

2nd Lt Douglas Victor Gillespie – Royal Air Force



Lived at Fairliehope

Died: Missing over the Somme.

6 April 1918

Douglas Victor Gillespie, Second-Lieutenant, Royal Air Force, was the fifth and youngest son of Mr G. Gillespie, Burton Lodge, Lygon Road, Edinburgh, and Fairliehope, Carlops. He attended Watson's College from 1908 to 1915. He was studying for the veterinary profession, and joined the Army Veterinary Corps at Stirling, July 1916. Transferring to the Royal Air Force in June 1917, he completed his course of training and was attached to the 70th Squadron, and was sent abroad early in 1918.

The squadron had been formed at Farnborough on 22 April 1916, it was equipped with Sopwith 1½ Strutters intended for the fighter role. The unit moved to France in Flights with 'A' Flight going in May, 'B' Flight in June and 'C' in July. It used its aircraft in the fighter role as this type was the first to be fitted with a synchronised machine gun firing through the propeller arc, but it undertook reconnaissance and bombing sorties as well. Sopwith Camels arrived in July 1917, thereby becoming the first RFC unit to re-equip with this type. It continued to operate in the fighter and later ground attack roles until the end of the war and remained on the continent until February 1919.

He saw much active fighting, and on the 6th of April was reported missing. Two months thereafter he was reported killed. The official report says: —"*He was shot down in a combat with a superior number of hostile aircraft, and his death was instantaneous. A party of infantry buried him and erected a cross over his grave. He was a most keen flyer, and having shewn good ability he was appointed to a crack squadron on the military wing, which had done very good work in the low flying operations over the enemy lines. His school chums write that he was one of the best and nicest of companions, and was loved by all who knew him*".

Douglas was aged 20 when he died. He had other three brothers serving—Captain John M. Gillespie, Military Cross, Royal Army Medical Corps; Captain Samuel P. Gillespie, Military Cross, Gordon Highlanders; and Lieutenant George A. Gillespie, Military Cross, North Hants Yeomanry.

Awards: Mentioned in Despatches

Cemetery: Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery

Gunner James Kirkhope - Royal Garrison Artillery



Lived at Church Hall Cottage.

Died: Somme

27 September 1916 aged 27

James Kirkhope was born in Lasswade, Midlothian in 1888, the fourth of the five children of Robert Kirkhope, a farm worker, and his wife Margaret. By the turn of the century the family moved to Carlops, where his parents found employment as church wardens of Carlops United Free Church and its nearby church hall. The job included accommodation at the adjoining Church Hall Cottage. James was raised in Carlops with his sister and three brothers in a teetotal and deeply religious household, but when he grew up he found work as a gamekeeper at Ingestre Hall in Staffordshire, the stately home and country estate of the 20th Earl of Shrewsbury.

On the outbreak of war, James Kirkhope volunteered for the Royal Artillery and was ordered to report to Stoke-on-Trent where he joined the 2nd/1st North Midland (Staffordshire) Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Formed on 31st August 1914, the 2nd/1st Battery was a "second-line" heavy artillery unit of the Territorial Force comprised entirely of men who had not signed the "Imperial Service Obligation" and thus had volunteered for home defence duties only; James Kirkhope had joined-up on the basis that he would not be called upon to serve overseas. The Royal Garrison Artillery operated heavy siege guns. When the Western Front stagnated into static trench warfare both sides saw the need for heavy artillery. In March of that year the Military Service Act came into force imposing compulsory conscription and requiring those like James Kirkhope, who had stepped forward and signed-up for home defence duties, to sign the Imperial Service Obligation and "volunteer" for service overseas. In May, the 2nd/1st Battery was detached and ordered to France in readiness for the up-coming Somme campaign.

James and his comrades fired their guns in anger for the first time on 20th June 1916. On 27th September James Kirkhope's 2nd/1st Battery resumed their counter-battery fire aimed at Miraumont using spotting reports from aircraft which came in all morning identifying "now firing" German positions. 2nd/1st Battery's gun-line was bracketed with a salvo from a German 10.5 cm. battery. The gun-crews took to their dug-outs but Number 5 gun's shelter took a direct hit. After less than four months in France, 887 Gunner James Kirkhope was dead at the age of

twenty-seven. James Kirkhope was laid to rest in a temporary grave close to the Battery's position near Hebuterne along with his eleven comrades at noon on 28th September 1916.

James Kirkhope had been a single man and his parents, in due course, received the citation from the King and the bronze plaque which accompanied it known as the Dead Man's Penny. It hung beside their hearth all of their days. James was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, the standard set of campaign medals for those who served in France after 1915, but his parents chose not to claim them and they were later disposed of at the request of the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Once the fighting had passed on, the bodies of James Kirkhope and his comrades were exhumed from their temporary rest and taken to nearby Hebuterne Military Cemetery, two miles east of Bayencourt, where they were buried with full military honours.

