on his way to Russia for a goodwill visit. He never made it to Russia. She sank in twenty minutes with a loss of 737 men (Orcadian 2015: 21) including Lord Kitchener, only 12 of the company survived.

A greater loss of life would be suffered the following year when the battleship HMS Vanguard exploded at anchor in Scapa Flow with the loss of 843 men; only two of those on board survived. It is thought that spontaneous combustion of cordite triggered the devastating explosions.

As part of the Armistice agreement at the end World War I, Germany had to surrender most of its fleet. A total of 74 ships of the German High Seas Fleet arrived in Scapa Flow for internment.

On 21 June 1919, under the mistaken belief that peace talks had failed, Rear Admiral Ludwig von Reuter gave the command to scuttle the entire fleet in the Flow. A total of 52 ships went to the seafloor and this remains the greatest loss of shipping ever recorded in a single day.

The majority of the German ships were raised in one of the largest ever salvage operations in history. Only seven of the 52 ships remain in the Flow, although evidence of others can still be seen in some locations on the bottom of Scapa Flow.

Polkemmet Hospital

On 16th November, 1915, Polkemmet House in Whitburn opened as an Auxiliary Red Cross Hospital. This had been the wish of its owner, Sir Gawaine Baillie, who in the very first week of the war, offered his house as a hospital and to pay the running costs.

Poor Sir Gawaine didn't live to see his wish fulfilled – he was the very first West Lothian man to be killed in the war, killed while fighting in Belgium on 7 September 1914 – almost within the very first month of the war. His mother, Lady Baillie was anxious to fulfil her son's wishes, and took up the task of converting the main rooms on the ground floor of her house into a hospital: 20 beds in the music room, 11 in the dining room and 9 in the drawing room. Lady Baillie looked to the community to give her help - with money, but also in very practical ways like taking in 'part of the very large washing which must be sent out every week', and donating towels, blankets, games, a piano, food, books, a billiard table, etc. The hall at Polkemmet was set up as a games room, with the billiard table, a bowling alley and other indoor games.

Red Cross Auxiliary hospitals took patients who were convalescing and no longer needed the intensive nursing of a military hospital. Most of Polkemmet's patients came from Bangour War Hospital, and would spend a few weeks at Pokemmet building up their strength before being discharged back into the forces – or possibly discharged as no longer fit for military service. Polkemmet Hospital was mainly staffed by VAD nurses – partly trained volunteer nurses, many of them from Armadale and Whitburn. One of these was Margaret Dean of Whitburn, a local teacher, who went on to become a town councillor, a stalwart of the gala day committee, and has a street named after her in Whitburn. She died as recently as 1972, aged 96. Dr Michie of Whitburn and Dr Millar of Harthill provided medical oversight of the hospital, and its 'commandant' was Lady Baillie herself, a formidable woman. Her nieces, Miss Caroline and Miss Violet Wilkie served as VAD nurses.

In 1916, Princess Christian, the fifth child of Queen Victoria, paid a visit to Polkemmet Hospital. 'Each ward was beautifully decorated with flowers and plants and the whole hospital was looking most beautiful. There are forty wounded soldiers in the Hospital, and these men were all standing at attention at their beds... As Her Royal Highness drove away, the soldiers who had formed up in line, gave three hearty cheers. Tea was thereafter served in the Staff Room to the other visitors.

In 1917 the hospital closed for 'a thorough overhaul', and reopened at the beginning of November. It continued to care for the wounded soldiers until its closure on 9 January 1919. At the final social gathering, 'each of the men was presented with a cigarette case, and afterwards the nurses and the men took part in a treasure hunt, with prizes for all engaged.' Polkemmet House reverted to being the home of the Baillie family.



Patients at Polkemmet



One of the wards in Polkemmet Auxiliary Hospital

The Story of Whitburn and District Heroes War Memorial

WHITBURN'S RESPONSE TO THE FALLEN OF 1ST WORLD WAR

Since the first few weeks of the war the people of Whitburn were well aware of the human cost of the conflict.

The town had lost its young Laird within the first few weeks of the start of the War when Sir Gwaine Baillie Bart, was killed in action in early September 1914.

Apart from the loss of men who had been called up for service and those volunteering, the Community's support to the war effort increased when Lady Baillie offered the use of Polkemmet House as an Auxiliary Hospital for wounded service men. You can see from this photograph areas of the house

were transformed into this function. This must have been a bitter sweet moment considering the death of her eldest son.

