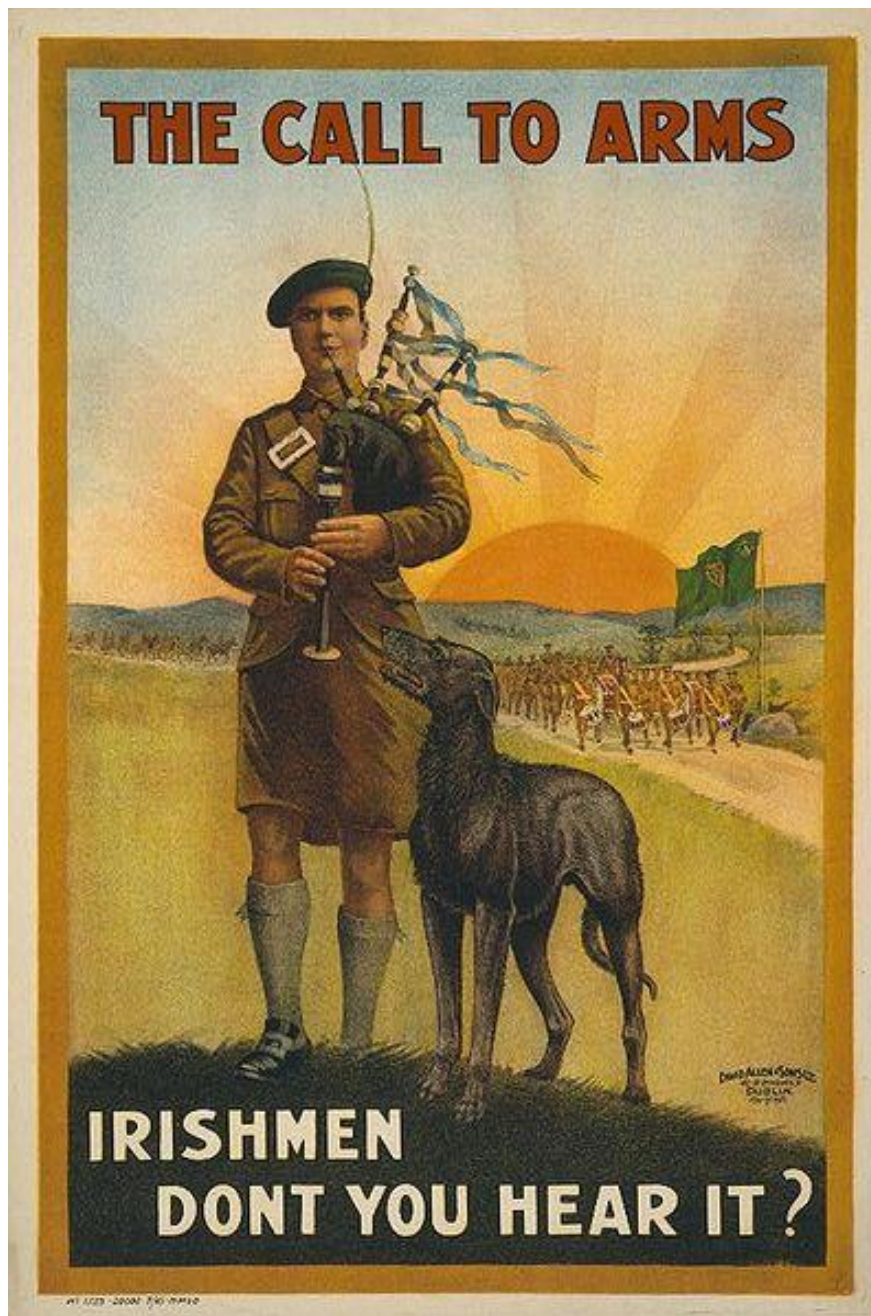


Section 2



First World War

Servicemen Biographies

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Louis Alexander

Louis Alexander's name appears on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation.

Louis Alexander was born on 14th January 1888 in Belfast, the youngest of six children born to John Alexander (Plumber) and Maria Jane Alexander. The family was living at 15 Cumberland Street in 1899, but the 1901 Ireland Census records Maria Jane Alexander as a "Widow". Louis Alexander's address is listed as 25 Magdala Street on the PCI Roll of Honour, and his mother (who had signed the Ulster Declaration¹ in 1912) is recorded as his next of kin, living at 32 Holborn Avenue in Bangor, on his Canadian enlistment papers.

Louis Alexander enlisted in January 1915 at Edmonton and was allocated to the 49th (Edmonton Regiment) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). The 49th Battalion arrived in France and Flanders with the 7th Infantry Brigade of the 3rd Canadian Division on 9th October 1915 and served until the Armistice. The PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation records that Louis Alexander was wounded whilst serving with the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps.



¹ The Ulster Declaration was signed by women whilst the Ulster Covenant was signed by men.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

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ATTESTATION PAPER.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

- (ANSWERS)
1. What is your name? *Louis W. Alexander*
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Belfast, Ireland*
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Mother, Maria Jane Alexander*
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *32 Malburn Ave Bangor, Ire*
 5. What is the date of your Birth? *1st Jan'y 1888*
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Paper Ruler*
 7. Are you married? *No.*
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *Yes.*
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *No.*
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *No.*
If so, state particulars of former Service.
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes.*
 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes.*
- Louis Alexander* (Signature of Man).
W. Macey (Signature of Witness).

49
The 15th

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Louis Alexander*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date *Jan'y 5th* 1915. *L. Alexander* (Signature of Recruit)
W. Macey (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I,, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date *5th Jan'y* 1915. *L. Alexander* (Signature of Recruit)
C. Y. Weaver (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Edmonton* this *5th* day of *Jan'y* 1915.

C. Y. Weaver (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.
Geo. J. Priddy (Approving Officer)

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Hugh Montgomery Baillie and Robert Baillie

The names of Hugh Montgomery Baillie and Robert Baillie appear on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

Hugh Montgomery Baillie (born in Ballymacarrett on 31st May 1893) and Robert Baillie (born in 1895) were the sons of Robert and Sara Baillie of “Eilerslie”, 6 Ravenhill Park. Their father was a partner in a legal firm (Carson, Baillie & Thom of Royal Avenue) and the 1911 Ireland Census Return records Hugh as a “Solicitor’s General Clerk” and Robert as a “Scholar”.

Robert Baillie, who had been educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institution, received his commission as a Second Lieutenant with 17th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles in January 1915. He was listed as wounded in 1916 and was, at the time of his brother’s death, serving as a Signaling Officer in England. Robert Baillie was an Elder in Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church between 1923 and 1927.

Hugh Montgomery Baillie had also been educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institution



and signed the Ulster Covenant, as did his father, Robert, and an elder brother, Samuel (who was resident in Liverpool). He had served in the Ulster Volunteer Force since its inception, holding the positions of Squad Leader, Section Commander and Half Company Commander on different occasions. Before the war, he was a legal



apprentice with Carson and McDowell of Royal Avenue², a firm of Belfast solicitors. In November 1914, he abandoned

his studies in Dublin when he enlisted in the Royal Irish Rifles. He received his commission in the 16th (Pioneer) Battalion in January 1915.

In November 1918, a letter was received from Second Lieutenant W. Q. Rea of the 16th Royal Irish Rifles, a prisoner of war in Karlsruhe, Germany. He confirmed that Hugh Montgomery Baillie was his Company commander and he had seen him being killed in action on 21st March 1918³, during the Battle of St. Quentin in France. He stated that Hugh had been shot through the head, while standing beside him, at a junction 1500 yards west of Urvillers on the Essigny-le-Grand to St. Quentin road.

² The firm is now based at Murray House.

³ Edward Edmond Burnside served in the same battalion and was killed on the same day.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Captain Hugh M. Baillie, Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action, was a son of Mr. Root. Baillie, Ellerslie, Ravenhill Park, Belfast, of the firm of Messrs. Carson, Baillie, and Thom, solicitors, Royal Avenue. Captain Baillie, who was 24 years of age, was educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institution, and previous to joining the colours was serving his apprenticeship as a solicitor with Messrs. Carson and M'Dowell. He gave up his lectures in Dublin in November, 1914, and joining the Royal Irish Rifles, received his commission in January, 1915, being promoted captain in September, 1917. He had seen considerable active service, and shortly after the commencement of the present offensive was officially reported missing. The tragic news of his death in action has just been received unofficially by his stricken parents, to whom and the other members of the family the deepest sympathy of their many friends will be extended in their great bereavement. Deceased's brother, Lieut. Robert Baillie, is at present serving in England as a signalling officer.

Belfast Telegraph, 14th May 1918

Captain Hugh Montgomery Baillie is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial in France, on the RBAI War Memorial and on the Solicitors' Memorial at the Four Courts in Dublin.



Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

John Alexander Paterson Bill

John Alexander Patterson Bill's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

Jack Bill was born on 8th July 1895 in Edinburgh, the son of Samuel Alexander and Grace Bill, who were missionaries. His grandfather was John Bill, a builder, of Downshire Park, Cregagh. Samuel Alexander Bill (born in Belfast, 1864; died in Nigeria, 1942) was raised in Ballymacarrett Presbyterian Church but was most notably associated with the Island Street Mission Hall. His interest in missionary work was sparked by a visit to Belfast by the American evangelists Moody and Sankey in 1874 and he attended the Harley Missionary Training College in London, then under the leadership of Henry Grattan Guinness. In the mid-1880s a group of chiefs from the Ibeno region of the Niger Delta approached the Calabar Mission of the Free Church of Scotland for a missionary. The over-extended mission was unable to comply but passed on the request to the Harley Missionary Training College in London. As a result, Samuel Alexander Bill, aged 23 and a builder by trade, set sail from



Belfast for Africa in the autumn of 1887. He arrived in Qua Iboe by the end of that year and, assisted by friends in the Scottish United Presbyterian Mission, was able to establish a house and small school on the banks of the Qua Iboe River. At this early stage Bill was as much a scholar as a teacher, learning from his young pupils the sounds and meanings of the words in the Efik language. As communication improved there was evidence of spiritual growth and, in practical terms, this saw fruition in the erection of a small church where the first Communion service was held on 18 February 1890. Samuel Bill's diary records:

“Eleven sat down to the Table, all with black skins - except Mr. Bailie and myself - but all looking to a common Saviour ... There were about 100 people in the church, and they were mostly orderly and attentive.”

The Qua Iboe Mission Council was formed in 1891 by representatives of the leading Belfast churches (principally Presbyterian, Baptist and Quaker) to support his work. Many historians of the Irish evangelical missionary movement note that Samuel Bill was one of the most influential men of his time, inspiring many in Ireland to undertake overseas Christian service. Samuel Bill has been described as a 'shirt-sleeve missionary' because of his practical skills as a builder. He also planted maize, cassava and coffee and had dreams of a saw-mill, a coffee plantation and even a trading station. Samuel Bill is still revered by many Nigerian Christians today and a theological college at Abak in southern Nigeria is named in his honour.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

The 1901 Ireland Census return for 77 Upper Newtownards Road indicates that Jack Bill (aged 5) was living with his paternal grandfather and grandmother, John and Betsy Bill. The Fitzroy Avenue church magazine, *The Courier*, records that Jack Bill and his sister resided with the family of the Rev. William Colquhoun whilst their parents were in the mission field. John Bill entered Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI) in January 1907 and, in 1910, he briefly left to board at a school in County Cavan. While at RBAI, he was a member of the cricket first XI and the rugby first XV, until an accident cut short his sporting career. He also took part in the school's "dramatic entertainments".

The family's address when Jack died is recorded as the Mission House, Qua Iboe, Southern Nigeria – the 1911 Ireland Census records that Grace, Emma and Jack Bill lived at 61 University Street and the return is annotated to the effect that the Head of the Household was "absent in Qua Iboe, West Africa". It had been Jack's intention was to follow his father as a missionary in Qua Iboe, an aspiration that was to be denied by the Great War.



After leaving RBAI, John went to Queen's University, Belfast, having been awarded the Drennan Exhibition, which was given to the First Literary Scholar of RBAI students in their first year. With the outbreak of war, Jack enlisted as a Private with the Royal Army Medical Corps before receiving a commission in the 18th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles in April 1917. Jack Bill was attached to the 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, when he was killed, aged 22, on 16th August 1917 during the Battle of Langemarck (3rd Ypres)⁴.

Two of his fellow officers reported the following:

2nd Lt Branningan – *"Mr Bill was hit before he got right over and his body was seen in front of our wire. Mr Bill was a great friend of mine."*

2nd Lt Stokes – *"This officer was last seen about map ref. D 19 b 10 90. He was lying on the ground apparently wounded in the groin or lower abdomen. Rifleman Matthews went out to dress him but was himself killed in the act of doing so, and it is supposed that the same bullet also hit Mr Bill. The men had by this time started coming back and Mr Bill was left behind apparently very seriously wounded."*

The location identified is very close to Gallipoli Farm, just to the south of the Wieltje - Gravenstafel road. Jack Bill's body was not recovered and his name is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Flanders (Belgium) and on the RBAI and Queen's University war memorials.

⁴ A total of six men (including GDL Smyth, below) from the three congregations died on this date.

ULSTER AND THE WAR.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

SECOND-LIEUTENANT BILL MISSING

Second-Lieut. John A. Bill, Royal Irish Rifles, officially reported missing, believed killed, is the only son of Mr. S. A. Bill, of Belfast, founder of the Qua Iboe Mission, and grandson of Mr. John Bill, Downshire Park, Cregagh. Second-Lieut. Bill received his commission from a cadet unit in April, 1917, and after a period of service in a County Down Camp went overseas. He had previously served as a private in the R.A.M.C.

Northern Whig, 10th September 1917

SECOND-LIEUTENANT JOHN A. P. BILL, Royal Irish Rifles, missing, believed killed, was the only son of Mr. S. A. Bill, founder of the Qua Iboe Mission, and a grandson of Mr. John Bill, Downshire Park, Cregagh, Belfast. The deceased officer, who formally served in the ranks of the Royal Army Medical Corps, received his commission in the Rifles on the 26th April this year. His parents are at present in Qua Iboe.

Belfast News Letter 10th September 1917

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Edward Edmond Burnside

Edward Edmond Burnside's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation (although the family is listed on the census return as being "Reformed Presbyterian").

Edward Edmond⁵ Burnside was born on 10th May 1898, the eldest of four children born to Ingram Burnside, a Tea Merchant, and Minnie Elizabeth Burnside. In the 1901 Ireland Census, the Burnside family is recorded as living at 1 Lawrence Street and, in 1915, the family moved to "Norham" on Bladon Drive in the Malone area. In 1920, Ingram Burnside was listed as living at "Budore" in Greenisland.



After RBAI, Edward Burnside attended Queen's University, Belfast where he was a member of the Officers' Training Corps⁶. He enlisted in Belfast on 24th October 1916 and received his commission with the Royal Irish Rifles on 16th January 1917, being posted to the frontline in December 1917. He was killed in action, two months



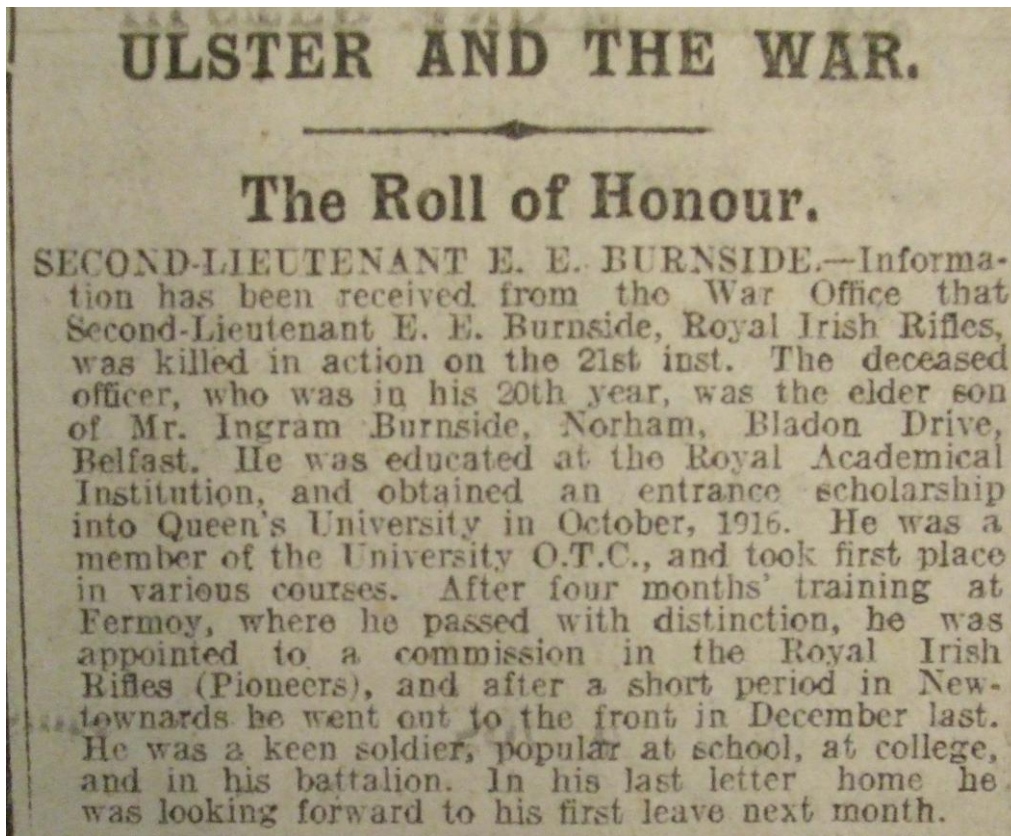
before he turned 20, on 21st March 1918 during the Battle of St Quentin. The battalion war diary reports:

"The entire No 1 Company consisting of nine officers and 150 other ranks failed to appear at rendezvous west of Somme Dugouts, having apparently been cut off at Jeanne-D'Arc, and were subsequently posted as missing." Edward Burnside is buried in Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery in France and his name is commemorated on the RBAI War Memorial, the Queen's University War Memorial and the QUB Officers' Training Corps Roll of Honour⁷.

⁵ This is the spelling on the PCI Roll of Honour and the 1911 Ireland Census return, but the Inst in the Great War website records the name as Edmund.

⁶ Belfast University Contingent of the Officers' Training Corps being the official title.

⁷ Located in the QUB OTC HQ at Tyrone House on the Malone Road.



Belfast News Letter, 26th March 1918



Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Samuel Burnside Boyd Campbell MC MB BCh FRCP

Samuel Burnside Boyd Campbell's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

Samuel Burnside Boyd Campbell was born on 29th June 1889 in Newfoundland, Canada, one of eight children born to the Rev. William Howard Campbell and Elizabeth Nevin Campbell (nee Boyd). The Rev. William Howard Campbell (who had been an Irish Presbyterian missionary in South India) died on 18th February 1910 in Bourdighera, Italy and Mrs. Campbell was living at Wellington Park, Belfast, when the war started.

