

They Died in the Conflict in Season 1916-1917

Thomas Clifford, born at Kilbirnie in 1875, began his football career with Annbank and Newton Heath. In August 1897, Ayr FC signed him, and he played in ten division two matches, scoring four goals. He was back to England with Glossop after this, where he made 39 appearances in two seasons, with one goal. He moved around quite a bit afterwards, first with Luton Town, then Celtic and Beith, before heading for Motherwell in July 1904. Season 1904/05 saw him play in 16 league matches (one goal). On 19 January 1917, he was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme.

James Comrie, born at Denny, Stirlingshire on 31 March 1881, played in four league matches for Third Lanark, scoring one goal in their Championship winning season of 1903/04. Another two successful seasons at Cathkin followed, his total appearances amounting to 54, with 12 goals. Afterwards he gave service to Reading, Glossop, Bradford City and Lincoln City before settling into the Burnley side in 1912, where he gave them three good seasons. As he was based in England as a player for much of his career, James decided to join an English regiment, The Northumberland Fusiliers, and was killed in action on 9 August 1916.

James Conlin, born on 6th July 1881, was a man of many clubs - Cambuslang, Hibernian, Falkirk, Albion Rovers, Bradford City, Manchester City, Birmingham, Airdrieonians and Broxburn United. He represented England in a full International v Scotland in 1906. Private Conlin, 15th Battalion Highland Light Infantry, died in Flanders on 23rd June 1917, age 35, and is commemorated on the Nieuport Memorial. He was the son of Luke and Mary Ann Conlin, of Coatbank Street, Coatbridge and the husband of Elizabeth Conlin, of 495 Coatbank Street, Coatbridge.

Walter McFarlane Coulter, born in the West Indies in 1891, made one appearance for Queen's Park in season 1913/14 in the right-half position. He later joined the Highland Light Infantry regiment and was killed in action on 20 May 1917. He was a Captain in the 6th Battalion, was awarded the Military Cross, and is commemorated on the Arras memorial.

Duncan Currie, born at Kilwinning, Ayrshire on 13 August 1892, started his career with local side Kilwinning Rangers, a side his brother Robert also played with. Currie joined Hearts in April 1912, and went on to make 44 first team appearances for the Tynecastle club. His brother Robert moved from Bury to play in the same Hearts side in seasons 1912/13 and 1913/14. After enlisting in the Royal Scots, Sergeant Duncan Currie was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916.

John Ferguson, born at Aberfoyle around 1891, played with St Bernard's while studying at Edinburgh University. He made 22 division two appearances while with the Saints, then joined Third Lanark in 1913 and went on to play in 31 league matches, scoring five goals. After enlisting in the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) in 1915, he died at the Battle of the Somme on 23 October 1916. Some sources claim that Lieutenant Ferguson should have been awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. In a letter to John's mother, his Captain wrote, "I very much regret to have to inform you that your son John was killed in action. The company was attacking the German trenches, and John succeeded in entering the hostile trenches with a sergeant and his servant. He then bombed along the trench until wounded, when he moved across the open, continuing bombing. He was again wounded, and finally blown up by a bomb. He succeeded in putting three machine guns out of action, and cleared a length of 200 yards of trench, and it was wholly on account of his gallantry that the company on our left succeeded in their attack. His was the bravest act I have seen in eighteen months in the front line, and John will probably get a posthumous VC. John was in my company for nearly a year, and on all occasions proved himself to be a brave and capable officer, and he was adored by all the men in the company and by all the officers in the battalion. Allow me to offer you my deepest sympathy in your great loss. I know it is a very poor consolation for the loss of a son to know that he did his duty brilliantly and well, but such as it is you have. I personally deeply regret the loss of John as a friend and as an officer."

John Findlay joined Newcastle United in 1905 from Knibshill United and made two appearances for the St James' Park side. The right-half then had three seasons with Vale of Leven in Division Two before joining Airdrie in June 1909, where he accumulated 20 league matches and two Scottish Cup games. 1910/11 was spent back at Vale of Leven (eight appearances). According to an old football book, John Findlay was killed in action on 20th September 1916 but this does not match with the three men of the same name who died in September 1916.

Bernard Gallagher, born at West Greenock in 1894, joined Greenock Morton in May 1906 as a half-back, playing a total of 41 league matches for the Greenock side. He later had short loan spells at Dumbarton Harp and Port Glasgow Athletic before being killed in action in June 1916. These details were taken from a book 'Scottish Football Players Records 1890-1939' written by Steve Emms.

George Gibb, born at Wishaw, Lanarkshire, around 1891, signed for Third Lanark in August 1914 from Cambuslang Rangers. While at Cathkin he made 38 league appearances between 1914 and 1915. He then enlisted in the Highland Light Infantry, quickly becoming a Sergeant, and died of wounds on 7 June 1917.