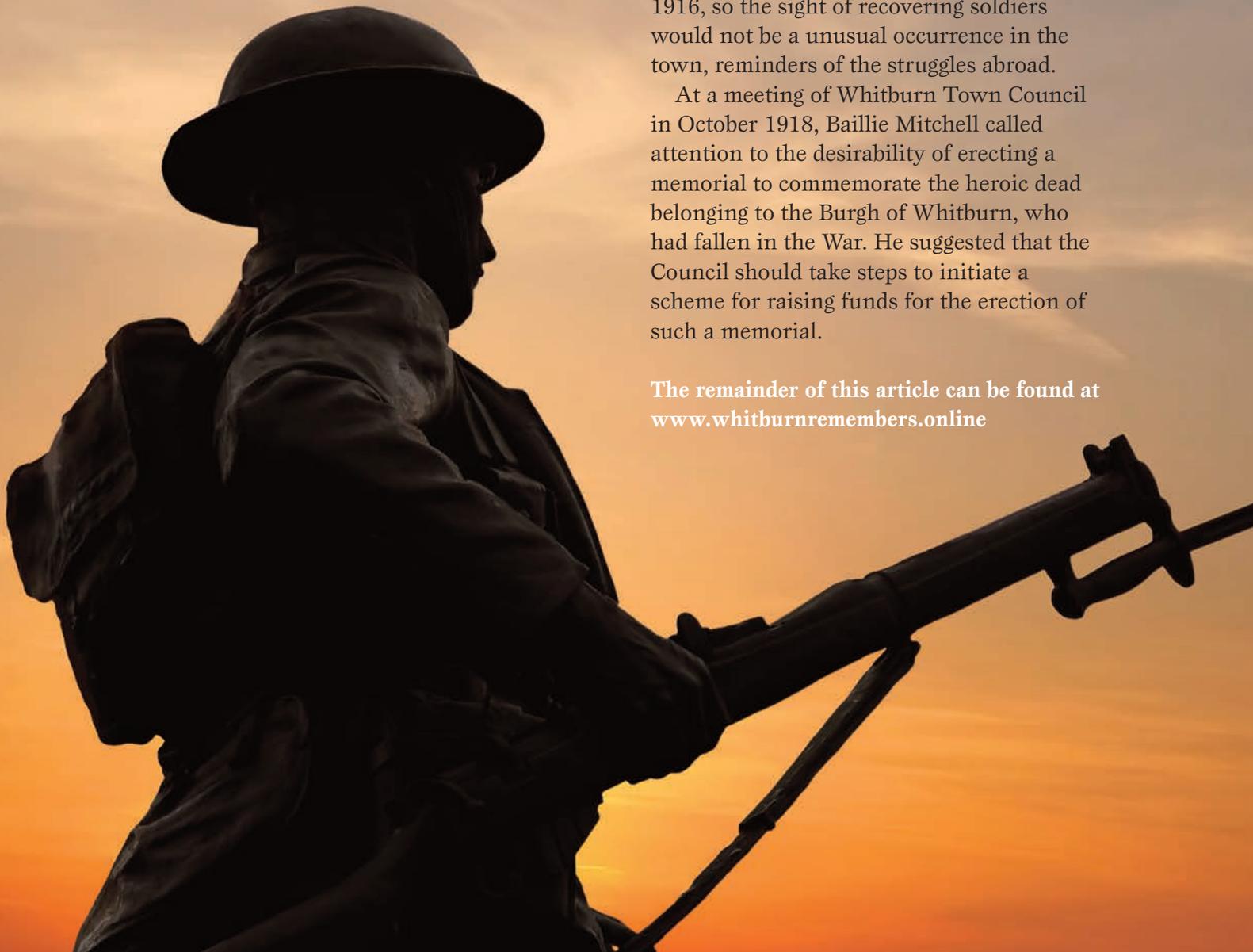
The British Journal of Nursing in its 20th November 1915 edition mentions that the Joint War Committee had deputized Sister J Torrance for duty in this hospital.

The Polkemmet Auxiliary Hospital worked in conjunction with the Edinburgh Military Hospital at Bangour, which was established during 1915.

During the war time patients who were able to go out were entertained in the local community with patients and nurses staging concerts in aid of the Red Cross during 1916, so the sight of recovering soldiers would not be a unusual occurrence in the town, reminders of the struggles abroad.

At a meeting of Whitburn Town Council in October 1918, Baillie Mitchell called attention to the desirability of erecting a memorial to commemorate the heroic dead belonging to the Burgh of Whitburn, who had fallen in the War. He suggested that the Council should take steps to initiate a scheme for raising funds for the erection of such a memorial.

The remainder of this article can be found at www.whitburnremembers.online



L/Cpl Alexander Daly



The Royal Scots Fusiliers
Killed 13th November 1916

Midlothian Advertiser 18th May 1917

Stoneyburn Soldier Killed - Mr Robert Daly, Stoneyburn has received official notice that his son Pte Alexander Daly of the Royal Scots, who was reported missing last November, is now presumed to have been killed in action.

Deceased was a Territorial when war broke out and in civil life he worked at Foulshiels Colliery with United Collieries Ltd.

Midlothian Advertiser 9th November 1917

Daly - In loving memory of our dearly beloved brother L/Cpl Alexander Daly, Royal Scots Fusiliers, killed in action at Arras, 13th November 1916, also our dearly beloved cousin, killed in action at Loos 25th September, 1915. No mother or father saw them die, No brother or sister to say goodbye No friend of relations to clasp their hands, But we hope to meet them in a better land The hardest part is yet to come When the warriors return And we look among the cheering crowd For the face of our loved ones Inserted by his sister Lizzie, and brother in law on active service, Mr & Mrs James Orr, 64 Stoneyburn. Daly - In loving memory of my

dearest sweetheart L/Cpl Alexander Daly, Royal Scots Fusiliers killed in action at Arras on the 13th November 1916 aged 23 years. For many years our friendly chain Was closely linked together But oh that chain is broken now A dear on gone for ever. They miss him most who loved him best Inserted by his sweetheart, Miss Cissy Bowman, Stoneyburn.

West Lothian Courier 9th November 1917

Daly - In loving memory of our dear beloved son LCpl Alexander Daly, killed in action 13th November 1916, aged 25 years, also our dear beloved nephew Pte Alexander Daly killed at Loos on 25th September 1915. One year has passed since that sad day When my dear son was called away God took him home, it was his will Forget him, no, I never will Peacefully sleeping resting at last The weary pain and suffering past Gone and forgotten by some you may be But dear to our memory for ever you'll be. Inserted by his father and mother and brother Willie on active service, 79 Stoneyburn. Daly - Killed in action 13th November 1916, LCpl Alex Daly, His warfare o'er, his battle fought His victory won, though dearly bought His fresh young life could not be saved He slumbers now in a soldier's grave He sleeps beside his comrades In a hallowed grave unknown His name is woven in letters of love In the hearts he left at home We mourn for you dear brother But not with outward show For the heart that mourns sincerely Mourns silently and low. Inserted by his loving rother and sister and family, Mr and Mrs D Ewing Stoneyburn.

West Lothian Courier 15th November 1918

Daly - In loving memory of our dearly beloved brother LCpl Alexander Daly RSF who was killed in action on 13th Nov 1916 at Arras, also our dear cousin, Pte Alexander Daly, 7th Cameron Highlanders, who was killed in action at Loos on 25th September 1915. Their smiling countenances will ne'er from memory fade Nor yet will we forget the noble sacrifices they made When our hearts are sore for them we seem to hear them say Weep not for us we'll meet again on that eternal day Inserted by Mr and Mrs Robert Gray West Main Street Whitburn.

