

## Falkirk Players Who Fell

**James Conlin**, born at Consett, Durham 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.

On 7 July 1917, the *Falkirk Mail* reported:

### Former Falkirk Footballer Killed

*Mrs Conlin, Coatbank Street, Coatbridge, has received a letter telling her of the death in action, on 23rd June, of her husband Private James Conlin, HLI. Private Conlin was a well known sportsman and for some time played with the Falkirk Club. It was with Albion Rovers, however, that he attained fame and thereafter played with Bradford City. He was capped twice for England in one season in the Association and League Internationals against Scotland. He was also at one time in the Manchester and Birmingham elevens. On his return to Scotland he played with Airdrie for one season.*

**Alexander Johnston**, born at Falkirk in 1881, played for Falkirk Amateurs, Falkirk, Camelon, and Falkirk again. Bombardier Johnston, Royal Garrison Artillery, died in Flanders on 17 August 1917, age 37, and is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. He was the son of John and Janet Johnston, of 96 Thornhill Road, Falkirk.

On 15 September 1917, the *Falkirk Mail* reported:

### Falkirk Postman-Footballer Killed

*News was received on Sunday by Mrs A B Johnston, 18 Garthall Place, Falkirk, to the effect that her husband, Acting Bombardier Alexander Johnston, RGA, had been killed in Flanders on the 17th August. The Bombardier was well-known in Falkirk and District, having been for fully 20 years in the Falkirk Post Office, and latterly as a postman. He joined the RGA in June 1916, and was transferred to France about two months ago. He was 37 years of age. At one time Johnston was a prominent member of the old Falkirk football eleven and for some time was also associated with the old Camelon team. He was of a cheerful disposition and very popular with his colleagues and with the general public. He is survived by his widow and a young family.*

**Andrew Bowie McCrae**, born at Dundee in 1887, played for Denny Athletic, Falkirk and Queen's Park. Corporal McCrae, Lovat Scouts, died at Gallipoli on 17 November 1915, age 28, and is commemorated on the Lala Baba Memorial. He was the son of John and Jeanie McLintock McCrae, of Rosemount, Crail, Fife.

On 25 November 1915, the *Edinburgh Evening News* reported:

### **Falkirk Footballer Killed**

*Information has been received in Falkirk that Corporal A B McCrae, Lovat Scouts, has been killed in action at the Dardanelles. Corporal McCrae was formerly a well-known footballer having played for Queen's Park and Falkirk. Prior to enlisting he was employed by a Falkirk firm of writers.*

**John Ramsay**, born at Grangemouth in 1897, played for Falkirk. Able Seaman John Bryce Ramsay, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, died on 28 April 1917, age 20, and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. He was the son of James and Margaret Ramsay, of 10 Marshall Street, Grangemouth.

On 12 May 1917, the *Falkirk Herald* reported:

### **Second Son Killed**

*Mrs Ramsay, 124 Dundas Street, is the recipient of a letter from a naval officer, which states that her son, AB J B Ramsay, RN division, 20 years of age, was on 24th April killed while on active service. The letter reads: "He was killed in one of the most difficult actions the RND have ever been in, and he died like a Scotsman. He was a good lad, liked by men and officers alike, willing and obedient. You must be justly proud of your son." This young sailor was through the Dardanelles campaign, having been a year and nine months on active service, and two years this month with the Navy. He was very well known as a football player for Falkirk, and originally worked in the boatyard. This is the second son Mrs Ramsay has lost through the war, another son, Alexander, being also fatally wounded while in action with the RND some time ago. Another son was discharged through his extreme youth, but expects to be called up again, and her husband is serving in France.*

**James Sharp**, born at Newarthill, Lanarkshire, in 1894, played for Grange Rovers and Falkirk. Private James Sharp. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, died on 26 April 1915, age 21, and is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. He was the son of William and Mary Sharp, of Drumbowie Village, Muiravonside.

On 15 May 1915, the *Falkirk Herald* reported:

### **Private James Sharp**

*Private James Sharp was also attached to the 7th A & S Highlanders. He was 21 years of age, and the son of William Sharp, miner, East Borland.*

**Henry Taylor**, born at Falkirk around 1891, 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 Roeux, France on 27 May 1917, and is commemorated on the Roeux Memorial.

On 16th June 1917, the *Falkirk Mail* reported:

### **Falkirk Footballer Killed**

*Last Saturday, Mr and Mrs Alexander Taylor, Prince's Park, Falkirk, received official intimation that their son, Private Harry Taylor, was killed in action on 27th May. Private Taylor, it will be remembered, played for Falkirk, Cowie, King's Park and Stenhousemuir at different periods and was a left winger of average ability. He was a mason to trade, but for three to four years was employed by the Callendar Coal Company as a brakesman. Private Taylor enlisted in the Gordons at the commencement of the war, and six months later proceeded to France. He had been wounded twice, but very slightly. He was in his 26th year. Another brother, also in the Gordons, has been confined in hospital in England for the last three or four weeks, suffering from gunshot wounds in the arm.*

**James Laing**, born at Kilsyth in 1897, played for Falkirk and East Stirlingshire. Private James Laing, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, died on 23 April 1917, age 20, and is commemorated on the Roeux Memorial. He was the son of John and Jeanie McGill Laing, of 18 Carronhall, Carron, Falkirk.

On 16th September 1917, the Falkirk Herald reported:

#### **Killed In Action**

*Official intimation has been received by Mr and Mrs John Laing, 18 Carronhall, Carron, that their youngest son, Pte. James Higgins Laing, A & S H, was killed in action on 23rd April. Pte. Laing, who was in his 20th year, was, prior to his enlistment, employed as an engineer in the "E" Department, Carron. He joined the Territorials in September last, and was drafted to France in January. In football circles he was well-known, he being one of the regular players of the East Stirlingshire Club, which club had his services from Falkirk, who held his League signature.*