Harry Gildea, born at Falkirk in 1890, began with Junior side Lochgelly St Patricks. He signed for Hibernian in September 1908, and played six league matches, scoring three times. He moved around quite a bit after this - Grimsby Town (three appearances) and Bristol City (one appearance). After a short spell with Lochgelly United, Gildea joined Dumbarton for season 1913/14, where he played in 27 league matches, scoring four goals. He was killed in action on 9 April 1917 while serving with the Black Watch.

Robert Graham, born at Camelon in 1883, was the eldest son of Robert Graham, a Chemical Works Manager, and Helen Graham, of 2 Sunntbrae Cottages, Falkirk. His siblings were Alexander, Margaret, Allan and Helen. He was the husband of Ethel Graham, of 29 Sparkenhoe Street, Leicester. he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

On 10 June 1916, the *Falkirk Herald* reported:

THE LOSS OF *HMS INVINCIBLE*

Camelon Man on Board

Chief Petty Officer Robert Graham

Information has come to hand to the effect that Chief Petty Officer Robert Graham, HMS *Invincible*, is not included in the list of survivors. His parents, Mr and Mrs Robert Graham, who reside at 4 Arbutnot Street, Camelon, Falkirk, received the sad news from the deceased's widow, who was officially informed of his death by the Naval Representative of Leicester, where deceased resided.

Chief Petty Officer Graham, who had been about seven years in the Navy, served first on the *Roxburgh*, and while on another ship at Portsmouth he attended a Torpedo School to study electricity. He was since then, for over four years, attached to the *Invincible*, and was then promoted to Chief Petty Officer in the Torpedo Department. In January 1915, he was on board the *Invincible* when she was engaged with the German Navy off the Falklands Islands, and afterwards he sent home a vivid description of that naval engagement. This sometime later, was published in the *Falkirk Herald*. It may be mentioned that not later than three weeks ago Chief Petty Officer Graham was home on furlough and in Camelon for a short time. Prior to enlistment, he was employed as an engineer with Messrs Sharp & Sons, Engineers, Camelon, where he served his apprenticeship. Deceased was an enthusiastic footballer, and in the early days of professionalism played for Falkirk Football Club. He had gained a place in both first and second elevens. He was 32 years of age, and a widow and child survive him. Two of his brothers are serving with the Scots Guards. Alexander has been in the regiment for seven years, and at the battle of Loos was wounded.

His brother Allan has been for over four years in the Scots Guards, and he also was in the famous charge at Loos, where a bullet entered his neck and made its way to his stomach, where it still lodges.

On 13 June 1916, the *Newcastle Daily Journal* reported:

A Scottish Junior International Killed

Footballers have played their part nobly in the great international battle, and to the long list of players who have made the supreme sacrifice has to be added the name of Robert Graham, one of "Jock" Simpson's first partners at Falkirk. Graham, who was 32 years of age, was an electrical artificer on board *HMS Invincible*, and went down with his ship in the great naval battle off Jutland.

A native of Camelon, Graham played for Scotland in the Junior International match in 1902-03, and after assisting Falkirk, where his association with Simpson secured the designation of the "Jock" wing, he went to Leicester Fosse. Three years ago he married a daughter of Mr E. Benn, a member of the Fosse Board of Directors, and he leaves one child. A sailor colleague, who acted as best man, was killed in the same battle.

On Saturday, 23 January 1915, the *Falkirk Herald* reported:

THE FALKLANDS BATTLE

CAMELON MAN ON THE *INVINCIBLE*

Vivid Description of the Fighting.

A vivid description of the naval engagement at the Falkland Islands is given in a letter to his father, Mr R. Graham, Arbutnot Street, Cameion, from a Camelon man, Mr Robert Graham, who is chief petty officer on *HMS Invincible*. Chief Petty Officer Graham, who is a native of Camelon, has been in the Navy for about six years. has two brothers in the 2nd Battalion of the Scots Guards. His letter is as follows: still alive and kicking, especially the latter, as you will doubtless realise after reading the account of the engagement at Falkland Islands. It came about as follows:

After the sinking of the Good Hope and Monmouth, the Invincible and Inflexible were told off into affairs in the Pacific, under Admiral Sturdee, who flew his flag on our ship. We were to be augmented by the addition of the following ships on arrival at Rio de Janeiro - Glasgow, Bristol, Kent, Cornwall, and Carnarvon. We left Devonport on November 11th for, well, wherever the German Fleet happened to be. After several minor events, such as coaling on the African coast and crossing the Equator, etc., we arrived off the Falkland Islands, South America, on December 7th.

We knew we might encounter the Germans any day now. We went into harbour, and started coaling at daybreak next morning.

