

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.

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 Juveniles 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 Cemerery, 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.