They lie together under simple stone crosses, side by side to this day in graves 1 to 12, Row P, Section IV of the cemetery, under the permanent care of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Address by the Rev. W. F. Bruce, at the United Free Church, Carlops,

"You will have noticed from the order in which I have read the Roll of Honour to-day a change. Now there stand at the head of it in the list of those killed in action four instead of three. In this quiet little village, nestling among the silent hills, we seemed far removed from all the strife of nations and the holocaust that it demands. Yet into our midst once more has come the black dreaded messenger of war, with the tidings that James Kirkhope, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, has fallen in action, killed by a shell along with eleven others. A quiet, decent-living lad, reared in this place, we all knew him and respected him. He had chosen his career in life, and in manly vigour had set himself to carry it out. But the trumpet of war sounded, and like so many others he followed it. He went up the village street, leaving behind him home, parents, brothers, and sister, facing his duty; but nevermore to return to those who sent him forth. And there are sad hearts in our village to-day, and all because of human pride and ambition that has known no restraint of morality, but has set multitudes to killing each other. Our sympathies go out to that saddened home, to his parents, who feel so keenly the blow dreaded as a possible thing, now a sad certainty; to his brothers and sister, and specially to that brother on military service before the same cruel enemy. And we shall remember James Kirkhope as one who made for us the supreme sacrifice, for 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'

Shoeing Smith William McGill – Dragoon Guards



**Lived at Habbies Howe Hotel,
Ninemileburn.**

Died: Ypres

16th November 1914

William McGill was the eldest son of Mr. William McGill, of Habbie's Howe Hotel, Carlops where his parents had resided for many years. He was born at Lungla, Sylhet, Assam, and came to Carlops in 1891 with his parents. He was an apprentice blacksmith with Mr. William Johnston, West Linton, and joined the 1st Dragoon Guards when a youth of 18, serving in England and India.

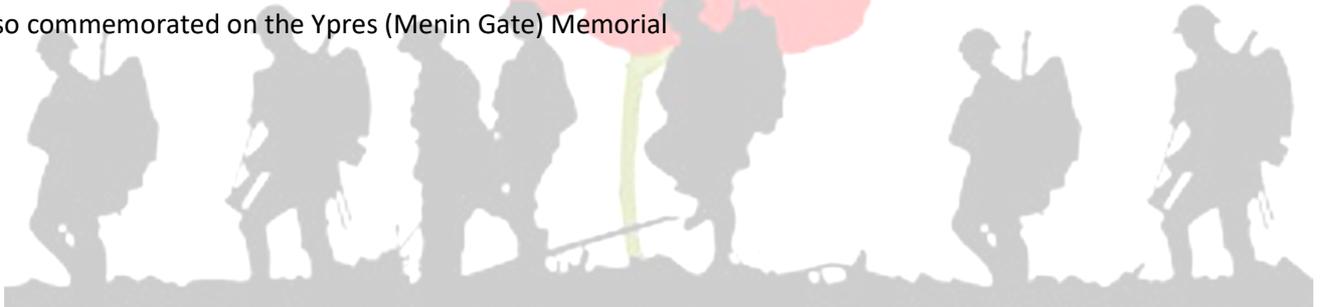
Due to his blacksmith skills, learned in West Linton, he transferred to the Reserve with the 5th Dragoon Guards, (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) as a shoeing smith.

Horses were expected to march long distances during wartime, sometimes up to 40 miles (64km) per day. Iron horseshoes wore out quickly, and usually had to be replaced every month.

Farriers and shoeing smiths were needed to keep horses moving. The primary job of a farrier was hoof trimming and fitting shoes to Army horses. This combined traditional blacksmith's skills with some veterinarian knowledge about the physiology and care of horses' feet,

William was called up on the outbreak of war. He crossed over to France with the first of the Forces, and was killed at Ypres on the 16th of November 1914, aged 27 years.

Also commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Private Hugh McGill - Royal Scots Fusiliers



**Lived at Habbies Howe Hotel,
Ninemileburn.**

Died: Neip.

19th July 1918, aged 19

Hugh Robert McGill was born at Carlops in 1899. Following the example of his brother he joined up in October 1914, despite being only fifteen and a half years of age. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps but was sent back from the front when his true age was discovered. Like many boys of his age he was determined to join the men of the country to fight and kept putting himself forward again and again.

He was transferred to the Lanarkshire Yeomanry in 1915, and afterwards trained at Aldershot in the 1st Dragoon Guards. He next transferred to the 12th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers (Ayr and Lanark Battalion), and went to Egypt in January 1916. He was in the Lewis Gun section. He served in the Palestine expedition in the 52nd Division, and was then sent to France.

He was killed at Neip Forest on the 19th July 1918, aged 19, while leading his gun into action. Private Hugh M'Gill fell on the day after the turning point which led to complete and final victory; it was a Friday.

The Carlops Church Minister of the time, Frank Bruce, said in his commemoration –“Many a soldier has died for it. Many Scotch lads in days gone has dyed the heather with his life blood for it. We remember the days of Wallace and Bruce, and since then Scotchmen have been lovers of freedom; and at Waterloo, at Alma, and many another hard encounter Scotchmen have shown that the old native spirit born of freedom could give a good account of itself.”

He left behind Father - William Thomas McGill 1849–1935 and Mother: Martha Morton Cargin McGill 1856–1931 and one brother: Francis Wilson McGill 1896–1979 who joined the Canadian Forces and survived.

Also commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial to the Missing which is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorial in Belgium for missing soldiers of World War I

Private George Garden - Seaforth Highlanders



Lived at Rutherford Mains Farm.

Died : Loos

25 September 1915, aged 20

George Garden, son of farmer of Rutherford Mains Farm, West Linton, was a student at Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture when war broke out.

A month later, on the 4th September 1914, he joined up, enlisting in the Scots Greys which uniform he wears on the picture. Later he was transferred to the Seaforth Highlanders.

He was serving with the Seaforth Highlanders Regiment in France when he was killed on the first day of the battle of Loos, on Saturday the 25th September 1915.

The Battle of Loos was fought from 25 September until about 16 October 1915 in an area of coalmines and mining villages

near the town of Lens, north of Arras. Six British divisions attacked strong German defences in support of French offensives to the south.

Half of the 72 battalions in the assault on 25 September belonged to Scottish regiments. Twelve Regular, Territorial and New Army Scottish battalions formed part of the 1st, 2nd and 7th Regular Army divisions. Twenty-four other battalions, consisting of volunteers, formed the 9th and 15th Scottish divisions in Kitchener's New Army. As a consequence the heavy casualties in the battle affected communities throughout Scotland from which men had joined in large numbers.

The Seaforths were fighting alongside the Cameron Highlanders and George died along with Corporal Urquhart, from his father's estate of Rutherford.

Mentioned on the Loos memorial.



Private Alex Forrester Farquharson –



Argyll and Sutherland
Highlanders

Lived at Rutherford Castle farm.
Died: Ypres

22 August 1917, aged 20.

Alexander F. Farquharson was born at Rutherford, in West Linton parish, in September 1897, and was about five years of age when his parents removed to Tullibody House, Cambus. He was educated at Alloa, and was an apprentice carpenter when war broke out.

He was not quite seventeen when he joined the 2nd Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and gave in his age as nineteen. Stationed at Fort George, Scotland.

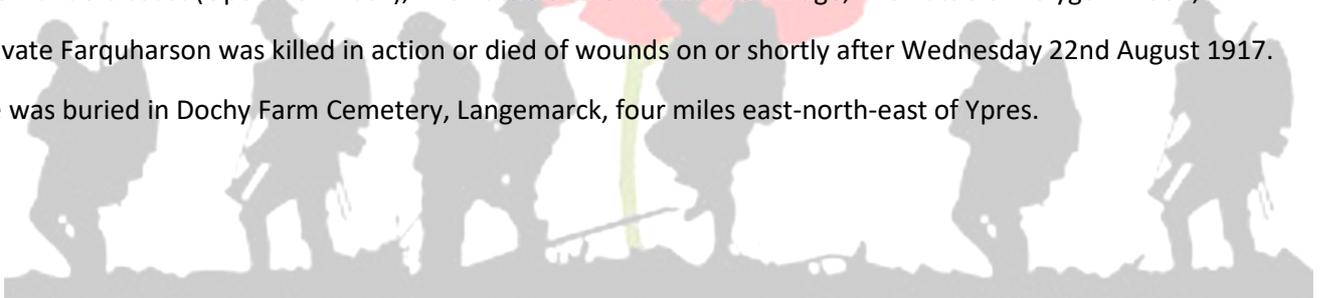
The Battalion was mobilised for war in August 1914 and landed at Boulogne and moved to defend the Lines of Communication as part of 19th Brigade at Valenciennes.

In October that year the 19th Brigade attached to the 6th Division and engaged in various actions on the Western Front.

This Battalion took part in the Christmas Truce of 1914. By the end of 1915 they were transferred to the 98th Brigade of the 33rd Division and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including; 1916 The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Bazentin, The attacks on High Wood, The capture of Boritska and Dewdrop Trenches. 1917 The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Second Battle of the Scarpe, The actions on the Hindenburg Line, Operations on the Flanders coast (Operation Hush), The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge, The Battle of Polygon Wood,

Private Farquharson was killed in action or died of wounds on or shortly after Wednesday 22nd August 1917.

He was buried in Dochy Farm Cemetery, Langemarck, four miles east-north-east of Ypres.



Corporal David Urquhart - 5th Cameron Highlanders.



Lived at Rutherford, possibly the farm labourer's cottages at South Mains,

Died: Loos

25 September 1915.

David Urquhart was employed on the farm of Rutherford Mains when war broke out, and joined the Cameron Highlanders on the 11th August 1914. He went to France on 7th April 1915, and was at first reported missing at the battle of Loos, on the 25th September 1915, five months later.

Sometime after the authorities reported that he was missing, it was assumed he had been killed.

He was a nice obliging lad, and was much liked by his fellow-workers on the farm. He fell in battle, as oft occurred in days of old, along with the son of his master.

It is a sad reflection that it was only the master's son that is remembered on the Carlops memorial and not the farm lad he fell alongside. David Urquhart is remembered on the West Linton Memorial, along with the others, from Carlops, who never returned.