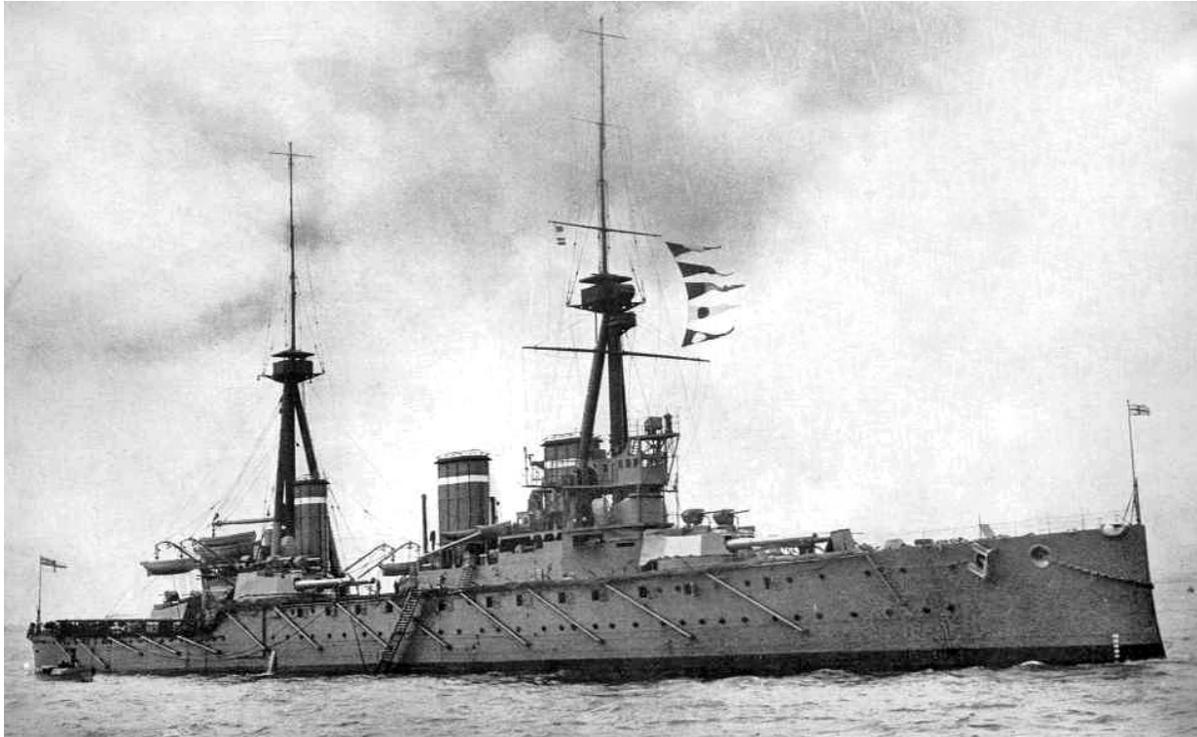
*I was carrying on my work as usual, when suddenly, about 9 am, Action Stations were sounded by the bugler. It transpired that two German cruisers had appeared on the horizon. Of course it was 'Stop coaling and up steam'. By the time we had got under weigh the German Fleet had been completed, making five in all, their names being Schamhorst, Gneisenau, Leipzig, Dresden, and Nuremberg. The first two were large cruisers, and the rest light cruisers. They came pretty close until seeing the two battle cruisers, *Invincible* and *Inflexible* (which they had never suspected of being anywhere near the Falklands), emerge from behind the cliffs at the mouth of the harbour, they turned tail and steamed for their lives. Being knots faster than some of our own and also the two large German cruisers, after some hours' steaming we got within range. About one o'clock our battle cruisers tackled these two, leaving the three light cruisers to the tender mercies of the *Glasgow* and *Co*. After about three hours, the *Scharnhorst* (reckoned to be the best gunnery ship in the German Navy), which was made to resemble the lid of a pepper pot through coming in contact with our 12 inch shells, went under, and we immediately turned our attention to the *Gneisenau*, which met a similar fate shortly afterwards.*

*All the other ships were out of sight by this time, so we all came up on deck, and I saw a sight I'll never forget to my dying day. There were hundreds of German sailors in the water clinging to life belts, wreckage, and hammocks, etc. It was intensely cold, and one could see numbers drowning without being able to save them. Here and there was sailor lying over a piece of wood, slowly floating past - dead from exposure. We saved 80 odd lives, and have them board at the present moment. Of course, as is always to be expected in these affairs, we didn't get off Scot free, several German shells bursting on board without any serious damage. I have got a piece which I am keeping as a curio. Afterwards we heard that the *Leipzig* and *Nuremberg* had been sunk, but that the *Dresden* had got away for the time being. The *Good Hope* and *Monmouth* had been avenged.*

HMS *Invincible* was a battlecruiser of the British Royal Navy, the lead ship of her class of three, and the first battlecruiser to be built by any country in the world.