Private James Stein

West Lothian Courier 15th November 1918

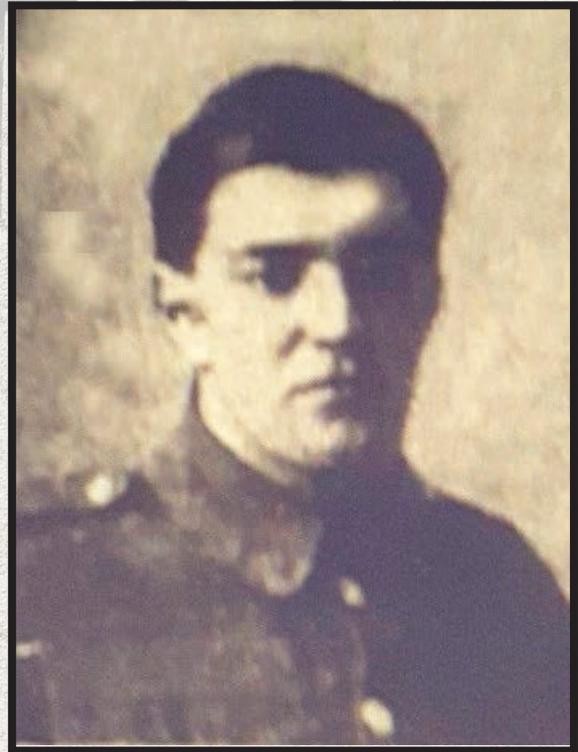
Daly – In loving memory of LCpl P L Alex Daly, who was killed in action on 13th Nov 1916. Could I his brother have clasped his hand The brother I loved so well Or kissed his brow when death was nigh And said Dear Alex, farewell Inserted by his sister Mrs D Ewing.

West Lothian Courier 15th November 1918

Daly – In loving memory of my dear brother LCpl Alexander Daly, RSF who was killed in action on 13th Nov 1916. I think of thee in silence Alex, But not with outward show For the heart that mourns sincerely Mourns silently and low Someday I hope to meet you Someday I know not when I shall clasp your hand in a better land And never part again Inserted by his brother James Daly and sister and family 142 Stoneyburn, by Fauldhouse.

West Lothian Courier 15th November 1918

Daly – In loving memory of our dear son LCpl Alexander Daly who was killed in action on 13th Nov 1916 at Arras, also our dear nephew Pte Alexander Daly, 7th Cameron Highlanders, killed in action at Loos, on 25th September 1915. 'Midst the scene of raging battle On the Arras field of fame Our soldier son fell bravely All honour to his name Our thoughts may often linger At the grave where they are laid For they number with the many Of the best that Britain gave. Inserted by their loving father and mother and brother Tom, prisoner of war and brother Willie in Egypt.



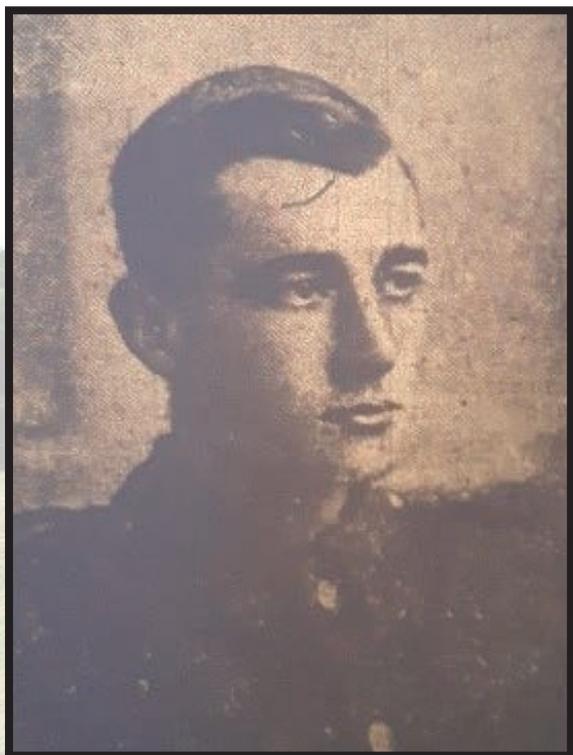
Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
Killed 7th March 1918

West Lothian Courier 21st March 1918

East Whitburn Soldier Killed – Mr and Mrs James Stein, Pretoria Cottages, East Whitburn, have been notified that their son, Pte James Stein, had been killed in action on 7th inst, but no details have yet come to hand. He was in the A and S Highlanders and leaves a wife and one child.

The following is an extract from a letter recently sent by Pte Stein to his mother: – *“I only wish you would not worry so much about me, but I know you cannot help it. You were always the same. I am glad you have father beside you and a good one he is too. May God guide and protect you both. You are all in my thoughts night and day and I am glad I have so good a father and mother to think of. You have no idea how hard it was for me to leave you all although I did not show it at the time, but may God be kind and bring us all together again in happiness.”*

Private William Thomson DCM



The Royal Scots attached to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

West Lothian Courier 8th September 1916

DCM for Whitburn Soldier – Mr William Thomson, East Whitburn, has received word from his son, Pte W Thomson Warwickshire Regiment that he has been awarded the DCM. Pte Thomson joined the Royal Scots and went to France with a draft some months ago and was attached to the Machine Gun Section. He is 22 years of age. Prior to enlisting he was assistant plumber in Bathgate chemical Works. The honour was secured for work done in keeping the Germans from entering a crater which they had caused by a mine explosion. Pte Thomson, in writing home, modestly says that he does not wish to say very much about it in the meantime but would let them know later on.

West Lothian Courier 15th September 1916

Honour to East Whitburn Soldier – Above is a portrait of Pte W Thomson, Royal Scots, attached to Warwickshire regiment who as we noted last week, has won the DCM. He is a son of Mr William Thomson, East Whitburn. When he secured his distinction, he was a member of

the machine gun section and helped with several other members of the county battalion, to keep the Germans out of a crater which they had caused by a mine explosion.