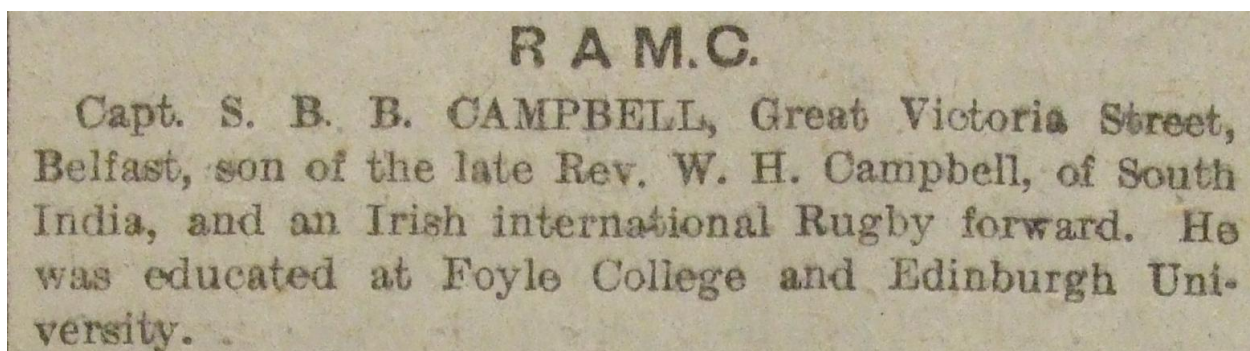
SBB Campbell was educated at Foyle College in Londonderry and at Edinburgh University, where he graduated as a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery with First Class Honours in 1912, being first in his year and winning the Beaney Prize in Anatomy and Surgery. After appointments at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, he returned to practice in Belfast.



He made 12 appearances as a front row forward for Ireland between 1911 and 1913, playing against England, Scotland, Wales, France and South Africa. On 7th October 1914, he married Miss Isabella Ayre in Newfoundland but he was living on Great Victoria Street in Belfast when he received his commission as a Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps on 16th December 1914. He served with the 108th Field Ambulance, which was



part of the 36th (Ulster) Division and was involved in the Battle of the Somme. He was awarded the Military Cross in the 1918 New Year's Honours List for his "*untiring and selfless devotion to the tasks in hand*" and was Mentioned in Despatches in May 1918. He relinquished his commission, retaining the rank of Major, on 16th December 1918.



Northern Whig, 27th May 1918

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

After the war, Dr. Campbell returned to Belfast to work in the Royal Victoria Hospital. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1919 and was a Visiting Physician at the UVF Pensioners' Hospital from 1923. At the RVH, he was part of the unit that was headed by Professor J. E. McIlwaine, a pioneering cardiologist, and he spent his professional life specialising in cardiology until his retirement in 1954.

SBB Campbell was a member of the Ulster Medical Society, the Association of Physicians of Britain and Ireland, the Cardiac Society of Great Britain and Ireland and the British Medical Association. In 1935, he was Chairman of the BMA Belfast Division.



SBB Campbell had numerous articles published in medical journals, including the Ulster Medical Journal, The Lancet, the British Medical Journal and the British Heart Journal (he was a member of the Editorial Board of the latter). He died in Ballycastle in 1971 and his close friend and colleague, T. H. Crozier, provided the obituary published in the British Heart Journal in which he described Boyd Campbell as follows:

“Strong in his enthusiasms and prejudices, he was a man of inflexible principles, but always a warm-hearted, generous and loyal friend.”

Wisden's Almanac described Thomas Callendar Campbell (born in 1887), one of Boyd Campbell's brothers, as a useful batsman with the Ottawa Cricket Club. At the outbreak of the First World War, he was married to Georgia S. Campbell (nee McGugan) and they lived at 6 The Mount in Mountpottinger, Belfast. He served as a Lieutenant in the 11th Division with the Royal Engineers and was killed in action, aged 30, at Gallipoli on 8th October 1915. His name is commemorated on the Helles Memorial in Turkey and on the War Memorial in 1st Ballymoney Presbyterian Church.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William McMeekin Chesney MC MB

William McMeekin Chesney's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation. His name also appears in the PCI Roll of Honour for his home congregation, 1st Ahoghill Presbyterian Church.

William Chesney was born on 10th April 1892, the youngest of David and Matilda Chesney's three children. The Chesney family farmed land at Kilcurry, between Portglenone and Ahoghill, and William's siblings were Anne Matilda, and Robert.

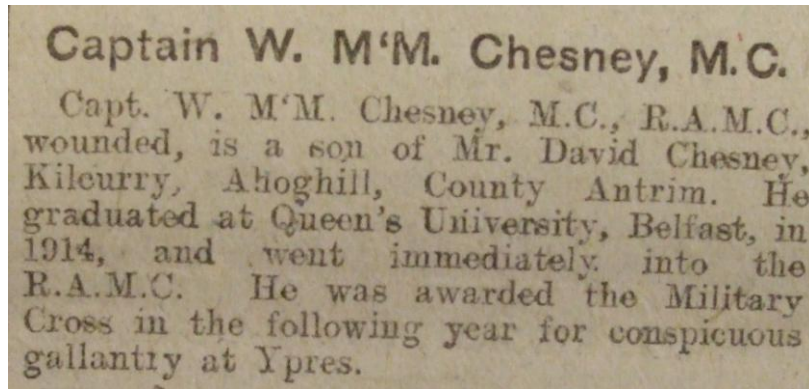
William McMeekin Chesney was related to General Francis Rawdon Chesney FRS FRGS, a famous British explorer and engineer, who had demonstrated the feasibility of a canal across the isthmus at Suez. He was also connected with two Antrim men who were very successful in Australia – Sir Charles Wilson and his nephew, Sir Samuel McCaughey (1835-1919).



William McMeekin Chesney was studying medicine at Queen's University (and living at 23 India Street) when he joined the Officers' Training Corps on 3rd November 1911. He remained a member of the OTC until he graduated from Queen's with a medical degree in 1914 and received a commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps (Special Reserve), being attached to the 14th Field Ambulance. In early June 1915, William Chesney was "Mentioned in Despatches" and, on 22nd June 1915, he was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry during fighting in the Ypres Salient in Belgium. At the time, William Chesney was in charge of a Dressing Station located in the Irish Benedictine Convent, which was destroyed during the bombardment. Throughout the action, Chesney was impressed by the quiet unassuming bravery of the nuns which

"... steadied me up like a tonic ..."

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



Northern Whig, 11th October 1917

During the war, William Chesney was wounded on two separate occasions and, in November 1917, the London Gazette announced that he had been awarded a Bar to the Military Cross.

**Capt. William McMeekin Chesney, M.C.,
M.B., R.A.M.C., Spec. Res.**

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of stretcher bearers. He continually visited the forward aid posts throughout the day and supervised the evacuation of the wounded under very heavy shell and machine-gun fire. Though wounded he refused to quit his post until he had rendered a valuable report on the evacuation of the wounded. He worked with indefatigable energy and great courage throughout.

William Chesney was promoted to the rank of Major in May 1918 and after the armistice in 1918, he served as part of the Army of Occupation in Germany. He also served in India before retiring from military service in 1921 to take up General Practice in Birmingham.

In 1919 he had married Nora Mary Burns from Belfast and they had two daughters, both of whom pursued hospital careers.

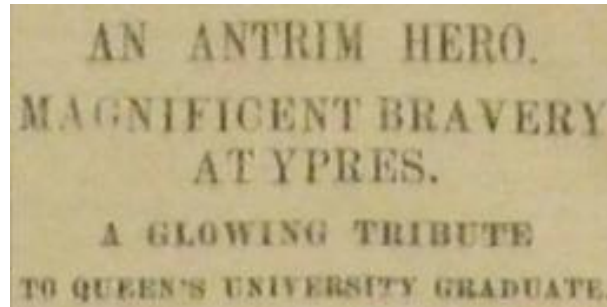
In 1939, William Chesney was recalled to duty with the RAMC, but saw Home service as Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services in Southampton and then as Assistant Director of Medical Services (with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel) in Liverpool.

In 1945, after his second retirement from military service, William Chesney returned to general practice until his retirement, at the age of 70, in 1963. Following a stroke in 1973, William McMeekin Chesney died on 16th February 1979, at the age of 86. His obituary in the British Medical Journal (24th March 1979), stated that he left behind a:

“reputation of service, erudition, courage and honour which few could hope to emulate.”

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

On the 13th August 1915, the Belfast Evening Telegraph had printed an extensive article detailing the circumstances in which Lieutenant Chesney was awarded the Military.



A glowing tribute to the bravery of a young County Antrim officer, Lieutenant W McM Chesney, MB RAMC, who graduated at Queen's University, Belfast, last year, is paid by Rev. Owen S. Watkins, a Wesleyan chaplain, in this week's issue of the 'Methodist Recorder'. Lieutenant Chesney is a son of Mr David Chesney, Killcurry, Ahoghill, and has, as previously reported, been decorated with the Military Cross. Colonel G. S. Crawford, referred to by Mr Watkins in the appended extract, is a brother of Mr Robert Crawford, Lone Ash, Ballymena, and he has lately received the CMG. Describing the bombardment of Ypres during the second battle, Mr Watkins says:-

Throughout the day (22nd April) the detachment which was running the Dressing Station in the Convent in the Rue de Lille continued its work of gathering in the wounded from the streets. The quite heroism of their work is one of the things which impressed me most in those days when all were heroes, and there were none who did not come up to one's ideal of highest manhood. Lieutenant Chesney (he has since been decorated with the Military Cross) was in command, and it would be impossible to imagine a more nerve-racking task.. The first shell which entered the city at dawn burst so near that the windows of the room he was sitting in were blown in, and he was covered with the dust of falling masonry. From that time until the dark the bombardment continued. The Rue De Lille was the unhealthiest street in Ypres; every house in it was hit, most of them were in flames, and the Convent was struck again and again. From dawn until dark, Lieutenant Chesney sat in his room waiting for death. A call-out into the shell-swept streets to attend to wounded was a positive relief, but as the day crept on these calls became very infrequent, because very few living beings were left in the city besides the little band of R.A.M.C. He himself, afterwards speaking of his experiences, said, "The thing that steadied me up like a tonic was the sight of the Sisters - there were three of them left in charge of the place. When a shell hit the building, strewing dust and bricks in the corridors, one of them would get up from where she was sitting, fetched a broom, and began sweeping up the mess! Who could feel afraid after that? Once, early in the day, when there was a rush of work, and many injured women and children were brought in, a Belgian Red Cross nurse appeared on the scene, and worked with us. Where she came from I don't know, nor did I learn her name. What became of her is also a mystery, for when there was no more work to do she just disappeared - but she was the bravest woman I ever met, always, of course, excepting the Sisters of the Convent." In this connection it is interesting to note that the Belgian peasantry in the country around Ypres tell of how, during the dreadful days of the bombardment, "the Mother of God, dressed as a Red Cross nurse, appeared in the streets of the city, succouring the wounded, and pointing the dying to her own dear Son, Who gave His life for men." About 9 p.m. orders came for the party to withdraw, for the whole city was in flames; no living soul was left within its walls, and there was nothing left that they could do.

Meanwhile the main body of the Ambulance has been ceaselessly gathering the wounded from the neighbourhood of Hill 60 and the Ypres-Commines Canal and gathering them in such numbers that the Women's Asylum was filled to overflowing, and that in spite of the fact that the cars of the Motor Ambulance Convoy were continually plying between the Ambulance and the Clearing Hospitals at Railhead. The strain upon our Commanding Officer, Col. Crawford, was tremendous - hundreds of wounded crowded the building, whilst hour after hour, the systematic bombardment of the city proceeded, and the great 17-inch shell ever grew nearer and nearer, until the glass in the windows was broken by concussion, and great fragments of steel were hitting the front of the building, one huge piece missing Lieutenant Grenfell by inches. What it would mean if one of those huge projectiles were to hurtle into our midst, as it might at any moment, baffled imagination to picture. Constantly Colonel Crawford urged the motors to greater speed. Magnificently the drivers, who had not slept for several days, responded to his appeal, and towards evening we began to hope that in a few hours we should have evacuated, and be ourselves able to trek to safety.

Mr Watkins adds - Colonel G. S. Crawford, who has commanded the Ambulance since mobilisation, has been promoted to command of a general hospital, and now only Lieutenant Grenfel and myself of the officers who mobilised with the Ambulance. Whilst gratified that our C.O.'s services should be recognised and rewarded, it was with real regret that we saw him depart, and I, personally, felt that I had lost a real friend. Our sorrow is, however, tempered by the knowledge that in his successor - Colonel Brian Watts - we have a CO under whom all will be proud to serve, and who is likely to add to the laurels of the 14th Field Ambulance.

Transcription of an article printed in the Belfast Evening Telegraph on 13th August 1915

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

James Dewar

James Dewar's name appears on the Donegall Pass Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Donegall Pass congregation.

James Dewar was born in Belfast on 31st March 1894, the son of William and Mary Dewar of Airdrie. In the PCI Roll of Honour, James Dewar's address is listed as 109 University Street (although he was not resident there on Census Day in 1911), which was the home of Elliot Paxton Dewar, a Senior Inspector of National Schools. As Elliot Paxton Dewar was 63 in 1911 and originally from Scotland, it is probable that he was James Dewar's paternal grand-father. It is also possible that the Rev. James Dewar (Donegall Pass Church), who was living at 100 University Street and was also born in Scotland, was an uncle.



In September 1914, James Dewar enlisted in the 48th Highlanders Regiment, part of the CEF's 15th Infantry Battalion which arrived in Britain in October 1914 and embarked for France in February 1915. The 48th Highlanders was a militia regiment based in Toronto and its Gaelic regimental motto, Dileas gu brath, translates a "faithful forever".

Little else is known about James Dewar, except that he was killed, aged 22, on 11th September 1916 and is buried in the Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery in Belgium.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Charles Dunlop



Lieutenant Charles Dunlop was the son of the late Fleet Surgeon James Dunlop and Elizabeth Dunlop of Edenderry House, Ballylesson. Charles attended Friends' School in Lisburn before transferring to the Royal Belfast Academical Institution. Whilst the 1911 Ireland Census entry indicates that the family belonged to the Church of Ireland, a Lieutenant Charles Dunlop (Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers) living at Ballyholme House in Bangor is listed as a fatality in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Donegall Pass Congregation and the name "Lt. C Dunlop" also appears on the Donegall Pass Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque. In the 1911 Ireland Census, Charles Dunlop is recorded as being aged 19 and a "Scholar".

After a period of private tuition, Charles Dunlop entered Sandhurst Military Academy, from which he graduated in 1912. He served at the front with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers from the outset of the war, being promoted to Lieutenant in September 1914. Charles was wounded during the First Battle of the Aisne and was transferred to a hospital at Verseille where he died, at the age of 22, on 22nd October 1914 while waiting for an amputation.

In the March 1915 edition of School News, an Instonian officer serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps wrote:

"Charles was the most noble-minded, the most honourable of boys, the most upright of men, and the truest friend. He was my oldest and best friend and no-one could have had better. According to the testimony of his fellows, he did his work nobly and bravely and his example and courage in the field will long remain a bright spot in the memory of those whose fortune it was to serve under him."

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Lieutenant Charles Dunlop is buried in Les Gonards Cemetery in France and is commemorated on the RBAI War Memorial and the Lisburn War Memorial – a “Dunlop C” also appears on the Queen’s University War Memorial. The death of Charles Dunlop was reported in the Belfast News Letter on 27th October 1914.



DEATH OF LIEUTENANT DUNLOP.

Among the Ulstermen at the front who have died from wounds received in the war we find the name of Lieutenant Dunlop, who died at Versailles, where as a wounded officer he was being treated with all possible care. Lieutenant Dunlop was the son of the late Fleet-Surgeon James Dunlop, of Edenderry House, Ballylesson, who represented one of the oldest County Down families. Lieutenant Dunlop received his education at the Royal Academical Institution, and after some private tuition he became a military student at Sandhurst, from which he graduated as a cadet two years ago. He became connected with the Inniskilling Fusiliers, and had been at the front since the beginning of the war. He was not long in the service till he received promotion as second-lieutenant. He was wounded at the Aisne, and was transferred to Versailles, where, despite the most careful attention, his wound proved fatal. The irony of the situation is that on the morning of his death news came that he had been promoted to first-lieutenant on account of his special services at the front. Lieutenant Dunlop belonged to an old Ulster family and to an old fighting family; and fighting was in his blood. But it was accompanied by the finest athletic and manly qualities. He was pre-eminently a youth without fear and without reproach, without affectation or pretence. His one idea was to do his duty, and he lived up to that to the last. We may add that Lieutenant Dunlop was a nephew of Mr. H. C. Montgomery, of Rosemary Street and Bangor, with whom, as with his mother and other relatives, the greatest sympathy will be felt.

Belfast News Letter, 27th October 1914

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William John Ervine

The names of William John Ervine and George Gray Ervine appear on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation.

William John Ervine was the second of three sons born to William James and Susan Ervine of Magdala Street, although his parents were living in Rugby Street at the time of his death.⁸ His father was a Gymnastics Instructor and William John Ervine was a member of the YMCA team that won the Leahy Shield. Before the War, he was employed as an office worker in Chambers Motors Ltd, a car manufacturer at 106 University Street.⁹ During the War, production switched ambulances, shell cases and hand grenade fuses.



Sergeant William John Ervine had been a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force before



the war and enlisted in the 8th (East Belfast) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. He was reported missing in action on 2nd July 1916, during the Battle of the Somme, and was subsequently recorded as having been Killed in Action, aged 21. His name is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France.



Official intimation has been received that 12757 Sergeant William Ervine, Royal Irish Rifles, reported missing on the 2nd July, 1916, was killed on that date (or since). Deceased was the second son of Mr. W. J. Ervine, gymnastic instructor, 2 Magdala Street, and was employed in Chambers' Motor Works prior to enlistment. He was a member of the Y.M.C.A. gymnastic team that won the Leahy Shield. His younger brother George is now serving as a petty officer in the Russian squadron of armoured cars.

⁸ Commonwealth War Graves Commission

⁹ The site is now occupied by the Holiday Inn Hotel and the NI Audit Office.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

George Shaw Glass

George Shaw Glass's name appears in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation but is not recorded on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque, although it does appear on the 9th BB Old Boys War Memorial.

The magazine of the Central Presbyterian Association reported that the Glass family was "*prominently identified for many years with the Fitzroy Avenue congregation and our Central Presbyterian Association.*"¹⁰ This is evident in the naming of the youngest son after the Rev. George Shaw.

George Shaw Glass was born on 21st August 1883, the youngest of seven children (five sons and two daughters) born to Robert Glass (a linen merchant and manufacturer, with offices in Bedford Street) and Sarah Jane Glass. George's siblings were Maria (born 1871), Helen (born 1873, a Telegraphist), Henry M. (born 1875, a Naval Architect), John Birch (born 1878, a partner in McCoull & Glass, Tea Merchants), James (born 1879, Drapery business) and William (born 1880, Confectioners' Agent). The names of James and William Glass appear on the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fortwilliam congregation and William's name also appears on the 9th BB Old Boys War Memorial.

The older three siblings were born in County Armagh and Robert and Sara Jane Glass were living in Portadown when their son, William, was killed in action in 1917. In the 1901 Ireland Census, there is no record for Robert and Sarah Jane Glass, but the seven siblings are recorded as living at 44 Cromwell Road, along with a nephew, Robert Louis Sinclair (aged 5).

¹⁰ June 1917 edition, which provided much of the biographical information about William Glass (below).

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

George Shaw Glass MB was educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institution before graduating with a degree in medicine from Queen's University, Belfast in 1911. In the 1911 Ireland Census, he was boarding at 92 Fitzroy Avenue. He received his commission as a Lieutenant with the Royal Army Medical Corps on 1st October 1914 and was promoted to Captain with effect from 1st April 1915. In June 1917, whilst serving on attachment to the Hampshire Regiment, the *Northern Whig* reported that George Shaw Glass was seriously ill in a Cairo hospital, his regiment having seen service in India and the Near East.