In the First World War she participated in the Battle of Heligoland Bight in a minor role as she was the oldest and slowest of the British battlecruisers present. She fired on the light cruiser *Cöln*, but did not hit her before *Cöln* was sunk by the battlecruiser *Lion*. During the Battle of the Falkland Islands, *Invincible* and her sister *Inflexible* sank the armoured cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* almost without loss to themselves, despite numerous hits by the German ships.

She was the flagship of the 3rd Battlecruiser Squadron during the Battle of Jutland. The squadron had been detached from Admiral Beatty's Battlecruiser Fleet a few days before the battle for gunnery practice with the Grand Fleet and acted as its heavy scouting force during the battle.



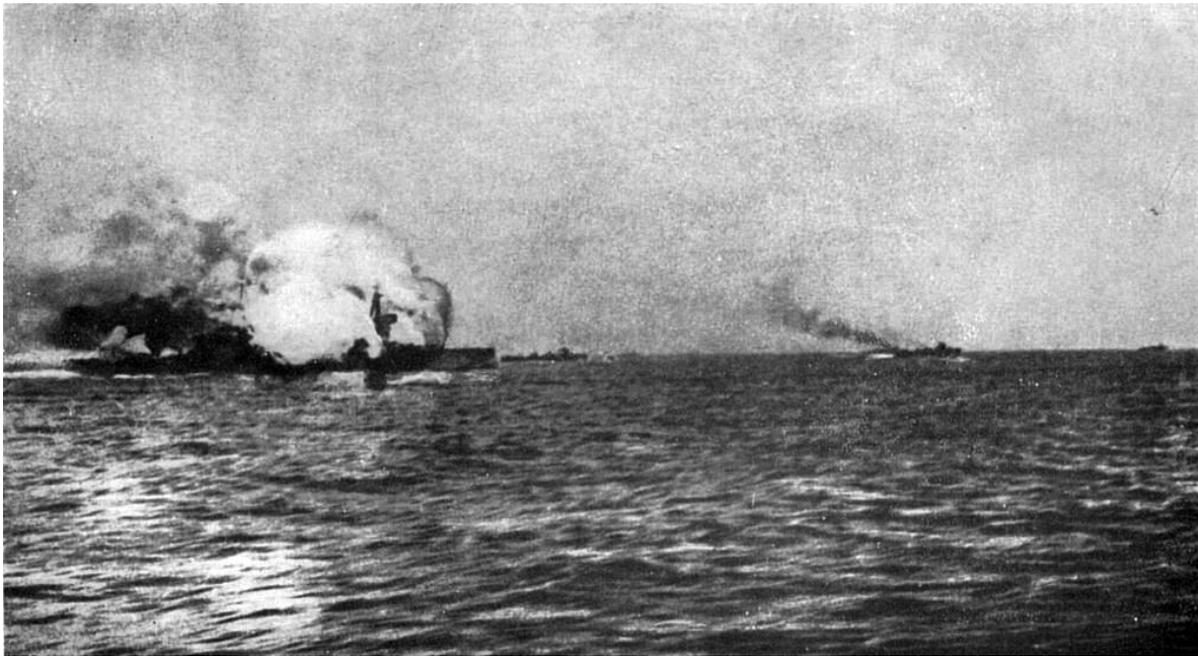
HMS Invincible

She was destroyed by a magazine explosion during the battle after 'Q' turret was penetrated.