West Lothian Courier 27th July 1917

Armadale Soldier Honoured – Brave Work by West Lothian Men – On Monday evening in the Town Hall, Armadale, Cpl Malcolm Ross, Armadale who on 8th August of last year gained the Military Medal was the guest of the people of Armadale and was presented with the Burgh Gold Medal, a gift of the townspeople to every Armadale soldier who gains an honour of war. The Military Medal was gained under the following circumstances – Cpl Ross, Royal Scots, attached to Warwicks, was on duty when the Germans fired a mine, the part mined had been a rendezvous of many of the British Soldiers and as a consequence there was a large number of casualties. Among those sent up in the air was Cpl Ross, but when he returned to the ground though considerably shaken he was able to get hold of a number of bombs and by using them, kept the Germans from entering the crater. An officer came to his aid after some five minutes and then back of that other officers and men joined in and on the arrival of a machine gun, the German's were put to utter rout. Two officers received the Military Cross, Ptes George McAlpine, Linlithgow, and LCpl Andrew Brown Philpstoun together with Cpl Ross who all bombed the Germans received each the Military Medal, while LCpl William Thomson, East Whitburn, now on holiday at East Whitburn, who worked the machine gun and the Sgt Major received the DCM. On Monday evening Provost Wilson presided at the gathering on the Town Hall. On his right was Cpl Malcolm Ross, while the others present were Mr and Mrs Walter Ross, parents, Mr M Ross, grandfather, Aunts and Uncles, Mrs Combe, Mrs Ritchie, Councillor R Brown and Mrs Brown, Mr Campbell (Bathgate), Mrs Lambie, Mr R Ross, Mr H Brown and Mrs M Kerr. Among the others present were Captain McCallum and Bailie Greig. There were over 100 ladies and gentlemen present a number of soldier comrades also gracing the gathering.

West Lothian Courier 2nd November 1917

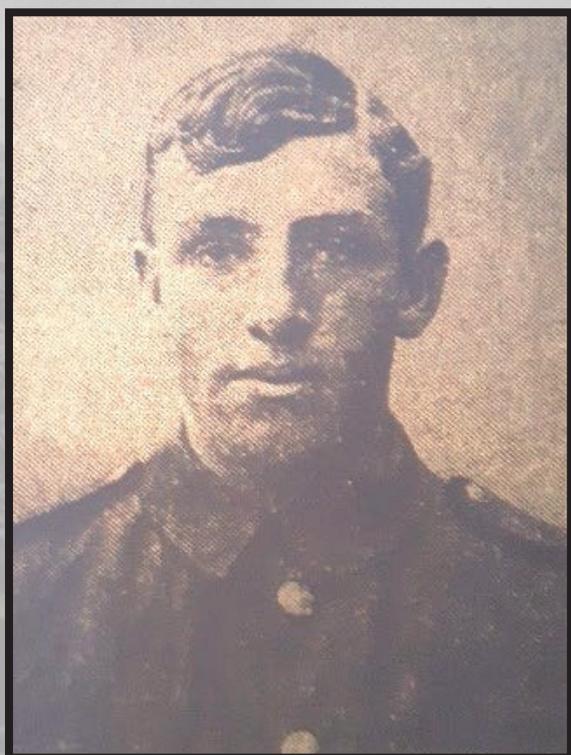
Testimonial to East Whitburn DCM – The employees of Young’s Chemical Works Bathgate met in a social capacity in the Commercial Hotel, some time ago to present LCpl William Thomson, East Whitburn with some tangible token of their appreciation in recognition of his having gained the Distinguished Conduct Medal, by conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while serving with his unit in France. Mr Robert McIlwraith presided over a large and representative gathering and an excellent programme was sustained by various members of the Company. At an interval in the programme, Mr John McBride Works Manager in a few well-chosen remarks made the presentation of a beautiful gold double breast Albert and badge with the following inscription:- *“Presented to LCpl William Thomson, by the employees of Young’s Chemical Works, Bathgate on his obtaining the DCM Aug 8th 1916.”*

Unfortunately, LCpl Thomson was unable to receive the gift in person through illness contracted by long exposure in the trenches, and Mr William Thomson, his father, gracefully acknowledged the testimonial on behalf of his gallant son.

Presentation at East Whitburn – On Tuesday evening, a social was held in East Whitburn Inn, when LCpl Thomson was presented by his friends in the village, with a handsome gold watch, suitably inscribed. Mr William Currie was chairman, and there were about twenty gentlemen present. The Chairman, after stating

the object of which they were met, mentioned that East Whitburn held one of the best records in the country for the number of men who had volunteered for the Army and in winning the DCM, LCpl Thomson had brought further distinction to the village. The official report regarding his brave act, and for which he was awarded the DCM read as follows:- “7313 Pte William Thomson, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, DCM awarded 8th August 1916 decorated 25th August 1916 for conspicuous gallantry, when the explosion of an enemy mine wrecked a portion of the defences and buried the machine gun and gun team, he recovered the gun, opened fire, until his ammunition was expended and then carried the gun to another position. All the time he was suffering from shock. The Chairman said that two of his comrades had been awarded the Military Medal. Mr William Ferguson made the presentation in an appropriate speech he said Cpl Thomson had been home on leave in July last, and it was intended to have had the presentation then, but unfortunately, he turned ill with shell shock and had been in hospital until a few days ago. They were all proud to have a man belonging to the village who had won such a distinguished honour. Cpl Thomson acknowledged the gift, in a few words and his father also thanked the subscribers for the honour they have done his son, he concluded by giving a humorous recitation. Songs were sung by Messrs Sangster, Anderson, Dandie Thomson, Ferguson, Currie, McKinnon, Sinclair and Middleton and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

Private Neil Donald



5th/6th Bn Royal Scots
Killed 7th August 1916

West Lothian Courier 18th August 1916
County Territorial Casualties – L/Cpl Tom Galbraith writing home to his parents at Pentland View, Bathgate, under date 12th August says that Sgt Allan and Pte Grant has been wounded and private Neil Donald, a Whitburn soldier had been killed. Pte Galbraith adds the others mentioned in his letter are all the County Regiment but attached to the Warwickshires. L/Cpl Galbraith says they came out the trenches on Wednesday and on the day, he was writing they were in billets. He expects to be back in the trenches on Monday. During the time his regiment was in the trenches there were a number of casualties.