Captain George Shaw Glass, R.A.M.C., officially reported wounded, is a brother of Mr. H. M. Glass, of Eversley, Whitehead, a manager at Messrs. Workman, Clark, & Co. He is a graduate of the Queen's University, where he took his M.B. degree in 1911. The War Office has notified the next-of-kin that Captain Glass is seriously ill in hospital in Cairo. Captain Glass, who is medical officer of a Hampshire battalion, had previously been in India. One of his brothers, Second-Lieutenant W. Glass, Black Watch, was killed in April, 1917, and another, Second-Lieutenant J. B. Glass, Northumberland Fusiliers, was wounded earlier in the same month.



Northern Whig, 26th June 1917

In the 1911 Ireland Census, **William Glass** was listed as living at 49 Cedar Avenue with his wife, Harriet Phoebe Glass (of Ballaglass, Maughold, Isle of Man) and their son, William Sherran. Prior to the outbreak of war, William Glass was the Belfast representative of Messrs. Barker & Dobson (Confectioners). William Glass took a keen interest in the welfare of boys, was active in the Boys' Brigade and served in the McClure Street Sabbath School (which was attached to Fitzroy Avenue Church). He also organised a Boys' Brigade Company at Balmoral Industrial School, which developed into one of the best companies in the Belfast Battalion under his capable captaincy. The PCI Roll of Honour entry for the Fortwilliam congregation lists his address as



“Barrule” on Parkmount Road.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William Glass had been a member of the Young Citizen Volunteers and threw his energy and enthusiasm into the Ulster Volunteer Force movement. He had considerable military experience in peace time, having been one of the old Scotch Volunteers, and was instrumental in forming groups of Volunteers for the 6th Battalion Black Watch Territorial Force, in which he served as a private and non-commissioned officer. He was mobilised immediately war broke out in August 1914 and was initially stationed in the East of Scotland, where he received his commission, before being posted to France. A letter from his colonel stated that he fell while leading his men into action on 23rd April 1917. William Glass was 26 when he was killed and is buried in the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery in Souchez, Pas-de-Calais, France. He was survived by his wife and four sons, who were residing in the Isle of Man at the time of his death.



In the 1911 Ireland Census, **John Birch Glass** was boarding at 33 Antrim Road (as was Henry Glass). He served as a Second Lieutenant with the Northumberland Fusiliers and was listed as wounded. The PCI Roll of Honour entry for the Fortwilliam congregation lists his address as 14 Camberwell Terrace.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Thomas E. Gordon, Henry A. Gordon, David Gordon and Frederick Gordon

The names of Thomas Edward Gordon, Henry Andrew Gordon, Frederick Gordon and David Gordon appear on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation.



They were four of the ten children (seven sons and three daughters) born to James and Mary Gordon, who had lived at 64 Cooke Street before emigrating to North America and settling in Charlestown, Boston (Massachusetts, USA). It seems likely that David and Fredrick Gordon remained in Belfast when their parents emigrated, whilst Thomas and Henry accompanied them to North America.

Private David Gordon was born in 1895 or 1896 in Belfast and, at the start of the war, was living at 20 Schomberg Street with a sister and her husband, Walter Samuel Ritchie.¹¹ David Gordon served with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and was wounded in May or June 1915. He was badly wounded during the First Battle of Ypres and was being treated at the Bevan Military Hospital in Sandgate, Kent, when he died, aged 19, on 10th August 1915. He is buried in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery in Kent, England.

Gunner Frederick Gordon was born in 1897 or 1898 in Belfast and was serving with B Battery of the 74th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery when he was killed in action, aged 20, on 14th May 1918. He is buried in Bienvillers Military Cemetery in France.

¹¹ His name also appears on the Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation and he served with the 15th (North Belfast) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, being taken prisoner on 21st March 1918

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Private Thomas Edward Gordon was born on 5th November 1888 in Dungannon and served with the 13th (Maclean Kilties) Battalion, The Royal Highlanders of Canada¹². He enlisted at Fredericton, New Brunswick, in June 1917 before leaving for England on *HMT Canada*, arriving at Liverpool on 19th November 1917. He was 29 years of age¹³ when he was killed in action on 5th April 1918 and he is buried in the Duisan British Cemetery in Etrun, France.


No. 1031162
Folio.

ATTESTATION PAPER.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS.)

The New Brunswick Kilties - Sir Sam's Own
236th O.S. BATTALION

1. What is your surname?	<i>Gordon</i>
1a. What are your Christian names?	<i>Thomas Edward</i>
1b. What is your present address?	<i>1 Clara Court Charlottetown</i>
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?	<i>Dungannon Ireland</i>
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?	<i>Mary Gordon</i>
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?	<i>1 Clara Court Charlottetown</i>
4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?	<i>Mother</i>
5. What is the date of your birth?	<i>5th Nov 1888</i>
6. What is your Trade or Calling?	<i>Labourer</i>
7. Are you married?	<i>Yes</i>
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?	<i>Yes</i>
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?	<i>No</i>
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? If so, state particulars of former Service.	<i>No</i>
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?	<i>Yes</i>
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the } CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? }	<i>Yes</i>



DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Thomas E. Gordon*, do solemnly declare that the above are an true and correct copy of the answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Thomas E. Gordon (Signature of Recruit)
W. J. Samuel (Signature of Witness)

Date: *JUL 7 - 1917* 191

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Thomas E. Gordon*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Thomas E. Gordon (Signature of Recruit)
W. J. Samuel (Signature of Witness)

Date: *JUL 7 - 1917* 191

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at FREDERICTON, N. B. this *7th* day of *July* 1917.

W. J. Samuel (Signature of Justice)

M. F. W. 22

¹² The 236th (New Brunswick Kilties-Sir Sam's Own) Overseas Battalion were also known as the MacLean Kilties of America.

¹³ The Commonwealth War Graves Commission register records his age as 30.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Private Henry Andrew Gordon was born on 29th May 1894 in Belfast and had worked in the Harland & Wolff shipyard before emigrating to Canada in 1912. He also served with the 13th (Maclean Kilties) Battalion, The Royal Highlanders of Canada, having enlisted at Fredericton, New Brunswick, in July 1917. He was 24 years of age¹⁴ when he died on 24th January 1919 from pneumonia, contracted whilst in hospital recovering from wounds received in battle. He is buried in the Fort Massey Cemetery in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

No. **1030873**
Folio.

ATTESTATION PAPER.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS.)

*236th O. S. BATTALION
(The New Brunswick Kilties—Sir Sam's Own)*

1. What is your surname?.....	<i>Gordon</i>
1a. What are your Christian names?.....	<i>Henry Andrew</i>
1b. What is your present address?.....	<i>1 Clark Court, Charlestown, Mass</i>
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?.....	<i>Belfast, Ireland</i>
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?.....	<i>James Gordon</i>
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?.....	<i>1 Clark Court, Charlestown, Mass.</i>
4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?.....	<i>Father</i>
5. What is the date of your birth?.....	<i>May 29, 1894</i>
6. What is your Trade or Calling?.....	<i>Butcher</i>
7. Are you married?.....	<i>No</i>
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?.....	<i>Yes</i>
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?.....	<i>No</i>
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..... <small>If so, state particulars of former Service.</small>	<i>No</i>
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?.....	<i>Yes</i>
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the } CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? }	<i>Yes</i>



DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Henry Andrew Gordon*, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Henry Andrew Gordon (Signature of Recruit)

Date..... *June 19* 1917. *R. B. Bannister* (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Henry Andrew Gordon*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will be in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Henry Andrew Gordon (Signature of Recruit)

Date..... *June 19* 1917. *R. B. Bannister* (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Fredericton* this *19* day of *June* 1917.

R. B. Bannister (Signature of Justice)

¹⁴ The Commonwealth War Graves Commission register records his age as 23.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William Gourley

William Gourley's name appears on the Donegall Pass Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Donegall Pass congregation.

William Gourley was born on 7th December 1889 in Meolough, near Drumbo, in County Down. His parents, Stephen and Margaret Gourley, later moved to 27 Elm Street in Belfast, where his widowed mother, two brothers and three sisters were living in 1911.



In July 1915, he enlisted with the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles (British Columbia Horse) Regiment – he was recorded as being a “Ship Driller” and had worked in the shipyard in Belfast. The regiment's advance party had embarked from Montreal in June 1915 on the *Megantic* and, after three months training in England, had arrived in France in September 1915. The regiment was part of 1st Canadian Mounted Rifle Brigade until January 1916, when it was re-designated as the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifle Battalion, part of the 8th Infantry Brigade. Private William Gourley was killed in action, aged 27, on 5th September 1916 and his name is commemorated on the Menin Gate at the Ypres Memorial in Belgium.

His brother, Richard, served as a Private with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and survived the war.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

DUPLICATE ATTESTATION PAPER

No. 463279
Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? Gourley, William
2. In what Town, Township, or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Meolaugh, Co. Down, Ireland
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Mr. George Watt (Sister)
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? 27 Elm St. Belfast, Ireland
5. What is the date of your birth? Dec 7th 1889
3. What is your trade or calling? Ship Miller
7. Are you married? No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Unvaccinated Yp
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? No
If so, state particulars of former Service.
1. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yp
2. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? Yp

William Gourley (Signature of Man.)
Prentiss (Signature of Witness.)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, William Gourley, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date July 20th 1915
William Gourley (Signature of Recruit.)
Prentiss (Signature of Witness.)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, William Gourley, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as my duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date July 20th 1915
William Gourley (Signature of Recruit.)
Prentiss (Signature of Witness.)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at VERNON, B. C. this AUG 24 1915 day of AUG 24 1915 1915.

[Signature] (Signature of Justice.)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

[Signature] (Approving Officer.)
Major

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William Rennie Graham

William Rennie Graham's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

William Rennie Graham was born on 16th May 1892 in Newry, County Down, the eldest child of John and Elizabeth Graham, later of 43 Malone Avenue, Belfast. After attending Royal Belfast Academical Institution and Queen's University in Belfast, the RBAI records state that he worked for the Vinolia Manufacturing Company in Belfast. However, the 1911 Ireland Census Return records his occupation as "Apprentice, Linen Manufacturing" and the newspaper reports of his death record that he was working for Thomas Somerset and Company before he enlisted. The Thomas Somerset building in Hardcastle Street was converted into "loft apartments" in the 1980s but retained the company's name, which is made up of white tiles set in the red brick of the building.



The 1911 Ireland Census records a family of eight (two sons and four daughters) living at 43 Malone Avenue. John Graham's occupation is recorded as "Commercial Traveler, Toilet Soaps and Requisites" for Lever Brothers.

The June 1917 edition of the Central Presbyterian Association magazine reported the marriage of William Rennie Graham to Miss Kathleen M. Prenter (an Apprentice Designer) on 23rd April 1917. The Prenter family belonged to a Brethren Hall in Fountain Street and lived at 123 Fitzroy Avenue in Belfast.

William Rennie Graham joined the Queen's University Officers' Training Corps in June 1916 to gain some basic military and leadership training before enlisting with the Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers) regiment as a Private¹⁵ on 4th October 1916. He was commissioned on 28th February 1917, joining the 10th Battalion on 3rd April 1917. On 16th June 1917, he transferred to the 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion, and was posted to "D" Company, but was evacuated to a hospital in England on 29th July 1917.

¹⁵ War Diary of 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers – the *Inst in the Great War* website records that he joined the Fusiliers as an Officer Cadet.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

He was posted to the 1st Battalion on 14th June 1918 and was badly wounded during the attacks on Hill 41 near Dadizeele on 1st October 1918 and died on his way to the dressing station. Lieutenant William Graham was 26 when he died and was originally buried in Mansard Farm Cemetery in Dadizeele, but was re-interred in Dadizeele New British Cemetery in Flanders (Belgium) in 1920. His name appears on the RBAI War Memorial, the Queen's University War Memorial and the QUB Officers' Training Corps Roll of Honour.

Second-Lieut. W. R. Graham, Royal Irish Fusiliers, previously reported missing, believed killed, now reported killed on 1st Oct., was a son of Mr. J. C. Graham, 43 Malone Avenue, Belfast. He was an old boy of the Royal Academical Institution, and before joining the Army was in the firm of Messrs. Thos. Somerset & Co., Ltd. Deceased was married in April, 1917, to Miss Kathleen Prenter, daughter of the late Mr. J. B. Prenter and Mrs. Prenter, 123 Fitzroy Avenue, Belfast.

Northern Whig, 8th November 1918



Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Thomas Hilditch, John Henry Hilditch and James Herbert Hilditch

The names of Thomas, John Henry¹⁶ and James Herbert Hilditch appear on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Cescent congregation.

Private Thomas Hilditch was born on 21st March 1888, the eldest of eleven children (eight sons and three daughters) born to Robert Hilditch (a Gas Stoker) and Jane Hilditch. The family was living at 62 O’Meath Street in 1901a and at 1 Oak Street from 1910.



Thomas Hilditch emigrated to Canada, arriving on the ship *Lake Champlain* in May 1910. In July 1915, he was a labourer when he enlisted in the 75th (Toronto Scottish) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. An advance party of 5 officers and 250 other ranks was sent to England on 1st October 1915 and the remainder of the Battalion embarked from Halifax, Nova Scotia on 1st April 1916. The *RMS Empress of Britain* arrived in England on 9th April 1916. The battalion, 36 officers and 1,114 other ranks, arrived in France on 12th August 1916, becoming part of the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade in 4th Canadian Division. In April 1919, Thomas Hilditch married a widow called Jessie Hughes in Toronto, Ontario.

Private John Henry Hilditch also served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and survived the war. He married Ellen Jane McKee in the Crescent Presbyterian Church on 21st April 1916 and they had a son, Thomas John Henry Hilditch.



Private James Herbert Hilditch served with the 596th (Indian Motor Transport) Company, Royal Army Service Corps as part of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force. He died, aged 17, on 2nd July 1916 as a result of illness and is buried in the Amara War Cemetery in Iraq.

¹⁶ The name is spelt “John Henary” on the 1911 Ireland Census return for 1 Oak Street but not on the 1901 Ireland Census return for 62 O’Meath Street.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

ATTESTATION PAPER.

75th BATTALION C.E.F.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

No. 138592
Folio. 1047E

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. What is your name?.....</p> <p>2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?.....</p> <p>3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?.....</p> <p>4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?.....</p> <p>5. What is the date of your birth?.....</p> <p>6. What is your Trade or Calling?.....</p> <p>7. Are you married?.....</p> <p>8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?.....</p> <p>9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?.....</p> <p>10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?.....
<small>If so, state particulars of former Service.</small></p> <p>11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?.....</p> <p>12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?.....</p> | <p><i>Thomas Hilditch</i>.....</p> <p><i>Belfast, Ireland</i>.....</p> <p><i>Robert Hilditch (Father)</i>.....</p> <p><i>1 Oak St. Belfast, Ireland</i>.....</p> <p><i>21st March 1888</i>.....</p> <p><i>Labourer</i>.....</p> <p><i>No.</i>.....</p> <p><i>Yes.</i>.....</p> <p><i>Yes</i>.....</p> <p><i>No.</i>.....</p> <p><i>Yes.</i>.....</p> <p><i>Yes.</i>.....</p> <p><i>Thomas Hilditch</i> (Signature of Man).
<i>George Minty</i> (Signature of Witness).</p> |
|--|--|

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Thomas Hilditch*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Thomas Hilditch (Signature of Recruit)

Date *July 14th* 1915, *George Minty* (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Thomas Hilditch*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Thomas Hilditch (Signature of Recruit)

Date *July 14th* 1915, *George Minty* (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Dorset*, this *14th* day of *July*, 1915,

Thos. A. Woodley (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

R. Drallman (Approving Officer)

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

James Sinclair Jackson, Culbertson Jackson and Maurice Jackson

The names of James Sinclair Jackson, Culbertson Jackson and Maurice Jackson appear on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation. Their names also appear on the the PCI Roll of Honour for the Duncairn congregation.

They were three of the four sons born to the Rev. William John and Eliza Jane Jackson. The Rev. W. J. Jackson ministered at Gardenmore Presbyterian Church (1884-87) in Larne before accepting the charge at Duncairn Presbyterian Church, where he ministered from 1887 until his sudden death in 1907. The family resided at the Manse, 6 Duncairn Avenue and, in the 1911 Ireland Census, Eliza Jane Jackson (widow) and her four sons – Moffatt, James Sinclair, Culbertson and Maurice – were listed as living at 9 Lower Crescent.

Lieutenant James Sinclair Jackson MC MAInstCE was born in 1888 and was educated at



Belfast Royal Academy before studying engineering at Queen's University, where he graduated with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. Before the war he was an Engineer with Messrs Swiney, Ferguson & Croasdaile (Engineers & Architects) of Royal Avenue in Belfast, with whom he performed war-related work before enlisting. He was also a popular playing member of the Cliftonville Cricket and Hockey Clubs. James Sinclair Jackson received a commission with the Royal Engineers in August 1915. In April 1916, during the Salonika campaign, he received gunshot wounds to the legs and back that required his evacuation to Lord Northcliffe's War Hospital in England. He was awarded the Military Cross for the action in which he was wounded and the investiture took place in Buckingham Palace in June 1916.

Temporary Second Lieutenant James Sinclair Jackson, 70th Field Company, Royal Engineers.

For conspicuous devotion to duty.

This officer was in command of troops consolidating craters. Though severely wounded in both legs at 11.30 p.m., and unable to stand, he continued in the performance of his duties until relieved three hours later.

In December 1917, James Sinclair Jackson was elected as an Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers and, after the war, he took up an appointment with the Jharia Water Board in India. He was living in Topchanchi, 50 miles north of Jharia, in 1922.

ULSTER MILITARY NEWS.

GALLANT BELFAST CRICKETER.

AWARDED MILITARY CROSS.

LATEST NORTHERN CASUALTIES.

Intimation has been received in Belfast that the Military Cross has been awarded to Second-Lieut. J. Sinciair Jackson, Royal Engineers, for conspicuous gallantry in the field. Second-Lieut. Jackson is one of three sons of the late Rev. W. J. Jackson, Duncairn Presbyterian Church, and Mrs. Jackson, 9 Lower Crescent, Belfast, who are serving in the Army. He was severely wounded about six weeks ago, and is still in Lord Northcliffe's War Hospital London, making good progress towards recovery, but it is not likely that he will be able to return home until next month. In civil life Second-Lieut. Jackson was an engineer in the service of Messrs. Swiney, Ferguson, and Croasdaile, engineers and architects, Royal Avenue. Before receiving a commission in the Army last August he was employed on war work for his firm. He is a B.A. and B.Sc. of Queen's University, Belfast, and an old pupil of the Royal Academy. In the athletic world he is a popular member of Cliftonville C.C. both as a batsman and a bowler, and he is also a playing member of Cliftonville Hockey Club.

Belfast Evening Telegraph, 5th April 1916

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



Lieutenant Culbertson¹⁷ Jackson MC was born in 1893 and was studying for a science degree at Queen's University when the Great War started. He enlisted as a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps, being posted to France in October 1915, but received a commission in the 11th (South Antrim) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles on 16th July 1916. He was wounded in the left shoulder and thigh in April 1918 and was awarded the Military Cross in September 1918.

JACKSON.—Second-Lieutenant Cuthbertson Jackson, Royal Irish Rifles, wounded in the left shoulder and thigh, is a son of the late Rev. W. J. Jackson, Duncairn Presbyterian Church, and Mrs. Jackson, Lower Crescent, Belfast. He is a brother of Captain J. S. Jackson, M.C., R.E., and is at present in a hospital in England.