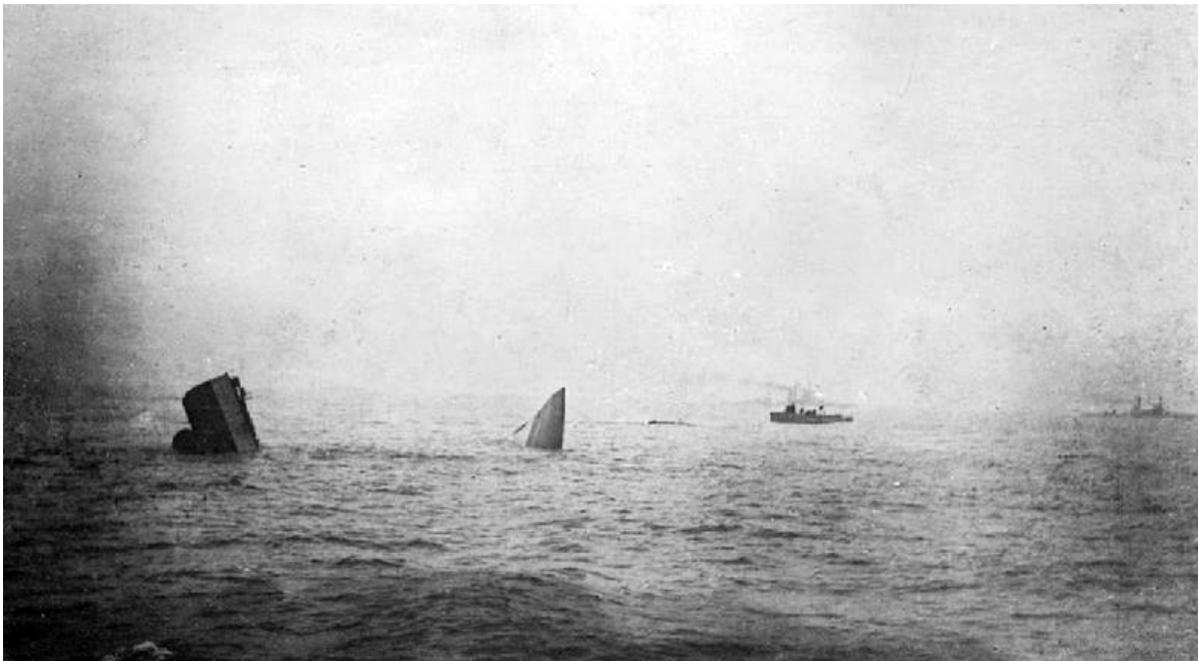
At the end of May 1916, the 3rd Battlecruiser Squadron was temporarily assigned to the Grand Fleet for gunnery practice. On 30 May, the entire Grand Fleet, along with Admiral Beatty's battlecruisers, had been ordered to sea to prepare for an excursion by the German High Seas Fleet. In order to support Beatty, Admiral Hood took his three battlecruisers ahead of the Grand Fleet. At about 2:30 PM *Invincible* intercepted a radio message from the British light cruiser *Galatea*, attached to Beatty's Battlecruiser Force, reporting the sighting of two enemy cruisers. This was amplified by other reports of seven enemy ships steering north. Hood interpreted this as an attempt to escape through the Skagerrak and ordered an increase in speed to 22 kn (41 km/h) at 3:11 and steered East-Southeast to cut off the fleeing ships. Twenty minutes later *Invincible* intercepted a message from Beatty reporting five enemy battlecruisers in sight and later signals reporting that he was engaging the enemy on a south-easterly course. At 4:06 Hood ordered full speed and a course of south-southeast in an attempt to converge on Beatty. At 4:56, with no British ships in sight, Hood requested Beatty's course, position and speed, but never received a reply.

Hood continued on course until 5:40 when gunfire was spotted in the direction to which his light cruiser *Chester* had been dispatched to investigate other gunfire flashes. *Chester* encountered four light cruisers of Hipper's 2nd Scouting Group and was badly damaged before Hood turned to investigate and was able to drive the German cruisers away from *Chester*. At 5:53 *Invincible* opened fire on *Wiesbaden* and the other two *Invincibles* followed two minutes later.

The German ships turned for the south after fruitlessly firing torpedoes at 6:00 and attempted to find shelter in the mist. As they turned *Invincible* hit *Wiesbaden* in the engine room and knocked out her engines while *Inflexible* hit *Pillau* once. The 2nd Scouting Group was escorted by the light cruiser *Regensburg* and 31 destroyers of the 2nd and 9th Flotillas and the 12th Half-Flotilla which attacked the 3rd BCS in succession. They were driven off by Hood's remaining light cruiser *Canterbury* and the five destroyers of his escort.



Invincible exploding at Jutland, taken from a destroyer nearby.



The two shattered halves of Invincible temporarily standing on the seabed.

In a confused action the Germans only launched 12 torpedoes and disabled the destroyer *Shark* with gunfire. Having turned due west to close on Beatty's ships, the three *Invincible*-class battlecruisers were broadside to the oncoming torpedoes, but *Invincible* turned north, while *Inflexible* and *Indomitable* turned south to present their narrowest profile to the torpedoes. All the torpedoes missed, although one passed underneath *Inflexible* without detonating. As *Invincible* turned north, her helm jammed and she had to come to a stop to fix the problem, but this was quickly done and the squadron reformed heading west.

At 6:21, with both Beatty and the Grand Fleet converging on him, Hood turned south to lead Beatty's battlecruisers. Hipper's battlecruisers were 9,000 yards (8.2 km) away and the *Invincibles* almost immediately opened fire on Hipper's flagship *Lützow* and *Derfflinger*. *Indomitable* hit *Derfflinger* three times and *Seydlitz* once, while the *Lützow* quickly took ten hits from *Lion*, *Inflexible* and *Invincible*, including two hits below the waterline forward by *Invincible* that would ultimately doom her. But at 6:30 *Invincible* abruptly appeared as a clear target before *Lützow* and *Derfflinger*. The two German ships then fired three salvos each at *Invincible* and sank her in 90 seconds. At least one 305 mm (12-inch) shell from the third salvo struck her midships 'Q' turret. The shell penetrated the front of 'Q' turret, blew off the roof and detonated the midships magazines, which blew the ship in half. The explosion possibly ignited 'A' and 'X' magazines. Of her complement, 1,026 officers and men were killed, including Rear-Admiral Hood. There were only six survivors picked up by *Badger*.