West Lothian Courier 18th August 1916
Donald – Killed in action in France, on 6th August 1916, Pte Neil Donald aged 20 years, beloved son of Mr and Mrs Donald, Braefoot Cottage, Armadale Road, Whitburn. West Lothian Courier 18th August 1916 1/10th Royal Scots Private Killed – Intimation has been received by Mr and Mrs Donald, Braefoot Cottage, Armadale Road, Whitburn of the death

of their son, Pte Neil Donald, attached to the 2/5th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Pte Donald was a native of Fauldhouse and was a member of “F” Company 1/10th Royal Scots at the outbreak of war. He was, of course mobilised with rest of the battalion and did duty on the East Coast till he was sent to France with a draft from the Battalion in May last. He was only 20 years of age and was killed on 6th August. The following letters have been received by Mr Donald from his officers.

2/5th Royal Warwickshire Regt, BEF 7th August 1916 – Dear Sir, It is with deep sympathy and much regret that I have to write to you at this time. Your son was killed last night about 10pm when fulfilling his duties as sentry in our front-line trenches. I have been attached to this Battalion from the Royal Scots, so have known your son for quite a long period and consider it my duty to notify you of his death. He was a soldier in the true sense of the word he never found anything too hard and was of a very happy and joyful disposition. He was very much respected and beloved by the officers and men of his Company and I am sure is very much missed by all who knew him. He died quite painlessly, and will be buried tomorrow in one of the British Cemeteries behind the firing line – I am, yours faithfully Alex White Lieut. Royal Warwickshires.

Dear Mr Donald, it is with very great regret that I have to inform you that your son was killed in action last night (6th inst). He was one of his platoon sentries and had just been relieved when on taking a last look he was shot through the head and died instantly. I hope it may be some slight consolation to you to know that he can have suffered absolutely no pain. I don't want to trouble you with a long letter at this time, but I am sure that as a Scotsman (as I am myself) you will like to know that the boys from the 10th Royal Scots, are quite the finest lot of fellows we have in the battalion, and that among them your son was one of the best. I have not been with the Company long, but quite long enough to see that he was a most courageous and cheerful fellow, always ready to do his bit and anxious for any

Private William Aitken

job on hand. I think we all feel, as I do myself that he is a very great loss to the Company and to the Battalion. Will you please accept my most sincerely sympathy with yourself and his relations and friends. I enclose a list of his belongings and will send them at once. Believe me, yours very sincerely - Lt Commanding D Coy, 2/5th RW.

West Lothian Courier 10th August 1917

In ever loving memory of our dear son, Pte Neil Donald, Royal Scots who was killed in action on the 6th August 1916. It's not the tears at the moment shed That tells how beloved is the soul that's fled, But the tears through any a long night wept And the sad remembrance so fondly kept. Inserted by his parents, brothers and sisters, Braefoot Cottage, Armadale Road, Whitburn.

West Lothian Courier 9th August 1918

Donald - In loving memory of Pte Neil Donald, Royal Warwicks, who was killed in action in France on the 6th August 1916, Interred at Pont-U-Hem. Dear Neil you are not forgot Or ever will you be As long as life and memory last We will remember thee Inserted by his father and mother and sisters and brothers Armadale Road, Whitburn.

West Lothian Courier 9th August 1918

Donald - In loving memory of Pte Neil Donald, Royal Warwicks, who was killed in action in France on the 6th August 1916. When in the field of battle He calmly took his place He fought and died for Britain.



5th/6th Bn Royal Scots
Killed 3rd December 1917
Buried Duhallow A.D.S Military Cemetery

West Lothian Courier 4th January 1918

Whitburn Bandsman Killed - Mr W Aitken, Ochil View, Whitburn, has received official intimation that his son William Royal Scots was killed by a shell in France on 3rd December 1917. No other particulars or letters regarding the young man's death have yet come to hand. He joined the Queen's Edinburgh Rifles two and a half years ago when he was only 17 years old, and before proceeding to France was for a short time in Egypt. Before enlistment he was a member of Whitburn Public Band which he joined when he was twelve years old. He was only in his 20th year at the time of his death.

West Lothian Courier 18th January 1918

Whitburn Bandsman Killed - Mr W Aiken Ochil View, Whitburn has received official intimation that his son Pte William Aitken, Royal Scots, was killed by a shell in France on 3rd December 1917. No other particulars or letters regarding the young man's death have yet come to hand. He joined the Queen's Edinburgh Rifles two and a half years ago when he was only 17 years old, and before proceeding to France was for a short time in Egypt. Before enlisting he was a member of Whitburn Public Band which he joined when he was 12 years old. He was only in his 20th year at the time of his death.

Private Thomas Drummond



Private Drummond served with The Royal Scots and was killed on the 25th September 1915.

West Lothian Courier 8th October 1915

The Late Pte Thomas Drummond, Whitburn – In our previous issue we published the regrettable news that Pte Thomas Drummond, 13th Btn Royal Scots son of Mr T Drummond, Almond View, Whitburn, had been killed in action. Pte Drummond was highly esteemed in the district. Prior to joining the colours, he took a keen active interest in different pastimes including football, carpet bowling green bowling etc. He had won several prizes at bowling. He was also a well-known freemason. Of a quiet genial disposition, he was liked by all. Official news of his death had not yet been made up till Tuesday, but two letters have been received by Mr Drummond from his son's mates in the firing line intimating the death and testifying to the popularity in which the young soldier had been held by all. The letters are in the following terms: – Pte Archibald Forrest Whitburn, wrote – *“It is with sincere regret that I have to convey to you the sad news of Tommy's death. He was standing beside me when he was shot through the head he suffered no pain. The attack was made on the night of the 25th September. The Germans had opened machine gun fire on us thinking that they were going to advance on us we got the order ‘rapid fire.’ I am sorry to say we lost a few of our comrades*

