

## They Died in the Conflict in Season 1915-1916

**George Allan**, born at Mauchline, Ayrshire, in 1885, had two spells at Partick Thistle, making a total of 61 appearances, scoring seven goals. On 17 March 1916, the *Dundee Courier* reported, "Accidental death was the verdict returned at an inquest at Winchester yesterday on Second Lieutenant George Allan, a well-known Scottish footballer. Allan was one of a party receiving instruction in firing trench bombs from a spring gun. He apparently thought that the fuse had failed to ignite, and leaned over to make sure, when the bomb-carrier flew up, striking him in the face and causing shocking injuries, as a result of which he died in ten minutes. The instructing officer said that had a live bomb been used instead of a dummy bomb, probably ten or twelve of those receiving instruction would have been killed. The flight of the bomb was restricted by striking the deceased.

**James Rae Armstrong**, born at Dennistoun, Glasgow, in 1888, made two league appearances for Kilmarnock in season 1912/13, scoring two goals. The following season he had joined St Mirren where he also played in two league matches. Private Armstrong was in the 5th Cameron Highlanders and died at Rouen on 11 October 1915.

**Charles Clunas**, born at Johnstone, Renfrewshire, in 1894, he started out with Kilbarchan Athletic before Clyde signed him in 1912. In three seasons at Shawfield, he made 19 league appearances, scoring three goals. He joined the 23rd Royal Fusiliers (London), the Sportsman's Battalion in November 1914 and, after training for a year, went to France and was killed by a rifle grenade at Pas de Calais on 8 February 1916, at the age of 22 years. According to press reports at the time, he was the fifth Clyde player to be killed.

**William James Cox**, born in Liverpool in 1880, started out with Rossendale United before Bury signed him in February 1903. He made four football league appearances in season 1903/04. He was transferred to Plymouth Argyle in May 1904, where he played in 12 league matches (one goal). A season at Leicester Fosse followed (three appearances), then short spells at Oldham, Accrington Stanley and Preston North End. Cox joined Dundee in May 1906 for one season, and it was a rather successful season, with 18 league goals in 31 starts. This caught the attention of Hearts, who signed him in April 1907. At Tynecastle he made nine appearances, scoring four goals. He was transferred to Bradford Park Avenue during season 1907/08, where he made 15 appearances, scoring five goals in the Southern League. On retirement from the game, Bill became a stonemason in Blackpool, but he was a Private in the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment when fatally wounded in the Dardanelles campaign. He died in hospital in Birmingham on 6 November 1915, and his Blackpool funeral was conducted with full military honours.

**Thomas Cranston**, born at Ardrossan around 1891, began his career with Ardrossan Celtic, a local amateur side. Signing for Raith Rovers as an outside-right in May 1912, he played 33 matches in season 1912/13, scoring five goals. He played in the Scottish Cup Final of 1913, when Raith Rovers were beaten 2-0 by Falkirk. The following season he was loaned out to Third Lanark for a few weeks, playing seven league matches for the Cathkin Park side. He was then back in Kirkcaldy where he added another 23 league appearances, scoring three goals.

Season 1914/15 was spent at Clyde (22 appearances/five goals) and it was while with Clyde that he joined the Black Watch. He was killed in action in Iraq on 13 January 1916.

**Bernard Donaghy**, born in Londonderry, Ireland, on 23 December 1882, started his career in the Irish League with Derry Celtic, Belfast Celtic and Glentoran. Hibernian signed him for season 1904/05, and he went on to play in 15 league matches, scoring seven goals for the Edinburgh side. After another short spell at Derry Celtic, Manchester United took him on for season 1905/06, but he made only three first team appearances. By season 1907/08, he was at Burnley, (five appearances/two goals). He spent the rest of his career at Derry Celtic. Bernard Donaghy joined up with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and was killed in action on 1 July 1916, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Several Scottish footballers died on the same day. Donaghy was 24 years old. He is buried at Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval.

**John Fleming**, born in Slamannan, Stirlingshire, in 1890, started out with Armadale and Bonnyrigg Rose. A centre-forward, he signed for Edinburgh side St Bernard's in November 1909, and went on to make 30 appearances, scoring 19 goals between 1909-1911. Spells down south with Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur followed this, but by season 1915/16 he was back in Scotland, this time playing for Rangers, where he made four appearances (one goal). John enlisted with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and died on 21 March 1916.



*Edwin Stanley Garvie*

**Edwin Stanley Garvie**, born at Govan, Glasgow, on 14 September 1892, joined Queen's Park in August 1911. In his four seasons with the Hampden Park club, he played in a total of 85 league matches, scoring seven goals. He was employed by J B Shanks, Gordon Street, Glasgow and represented Glasgow v Sheffield in the annual match in September 1913. A Lance Corporal in the Cameron Highlanders, he died in Germany on 15 October 1915 from wounds received in France.

**James Burton Gibson**, born at Kirkcaldy on 24 June 1889, studied at St Andrews University where he played for the University football team. In May 1912, Raith Rovers signed the half-back, he played in 17 league matches in season 1912/13 and scored two goals. After emigrating to New Zealand he was a Schoolteacher at Napier High School when he enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He died on 5 September 1915 on board Hospital Ship *Salta* of wounds received at the Dardanelles, and was buried at sea on 6 September 1915.



*Thomas Gracie*

**Thomas Gracie**, born at Glasgow on 12 June 1889, had spells with Strathclyde, Airdrieonians, Hamilton Academical, Arthurlie, Morton, Everton and Liverpool before joining Hearts in 1914 for £400. John McCartney, Hearts Manager, had used part of the money from the sale of Percy Dawson to fund Gracie's transfer. Tom signed up with Sir George McCrae's Battalion on 25 November 1914 but still managed to help Hearts finish second in the league. Although he was diagnosed with leukemia in March 1914, he continued to play and train with the army until his death in Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, on 23 October 1915. He never did play for Scotland but managed an appearance for the Scottish League XI in 1914.

**Samuel Herbertson**, born in Irvine, Ayrshire, around 1889, began his career with junior side Beith, and signed for Ayr United as a goalkeeper in July 1913, making 13 appearances for the first team at Somerset Park before joining the Royal Scots Fusiliers at the outbreak of war. Private Samuel Herbertson was killed in action at the Dardanelles on 12 July 1915.

**David Heron Izatt**, born at Dunfermline in 1892, joined Dunfermline Athletic as a half-back in 1911 and played a season in the Central league. He followed this with three seasons with the club in Division Two, where he played in 62 league matches, scoring seven goals. Prior to the outbreak of war he was employed as a Plumber by A Rolland and Co, Dunfermline. He joined The Royal Scots (Lothians Regiment) and was killed in action on 1 July 1916 at the battle of the Somme, alongside a few other prominent Scottish footballers who died on the same day.

**James Haldane**, born at Dundee in 1898, was first at Hearts of Beath before he joined Lochgelly United in June 1914. He made one Division Two appearance during season 1914/15. As soon as the war broke out he enlisted in the Royal Scots and was killed in action on 27 August 1915 in France.

**John Harkins**, born at Musselburgh, Midlothian on 10 April 1881, was playing in the Black Watch football team when Middlesbrough bought him in September 1906. He was a regular in the Boro side but came back to Scotland in 1908, playing for Broxburn. Then he had spells with Leeds City, Darlington and Coventry City before rejoining the Black Watch at the outbreak of the war. He was killed in action at Amara in Iraq on 22 April 1916.

**George Legge**, born at Shettleton around 1886, had three seasons in the Queen's Park senior side between 1910-1913, making three appearances. At the outbreak of war, he joined the Cameron Highlanders, and he was killed in action on 25 September 1915, aged 29 years old. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

**Andrew Bowie McCrae**, born at St Andrews in 1887, joined Falkirk, in December 1912 as an outside-right, making five league appearances for the Brockville side and scoring one goal. Season 1914/14 saw him move to Glasgow to play with amateur side Queen's Park, where he made 14 appearances. He was a Corporal in the Lovat Scouts when he died of wounds at Gallipoli on 17 November 1915, aged 28. He is buried at Lala Baba Cemetery in Turkey.

**Archibald McLardie**, born at Paisley in 1889, made five league appearances for St Mirren, three in season 1910/11 and two in season 1911/12. Before St Mirren he had been with John Neilson's FP. A practising Lawyer before enlisting, Second Lieutenant McLardie, 5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was killed at the Dardanelles on Christmas Day 1915. He had been in the Dardanelles for only six weeks.

**Andrew McDermott**, born at Edinburgh in 1889, joined Leith Athletic as a goalkeeper from Newtongrange in July 1910, making four Division Two appearances in season 1910/11. In civilian life he was a Lithographer before he joined the Royal Scots at the outbreak of war. Lance Corporal Andrew McDermott was wounded in the face at the Dardanelles on 28 June 1915, and died of his wounds on 12 July 1915 at Gallipoli. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial in Turkey.

**Robert Milligan**, born at Stoneykirk, Wigtonshire, in 1892, joined Clyde from Newton Villa and made one appearance for the Shawfield club in season 1912/13. Resident at Bellshill, he was employed at Wilson's & Clyde Coal Company's Douglas Park Colliery before enlisting in the Seaforth Highlanders. He was killed in action on 25 September 1915, and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial. His brother, Alexander, was in the same Battalion.

**Charles Neilson**. born at Ellon in 1890, played for Aberdeen for three years. On Tuesday 6 June 1916, the *Aberdeen Evening Express* reported, "Intimation was received this morning by Mr and Mrs Neilson, Station Road, Ellon, that their son, Company Sergeant Major Charles Neilson, Gordon Highlanders, had been killed in action on 1 June 1916. The news of this popular soldier's death has cast a gloom over Ellon. He was 26 Years of age, and received his early education at Ellon School. He then went to Aberdeen University, where he graduated MA in 1913. Before joining the Buchan Territorial Battalion, he was Assistant Teacher in Lossiemouth Public School. For three years he was a prominent member of the Aberdeen FC, playing as a professional, principally at outside-left, and usually with the A team. He was clever on the ball, and a fine shot. He was also a notable cricketer. Three more members of this patriotic family are serving - James, with the Lovat Scouts, Roland, with the local company of the Territorials and Bertie, with the Royal Field Artillery. The deepest sympathy of the community is extended to Mr and Mrs Neilson and their family."

**Leigh Richmond Roose**, born at Wrexham on 27 November 1878, was a goalkeeper who started out with UCW Aberystwyth, followed by Aberystwith Town, Druids, and London Welsh. Between 1901-1904 he was with Stoke (81 appearances), then a season at Everton (18 appearances). He was back at Stoke for another two seasons where he played in a further 66 games. Two seasons at Sunderland followed this (92 games), followed by a short loan spell at Celtic. He played in only one match for Celtic, a Scottish Cup semi-final tie v Clyde on 12 March 1910, which Clyde won 3-1. After this he had spells at Port Vale, Huddersfield Town, Aston Villa and Woolwich Arsenal. He finished his career in Wales and 24 caps for Wales, was, for the time, an extraordinary number. Leigh Roose joined the 9th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers and was awarded the Military Medal. He died on 7 October 1916 and he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France.



*Leigh Richmond Roose positioning himself to make a save.*



*James Hodge Speedie*

**James Hodge Speedie**, born at Edinburgh on 17 November 1893, was another who joined Hearts from Tranent. In season 1913/14, he played seven league matches for St Mirren and at Herats, he managed nine appearances and five goals. He was killed at the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915.

**John Taylor**, born in Elgin in 1886, played for Hull City in season 1907/08 where he made nine appearances (three goals). Between 1909-1913 he was a New Brompton player and made 123 appearances, scoring 37 goals. An inside-forward, he ended up in Edinburgh with Leith Athletic in season 1914/15 and made a good impression, scoring 20 goals in 27 matches. He was killed in action on 15 September 1916.

**James Todd**, born at Edinburgh in 1895, had one season with Raith Rovers in 1914/15 after signing for them from Musselburgh, playing in 22 matches and scoring one goal. After the season ended he enlisted in McCrae's Battalion, the 16th Royal Scots, and died on the Flanders Battlefield on 12 March 1916.

**Archibald Wilson**, born in Newmilns in 1890, played all his football in England with Tottenham Hotspur, Southend United and Middlesbrough. He was killed in action in Flanders on 1 July 1916.