William John Gray, born in Inverness around 1882, began his football career with local side Inverness Thistle. Another Thistle was his next club, this time Partick Thistle, who signed Gray in 1903. He had four seasons at Firhill, making 39 first team appearances, scoring three goals. A season at Southampton in 1906/07 in the Southern League (28 appearances) broke his time at Partick Thistle, but he was back in their colours the following season. Between 1907 and 1909 he made a further 47 league appearances, scoring four goals. William joined the Seaforth Highlanders and was killed in action at the Somme on 18 November 1916. He was 34 years old.

Patrick Hagan, born at Edinburgh in 1880, joined Hibernian in May 1905 from Belfast Celtic. He had one season at Easter Road - 1905/06 - where he played 25 league matches, scoring five goals. He spent the next year and a half at Brentford, where he made 49 appearances, scoring 11 goals in the Southern League. He rejoined Hibernian during season 1907/08 (nine appearances/three goals) before moving on to Port Glasgow Athletic, where he was a regular in the side (57 appearances/11 goals). Patrick was a Sergeant in the Royal Scots, and was killed at the Battle of the Somme on 14 July 1916. His name is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial. He left a wife and two young children.

Alexander Laing Halkett, born at Dundee on 9 October 1880, began his career with Parkmore FC, a club his brother John also played with before they both joined Dundee. Alex joined them in 1901, playing in 16 league matches. Aberdeen took Halkett further north in 1904/05, where he spent five good seasons, making 116 appearances and scoring two goals.

Two seemingly unsuccessful seasons at Portsmouth followed this from 1909 to 1911. Alex then spent 1911/12 and 1912/13 at St Johnstone in Division Two, before he joined the Royal Field Artillery. A wheelwright by trade, he was engaged for a considerable time at Rosyth Naval Base, and had only been in France since 17 December 1916. He was killed in action on 21 February 1917, age 36, and was only recently married, leaving a wife and son, born a month after his death.

Thomas Alexander Jackson, born at Thornliebank on 12 November 1878, started out with Summerlee Juniores and Thornliebank. Signed as a full-back by St Mirren in May 1898, he went on to have a ten year career with the Paisley side. He played in a total of 200 league matches, scoring three goals.

Capped six times for Scotland, he played in all three Home Internationals in season 1903/04 and played against Wales and Ireland in season 1906/07. He also made nine appearances for St Johnstone in Division Two in season 1911/12. After joining the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Private Tom Jackson was killed in action on 9 October 1916.

Peter Johnstone, born at Collessie, Cowdenbeath, Fife, on 6 July 1888, began his career with Glencaig Celtic, before moving to Glasgow Celtic in January 1909. He made only one appearance in his first season at Parkhead, but was soon a regular in the side, accumulating a total of 210 appearances, with 24 goals. His main position was outside-right. He won three Scottish Cup medals as well as four League championships with Celtic and was a mainstay in their side for several years.

Surprisingly Johnstone was never capped for Scotland but he did play for the Scottish League side in 1914 v the Irish League, as well as representing Glasgow on two occasions. He joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regiment in 1916 and was latterly in the 6th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, losing his life at the battle of Arras on 16 May 1917. A dedication to his memory is inscribed on the Arras Memorial in the Fauborg d'Amiens Cemetery.

Alexander Kay, born in Edinburgh around 1879, began his career with St Bernard's in season 1898/99. In his two seasons with the Edinburgh club he played in a total of 26 league matches. A season at Partick Thistle followed in 1900/01 where he was a regular in the side, making 19 appearances.

A season down south with Sheffield United followed this in 1901/02 (six appearances). Alex was a Rifleman in 'C' Company Rifle Brigade and was killed in action on 15 February 1917 at 38 years of age. His name is on the Thiepval Memorial.



James Morton Maxwell, born at Kilmarnock on 26 July 1887, started out with Kilmarnock Shawbank and Petershill, joining Kilmarnock in December 1904. He gave Killie three good seasons, accumulating 40 league appearances, with 13 goals.

Before season 1906/07 was over, he was transferred to Sheffield Wednesday where he played in 27 league matches, scoring six goals. The outside-right then had a season with Woolwich Arsenal (1908/09) but he only managed two appearances.

He seemed to move around a lot after this with short spells at Hurlford, Galston, Carlisle United and Lanemark.

After one final season at Kilmarnock (five appearances/one goal) he joined Nithsdale Wanderers. After joining the 1st Seaforth Highlanders, Lance Corporal Maxwell was killed on 24 April 1917. His name is listed on the Basra Memorial.