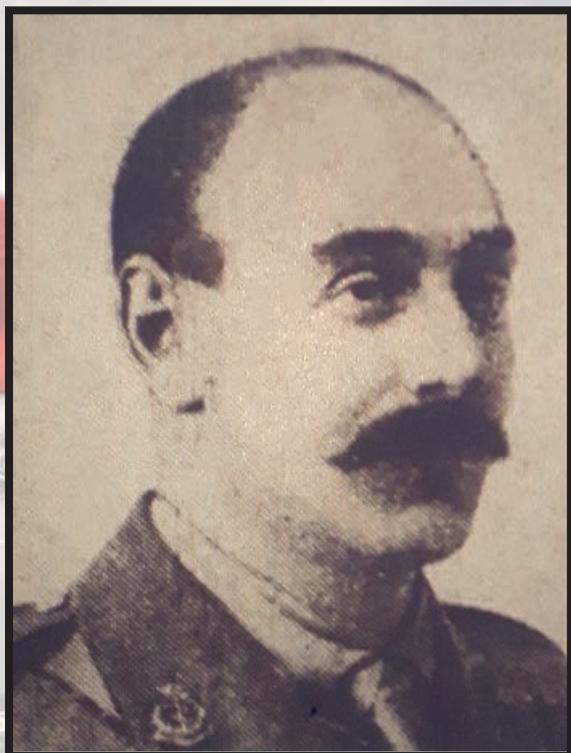
and words cannot express the grief I felt when I saw Tommy was one of them. We always got on together. He is sadly missed by his chums out here, this will be a sad blow to you, but he assured that he died a hero in the true sense of the word. Our officer thought a lot of him, but I am sorry to say he also lost his life when we were reinforcing the firing line. The rest of Tommy's Whitburn chums join with me in sending our deepest sympathy to you in your great loss.”

Pte Peter Rankine wrote; – *“In the name of the platoon as chums of Tommy we join in sending our heartfelt sympathy to you in your great loss. He was greatly respected and loved by one and all of us and was also willing and ready to assist us in anything. When we had advanced close up to the Germans we had to dig ourselves in. Tommy and I dug in together one on the alert while the other dug, turn-about. He told me frequently to keep my head down. At this particular time ‘rapid fire’ was ordered so everybody got up to do their bit. The bullets just rained on us and many a brave man was killed. It was a great fright to me when Tommy dropped at my side. Sgt Forrest and I examined him after he was hit, but poor Tommy was gone. This is a terrible war, but yours in a great sacrifice. I write this to you to show the deep appreciation and high estimation in which Tommy was held by the platoon. His pleasant and cheery demeanour will be sadly missed by us all. It is a hard job to write a letter like this to a chum's parents, but Tommy died a hero doing his duty to his King and country. Words cannot express our feelings, so I will now close.”*

West Lothian Courier 22nd September 1916

Drummond – In loving memory of our dear son, Pte Thomas Drummond, 13th Royal Scots, who was killed in action in France on Saturday, 25th September 1915 aged 25 years. He died at his post like a soldier brave, He answered his country's call He sleeps far away in a soldier's grave For his country's cause, he did fall Worthy of true respect was he From those he left behind A better son there could not be nor one more true or kind No mother's care did him attend nor o'er him did a father bend no sister by to shed a tear no brother by his words to hear Sick dying in a foreign land No father by to take his hand Or mother dear to close his eyes Far from his native land he lies he died that others might live Inserted by his father and mother Mr and Mrs Drummond, 133 Almond View, Whitburn.

Lieutenant JB Michie



Royal Army Medical Corps
Killed 31st December 1918

West Lothian Courier 16th October 1914

Whitburn – The New Doctor – At a meeting of the Whitburn artisans on Thursday evening in the Bailie Institute, Dr Campbell, Whitburn, who has received a commission as Captain in the New Territorial Battalion introduced the new doctor, Mr Michie as his successor, to the meeting. Dr Michie was cordially welcomed and he expressed his thanks to those present. Dr Campbell remarked upon the pleasant relations that had always existed between him and the workers in Whitburn and he trusted that such kindly relations would continue during Dr Michie's residence amongst them. Dr Michie has a splendid reputation as a medical practitioner.

Midlothian Advertiser 9th July 1915

Whitburn Accident – Dr Michie has quite recovered from a rather nasty accident he sustained recently. It appears that he had been preparing his motor lamps before going out on his rounds when the acetylene generator exploded. A piece of the metal struck the doctor on the face, severely cutting his chin and knocking out two front teeth. He was at once conveyed to Bathgate by his chauffeur to have the wound stitched. It was fortunate that the

metal did not touch the eyes. It is pleasing to know that the doctor has never been off duty through the accident.

West Lothian Courier 13th October 1916

Whitburn – An Interesting Wedding – No a little stir was created in the village on Wednesday afternoon on the occasion of the marriage of Dr J B Michie to Miss Nan Allan elder daughter of Mr Harry Allan joiner, Whitburn. It was evident that the greatest interest was taken by the inhabitants in this happy event – Dr Michie has been in Whitburn for about two years and has gained the confidence of the people and much popularity in the district, Miss Nan Allan who is the elder daughter of a well-known public citizen previous to her engagement was on the VAD staff of Polkemmet Auxiliary Hospital where her services were highly esteemed by the Commandant and staff, He also acted as organiser with Longridge UF church for over years with great acceptance to the congregations, Miss Allan was a very popular young lady in the district being possessed of a happy and sunny disposition which endeared her to all with whom she came in contact. The marriage took place at the residence of the bride's father, Manse Road, Whitburn, and the officiating clergyman was the Rev John Gibson, MA Longridge UF Church. The bridesmaids were Miss May Allan and Miss Meg Michie, while Mr Thomas Michie brother of the bridegroom who is at present in the Veterinary Corps of the Army acted as groomsman. The bride wore a beautiful sumatran satin dress with white minion, and a wreath of orange blossom. The two bridesmaids wore pink dresses and both bride and bridesmaids carried exceedingly pretty bouquets courtesy of the head gardener at Polkemmet. (Rest illegible).