Northern Whig, 24th April 1918

T./2nd Lt. Cuthbertson Jackson, R. Ir. Rifles.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This officer with his platoon joined in a counter-attack with the division, and fought on till only one serjeant and three men were left. He then retired, carrying a wounded man under heavy fire. Then forming a rearguard with twenty men he held the position until his task was finished, when he retired in good order.

London Gazette, Military Cross citation

¹⁷ This is the spelling of his forename on the 1911 Ireland Census return and in birth/baptismal register entries (Ulster Historical Foundation); the London Gazette and the National Archives at Kew record the name as Cuthbertson.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



After the war, he followed his father and paternal grandfather (whose entire ministry (1855-1887) was spent at Sligo Presbyterian Church) into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. He held the charge at Sligo from 1922 until 1926, when he resigned to accept a call from 1st and 2nd Randalstown Presbyterian Church. He was installed in Crescent Presbyterian Church on 30th October 1930 and remained there until he retired on 31st January 1962. He died on 5th October 1977.

His son, William Moffatt Jackson, also entered the ministry and, in January 1954, was appointed as the first assistant minister in charge of the work at Taughmonagh, a joint venture by the Presbyterian and Methodist churches, the oversight being shared by McCracken Memorial Presbyterian Church and Osborne Park Methodist Church. He resigned on 22nd March 1958 to become the first Irish Presbyterian missionary in Nyasaland (now Malawi), where he remained until 1970 when he became minister of Townsend Street Presbyterian Church before becoming Superintendent of the Shankill Road Mission in 1974.



Captain Maurice Jackson was born in 1896 and was an accountant in the Belfast Branch of Messrs. Craig, Gardner & Co of 53 Donegall Place. Maurice Jackson enlisted with the 12th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and was a 2nd Lieutenant attached to a Trench Mortar Battery when he was listed as wounded in July 1917. He was Acting Captain in command of "A" Company, 13th (Donegal and Fermanagh Volunteers) Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in December 1918. He ended the war with the rank of Captain.

Second-Lieutenant M. Jackson.

Second-Lieutenant Maurice Jackson, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Donegal and Fermanagh Volunteers), wounded slightly in two places is a son of Mrs. Jackson, 9, Lower Crescent, Belfast, and the late Rev. W. J. Jackson, Duncairn Presbyterian Church. He was a chartered accountant in the firm of Messrs. Craig, Gardner & Co. An elder brother, Lieutenant Sinclair Jackson, R.E., won the Military Cross at Salonika, and another brother is in the R.A.M.C. of the Ulster Division. The officer now wounded is attached to a trench mortar battery.

Northern Whig, 8th July 1916

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Robert Larmour

Robert Larmour's name appears on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation.

Robert Larmour was born on 20th October 1882, the son of William Larmour (Secretary of a flax milling company) and Marianne Larmour of 37 Camden Street in Belfast. Whilst Robert Larmour is listed as being a Drapery Salesman in the 1911 Ireland Census, his Canadian enlistment papers record his trade as "Carpenter".

He had previously served seven years with the 3rd Dragoon Guards, some of it in the South African Campaign. Robert Larmour enlisted in Calgary, Alberta on 3rd November 1914, being allocated to the 23rd (Montreal Regiment) Battalion but was later transferred to the Princess Patricia's Own Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment), which was part of the 7th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division. Private Robert Larmour was killed in action, aged 32, at Bellewaerde Lake (Frezenberg) on 8th May 1915 and his name is commemorated on the Menin Gate at the Ypres Memorial in Belgium.

\$1295

39 ATTESTATION PAPER. No. _____
Folio. _____

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? Robt Larmour
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Belfast Ireland
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Wm Larmour
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? 37 Camden St Belfast
5. What is the date of your birth? 20 Oct 1882
6. What is your Trade or Calling? Carpenter
7. Are you married? no
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? no
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? 3rd Dragoon Guards England
If so, state particulars of former Service. 4 years
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? yes
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? yes

R. Larmour (Signature of Man).
Geo W Morpitt (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Robert Larmour, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date: Nov 3 1914. R. Larmour (Signature of Recruit).
Geo W Morpitt (Signature of Witness).

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Robert Larmour, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date: Nov 3 1914. R. Larmour (Signature of Recruit).
Geo W Morpitt (Signature of Witness).

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as reported to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Calgary this 3 day of Nov 1914.

Geo W Morpitt (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

Geo W Morpitt (Approving Officer)

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.

A. H. Mee Major
Commanding Details,
23rd Battalion



Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William Norman Legg

William Norman Legg's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation (although the surname is spelt Legge).

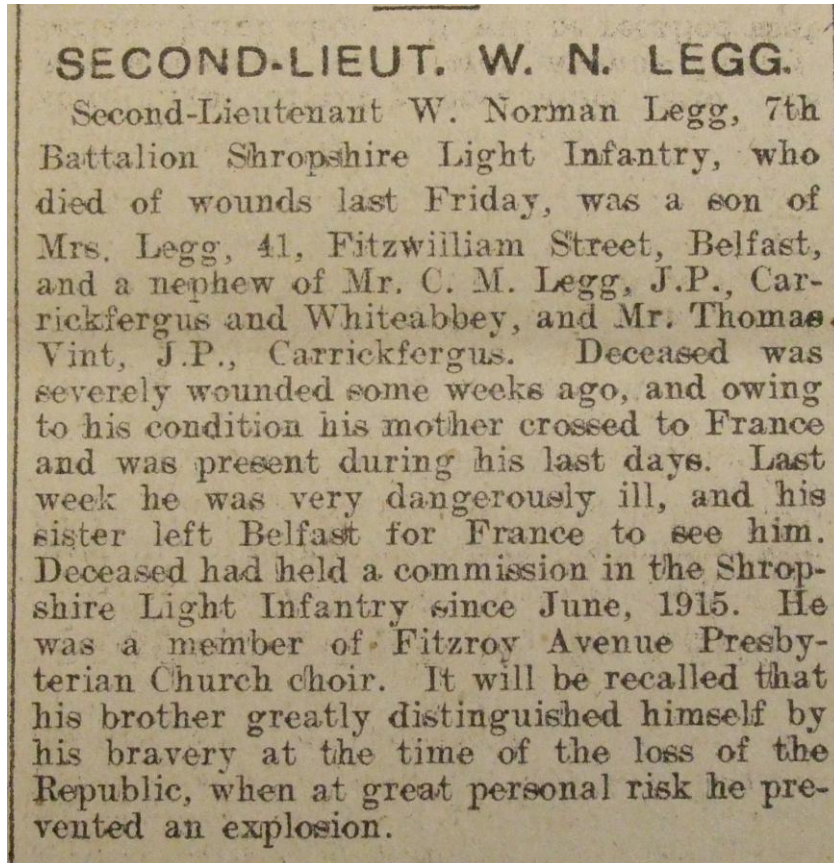
William Norman Legg was the youngest of five children born to John Legg (Ship's Captain) and Sarah Ann Legg. John Legg was born in Carrickfergus into a family involved in ship-owning and coal distribution business. John Legg married in 1881 and the family moved to Belfast, living at 3 Braemar Terrace (1890) and Myrtlefield Avenue (1896). In 1901, the family was living at 29 Cromwell Road, but, by 1907, Mrs Legg is listed as the occupant of 4 Dunluce Avenue and, at the time of William Norman's death, she was living at 41 Fitzwilliam Street. Between 1893 and 1896, John Legg was captain of the *Star of Italy*, a three-masted, ship sailing the Calcutta service. This was one in a series "Star of" sailing ships that were built by Harland & Wolff & Co. for James P. Corry & Company.



William Norman Legg had left Ireland for America on the *Caledonia*, arriving in New York on 18th March 1913, but, when war broke out, he returned home and enlisted with the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps. Unlike many of his contemporaries at Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church (where he had been a member of the choir), he enlisted with an English regiment, the 7th Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI). This Service battalion was formed in Shrewsbury in September 1914 and landed at Boulogne on 28th September 1915. The 7th Battalion, which was part of the 76th Brigade of the 25th Division, suffered more casualties than any other KSLI battalion, with 1,048 killed in action or dying during the war.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Second Lieutenant William Norman Legg suffered a neck fracture during fighting in the Ypres Salient on 16th January 1916 and was sent to the Duchess of Westminster Hospital in Le Touquet, where he was visited by his mother and his sister. He died, aged 26, of heart failure on 24th March 1916 and was originally buried in Camiers Road Cemetery in Etaples but was later re-interred in the Etaples Military Cemetery in Pas de Calais, France.



William Norman Legg's death was reported in both the Belfast News Letter and the Northern Whig on 28th March 1916 and his name is commemorated on the RBAI War Memorial.

On 3rd April 1916, the Northern Whig and Belfast News Letter reported on a tribute (*article below*) to William Norman Legg that had been delivered by the Rev. Dr. Henry Montgomery at the Albert Hall, Shankill Road Mission. The Rev. Dr. Montgomery, a former member of the Fitzroy Avenue congregation, was Minister at Albert Street Presbyterian Church when he established the Shankill Road Mission. He served as Moderator of the General Assembly in 1912 and was a prominent signatory of the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



THE LATE LIEUT. NORMAN LEGG.

The Rev. Dr. Montgomery, speaking last night in the Albert Hall, Shankill Road Mission, alluded sympathetically to the death of this gallant young officer. He said that a sorrowful duty fell to his lot that evening regarding this brave young Christian soldier. He had taken the deepest interest in the 36th Company of their Boys' Brigade, and had acted as officer and as pianist for several seasons. He was greatly esteemed for his frank, manly bearing and for the warm interest he took in everything associated with the welfare of boys. The old boys of the present company deeply regret the death of their former officer and friend, and they have sent to Mrs. Legg and family an expression of their sincere sense of loss. The congregation was further reminded of Lieutenant Legg's fine musical gifts and of the services he rendered on the great organ from time to time. Dr. Montgomery mentioned that every effort was made by the medical staff to bring about the recovery of the young soldier, but it was otherwise ordered. After lingering a few weeks in hospital in France he gradually weakened, and passed away very quietly some ten days ago, enjoying the true Christian hope. He gave his life willingly for his country, like many another brave young Ulsterman. His example he (the speaker) felt would act as a stimulus to others and a call to patriotic service.

John Gordon Legg was 4th Engineer on the *RMS Republic* (a luxury passenger liner) when it was accidentally rammed by the *SS Florida* (an immigrant carrier) in thick fog in the North Atlantic on 24th January 1909. Mr Legg displayed great bravery in preventing a boiler from exploding, which would have caused greater fatalities during the loss of the ship. In all 6 people died in the incident and over 1,500 were rescued by *RMS Baltic*, which had been built in the Harland & Wolff shipyard. The PCI Roll of Honour for Argyle Place Presbyterian Church¹⁸ (Shankill Road, Belfast) records that a John Legg, living at 4 Dover Street, served on board *HMS City of Oxford*.



John Gordon Legg was 4th Engineer on the *RMS Republic* (a luxury passenger liner) when it was accidentally rammed by the *SS Florida* (an immigrant carrier) in thick fog in the North Atlantic on 24th January 1909. Mr Legg displayed great bravery in preventing a boiler from exploding, which would have caused greater fatalities during the loss of the ship. In all 6 people died in the incident and over 1,500 were rescued by *RMS Baltic*, which had been built in the Harland & Wolff shipyard. The PCI Roll of Honour for Argyle Place Presbyterian Church¹⁸ (Shankill Road, Belfast) records that a John Legg, living at 4 Dover Street, served on board *HMS City of Oxford*.

¹⁸ This congregation amalgamated with Albert Street to form West Kirk Presbyterian Church in 1971.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William Norman Legg was a nephew of Charles McFerran Legg, a steamship owner and coal merchant of Bayview, Irish Quarter South in Carrickfergus, who was also a Justice of the Peace and a representative on the Carrickfergus Urban District Council. CM Legg's coal business¹⁹ was located nearby at Governor's Walk and he owned a home, Scotch House in Market Place, which he gave to the town in 1919. Two of William Norman Legg's cousins also served in the war and their names appear on the PCI Roll of Honour for 1st Carrickfergus Presbyterian Church.

In the 1911 Ireland Census, Hugh Gordon Legg (23) was a Clerk in his father's coal business. He served as a Second Lieutenant with the 11th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and survived the war.



Charles Legg was listed as a 17-year-old undergraduate at Queen's University in the 1911 Ireland Census. He was a member of the University's Officers' Training Corps and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1914. He enlisted in June 1915, receiving his commission with the Royal Engineers in January 1917 and was serving as a Second Lieutenant with the 203rd Field Company, Royal Engineers when he died in a riding accident on 15th September 1918. He is buried in the Arneke British Cemetery in France. In a statement, Lt Tate of the Royal Engineers said:

"2nd Lt Legg and I were riding from the Company Camp to the CRE's office at Bavinchove on duty and when crossing a field, Lt Legg's horse bolted with him and he was thrown against a tree. Captain Lavington RAMC and his orderly were riding with me at the time and attended to Lt Legg after the accident until the arrival of the ambulance which was immediately sent for. The doctors did all they could but he died from a fracture of the ribs on the right side with internal injuries accompanied by severe shock".

Legg Park in Carrickfergus was built on the site of CM Legg's boatyard and is dedicated to the memory of Charles Legg. Charles Legg Drive in the Victoria Road area of Carrickfergus is also named after him.

¹⁹ Which was bought over by another coal merchant, John Kelly, in 1918.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

John Joseph Mackey DCM

John Joseph Mackey's name appears on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation. His name also appears on the PCI Roll of Honour for the 1st Holywood congregation.

John Joseph Mackey was born in 1887, the son of John Mackey (a Carter originally from County Tyrone) and Mary Ann Mackey. The family was living at 40 Powerscourt Street in 1901 and at 146 University Street when Mary Ann Mackey died on 17th January 1907, the same year that her son married.



At the time of the 1911 Ireland Census, John Joseph Mackey was living at 18 Deramore Avenue with his wife, Ellen Mary, their two sons (William James Joseph, 2, and John Joseph, 1) and his father John Mackey (65). John Joseph junior died in 1913. In 1915, John Joseph Mackey is recorded as living at 4 Pierview Terrace, Holywood. Before the war, John Joseph Mackey was a



Clerk with Messrs W McCalla & Co of Victoria Street. McCalla & Co. was not only a Shipping Agency but also brokered Marine Insurance and the company was an agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway. JJ Mackey enlisted with the 14th (Young Citizen Volunteers) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles and was posted to France in October 1915. He rapidly rose through the ranks and was serving as a Company Sergeant Major with the 1st Battalion when he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for "distinguished or gallant" service in 1918 – this decoration was second only to the Victoria Cross for NCOs and other ranks. He had previously been recommended for this award on two separate occasions.

18393 C./S./M. J. J. Mackey, 1st Bn., R. Ir. Rif. (Holywood, Co. Down).

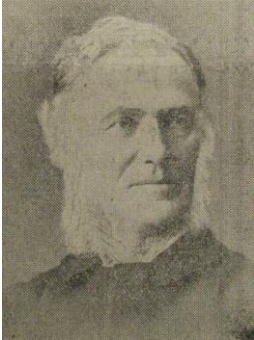
During our attack on Gulleghem, on 14th October, 1918, he rendered invaluable assistance to his company commander by re-organising the platoons and getting them into their proper positions after officers had become casualties. On the 15th October, after the village had been captured, he collected stragglers and formed a platoon which he personally conducted and placed in position on the final objective, during which time he was under heavy enemy machine-gun fire. He exhibited great courage and coolness throughout the operations, and by his example gave the men confidence and urged them on.



Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Sidney Todd Martin and Norman Todd Martin MC

The names of Sidney Todd Martin and Norman Todd Martin appear on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.



Sidney Todd Martin and Norman Todd Martin were the sons of the Very Rev. Dr. William Todd Martin MA DD DLit (born 10th June 1837, Ballybrick, County Down) and Catherine Mary Martin (born 1856/57, Plymouth). Dr. Todd Martin was educated at Belfast Academy (later Belfast Royal Academy) and Queen's College Belfast, where he earned his Master of Arts (Gold Medallist) in 1860. He was ordained as minister of 1st Newry Presbyterian Church on 19th November 1862 but resigned the charge on the 22nd January 1867 to accept the call to be the first minister of Streatan Presbyterian Church in Newtownards. He ministered at Streatan for twenty years, building up the fledgling congregation that had been established as a result of the 1859 Ulster Revival. In 1887, he was appointed as Professor of Ethics and Apologetics at the Presbyterian (Assembly's) College in Belfast, where he remained until his retirement, due to failing health, in 1914. The Belfast Street Directories consistently record Dr William Todd Martin as the occupant of "College House" in College Green. However, the 1901 Ireland Census records the family at 4.2 College Park and the 1911 Ireland Census records the family at 68b Botanic Avenue – both addresses being identified as being part of the Presbyterian (Assembly's) College.

Like many Ulster Presbyterian theologians, William Todd Martin believed that Darwin's Theory of Evolution was atheistic and he participated in a series of lectures, delivered in 1875, in which the writings of Darwinian evolutionists were rebutted. Professor Josias Ledlie Porter compiled and published the lectures under the title *Science and revelation: A series of lectures in reply to the theories of Tyndall, Huxley, Darwin, Spencer, etc.*

In addition, William Todd Martin produced pamphlets entitled:

- *The doctrine of an impersonal God in its effects on morality and religion* (1875)
- *The Evolution Hypothesis: A Criticism of the New Cosmic Philosophy* (1887).

Dr. Todd Martin, who was also a member of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society, served two consecutive terms (1893-1895) as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. In 1906, he held the position of Secretary at Assembly's College, Belfast and he was later its Vice-President. He was also a member of the Campbell College Board of Governors and the 1912 Belfast Street Directory records that he was Principal of the Presbyterian Theological Faculty of Ireland.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

The Rev. William Todd Martin died on 20th October 1915, with the funeral service being held on 23rd October in the Assembly's College Chapel and followed by interment in the Belfast City Cemetery. The funeral service was attended by many of the leading theologians and clerics of the day, including the Moderator of the General Assembly and the Rev. William Colquhoun, his Minister at Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Lieutenant Sidney Todd Martin



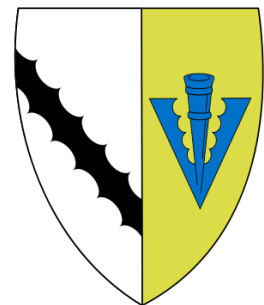
Campbell College First XI



Campbell College First XV



Sidney Todd Martin was born on 12th August 1890 and attended Campbell College, where he played for the Rugby First XV and the Cricket First XI. He gained a Classical Exhibition at the Royal University of Ireland in 1908 before gaining an Entrance Scholarship, in 1909, to Cambridge University, where he studied Classics at Sidney Sussex College. After gaining his primary degree, he studied for the



Bar, but his legal studies were interrupted when he received his

commission as a 2nd Lieutenant with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers on 14th September 1914. He was serving with the 6th Battalion (10th Irish Division) when he was wounded during the landings at Suvla Bay in Gallipoli in August 1915. He was attached to the 1st Battalion (36th Ulster Division) when he was killed in action, aged 25, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. His name is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France, the North of Ireland Football Club War Memorial and the Campbell College War Memorial.



Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

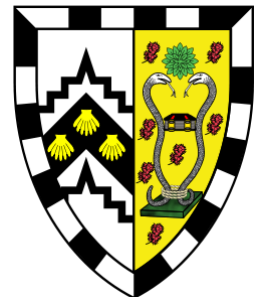


Campbell College War Memorial

Lieutenant Norman Todd Martin MC



Norman Todd Martin was born on 26th March 1896 and also attended Campbell College before studying at Gonville & Caius College in Cambridge between 1914 and 1915. At the time of his father's death, Norman Todd Martin was a Second Lieutenant with the 16th (Reserve) Battalion, The King's Liverpool



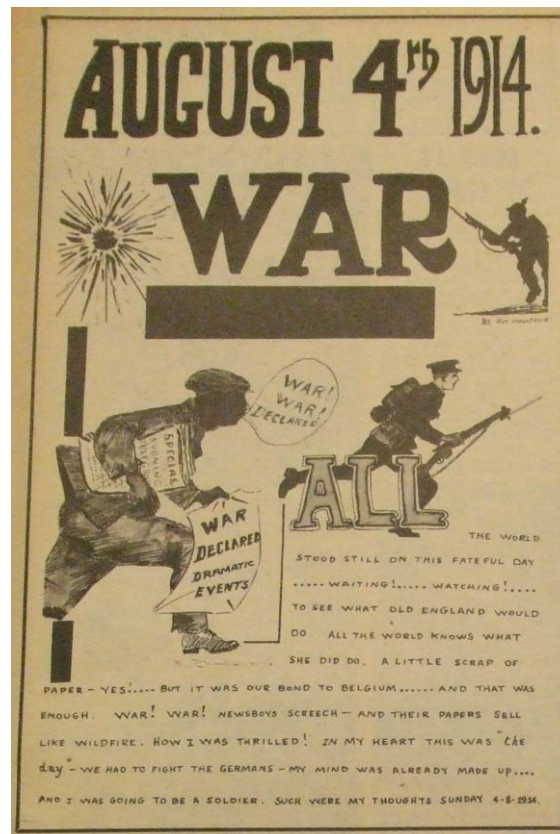
Regiment. He attended the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in 1916 before transferring to the Royal Field Artillery. He survived the war, being awarded the Military Cross in the January 1919 New Year's Honours list. In 1920, he was seconded to the Colonial Office and he studied University College London between 1930 and 1931.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

James Alexander Bovaird Maultsaid

James Alexander Bovaird Maultsaid's name appears on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation.

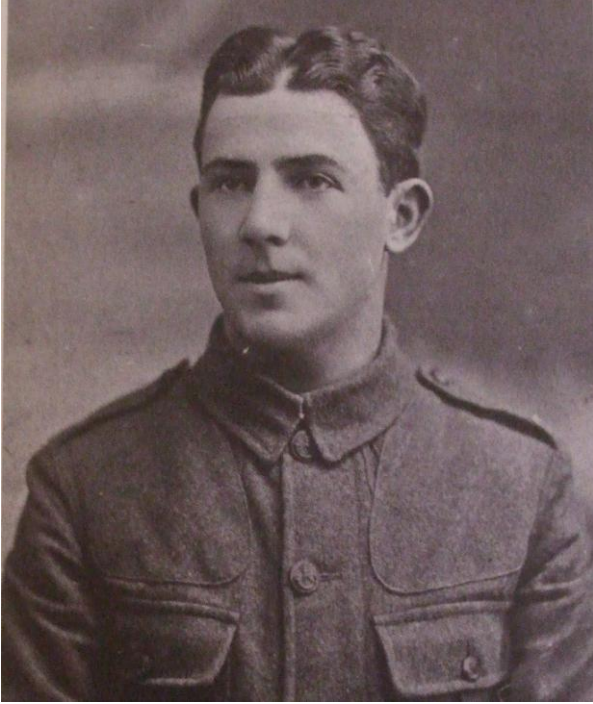
James (Jim) Maultsaid was the son of Arthur James Maultsaid and Louisa Jane Maultsaid (nee Bovaird) who were married on 10th April 1884 in Carlisle Road Methodist Church, Londonderry. The family had emigrated to America and Jim Maultsaid was born on 3rd August 1893 in Darby, Philadelphia, as was his older brother, Benjamin. When his father became ill, the family returned to Ireland in 1896 and settled in Donegal. Arthur James Maultsaid died in 1897 and Ireland Censae record the family as living at Ballyboe Glencar, Letterkenny (1901) and 28 Kilmacrenan Road, Letterkenny (1911).



In 1912, Jim Maultsaid was living Edinburgh Street when he signed the Ulster Covenant and at Melrose Street when war broke out and, although he was an American citizen, he went to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers' Clifton Street recruitment centre on 5th August 1914, but he was turned down because, as the recruiting officer put it, "We want men, not boys." Many of Jim Maultsaid's friends were members of the Young Citizen Volunteers (YCV) and, in mid-September 1914, he went with them to the Old Town Hall in Victoria Street to enlist in the newly-formed 14th (Young Citizens' Volunteers) Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Two of Jim's paternal cousins also fought in the war. David William (Billy) Maultsaid (seated in the photo below) served with the 19th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and was wounded. Wesley (aka DOT) Maultsaid held a commission with the 11th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles and was killed, aged 28, on 11th November 1916 and is buried in the Sanctuary Wood Cemetery in Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.



James Alexander Bovaird Maultsaid



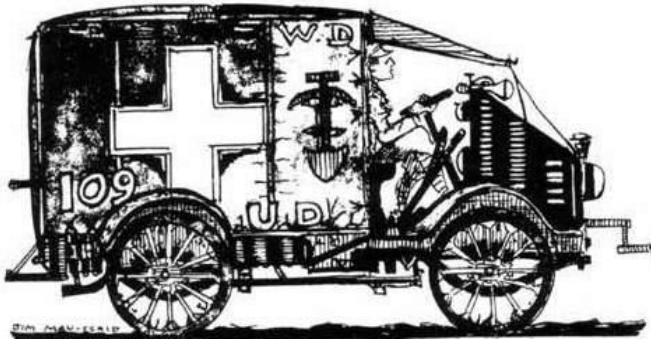
David William Maultsaid & Wesley Maultsaid

The YCV Battalion underwent training at Davidson's engineering company²⁰ in East Belfast before undertaking formal military training at Randalstown and, later, at Finner Camp in Donegal. Jim and Wesley Maultsaid played football for their respective battalions at Finner Camp. Jim Maultsaid's knowledge of morse code and signalling meant that he was quickly promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. The PCI Roll of Honour entry for the Crescent congregation records James Maultsaid as a Lance Sergeant but the London Gazette reports that he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant with the Labour Corps on 10th January 1918.



²⁰ The plaques commemorating the Directors and Employees of the company who served and/or died is now in the Somme Heritage Centre – the Managing Director was one of the men who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



Rifles regimental museum.

Throughout the war, Jim Maultsaid maintained a diary of his experiences and drew many sketches²¹ depicting the soldier's life and equipment – his war memories were collated in a book, “*Star Shells and Reflections*”. The original book remains the property of his son, Michael, and a copy is held by the Royal Ulster

One of Jim Maultsaid's sketches appears in a Loyalist mural on Templemore Avenue.



Jim Maultsaid was wounded at the Battle of the Somme (he subsequently lost all his hair as a result of poisonous gas) and he recorded the opening moments of the battle in his diary:

"We surge forward. Bayonets sparkle and glint. Cries and curses rent the air. Chums fall, some without a sound – and others . . . Oh, my God! May I never hear such cries again! There goes the YCV flag tied to the muzzle of a rifle. That man had nerve! 'We could see khaki figures rushing the German front line. The Inniskillings had got at them'."

In June 1966, as the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of the Somme approached, Jim's war memories and a selection of his pictures and sketches were published over four weeks in the *City Week* newspaper under the title *One Man's War*.

²¹ Some of which appear in Philip Orr's book “*The Road to the Somme*”

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



2nd Lt. JAB Maultsaid (*seated centre*) with NCOs of 169 Company, Labour Corps
(France, 1919)

Jim Maultsaid relinquished his commission on 7th December 1920 and, after the war, he worked for the Belfast Steam Ship Company. He married, Jean, and had two children, Maureen and Michael (both of whom are still alive). Jean Maultsaid died in 1960 and James Alexander Bovaird Maultsaid died on the 8th April 1971.



His younger brother, Arthur, was a member of the successful Linfield team in the early 1920s and was club captain in 1923.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Samuel McAlister and Bombardier Robert McAlister

Whilst the family of Samuel and Edith (nee Moore) McAlister, formerly of 100 Ogilvie Street and 62 Howard Street South, had emigrated to Canada and settled in Toronto by 1911, the names of both sons appear in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Donegall Pass congregation. Robert McAlister's name is also recorded on the Donegall Pass Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque. Samuel McAlister (Senior) was a Lithographic Printer before emigrating and worked for the Property Department at the Toronto City Hall. The family belonged to Dale Presbyterian Church in Toronto, where Samuel sang in the choir.



Lance-Corporal Samuel McAlister was born on 7th November 1892 in Belfast and was a printer employed by Nelson and Company (Gladstone Avenue, Toronto) before the war. Samuel McAlister enlisted in February 1916 with 47th (British Columbia Regiment) Battalion and left for Europe in May 1916. On his arrival in France, he was transferred to the 20th (Central Ontario Regiment) Battalion, which was part of the 4th

Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Canadian Division. In his final letter home, Samuel told his mother that he had been promoted to Lance-Corporal. Samuel was 28 days from his 26th birthday when he was killed in action on 11th October 1918. He is buried in the Niagara Cemetery at Iwuy in France and was survived by his wife, Selina, and their four-year-old daughter.



Bombardier Robert McAlister was born on 27th August 1895 in Belfast and was employed as a Clerk with the Toronto Harbour Board before the war. He enlisted with the 81st (Toronto) Battalion in September 1915 and embarked for Europe in April 1916 from Halifax, Nova Scotia on *RMS Olympic*. He was one of the 37 Officers and 1,073 Other Ranks that made up the regiment.

After three weeks in England, Robert McAlister was transferred to a Trench Mortar Battery of the Canadian Field Artillery, attached to the 2nd Canadian Division. He was injured at Vimy Ridge in April 1917 but re-joined his unit after a spell in hospital. Robert was 27 days from his 21st birthday when he was killed in action on 31st July 1917. He was buried in Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard in France.



Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

BROTHERS GIVE LIVES

Samuel and Robert McAllister Both Killed in Battle—Widow Gets Bad News.

Mrs. Selina McAllister, of 535 Dupont street, has received word that her husband, Corp. Samuel McAllister, 315,954, was killed in action on October 11. Corp. McAllister left for overseas with the 95th Battalion's fife and drum band in May, 1916. He was transferred in France to another Toronto unit where he gained his stripes. A younger brother, Corp. Robert McAllister, was killed in action in July, 1917. Robert left for overseas with the 81st Battalion in April, 1916, and was only in England three weeks when he was sent to France, where he was transferred to a trench mortar battery. He was wounded at Vimy Ridge, and after a short period in the hospital rejoined his battery. The two brothers were members of Dale Presbyterian Church, and the older one sang in the choir, and upon leaving for overseas was presented with a wrist watch, by the other members of the choir. Prior to enlisting he was a printer by trade and was employed by Nelson and Company on Gladstone avenue. Besides his wife, a little daughter nearly four years of age, survives him. A strange coincidence is that Robert was only 27 days from his 21st birthday when he was killed, and Samuel was 28 days of his 26th birthday when he met his death in action. They were the only sons of Mr. Samuel McAllister, of the Property Staff, City Hall. The family came to Toronto some years ago from Belfast, Ireland.

Toronto Star - Nov. 18th, 1918

BOTH SONS FALL IN BATTLE

Corp. Sam. McAllister Second Boy to Pay Supreme Sacrifice.

Mrs. Samuel McAllister, of 535 Dupont street, has received word that her sole surviving son, Corp. Sam McAllister, has been killed in action during the recent advance.

Corp. McAllister went away with the 55th Fife and Drum Band, and transferred to the 20th Battalion on going to France. A last letter from her son informed Mrs. McAllister that he had been notified of his promotion as a corporal.

A younger son, Corp. Robert McAllister, was killed on the 31st of July, 1917. He went overseas with the 81st Battalion, but transferred to a Trench Mortar Battery of the 2nd Canadian Division on going to France. Previous to his death he was wounded at Vimy Ridge in April of the same year. Both boys were members of Dale Presbyterian Church and both of them were born in Belfast, Ireland. Robert was employed on the Harbor Board staff previous to enlisting, while Sam was employed as a printer with Nelson & Co., on Gladstone avenue. They were the only sons of Mr. Sam McAllister of the City Hall inside staff.

Toronto Star, Nov. 5, 1918

The surname is spelt as **McAllister** in the Toronto Star reports but as **McAlister** in the 1901 Ireland Census return, on their Canadian enlistment papers and on the family gravestone.



Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

9 47th Batt.

ATTESTATION PAPER.

Suppca

No. 315954

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

	(ANSWERS.)
1. What is your surname?.....	M C A L I S T E R
1a. What are your Christian names?.....	Samuel,
1b. What is your present address?.....	535 Dupont St., Toronto, Canada.
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?.....	Belfast, Ireland.
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?.....	Selans Mc Alister,
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?.....	535 Dupont St., Toronto, Canada.
4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?.....	Wife.
5. What is the date of your birth?.....	Nov. 7 th, 1892.
6. What is your Trade or Calling?.....	Printer.
7. Are you married?.....	Married.
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?.....	Yes.
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?.....	No.
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..... <small>If so, state particulars of former Service.</small>	No.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?.....	Yes.
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the } CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? }	Yes.

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Samuel Mc Alister, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Samuel Mc Alister (Signature of Recruit)

Date February 7th, 1916. *W.H. Edmiston* (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Samuel Mc Alister, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Samuel Mc Alister (Signature of Recruit)

Date February 7th, 1916. *W.H. Edmiston* (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath

before me, at Toronto, Canada this 7th day of February 191 6

[Signature] (Signature of Justice)

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

#5, **ATTESTATION PAPER**, No. *157634*
81st Battalion, C. E. F., Folio *157634*
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION. (ANSWERS).

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What is your name?..... | <i>Robert McAlister,</i> |
| 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... | <i>Belfast, Co. Antrim, Ireland,</i> |
| 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... | <i>Edith McAlister, (Mother),</i> |
| 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... | <i>535 Dupont St., Toronto, Canada,</i> |
| 5. What is the date of your birth?..... | <i>August 27th., 1895,</i> |
| 6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... | <i>Clerk,</i> |
| 7. Are you married?..... | <i>No,</i> |
| 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? and inoculated? | <i>Yes,</i> |
| 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... | <i>No,</i> |
| 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?.....
<small>If so, state particulars of former Service.</small> | <i>No,</i> |
| 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?..... | <i>Yes,</i> |
| 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?..... | <i>Yes,</i> |
| | <i>Robert McAlister</i> (Signature of Man). |
| | <i>J. Power</i> (Signature of Witness). |

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Robert McAlister*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Robert McAlister (Signature of Recruit)

Date *Sept. 15th.,* 191 *5,* *J. Power* (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Robert McAlister*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Robert McAlister (Signature of Recruit)

Date *Sept. 15th.,* 191 *5,* *J. Power* (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Toronto* this *15th.* day of *September,* 191 *5.*

[Signature] (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

[Signature] (Approving Officer)

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William Wilson McBride

William Wilson McBride's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

William Wilson McBride was born on 20th April 1897, the only son of William Durham McBride²² and Elizabeth Wallace McBride, who lived at "Gretton Villas", 2 Bladon Park, from 1913. The family was living at 12 University Square in 1901 but had moved to at "Roseneath", 26 Adelaide Park by 1904. William Durham McBride worked for Robert McBride and Company (Linen and Cotton manufacturers). The company had been established in 1842 and, in 1907, had a weaving factory in Alfred Street and offices in Tower Buildings on Ormeau Avenue²³. Robert McBride, who was resident at "Gretton Villas", 2 Bladon Park, in the 1911 Ireland Census, was William Wilson McBride's grandfather. The death of Elizabeth Wallace McBride was reported in the June 1917 edition of the Central Presbyterian Association magazine.

William Wilson McBride was educated at Rockport School (where he appears on the 1911 Ireland Census return) and Tonbridge School in Kent. He was working in the family business when the Great War started and entered the Trowbridge Cadet School in July 1916. William Wilson McBride obtained his commission on 5th October 1916 and, from



December 1916, served as a Signalling Officer with the 229th Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery in France and Flanders before being posted to Italy in November 1917. On 5th December 1917, he was



wounded when a shell exploded on the roadside whilst he was returning to the main battery location after a tour of forward observation posts. He died, aged 20, within an hour of reaching the forward dressing station and was buried in the Giavara British Cemetery in Italy.

William Wilson McBride's death was recorded in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour (below) and the Belfast newspapers carried extensive articles, which included an account from his Battery Commander.

²² The Rev. Alexander's booklet records that a "W D McBride" had presented the Rev. William Colquhoun with a "pulpit gown, Bible, Psalter and chair" on behalf of the ladies of the congregation at his installation in 1893.

²³ In 1880 the company was based in Bedford Street with the weaving plant being in Bruce Street. The company also had premises at Cheapside in London.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

McBRIDE, WILLIAM WILSON,

2nd Lieut., Royal Garrison Artillery,
only s. of William Durham McBride, of North Gretton, Malone, Belfast,
by his wife, Elizabeth Wallace, dau. of the late John Carmichael
Steen, of Edinburgh; *b.* Belfast, 30 April, 1897; educ. Rockport, Craigavad,
co. Down, and Tonbridge School, co. Kent; commenced his career in his father's
business; entered the Trowbridge Cadet School 14 July, 1916; gazetted 2nd
Lieut. 5 Oct.; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders
from the following Dec. as Signalling Officer to the 229th Siege Battery; pro-
ceeded to Italy in Nov. 1917, and died near Montebelluna 5 Dec. following, from
wounds received by shell whilst returning to his battery from visiting observation
posts the previous day. Buried at Giavera Churchyard, Arcade, Treviso, Italy,
His Commanding Officer wrote: "As an officer I have lost in him one of the
best I have ever met, always keen and absolutely reliable. As a friend, he has
left a gap in our ranks that will never be filled. He was 'Mac' to us, and his
name will remain with us as a remembrance of the cleanest, nicest and most
cheery of boys. The men, and especially the signallers who were directly under
him, are naturally very gloomy, for the loss of a friend is one of the worst things
in this wretched war," and another officer: "He died like the very gallant
gentleman he had always shown himself to be, and whose place among us can
never be filled." The Head Master of Rockport School wrote: "His love of
Nature in all her aspects, his modesty, his shy pleasure in well-earned praise,
his love of home, and his loyalty to school, his nice manners—all the little thou-
sand and one things that made me love him as I have loved few boys before or
since." *Unm.*

SECOND-LIEUT. WM. WILSON M'BRIDE,
Royal Garrison Artillery, killed in action
on the 5th inst., was the only son of
Mr. W. D. M'Bride, North Gretton, Malone, of
the firm of Robt. M'Bride & Co., Ltd., Belfast.
This officer, who was 20 years of age, was edu-
cated at Rockport, Craigavad, and Tunbridge,
Kent, and had just commenced his career in his
father's business when he obtained his commis-
sion on 5th October, 1916. He was on active
service in France for twelve months. The
commanding officer of the battery had written
to Mr. W. D. M'Bride, stating that Second-
Lieutenant Wilson was a most competent officer,
and he was sending his name forward for a cap-
taincy to enable him to take over the duties of
second in command of the battery.

Belfast News Letter, 10th December 1917

THE LATE LIEUTENANT W. W. M'BRIDE.

Mr. W. D. M'Bride, North Gretton, Malone, has now received particulars regarding the death in action on the Italian front of his son, Second-Lieutenant W. W. M'Bride, R.G.A. The major commanding the deceased's battery says in the course of a letter to Mr. M'Bride:—"Your son was returning from the guns to the billets on 5th inst., accompanied by a signalling bombardier, and in the ordinary course of events should have been with us by 1 p.m. We were not uneasy at his absence till about 6 p.m. as he was very keen on visiting O.P.'s, and we concluded that he had made a detour to see some of these. About 7 p.m. I made several inquiries at the neighbouring batteries without success, but we did not yet fear an accident as the front is comparatively quiet. Owing to lack of communication I did not hear the sad news until one of my signallers had been to the dressing-station this morning. Your son had been brought there the previous day about noon badly wounded, but conscious, and they transferred him to another dressing station, where he died within an hour of his admission. The bombardier, who was, I know, very much attached to your son, having worked under him directly for many months, was dead before he arrived at the first dressing station. Apparently a shell landed by the side of the road just as they were passing, and they were picked up by stretcher-bearers almost immediately. His loss has been a terrible blow to us, as, after what we have been through during the past few months, we scarcely considered ourselves at war down here until this cruel awakening. As an officer I have lost in him one of the best I have ever met, always keen and absolutely reliable. As a friend he has left a gap in our ranks that will never be filled. He was 'Mac' to us, and his name will remain with us as a remembrance of the cleanest, nicest, and most cheery of boys. The men, and especially the signallers who were directly under him, are naturally very gloomy, for the loss of a friend is one of the worst things in this war. He was buried on the afternoon of the 6th in a pretty little churchyard of the neighbouring village, where only a few troops have so far been buried, and the cross for the grave is being prepared by a wheeler sergeant. Assuring you on behalf of the officers and men of the battery of our deepest sympathy with you in your terrible loss."

Northern Whig, 19 December 1917

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

The workforce at Robert McBride & Company endowed a bed at the UVF Hospital in East Belfast in memory of William Wilson McBride – this is how the day was reported in Belfast News Letter on 15th January 1918.

THE LATE LIEUT. W. WILSON M'BRIDE.

A deputation consisting of representatives from the Ormeau Avenue, Alfred Street, and Bruce Street branches of Messrs. Robt. M'Bride & Co., Ltd., met at the U.V.F. Hospital on Saturday to endow a bed in memory of the late Second-Lieutenant Wm. Wilson M'Bride, R.G.A., who died of wounds received while serving with the B.E.F. in Italy. The deceased was the only son of Mr. William Durham M'Bride, one of the directors of the firm. Mr. Leathem explained the objects of the visit, and handed to General Sir George Richardson, K.C.B., a cheque for £50 to name a bed in memory of the fallen officer. Sir George Richardson, on behalf of the committee of the hospital, accepted the cheque, and stated he would carry out the wishes of the deputation to the last letter. He asked Mr. Leathem to convey to the sorrowing father and sister his heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement. Having lost his brother and his nephew on active service, he could speak with feeling. Mr. Robert Brown read the following letter on the father's behalf:—"My dear friends and fellow-workers in Ormeau Avenue, Alfred Street, and Bruce Street—I cannot find words to adequately express my sincere thanks to you for your great sympathy and kindness in erecting such a suitable and lasting memorial to the memory of my dear boy. Your kind thoughtfulness has taken just the form which would have appealed to my son's nature, and as such will be a continual source of comfort to his sorrowing sister and me. I know it was the wish of his heart to be associated with you all in the business of Robert M'Bride & Co., Ltd., had God spared him through this awful war. Therefore I am more than gratified to see that you have so kindly shown your sorrow in the loss of my dear boy by dedicating this humane and patriotic tribute to his memory. Owing to my recent bereavement you will kindly excuse me from being with you at the presentation." Dr. Wm. Gibson, J.P., said he was pleased to be associated with Mr. Leathem in making the necessary arrangements for the deputation. He thanked the matron and her staff for their kindness in entertaining them to tea, and invited the deputation to accompany him through the hospital.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Arthur Norman McClinton, John Stuart McClinton and Fredric Hurst McClinton

The names of Arthur Norman McClinton, John Stuart McClinton and Fredric Hurst McClinton appear on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

They were the sons of John McClinton JP and Rosa Hurst McClinton (nee McFadden). In 1884, John McClinton was a partner in a Wholesale Seed Merchants business with William McFadden (who lived in Fitzroy Avenue). McClinton & McFadden became McClinton & Company in 1901 and the business continued until 1968, being run at different times by John McClinton's brother (Thomas), son (Fredric Hurst) and grandson (John Fredric). For much of this period, the company operated from offices in the Queen Anne's Building on Victoria Street in Belfast.

The McClinton family lived at 9 University Square (1884), 96 University Street (1896) and "Rosaville", 25 Windsor Park (1907)²⁴. The 1911 Ireland Census records the McClinton family of six (two sons and two daughters – another son, Arthur Norman, was residing in North America) as living at 39 Windsor Park. In 1920, John McClinton retired to live at "Rockmount" in Donaghadee.

John McClinton's father, also called John McClinton, was originally from Crumlin and was a partner in a Soap and Candle Manufacturing business, McClinton & Thompson, which had ceased trading by 1895. John McClinton had married his business partner's daughter, Mary Anne Thompson (1818-1910), and they lived at 72 Newington Terrace off the Limestone Road (1877), 12 University Square (1884) and 28 Windsor Park (1895). In the 1911 Ireland Census, John McClinton, Senior, was living at "Melbury", 35 Adelaide Park with his son, Thomas.



²⁴ This house became N^o 39 when a re-numbering of houses in Windsor Park resulted in six houses, previously recorded as "Eileen Gardens", being incorporated into Windsor Park.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Captain Arthur Norman McClinton MC



Arthur Norman McClinton was born on 16th August 1886 and was educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institution, where he played for the Cricket and Rugby teams. He was a member of the Ulster Schools' Cup winning team in 1903, when Inst beat Royal School Armagh 28-0. He was a member of Malone Rugby Football Club before forming a half-back partnership with his younger brother, John Stuart, at North of Ireland Football Club. He represented Ireland at Fly Half against Wales and France in the 1910 Five Nations Championship and was subsequently selected for the British Isles Rugby Union Team tour to South Africa in 1910, although he did not make the team. He also played for North of Ireland Cricket Club and had, at one

time, the distinction of holding the Irish record for the highest first wicket partnership score, 315 runs against Phoenix Cricket Club.

Arthur Norman McClinton was an architect by profession (having studied with Vincent Craig) and had emigrated to North America, but he returned to Ireland at the outbreak of war and joined the Queen's University Officers' Training Corps on 12th December 1914 to gain basic military and leadership training. He was subsequently commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 10th (South Belfast) Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles on 29th December 1914. He was "Mentioned in Despatches" before being awarded the Military Cross on 13th November 1916.

**Temp. Lt. Arthur Norman McClinton, R.
Ir. Rif.**

For conspicuous gallantry in action. He kept his company in hand with great determination under heavy fire, and finally led it over "No Man's Land" into the enemy's lines. Later, he did fine work in organising the defences of the captured trenches.

He was made a Temporary Captain with effect from 9th May 1917 and he relinquished his commission on 18th April 1919, on completion of service, retaining the rank of Captain.

After the war, Arthur Norman McClinton was in business at 8 College Square East and was residing at "Dunseverick", 3 Deramore Drive from 1921 until 1931. He was a member of Malone Golf Club.

Mrs A.N. McClinton is listed as the resident of 3 Deramore Drive in subsequent editions of the Belfast Street Directory.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



**John Stuart
McClinton**

**Arthur Norman
McClinton**

WINNERS OF CHARITY CUP.

G. PINION.	E. HEWITT.	W. WILSON.	B. JOY.	W. MORTON.	J. M'VEA.	J. HAMILTON.
W. NEILL.	R. GORMAN.	L. STEWART.	T. GREEVES.	A. McALERY.	N. McCLINTON.	M. WALLIS.
		C. DYER.		S. McCLINTON.		



**John Stuart
McClinton**

North of Ireland Football Club 1st XV.
 WINNERS OF ULSTER SENIOR LEAGUE:
 Matches Played 21—Won 14; Lost 4; Drawn 3.

HEMBRY,	W. B. R. JOY.	R. P. GORMAN.	B. M'GOWN.	W. E. JOHNSTON.	J. H. M'VEA.	F. GARDINER.	H. R. HASLETT.	H. M'KEE.
		R. R. ADAMSON.	M. IRELAND.	T. J. GREEVES (Capt.)	A. McALERY.	S. McCLINTON.	A. L. STEWART.	E. H. HEWITT.
		D. B. CORBETT.	A. MISCAMPBELL.					

15. DONEGALL PLACE BELFAST.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

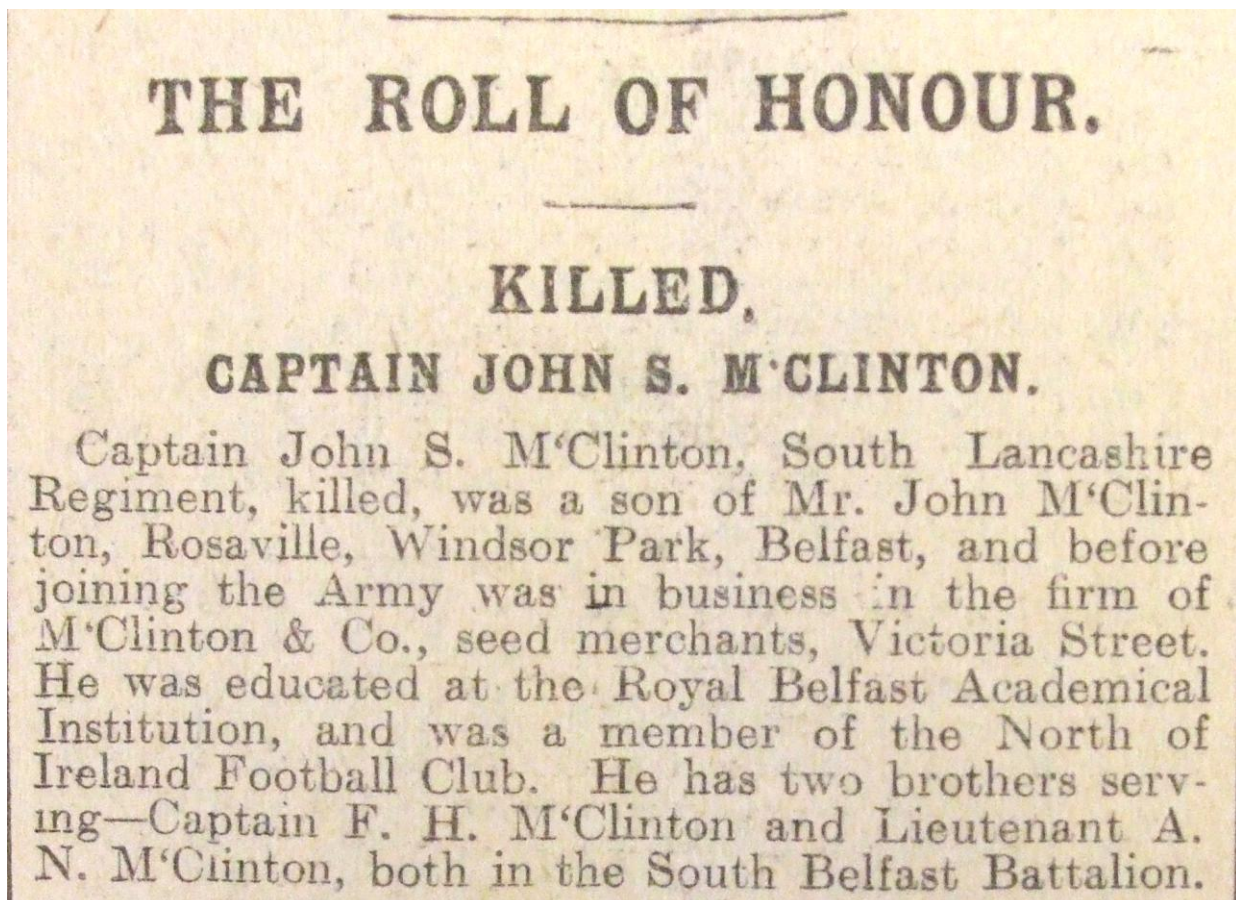
Captain John Stuart McClinton



John Stuart McClinton was born on 11th September 1887 and, after leaving RBAI, worked in the family wholesale seed business. He was a member of the North of Ireland Football Club and played Scrum Half in the teams that won the 1908-09 Ulster Senior League and the 1909-10 Charity Cup. He also represented Ulster at provincial level on one occasion. Unlike his two brothers, and many of his contemporaries at Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church, John Stuart McClinton



joined an English infantry regiment, the South Lancashire [Prince of Wales' Volunteers] Regiment, and was appointed as a Second Lieutenant in its 7th Battalion with effect from 14th September 1914. He arrived in France in July 1915 and was killed in action, aged 29, on 5th July 1916 when the 19th Division attempted to straighten out the line at La Boisselle as part of the Battle of the Somme. John Stuart McClinton is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France, on the RBAI War Memorial and on the North of Ireland Football Club War Memorial.



Belfast News Letter, 14th July 1916

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North of Ireland Football Club War Memorial

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Captain Fredric Hurst McClinton

Fredric²⁵ Hurst McClinton was born in 1890 and worked in the family business according to the 1911 Ireland Census Return. His name appears on the nominal list of Officers submitted to the War Office by the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps. He was made a Temporary Second Lieutenant with the Royal Irish Rifles with effect from 22nd September 1914 and relinquished his commission on 15th March 1919 on completion of service, retaining the rank of Captain.



After the War, Fredric Hurst McClinton was a lawyer and, in 1920, is recorded as living at “St Quentin”, 35 Hawthornden Road in the Knock area – although the name of the house had been changed to “Dalkeith” by 1923.

It is possible that the name of the original house had unpleasant memories as this was the name of one of the Great War battles in which many Ulstermen (including two of his contemporaries at Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church) died.

Fredric Hurst McClinton also served in the Second World War, attaining the rank of Major, and was recorded as *F.H. McClinton, Wholesale Seed Merchant* in the 1955 Belfast Street Directory.

Fredric Hurst McClinton had a son, John Fredric, who was born on 29th June 1923 and attended Campbell College, where he played for the Rugby 1st XV. John Fredric served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers during the Second World War, being awarded (in September and November 1943 respectively) an MC and Bar for gallant and distinguished service in North Africa and Sicily. He, too, was a member of the North of Ireland Football Club and was involved in the family business.

²⁵ Frederic in London Gazette entries

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

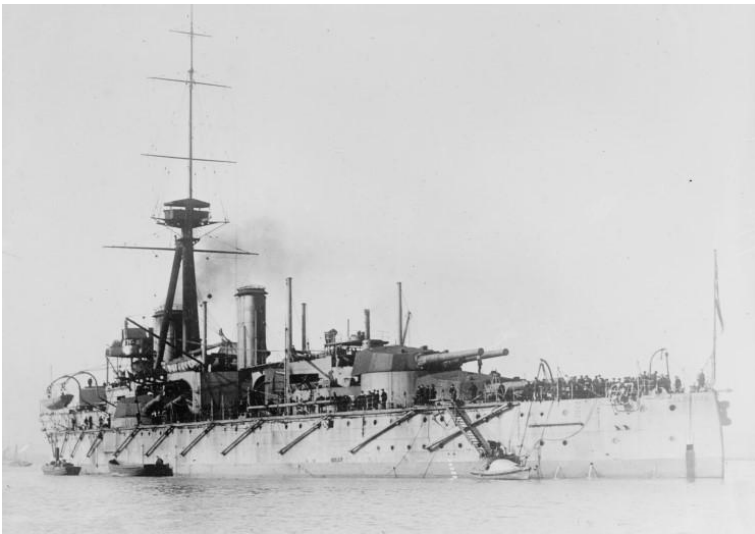
Robert Neill Ballagh McCord MB

Robert Neill Ballagh McCord's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation. His name is also recorded on the PCI Roll of Honour for his home congregation, Trinity Presbyterian Church in Ahoghill.



Robert Neill Ballagh McCord was born on 19th July 1893 to Robert Ballagh McCord and Annie Ballagh McCord (nee Johnston) of Ahoghill. His father was a Land Agent/Farmer and Neill McCord studied medicine at Queen's University. He was living at 32 Wolseley Street when he joined the Queen's University Officers' Training Corps in November 1911.

Neill McCord remained in the OTC (which had a Medical Corps section) until June 1916 and was already qualified as a doctor when he joined the Royal Navy as a Surgeon Lieutenant in May 1917. He was appointed to the battleship *HMS Colossus*, which was the flagship for the First Battle Squadron.



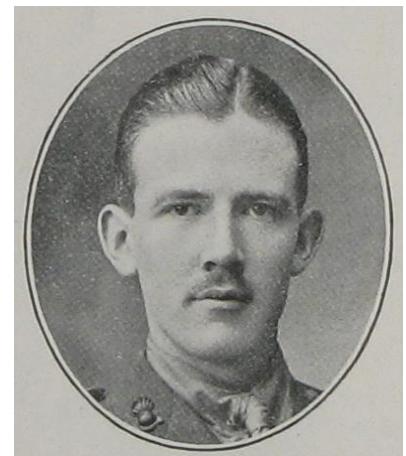
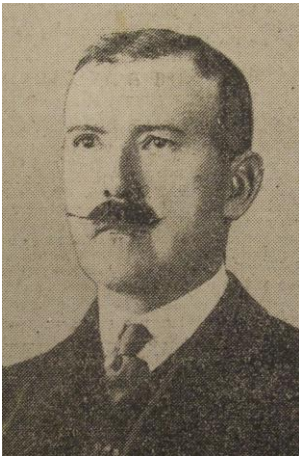
Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Frederick James McCullough

Frederick James McCullough's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque (although the surname is spelt McCulloch) and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.



Frederick James McCullough was born on 27th September 1897, the son of Frederick William McCullough and Sara Napier McCullough of "Longford Villas", 200 Duncairn Street (which had been incorporated into the Antrim Road by 1907). Between 1905 and 1913, the McCullough family lived at "Oranmore" in Craigavon (above) and Frederick William McCullough was Engineer for the Belfast Water Commission. By 1914, Frederick William was the Chief Engineer for the Belfast Water Commission and the family is recorded as living in "Belgravia", 2 Ulsterville Avenue. Frederick William McCullough was a Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers and was elected as President of the Institution of Water Engineers in December 1914.



After RBAI, Frederick McCullough studied civil engineering at Queen's University Belfast, where he gained military and leadership training as a member of the Officers' Training Corps.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

On 15th November 1915, he was appointed to the Royal Naval Air Service (Russian Armoured Car Division) as a Petty Officer. He served in Russia under Commander Locker-Lampson before returning home to receive a commission in the Royal Garrison Artillery on 13th October 1916. He served with the Brigade Head Quarter's staff in France and was subsequently transferred to the 53rd Squadron Royal Flying Corps, as Flying Officer (Observer) on 8th October 1917.