Alexander McCurdie, born at Trabboch, Stair, Ayrshire, on 7 January 1895, signed for Kilmarnock in August 1913 and played in five league matches, scoring three goals. The centre-forward then had a short loan spell with Stevenston United, but he was back at Rugby Park the following season (1914/15), where he added another six to his total of matches. Lance Sergeant Alex McCurdie, 14th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, died in action at Beaucamp, France on 24 April 1917. He is buried at Fifteen Ravine British Cemetery, near the village of Villers-Plouich.

Richard McFadden, born at Cambuslang around 1890, started his career with Blyth Spartans and was signed by Clapton Orient in 1911. The forward went on to make 137 appearances for Orient, scoring 66 goals. He was their top goalscorer for four consecutive seasons. He joined the 17th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment, known as the 'Footballers Battalion', and died at the battle of the Somme on 23 October 1916, aged 27. He is buried at the Couin British Cemetery.

George McLay, born at Crossgates, Fife, around 1889, was with Glenraig Celtic when Raith Rovers signed him in May 1910. The right-half had five seasons with the Kirkcaldy club, playing in a total of 79 league matches, with five goals. After joining the Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), he was killed in action at the Battle of Passchendaele on 22 October 1917. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery.

Angus McLeod, born at Inverness in 1890, started out with Inverness Caledonian, joining Aberdeen in 1913. He played in a total of 22 league matches, scoring six goals. He was a Lance Corporal with the Gordon Highlander and was killed in action on 16 May 1917, aged 27. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Douglas Morgan, born at Inverkeithing, Fife in 1890, started out with Inverkeithing Renton, where he helped them to win the Fife Cup in season 1910/11. He soon moved on to another local side, Inverkeithing United, where he went one better and was part of the side that won the Scottish Junior Cup. The left-back was soon on the way to Hull City, where he spent two good seasons, playing in 52 league matches and six FA Cup matches. His life came to a tragic end as, while celebrating Hogmanay on 31 December 1916 with his fellow soldiers, a German shell struck the ground beside them. He died the next day of his wounds. His regiment was the Royal Garrison Artillery.

John Munro, born at Invergordon around 1898, joined Aberdeen in 1914 from Aberdeen East End. While at Pittodrie he played in 14 league matches. After enlisting in the Royal Field Artillery, he was killed in action on 8 May 1917.

David Carswell Philip, born at Dundee in 1880, began with junior side Edinburgh Myrtle before Hearts signed him in May 1903. At Tynecastle he played in 72 league matches, scoring one goal. He was in the Hearts side that won the Scottish Cup in 1905/06 and a finalist a year later. In 1909/10, he was loaned to Leith Athletic (22 appearances) and Qualifying Cup winners. Raith Rovers signed him in June 1910, and he had a good few seasons there, playing in 83 league matches and scoring 15 goals. After enlisting in the Royal Scots, he was later granted a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the 23rd (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, and was killed in action on 29 April 1917. His name is on the Arras memorial.

John Bryce Ramsay, born at Grangemouth, Stirlingshire, around 1897, joined Falkirk in September 1914 making 25 appearances, with ten goals. He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve after a year with Falkirk and was involved in the Dardanelles campaign. He died at Arras, France on 28 April 1917.

Robert Rollo, born at Glasgow around 1887, started his football career with Petershill Juniors and Clydebank Juniors before he joined Hibernian in 1907. Season 1907/08 was the only season he spent at Easter Road, where he made ten appearances, scoring one goal. Private Robert Rollo joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers and died of wounds on 30 April 1917.

Charles Penman Scott, born at Auchterderran, Fife in 1884, was signed from Hearts of Beath in 1905 by his local club, Cowdenbeath, and played for two seasons. Later, he played for East Fife. He served as a Lance Corporal in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and died on the Somme on 10 August 1916. He is buried in the Gordon Dump Cemetery, two miles from Albert. His name is on the monument that overlooks Cowdenbeath from the top of the hill.

James Scott, born at Airdrie in 1895, started out with Craigton Thistle and Glasgow junior side Petershill. The inside-forward joined Raith Rovers in September 1913, and went on to play in 59 league matches, scoring 25 goals while at Stark's Park. He was killed in action at the Somme on 1 July 1916, alongside several of his Royal Scots footballing friends. A newspaper reported, "Word has been received from his officer that Private James Scott, Royal Scots, has been killed in action. Scott, who was a member of the Sportsman's (McCrae's) Battalion, enlisted while with Raith Rovers. He was one of Raith's most finished players, and certainly no-one's services were missed more than his. He was an all-round forward, and had become known as 'Raith's opportunist'. As a matter of fact, he was the most consistent goal-scorer Raith have ever had. He leaves a young widow. He was the first to mount a German trench in the advance, and was killed by machine gun fire."

Patrick Slavin, born at Shotts, Lanarkshire, on 5 May 1877, began his career with Fauldhouse Hibs before joining Celtic in February 1897. He played twice for Celtic, had a season at Motherwell where he played ten times, scoring four goals, then moved around, playing for Dykehead, Carfin Shamrock and Albion Rovers. He joined the Royal Scots and was killed in action on 13 November 1916.

David Glencross Slimmon, born at Kilmarnock on 2 August 1895, started his football career with St Andrews United and Ayrshire side Auchinleck Talbot. The left-back went senior with Dumbarton in season 1913/14, but he played in only one league match. In June 1914 Kilmarnock signed him, and he played in 16 league matches in season 1914/15 and one the following season. He joined the 419th (West Lancs) Field Company, Royal Engineers, won Military Medal, and died on 23 July 1917. He is buried at Hop Store Cemetery, near Ypres. There is no mention of David Slimmon on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Donald Sloan, born at Coylton, Ayrshire on 31 July 1883, started out with Irish side Distillery before moving on to Everton in 1906. After two season at Everton he played for Liverpool where he made six appearances as goalkeeper in season 1908/09. He then returned to Distillery. Private Donald Sloan joined the Black Watch Regiment and was killed in action on 1 January 1917 at the battle of Arras.

James Stevenson, born at Paisley, Renfrewshire, began his football career with junior side Ashfield before joining Clyde in 1894. In season 1894/95, he made 15 Division One appearances for Clyde, scoring four goals. The following season he was at Derby County, and he had five successful seasons with the Rams. In 73 first team appearances he netted 31 goals. Derby were FA Cup runners up in 1897/98. Two seasons at Newcastle United followed this with 34 appearances and 13 goals. A season at Bristol City in 1900/01 (23 appearances) and Leicester Fosse (seven appearances/one goal) followed, then he moved back to Scotland with Clyde, where he made a further 14 appearances, scoring five goals. He was aged 39 when killed in action in Flanders on 3 July 1916. He was a Private in the Highland Light Infantry.

William Strang, born at Dunfermline, Fife on 16 September 1878, began his career with local side Wallsend and Dunfermline Athletic Juniors. He then had one season with Orion FC in season 1899/1900 before joining Celtic in May 1903. The full-back made two appearances in the Celtic first team in season 1902/03 before being loaned out to Renton for a season. He did come back to Parkhead again but did not play in any first team matches. Around 1906 Strang emigrated to Canada and was playing with Calgary Caledonian soon afterwards. When war broke out he was a Lance Corporal in the Canadian Infantry and was killed in action on 7 October 1916. His name is mentioned on the Memorial at St Sever Cemetery, Rouen.

Henry Taylor, born at Falkirk around 1881, played with Cowie Wanderers, King's Park and joined Dundee Hibernian in 1911, where he played in three Division Two matches. Falkirk took him on soon afterwards where he only managed two appearances. For three to four years he was employed by the Callendar Coal Company as a Brakesman. Private Harry Taylor, Gordon Highlanders, died at Rouex, France on 27 May 1917.

Alexander Turnbull, born at Hurlford, Ayrshire, on 30 July 1884, started out with Hurlford Thistle. The inside-forward played all his professional football in England, first with Manchester City (110 appearances/53 goals), then City rivals Manchester United, where he made 220 appearances, scoring 90 goals. Manchester City won the FA Cup in 1903/04. He helped Manchester United win their first title in 1908 as well as being an FA Cup winner in 1909, where he scored the only goal in the final v Bristol City. United also won the title in 1910/11.

Sandy joined the East Surrey regiment and was killed in action at Arras, France on 3 May 1917, aged 32. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Charles Thomas Vickers, born at Hutchesontown, Glasgow, on 12 February 1891, played with junior side Kilsyth Emmet before joining Kilmarnock in December 1913. In his two seasons at Rugby Park - 1913/14 and 1914/15 - he made a total of 16 league appearances, scoring one goal. A season at Renton in the Western League followed this. Vickers joined the Royal Field Artillery and died on 21 June 1917. He is buried at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery. near Pas de Calais.



Henry Benzie Wattie, born at Norwich on 2 June 1893, started out with Tranent Juniors before John McCartney signed him for Hearts in August 1913. In Wattie's three seasons at Tynecastle he made 59 appearances, scoring 18 times.

He was in the outstanding Hearts side that just missed out on winning the title in 1914/15.

Harry Wattie, a member of McCrae's Battalion, was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916.

Robert Williams, signed for Airdrieonians in June 1910 and gave the Broomfield Park side six good seasons, with his league appearances totalling 114, with 10 goals, all in Division One. His last appearance for Airdrie was in season 1915/16 and he joined up as a Private in the Royal Scots Fusiliers soon afterwards. Williams was killed in action in France on 31 August 1916. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.