West Lothian Courier 17th January 1919

Whitburn Death of Dr Michie while Serving at Archangel – Popular Medical Man – News of the death of Dr Michie, on the 31st December at Archangel, reached Mrs Michie on Saturday evening last from the Officers casualty Office Whitehall. The sad news spread like wildfire through the village and was at first received with incredulity but numerous inquiries elicited the fact that the report was only too true. Needless to say, the sad event is the sole topic of the district and feeling of deepest regret at his death and heartfelt sympathy for his young wife and child.

Cpl Thomas Lamie



Canadian Infantry
Killed 3rd October 1916.

West Lothian Courier 29th October 1915

Whitburn Soldiers – We learn that another son of ex-Bailie Robert Lambie, Mr Thomas Lambie who is at present in Canada, enlisted in the 1st Regiment in Toronto. He is now a Cpl and is anxious to get out to the front in Flanders, where his brother David is serving in the 1st Royal Scots.

West Lothian Courier 27th October 1916

Whitburn Bailie's Son Killed – Last Saturday Bailie Lambie Whitburn, received intimation from the Canadian Record Office that his son LCpl Thomas Lambie had been killed in action, at the front, on the 3rd inst. LCpl Lambie emigrated to America over 3.5 years ago, and was employed in rubber works there. Shortly after war broke out, he went over into Canada and joined a Canadian Regiment. He eventually came to England with his Regiment but he was so keen to get to the front that he transferred to another regiment which was going to France,

and he has been in the fighting line for five months. He was 24 years of age and unmarried. LCpl Lambie was a noted football player and in America he was goalkeeper for Wester Donar, and East Eckron Football Clubs. Before going to America, he was goalkeeper for Whitburn Bluebell Club. In carpet bowling he was an expert and won the championship of the Bailie Institute and was one of the rink from Whitburn which won the Scottish Shield in Glasgow. He also won the championship for first and second year players on Whitburn Bowling Green. Bailie Lambie has another son in the Army at Salonica.

West Lothian Courier 2nd November, 1916

Whitburn Bailie's Son – We show a photo of LCpl Thomas Lambie son of Bailie Lambie Whitburn, whose death at the front we reported last week.

Midlothian Advertiser 3rd November 1916

Whitburn Bailie's Son Killed – Bailie Lambie, Whitburn has been notified that his son, L/Cpl Thomas Lambie who was with the Canadians was killed in action in France on October 3rd.

Private William Easton



The Royal Scots
Killed 26th September 1915.

West Lothian Courier 12th November 1915
Whitburn Men Wounded and Missing – Official information has now been received in Whitburn that Pte Dan Cleland, 11th Royal Scots, who took part in the recent big advance on the 27th September has been wounded and missing. Similar information has been received from the War Office concerning Pte William Easton, Almond View, Whitburn of the 13th Royal Scots.

Midlothian Advertiser 19th November 1915
Bathgate Men Missing – Official intimation has been received that Pte Daniel Cleland, 11th Royal Scots and Pte William Easton, 13th Royal Scots, both resident at Whitburn, have been missing in France since September 27th.

West Lothian Courier 7th April 1916
Whitburn Man Missing – Pte William Easton, 16959. A Coy, 13th Btn Royal Scots, has been posted wounded and missing on the 25th September. He was last seen lying wounded on the field about Hill 70. Any information will be gladly received by his mother Mrs James Easton, Almond View, Whitburn.

West Lothian Courier 14th April 1916
Whitburn Man Missing – We show a portrait of Pte William Easton, 13th Royal Scots reported missing since 25th September. Any information regarding Pte Easton will be gratefully welcomed by Mrs James Easton, Almond View, Whitburn.

*To the glory of God and to the
honour of the twelve thousand of
the Merchant Navy and fishing
fleets who have no grave but the sea.*



The above words are inscribed on the Tower Hill Memorial (a pair of Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorials [pictured left] in Trinity Square, on Tower Hill in London) to the personnel of the Merchant Navy who gave their lives during the First and Second World Wars.

The background picture is of the Red Ensign or “Red Duster”. It is the flag flown by British merchant or passenger ships since 1707.

The U-board campaign that almost broke Britain

From the start of the First World War in 1914, Germany pursued a highly effective U-boat campaign against merchant shipping. This campaign intensified over the course of the war and almost succeeded in bringing Britain to its knees in 1917.

At first, U-boats obeyed 'prize rules', which meant that they surfaced before attacking merchant ships and allowed the crew and passengers to get away. This left U-boats vulnerable to attack, especially after the British introduced 'Q-ships' – disguised warships with hidden guns intended to lure U-boats in close and then sink them. The use of Q-ships contributed to Germany's eventual abandonment of prize rules.

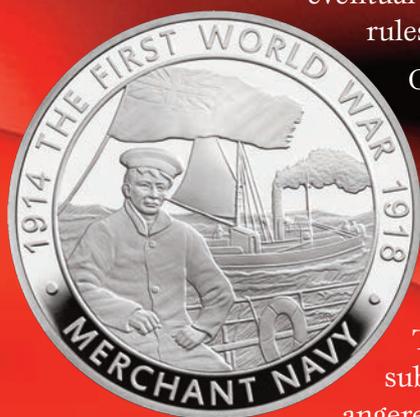
On 4 February 1915, Germany declared a war zone around Britain, within which merchant ships were sunk without warning. This 'unrestricted submarine warfare' angered neutral countries,

especially the United States. The tactic was abandoned on 1 September 1915, following the loss of American lives in the torpedoed liners Lusitania and Arabic.

After failing to seize control of the sea from the British at the Battle of Jutland in 1916, Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare on 1 February 1917. This, coupled with the Zimmermann Telegram, brought the United States into the war on 6 April. But the new U-boat blockade nearly succeeded and between February and April 1917, U-boats sank more than 500 merchant ships. In the second half of April, an average of 13 ships were sunk each day.