Frederick James McCullough was killed in action on 8th November 1917. A report was received from the officer commanding the 10th Loyal North Lancashire Regiment stating that on 15th November: "*when in the lines my unit found the bodies of two British airmen in "no-man's land", they were recovered and buried in the Northern end of Hollebeke Church. A cheque-book and letters were found on one of the bodies which showed it to be that of 2nd Lt L W Middleton RFC*". This officer was reported missing when flying with Frederick James McCullough, so it was accepted that the other body was his. Frederick James McCullough was re-interred in Voormezele Cemetery (Enclosure Number 3) in Flanders, Belgium. His name appears on the RBAI War Memorial, the Queen's University Belfast War Memorial and QUB Officers' Training Corps Roll of Honour. The Belfast News Letter (13/11/1917) reported that Frederick McCullough was missing and the Northern Whig (01/12/1917) reported his death:

SECOND-LIEUT. F. J. M'CULLOUGH MISSING

This young Belfast officer, a son of Mr. Fred W. M'Cullough, J.P., M.Inst.C.E., engineer to the Belfast Water Commissioners, is reported missing since the 8th inst. An old boy of the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, he was studying civil engineering at Queen's University when war was declared. He joined the Armoured Car Section of the Royal Naval Air Service, and served on the Russian front under Commander Locker Lampson, D.S.O., M.P., from November, 1915, till July, 1916, when he came home to undergo training for a commission. He was gazetted second-lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery on 14th October, 1916, qualifying so successfully that he received an appointment on the Brigade Headquarters Staff. He went to France in December last, and has been through a good deal of heavy fighting, including the later phases of the battle of the Somme, Arras, Messines, and Vimy Ridge, and was at Ypres when he came home to prepare for service with the Royal Flying Corps. He returned to France about six weeks ago as a flying officer (observer). The official intimation from the War Office states that the report "missing" does not necessarily mean that he is either killed or wounded.

KILLED.

Second-Lieut. F. J. M'Cullough.

Second-Lieutenant F. J. M'Cullough, Royal Garrison Artillery (Special Reserve), attached Royal Flying Corps, reported missing on 8th ult., and now reported killed, was the elder son of Mr. F. W. M'Cullough, J.P., M.Inst.C.E., Belgravia, Belfast, engineer to the Belfast Water Commissioners. The deceased was educated at the Royal Academical Institution and Queen's University, where he studied engineering. He joined the armoured-car section of the R.N.A.S., and served on the Russian front for nearly a year. Returning home for his commission, he was appointed to the R.G.A. in October, 1916, and served on a brigade headquarters staff on the Western front. On 10th September, 1917, he was seconded to the R.F.C., and returned to the front eight weeks ago. He was previously wounded on three separate occasions during the present year while serving with his Heavy Artillery Group on the Western front at Peronne, Arras, and Ypres, and is now buried in Hollebeke Churchyard, Belgium.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

George Dixon Fisher McFadden MB MCh FRCS ²⁶

George Dixon Fisher McFadden's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation – he is also listed in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Badoney congregation in County Tyrone

George McFadden was born in Newtownstewart, County Tyrone, on 28th June 1892, one of nine children born to the Rev. Jackson McFadden and Mary L McFadden. Jackson McFadden, who had been ordained as the minister of the Ringsend congregation in County Londonderry in 1875, was Minister of Badoney Presbyterian Church from May 1881 until his death in May 1936. In order that his family of five sons and four daughters received the best education possible, Jackson McFadden took a house in Melrose Street, Belfast, so that they could attend schools in Belfast.



George McFadden was educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institution and the 1911 Ireland Census lists an 18-year-old GDF McFadden as the head of the household at 60 Melrose Street²⁷ – the other listed occupants are two sisters (Mary, 17, and Evelyn, 15) and a brother (Kenneth, 13). In October 1911, he enrolled as a medical student at Queen's University, Belfast, where he won a Hockey Blue and was a member of the Officers' Training Corps from November 1913.

George McFadden's elder brother, John, had also been a member of the Queen's University Officers' Training Corps between November 1908 and September 1911. He was already a qualified doctor at the start of the war and he enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in October 1914, serving as a Captain attached to the 12th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

²⁶ Some of the information is from McFadden's obituary in the British Medical Journal, 12th September 1981

²⁷ The Belfast Street Directories between 1904 and 1914 list J W McFadden, GDF's brother, as the occupant of 58 Melrose Street – the 1911 Census Return for the McFadden family in Gortin includes "John McFadden, 21, Medical Student"

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

In February 1916, George McFadden interrupted his studies when he was appointed as a “Probationary Surgeon”, with the rank of Sub Lieutenant, in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. These appointments allowed small naval craft to have a medical student with clinical knowledge on the ship’s roster. Following a preliminary period of training at the Royal Naval Hospital in Haslar (during which he contracted typhoid fever), McFadden was appointed to *HMS Archer*, an Acheron-class destroyer based in the Firth of Forth. In the spring of 1916,



HMS Archer was transferred to the 3rd Battle Squadron, operating in the Mediterranean.

Whilst serving with *HMS Archer* in the North Sea, George McFadden had the terrifying experience of being washed overboard:

“I was lifted like a cork and carried on a wave out to sea. I could see the ship silhouetted against the horizon ... I thought, ‘This is the end, death cometh sooner or later, and the wardroom will be thinking in the morning that the doctor is having a long sleep.’ The next thing I remember was seeing a light in the stern of the ship and I realised that I must be closer to it. Managing to grab the sides, as the ship rolled over I managed finally to clamber on deck. I think that it was the backlash of the sea that carried me off the deck, which was my salvation; but I do not like to think or talk about the episode, though I shall never forget it.” (From “The Surgeon Probationers” by R. S. Allison)



The PCI Roll of Honour entry records that George McFadden served with *HMS Victory*, a Shore Barracks Establishment, during the Great War. After the war George McFadden completed his medical studies, graduating with Honours as a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and

Bachelor of Obstetrics in 1919. He obtained his Masters in Surgery (with Gold Medal) in 1923 and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1924. He developed an expertise in children’s surgery when he was a resident surgical officer at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

In 1927 he married Gasparina Dos Santos in Newberry, Berkshire. He returned to Northern Ireland to take up a position at the Ulster Hospital for Children and Women in Templemore Avenue²⁸ and was appointed as a surgeon at the Belfast Infirmary²⁹ in 1939. He gained an international reputation for performing hare-lip and cleft-palate corrective surgery on children.

He was President of the Ulster Medical Society in 1956/57, at which time he was also Senior Surgeon at both the Belfast Infirmary and the Ulster Hospital for Children and Women.

George McFadden was a member of the Fitzroy Avenue Kirk Session in 1949 and remained at Fitzroy until his retirement to England, where he devoted himself to painting (a self portrait was presented to the Belfast City Hospital). He died, aged 88, on 28th July 1981 at Sunningdale in Berkshire.



²⁸ This hospital was destroyed during the Belfast Blitz

²⁹ Now Belfast City Hospital

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

John McLaughlin and Hugh Miller McLaughlin

The names of John McLaughlin and Hugh Miller McLaughlin appear on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

John McLaughlin (born in 1889) and Hugh Miller McLaughlin (born in 1893) were two of the seven children (four sons and three daughters) born to Hugh McLaughlin and Agnes McLaughlin. Their father was a Lead Manufacturer and the family was living at 25 Ballyholme Road, Bangor in 1901. The 1911 Ireland Census return shows that the widowed Agnes McLaughlin and four children, including a John (aged 21) and a Hugh (aged 17), were living at 134 Fitzroy Avenue.

The Belfast Street Directories record John McLaughlin (who was a member of Bangor Rugby Football Club) as the occupant of 61 South Parade from 1913 to 1917. Mrs McLaughlin was recorded as the occupant of 61 South Parade from 1918.

There is a question mark over the date of birth (2nd November 1883) that is recorded on his Canadian enlistment papers, on which the next of kin is recorded as Agnes McLaughlin, mother, living at 61 South Parade in Belfast.

The 1883 date would have made John McLaughlin 27 at the time of the 1911 Census, but the return clearly states his age as being 21 which fits with the year of birth (1889) held on the Ulster Historical Foundation website. If he was born in 1889 and was 21 in April 1911, he would have been 24 or 25 when he was killed on 2nd February 1915 – the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that he was 26 when he died.



John McLaughlin, who had previously served 2½ years in the Irish Yeomanry, enlisted in Ottawa in August 1914. He served with the Princess Patricia's Own Canadian Light Infantry (Easter Ontario Regiment) and was killed on 27th February 1915. He is buried in the Voormezele Military Cemetery in Belgium.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 1511
Folio. 923

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name?..... John McLaughlin
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... Belfast, Ireland.
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... Mrs. Agnes McLaughlin
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... 61 South Parade Belfast Ire
5. What is the date of your birth?..... November 3rd 1886
6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... Investigator & PR
7. Are you married?..... no.
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?..... Yes.
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... no.
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..... Yes Irish Yeomanry
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?..... Yes.
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?..... Yes.

John McLaughlin.....(Signature of Man).
R. G. Macdonald.....(Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, John McLaughlin, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

John McLaughlin.....(Signature of Recruit)
R. G. Macdonald.....(Signature of Witness)

Date..... 1914.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, John McLaughlin, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

John McLaughlin.....(Signature of Recruit)
R. G. Macdonald.....(Signature of Witness)

Date..... 1914.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Ottawa this 24th day of Aug 1914.

J. P. [Signature].....(Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

.....(Approving Officer)

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

James McVey

James McVey's name appears on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation.

James McVey was born in 1896 to Robert McVey (a Composer) and Elizabeth McVey. The family lived at various addresses – 37 Vernon Street (1901), 3 Raby Street (1907) and 51 Cooke Street (1910) – but there is no record of the family in the 1911 Ireland Census. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records his widowed mother as living at 67 Burmah Street when he died in November 1914.



James McVey served in the Royal Navy and died on *HMS Good Hope*, a 14,100-ton Drake-class armoured cruiser, which was part of Rear Admiral Craddock's 4th Cruiser Squadron. The Squadron

was protecting British merchant shipping as far south as the Falkland Islands. *HMS Good Hope* before commencing a search for the German East Asiatic Squadron, leaving Port Stanley on 22nd October for the west coast of South America via Cape Horn. The *Good Hope* and *Monmouth* were sunk, with the loss of all lives on 1st November 1914, by the German armoured cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* in the Battle of Coronel off the Chilean coast. James McVey's name is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.



A memorial plaque was installed in Christ Church Cathedral on East Falkland Island and a memorial to all those who perished in the Battle of Coronel was erected in the 21st May Plaza in the Chilean city of Coronel in 1989, the dedication plaque reads:

"In memory of the 1418 officers and sailors of the British military squadron and their Commander-in-Chief, Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock, who sacrificed their lives in the Naval Battle of Coronel. Their only tomb is the sea."

AT SEA.

THE BATTLE IN PACIFIC.

STILL NO OFFICIAL NEWS.

German Admiral's Story.

HOW THE MONMOUTH SANK.

PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL.

Santiago De Chili, Thursday.

The British Minister here, in an interview, stated he had no information on the subject of the engagement between British and German warships, reported off Coronel.

The "Times" Valparaiso correspondent says the following account of the naval battle in the Pacific was given by Admiral Von Spee, commanding the German squadron, to the Chilean authorities:—"Four German cruisers, including the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, fought on Sunday, shortly before night, the English cruisers Good Hope, Monmouth, Glasgow, and Otranto. The fight lasted about an hour, and ceased at dark. The Good Hope was damaged to such an extent that she was obliged to fly, protected by the darkness. An explosion was seen between her funnels. The Monmouth attempted to fly, followed by a small German cruiser. The Monmouth sank after various shots. It was, unfortunately, impossible to lower any boats owing to the storm. It is supposed the Glasgow and Otranto sustained small damage and escaped in the darkness. Owing to their high speed the German ships did not suffer any serious damage. The Gneisenau had two men slightly wounded. The fight took place near the South Maria Island, off Coronel."

The above report is the only news available up-to-date. There is no news of the Glasgow, Good Hope, and Otranto. It is anticipated all the crew of the Monmouth is lost. German officers bear testimony to the great gallantry of the crew of the Monmouth, which, while in a sinking condition, attempted to ram one of the German vessels. The universal opinion is that the German squadron was always well provided with wireless information, whilst the contrary was the case with the English squadron.

THE BATTLE OFF CHILI.

ADMIRALTY ANNOUNCEMENT.

H.M.S. Good Hope Founders After Explosion.

MONMOUTH BELIEVED TO BE ASHORE.

Splendid British Gallantry.

Press Bureau, Friday, 9-50 p.m.

The Secretary of the Admiralty makes the following announcement—

The Admiralty have now received trustworthy information about the action on the Chilean coast during Sunday, 1st November.

The Good Hope, Monmouth, and Glasgow came up with the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Leipzig, and Dresden. Both squadrons were steaming south in a strong wind and considerable sea. The German squadron declined action until sunset, when the light gave it an important advantage.

The action lasted an hour. Early in the action both the Good Hope and Monmouth took fire, but fought on until nearly dark, when a serious explosion occurred on the Good Hope, and she foundered.

The Monmouth hauled off at dark, making water badly, and appeared unable to steam away. She was accompanied by the Glasgow, who had meanwhile during the whole action fought the Leipzig and Dresden. On the enemy again approaching the wounded Monmouth, the Glasgow, which was also under fire from one of the armoured cruisers, drew off.

The enemy then attacked the Monmouth again, with what result is not definitely known. The Glasgow is not extensively damaged, and has very few casualties. Neither the Otranto nor the Canopus was engaged.

Reports received by the Foreign Office from Valparaiso state that a belligerent warship is ashore on the Chilean coast, and it is possible that this may prove to be the Monmouth. Energetic measures are being taken on this assumption to rescue any survivors.

The action appears to the Admiralty to have been most gallantly contested, but in the absence of the Canopus the enemy's preponderance of force was considerable.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William Morgan and Cecil Burrows Morgan

The names of William Morgan and Cecil Burrows Morgan appear on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation.

William Morgan (born in Belfast on 2nd August 1891) and Cecil Burrows Morgan (born in 1899) were the sons of Francis Morgan, a draper originally from Scotland. The family was living at 27 Sandymount Street in 1901 and at 70 Stranmillis Road from 1904. The 1911 Ireland Census return records the Morgan family as being Francis, Sara (his second wife), four sons (including Cecil Burrows Morgan, aged 11) and a niece – William Morgan had already left the family home.



William Morgan had been involved in the linen business before emigrating to Canada, where he was a salesman at the outbreak of the war. He enlisted in September 1914 with Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) and, in July 1915, he received his commission with the 7th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Second Lieutenant William



Morgan was killed, aged 25, on 9th September 1916 and his name is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records state William Morgan as being "*husband of the late Annie Rodgers formerly Morgan*". His death was reported in the Northern Whig on 16th September 1916.



Mr. F. Morgan, 70, Stranmillis Road, received a telegram from the War Office yesterday stating that his eldest son, Second-Lieutenant W. Morgan, Inniskilling Fusiliers, was killed in action on Saturday last, September 9th. The deceased officer served as a trooper in Strathcona's Horse, which regiment he joined at the outbreak of hostilities, and received his commission at the end of July. Before emigrating to Canada a few years ago he was in the linen business in Belfast.

Northern Whig, 16th September 1916

Second Private Cecil Burrows Morgan served with the Royal Flying Corps and survived the war.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 14771
Folio. 673

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS).

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. What is your name?.....</p> <p>2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?.....</p> <p>3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?.....</p> <p>4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?.....</p> <p>5. What is the date of your birth?.....</p> <p>6. What is your Trade or Calling?.....</p> <p>7. Are you married?.....</p> <p>8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?.....</p> <p>9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?.....</p> <p>10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..
<small>If so, state particulars of former Service.</small></p> <p>11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?.....</p> <p>12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the) CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?]</p> | <p><i>William Morgan</i></p> <p><i>Belfast, Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>Thomas Morgan</i></p> <p><i>70, Strandhill Rd. Belfast, Ireland</i></p> <p><i>Aug 2nd 1891.</i></p> <p><i>Saleman</i></p> <p><i>Single</i></p> <p><i>Yes</i></p> <p><i>No</i></p> <p><i>No</i></p> <p><i>Yes</i></p> <p><i>Yes</i></p> <p><i>Wm Morgan</i> (Signature of Man).</p> <p><i>A. J. Carr</i> (Signature of Witness).</p> |
|--|--|

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Wm Morgan*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Wm Morgan (Signature of Recruit)

Date, *24/9* 1914. *A. J. Carr* (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Wm Morgan*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Wm Morgan (Signature of Recruit)

Date, *24/9* 1914. *A. J. Carr* (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Kaleenher* this *24* day of *Sept* 1914.

D. James Dunlop (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

..... (Approving Officer)

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

James Gemmell Motherwell

James Gemmell Motherwell's name appears on the Donegall Pass Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Donegall Pass congregation. The names of three of his nephews – John Ernest, David and James Quail – appear in the PCI Roll of Honour for the May Street congregation.

James Gemmell Motherwell was born in Belfast in 1877, the youngest of at least five children born to William Gemmell Motherwell and Mary Motherwell (nee Peacock) – his siblings were John, David McKean, William Hay and Sophie. William Gemmell Motherwell, a lithographic printer, was originally from Campsie in Stirlingshire and Mary Peacock was from Glasgow. The family moved backwards and forwards between Ireland and Scotland but were living at 38 Shaftesbury Avenue in 1901. In 1904, following the death of William G Motherwell in 1902, Mary Motherwell was living at 34 Shaftesbury Avenue (which passed to William Hay Motherwell on her death).

David McKean Motherwell married Catherine Carlisle from Craigavad and their family of seven children were living in Somerset Terrace on University Street at the time of the 1911 Census. The family was committed to the Unionist cause and many signed the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant in 1912.



In the early 1900s, James Gemmell Motherwell moved to England to work for David Allen & Sons Ltd., a printing company that had been started in Belfast – in due course he became Assistant Manager of the Wealdstone Works in Harrow and he represented the company in London and Birmingham. In 1903, James Motherwell married Marie Rose Hamilton (a photographic clerk) in Hendon. They were living at 6 Hallewell Road in Birmingham at the time of the 1911 Census but were living at 20 Locket Road in Harrow when James G Motherwell enlisted in the London Irish Rifles. He was serving with the 1st/4th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment (part of the 42nd Indian Brigade) in Mesopotamia when he died of cholera. He was 41 when he died on 18th November 1917 and he is buried in the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery in Iraq.

BELFAST MAN DIES IN BAGDAD.

Mr. David Motherwell (of Messrs. David Allen and Sons, Ltd., Belfast) has received the said news of the death from cholera at Bagdad on 18th inst., of his youngest brother, Private James Motherwell, Dorset Regiment, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force. The deceased, who was forty years of age, served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Allen in Belfast, and in the opening of their Harrow works, was transferred to that establishment, where he acted as assistant manager for a number of years. He afterwards represented the firm in London and Birmingham. At the beginning of the war he joined the London Irish, and was transferred to the Dorsets, with which he soldiered in India, and Mesopotamia. His widow lives in Harrow.