In November 1916, Admiral Jellicoe created an Admiralty Anti-Submarine Division, but effective countermeasures arrived slowly. Most important was the introduction of

convoys, in which merchant ships were grouped together and protected by warships. In addition, merchant ships were painted in dazzle camouflage, aircraft and shore-based direction finding stations were introduced to locate U-boats, and warships acquired new weapons such as an early form of sonar and depth charges. On 23 April 1918, British naval forces attacked U-boat bases at Ostend and Zeebrugge. By the Armistice, the U-boat threat had been neutralised.



The life-line is firm
thanks to the
MERCHANT NAVY

A World War One poster

There is no doubt without the supply and support of the Merchant Navy, we would not have sustained or won WW1.

By the end of the First World War, more than 3,000 British flagged merchant and fishing vessels had been sunk and nearly 15,000 merchant seamen had died.

During the Second World War, 4,700 British-flagged ships were sunk and more than 29,000 merchant seamen died.

Ancre Somme Association Scotland

Our Aims and Objectives

Ancre Somme Association Scotland was formed in 2016 by a group of people who were interested in their Armed Forces heritage from WW1, WW2 and all subsequent Wars and Conflicts.

ASA Ambassador for Scotland MSP Alexander Stewart MBE, Officers and members created our vision, mission and strategy in 2016.

Alexander "I am indeed honoured and humbled to be the Ambassador of Ancre Somme Association Scotland, I would ask the public to support the important work of the Association".

Education – we will continually teach children and our communities about their local and National military heritage.

Remembrance – we will remember those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country from WW1 to the present day.

Supporting – we will continually support our Armed Forces charities and ASA Scotland projects.

ASA Scotland welcomes any individuals, groups or businesses to our Association; members must promote the Aims & Objectives of the Association.

E-mail: info@asascotland.org.uk

Lest We Forget

Scots Soldiers that died during the Great War estimated to be between 100,000 and 148,000.

887,000 soldiers from the UK and colonies died in the Great War, and more than 1.6 million were wounded, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

World War One was one of the deadliest conflicts in the history of the human race, in which over 16 million people died. The total number of both civilian and military casualties is estimated at around 37 million people. The war killed almost 7 million civilians and 10 million military personnel.



*Ancre Somme Association Scotland
educating children of their heritage*

Ribbon of Poppies

About us

The Ribbon of Poppies project was the brainchild of Iain Henderson from Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire.

His initial idea would see the creation of a carpet of crimson from Land's End to John O'Groats to remember all those killed or wounded during the Great War.

Iain and colleagues from The Memorial Mob, a group dedicated to creating memorials and events to help remember the 'uniformed' services, are hoping the poppy 'ribbon' will be 'a living legacy to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.'

Since Iain launched the Ribbon of Poppies project hundreds of Scout, Cub, Guide and Brownie groups have pledged support, as well as a number of schools and other community organisations.

Soon after the launch it soon became apparent to all involved that this project was

going to bigger than just the United Kingdom as pledges started coming in from all four corners of the globe.

Around the same time the Ancre Somme Association launched a similar initiative that had the same aims and objectives and it made sense to work in partnership on the campaign.

This partnership has helped ensure that the Ribbon of Poppies reached a wider audience and to date it has totally exceeded all expectations.

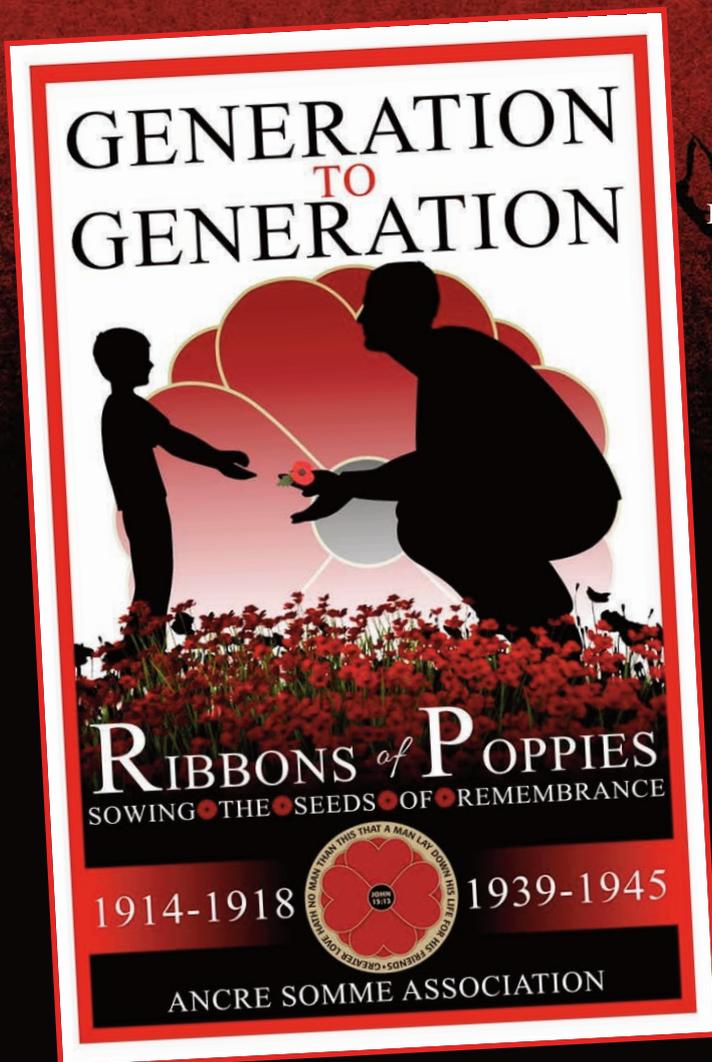
As of June 2018 the Ribbon of Poppies has become a fully constituted organisation and has applied to OSCR to become a charitable organisation.

The Ribbon of Poppies is now an annual living memorial to all those brave men and women who have fought and died serving in the British Armed Forces.

We Will Remember Them.

Please visit for more information on how your Group, Club, Association or Organisation can get involved:

www.ribbonofpoppies.org.uk





**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT**



**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund