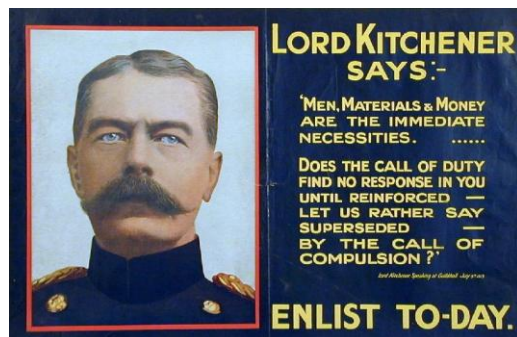
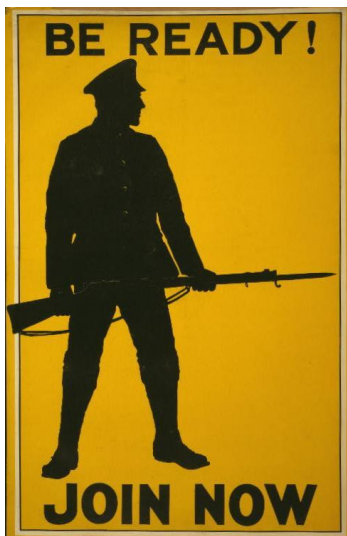
Belfast Evening Telegraph, 29th November 1917



One of James Gemmel Motherwell's nephews, John Ernest Motherwell initially served in the ranks with the Glasgow Highlanders Regiment and, after recovering from serious wounds, received a commission with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. Captain John Ernest Motherwell was attached to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment when he was killed in action on 16th October 1916 at the age of 29. Before the war he had worked in the Stationery trade and had been a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force, the University Football Club and Bangor Rugby Club. His brothers, who had attended Royal Belfast Accademical Institution, also served with the Royal Irish Rifles – David Motherwell was an Acting Captain and James Quail Motherwell was a Company Quarter Master Sergeant.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

As David McKean Motherwell was Manager of the Belfast Works of David Allen & Sons Ltd., and was later Company Secretary and Director of the company, it is possible that William Gemmel Motherwell was involved in the foundation of the company, perhaps providing the technical expertise whilst David Allen provided the finances. David Allen & Sons specialised in producing advertising posters for theatres, hotels, and railway companies. The company used many well known artists of the day such as L. Barribal, John Hassall, E.P. Kinsella, and Lance Thackeray to create images and many of these posters were later reproduced as lithographic postcards. With the outbreak of the War, the company produced recruitment posters and the Harrow Works were commandeered by the Government's Stationery Office.



The 1907 Belfast Street Directory entry for 16-20 Corporation Street reads:

Allen, David & Sons Ltd., Pictorial Placard Printers, Show Card Manufacturers, Publishers, etc., and at Wealdstone Works, Harrow, Middlesex; 17 Leicester Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.; 5 St. Peter's Square, Manchester; 40 Great Brunswick Street, Dublin; 19 Islington, Liverpool; Rosebery Buildings, 83 John Bright Street, Birmingham - Agencies at New York, Melbourne and Sydney.

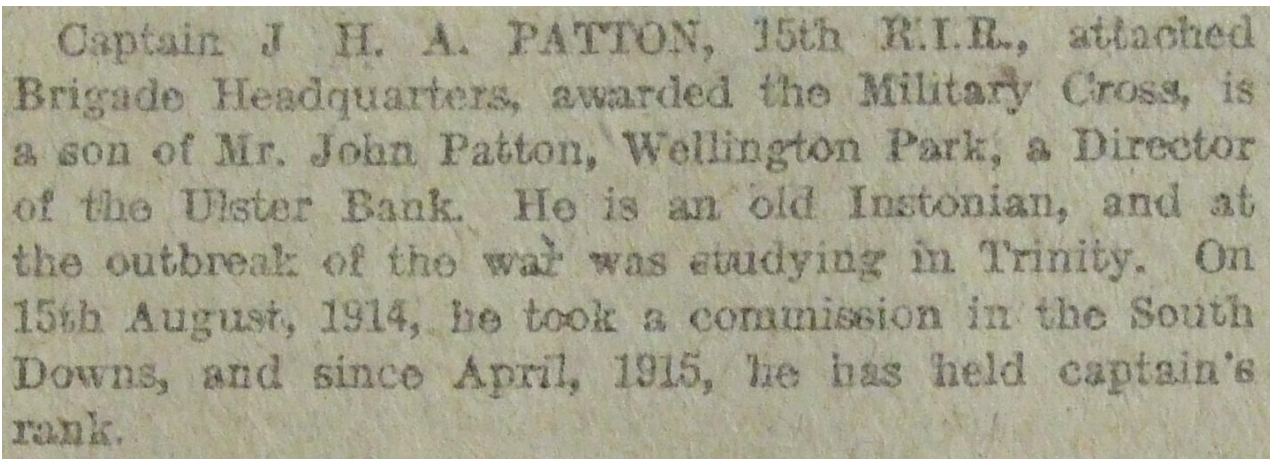
Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

John Henry Alexander Patton, William Francis Patton and Alexander Dunn Patton

The names of John Henry Alexander Patton, William Francis Patton and Alexander Dunn Patton appear on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

John Patton and Anna Martin Patton (nee Orr) had three sons and a daughter called Elizabeth. John Patton senior was a Chief Inspector of Banking (and later a Director with the Ulster Bank) and was an Elder in Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church. In 1901, the family was living at 68 Eglantine Avenue before moving to 27 Wellington Park in 1910, next door to the family of their Minister, the Rev. William Colquhoun.

Captain (later Major) John Henry Alexander Patton MC MBE MAI MA MInstCE was born on 14th December 1891 and was educated at RBAI and was studying civil engineering at Trinity College in Dublin, where he was Honorary Treasurer of the Dublin University Engineering Students' Society. He received his commission as a Second Lieutenant with the 5th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles on 15th August 1914 and arrived in France in December 1915. He quickly attaining the rank Captain and was awarded the Military Cross in 1918 whilst attached to the regiment's 15th Battalion. In October 1918 he was transferred from Royal Irish Rifles to the Royal Engineers (Army Signals Service), with whom he won a Bar to his Military Cross.



Captain J. H. A. PATTON, 15th R.I.R., attached Brigade Headquarters, awarded the Military Cross, is a son of Mr. John Patton, Wellington Park, a Director of the Ulster Bank. He is an old Instonian, and at the outbreak of the war was studying in Trinity. On 15th August, 1914, he took a commission in the South Downs, and since April, 1915, he has held captain's rank.

Northern Whig, 4th December 1918

John Henry Alexander Patton's recollections of the Battle of the Somme were printed in the *Fitzroy News* church magazine in October 1966 (see below).

FIFTY YEARS AFTER

Major J. H. A. Patton, M.C., was one of many Ulstermen who took part in the Battle of the Somme in 1916, and in July of this year he returned to France to join the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the battle. He kindly agreed to tell readers of the "Courier" something of what happened on both historic occasions.

What are your recollections of the battle itself?

"Well, I was at the battle, but not in it. I spent most of the day waiting on a hill near Albert with a number of other officers and N.C.O.s who were left out of battle, ready to reform the unit, if it got smashed up. I didn't get in to the battle until the evening. By then it was a terrible mess. Nobody knew where anyone was or where to go. Gradually we got together again, but my battalion, the 15th Royal Irish Rifles, had lost seven out of every ten men. We marched almost straightaway to a small town, Bernaville, where, I remember, we lived on strawberries for several days. They were grown for the Paris market, but of course there was no way of getting them there, so there was a terrific glut of them."

Then other divisions came in to relieve you in the Somme area?

"Oh, yes, there was fighting there for quite a few months after that. We didn't really make much headway there until the coming of the tanks. Eventually the Germans cleared out of the area. They reformed themselves on what they called the Hindenburg line."

What happened during the celebrations in July?

"We flew in a special chartered plane from Aldergrove to Le Bourget. We went by motor coach to Amiens, where we were all pushed into various hotels. In a good many cases we only slept in our hotels and ate somewhere else. We were about 200 strong at this stage.

"That afternoon, we went to a ceremony in the Hotel de Ville where we were presented with medals. We got off without being kissed on both cheeks in the usual French fashion—we had been afraid that that might happen to us! We can't wear the medals, though, as they are foreign decorations, and can therefore only be worn by permission of the Queen.

"In the evening, we went to Beaumont Hamel where we looked at the position we had attacked from the German point of view, as it were. A set of flood lights on the Newfoundland War Memorial was dedicated. Meanwhile the French police had directed our coaches miles away, so it was very late by the time we found them and arrived back at Amiens. The next day, they added to the confusion by resiting the starting points of the coaches in different positions. (I sometimes think their idea of directing traffic is to stand and blow a whistle vigorously. All they succeed in doing is tying up the traffic in a good imitation of a knot). Anyway, we visited the Ulster Division War Memorial at Thiepval, which is a tower (an imitation of Helen's Tower) situated in beautiful gardens. Once again, there was a dedication ceremony.

"On the third day, we were at a reception in Albert, the nearest town to the battlefield. We received a great welcome from the townspeople, though few could have been there in our time. We also saw the British War Memorial to the missing, and saw the names of a lot of our people on the tablets there."

What was the atmosphere like before the battle itself?

"We knew, of course, that it was going to be a big battle. But we expected that more trenches would be smashed by the artillery. But the enemy was so well dug in that they were able to come up again after the preliminary bombardment. I remember the frogs croaking on the marshes alongside the river Ancre. They were very useful, as they stopped croaking if anyone moved. You always had to shake out your boots before you put them on there, as the frogs would hop into them and not be able to get out again."

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



Belfast Harbour Commissioners' delegates to the Airports Conference :
From left to right : Mr. J. H. A. Patton, W. Y. Chamberlain, Air Comdre.
J. A. Chamier (permanent nominee in Airport Owners Association),
James Alexander, and Mr. M. J. C. Stanley.



After the Great War, John Henry Alexander Patton resumed his engineering career and was Civil Engineer for the Belfast Harbour Commission, which he represented at the 1937 Airports Conference (*picture above*). The 1947 book published to commemorate the centenary of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners included a plan (*above*) of the “Port and Harbour of Belfast” drawn by JHA Patton. He was Principal Engineer with the Belfast Harbour Commission when he retired in 1956.

In the inter-war years, Captain JHA Patton maintained his military service with the Territorial Army & Voluntary Reserve (TAVR) and was seconded to the Queen's University Officers' Training Corps, where he was responsible for establishing a Signals Section in 1936. He also served as a Major with the Royal Corps of Signals in the Second World War and subsequently chaired the sub-committee which oversaw the design and installation of the memorial to those from Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church who died during that conflict.

After the Second World War, Major JHA Patton returned to TAVR duties with the Royal Corps of Signals, being awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration (with two clasps) for long service. In June 1952 he was again seconded to the Queen's University Officers' Training Corps and he retired from military service in October 1955. JHA Patton was Chairman of the Northern Ireland Branch of the Institute of Civil Engineers for the 1949/50 session and was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1952.



MBE



MC



TED

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



Major JHA Patton was an active member of Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church, becoming a member of the Committee in June 1921 and an Elder in January 1932, holding the post of Treasurer for many years. As a measure of his long service to the congregation, the Kirk Session of Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church presented Major Patton with an oil painting on his retirement as an Elder in 1968. In the portrait he is, appropriately, wearing a Royal Irish regimental tie.

John Henry Alexander Patton retired to farm a 60 acre holding at Ballyspallen (near Ballykelly in County Londonderry), where he died on 6th September 1970 and was buried in the Ballykelly Presbyterian Church graveyard.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Second Lieutenant William Francis Patton CBE QC was born on 12th November 1897 and educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI). He joined the Queen's University Officers' Training Corps in October 1914 and left in January 1916 when he enlisted in the 20th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. In October 1917, he was attached to the 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Maluan Regiment), an appointment which he relinquished on 20th April 1919. He served in India and the Middle East and was reported "missing and presumed killed on 10th April 1918". However, on 24th April, the Northern Whig reported that William Francis Patton had been taken prisoner.



PATTON.—Lieut. W. F. Patton, Gurkhas, reported wounded, missing, and believed killed on the 10th April, is now officially reported prisoner of war. He is the second son of Mr. John Patton, 27, Wellington Park, Belfast, and a director of the Ulster Bank, Waring Street. Lieut. Patton, who is one of three brothers all serving, joined up on the 1st January, 1916, and after some time in India he was brought back and sent to Palestine.

*Northern Whig,
24th April 1918*

After the war he pursued a career in the legal profession, becoming a Queen's Counsellor. In the 1974 New Year's Honours List, he was made a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his service to the legal system in Northern Ireland.

Alexander Dunn Patton was born on 23rd June 1899 and was also educated at RBAI. He joined the Queen's University Officers' Training Corps in November 1915³⁰ and left in November 1917 when he enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery. He later served with the Royal Horse Artillery. Little else is known about him or his life after the war.



³⁰ On the same day as his next-door-neighbour, William Colquhoun, also of the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

John Alexander Sinton VC OBE FRS DL

John Alexander Sinton's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.



John Alexander Sinton was born on 2nd December 1884 in Victoria, British Columbia, the third of the seven children (one brother and five sisters) of Walter Lyon Sinton (1860–1930) and Isabella Mary Sinton (née Pringle, 1860–1924). The Sintons were a Quaker family with extensive interests in the linen trade in the north of Ireland. In 1890 the family returned to Ireland and lived at Wheatfield House in Portadown, but Walter Sinton soon left his wife and family and returned to North America. In 1901, the family lived at Olney Terrace on the Whiterock Road³¹ and, in the 1911 Ireland Census return, Isabella Sinton and six of her children were listed as living at Ulster Villas, 381 Lisburn Road. The Census return has a gap for John Alexander Sinton who was residing at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

John Sinton had attended Nicholson Memorial School (run by the Quaker community) in Lisburn before transferring to the Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI) in 1899. After RBAI, John Sinton attended Queen's College, Belfast where he was one of the most distinguished students in the Belfast Medical School. He graduated with first class honours in 1908, gaining a Bachelor of Medicine (1st Class), Bachelor of Obstetrics (1st Class) and Bachelor of Surgery (2nd Class). In 1910 he was awarded the Diploma in Public Health (with a £10 prize) by Cambridge University and was the Riddel Demonstrator of Bacteriology at Queen's under Professor Symmers. As a precursor to joining the Indian Medical Service, JA Sinton studied at the School of Tropical Medicine in Liverpool, where he took first place in the examinations.

John Sinton's brother, Victor Walter Sinton, was a civil engineer who was prominently associated with the manufacture of munitions at the factory of James Mackie & Company and his uncle, Mr Edwin Sinton, was a well-known officer in the Ulster Volunteer Force in Lisburn.

³¹ Olney Terrace appears under Whiterock Road **and** Ballygomartin Road in the 1901 Belfast Street Directory, but only under Ballygomartin Road in the 1907 Belfast Street Directory. The 1901 Ireland Census lists the Sinton family as living at 8 Ballygomartin Street (which does not appear in the Belfast Street Directory).

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In July 1911 he received a commission as a Lieutenant (Medical Officer) with the Indian Medical Service and was attached to the 31st (Duke of Connaught's Own) Lancers, serving on the North West Frontier as a Captain. When the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force commenced operations in the Persian Gulf, JA Sinton requested a transfer to an active service unit and was posted to the 37th (Prince of Wales' Own) Dogras.



As Regimental Medical Officer, Sinton spent more time treating his men for illness than for battle wounds during the early stages of the campaign, but he displayed the highest degree of bravery in several actions. The one for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross occurred on 21st January 1916 at the Orah Ruins in Mesopotamia, where the Turks were inflicting heavy casualties on the British troops under siege at Kut-el-Amara. Under near suicidal conditions, Captain Sinton

tended the wounded men under heavy fire and without regard for his own safety. He was hit by rifle-fire five times, being wounded in both arms and in the side. However, he refused to leave the firing line and continued treating the wounded until darkness finally ended the shooting. His "conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty" earned him the Victoria Cross. Fittingly, Sinton's VC is on display, alongside a painting of the action for which it was awarded, at the Regimental Museum of the Royal Army Medical Corps in Aldershot.

*War Office,
21st June, 1916.*

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officer and Man:—

Capt. John Alexander Sinton, M.B., Ind. Med. Serv.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to the hospital, and remained, as long as daylight lasted, attending to his duties under very heavy fire.

In three previous actions Capt. Sinton displayed the utmost bravery.



Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

John Alexander Sinton was the first Queen's College/University graduate, and the first Irish medic, to be awarded the Victoria Cross. The announcement received extensive coverage in the Belfast News Letter, the Belfast Evening Telegraph and the Northern Whig on 22nd June 1916 and transcriptions of the articles follow.

V.C. FOR BELFAST DOCTOR

GALLANTRY IN MESOPOTAMIA

The "London Gazette" of Wednesday evening announced that the Victoria Cross has been awarded to a Belfast officer of the Indian Medical Service, in the person of Captain John Alexander Sinton, M.B. the official record of his gallantry states that the award is made –

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to hospital, and remained as long as daylight lasted attending to his duties under very heavy fire. In three previous actions Captain Sinton displayed the utmost bravery.

Captain Sinton is a son of Mr. John Sinton, formerly of Ravarnette, Lisburn, and now of British Columbia, and of Mrs. Sinton, Ulster Villas, Lisburn Road, Belfast, and a brother of Mr. Victor Sinton, Munitions Department, Coate's Building. Mr Edwin Sinton, managing director of the Ravarnette Mills, and a prominent member of the South Antrim Regiment U.V.F., is an uncle of Captain Sinton. Born in British Columbia thirty years ago, Captain Sinton came to Ulster very early in life, being educated at the Nicholson Memorial School, Lisburn, the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and the Queen's College, Belfast, while he also attended the classes carried out by Mr J. M. Finnegan for a time.



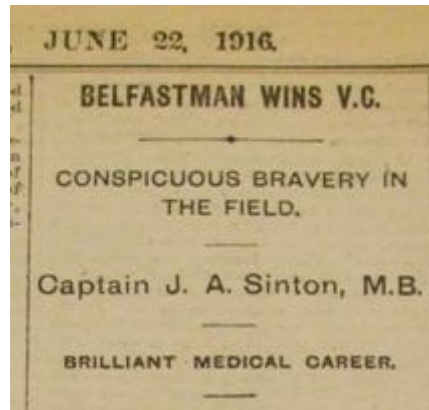
Captain Sinton was one of the most brilliant students that ever passed through the medical school in Belfast. He was a Scholar at Queen's College in his third and fourth years, and in his fifth gained a senior scholarship in midwifery and surgery. At the M.B. examination, 1908, in the Royal University he won a special exhibition, and was first class in the medicine and midwifery groups, and second class in the surgery group. He then became house surgeon and subsequently house physician at the Royal Victoria Hospital, where he had previously been a resident pupil. On completion of his term at the Royal Dr. Sinton turned his attention to the newer developments of medical science, worked in the pathological laboratory at Queen's, and became the Riddell Demonstrator in bacteriology. Entering the Indian medical service, in which he gained first place in 1911, he worked in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine before going East, and, in 1914 was promoted captain. He was attached to the Mesopotamian force last winter, and it was in that country that he won his V.C.

Those who knew Captain Sinton state that he is a man of most retiring disposition. His professors speak of him as an ideal student. He was very popular at Queen's, where the news of the honour that he has brought on his old alma mater has been hailed with delight.

Captain Sinton, it may be added, has a sister in the service of the Ulster Bank (head office) and in honour of her brother the directors gave Miss Sinton a holiday to-day.

Transcription of an article printed in the Belfast Evening Telegraph on 22nd June 1916

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



The King has been graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned officer:-
Captain John Alexander Sinton, M.B., Indian Medical Service,

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to hospital, and remained as long as daylight lasted attending to his duties under very heavy fire. In three previous actions Captain Sinton displayed the utmost bravery.

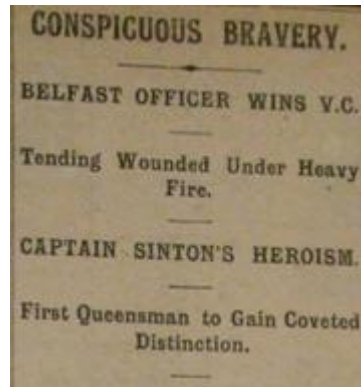
Captain Sinton's Career

Captain J. A. Sinton is a Belfastman, and news of the great honour which has been conferred upon him will be received with the greatest satisfaction by his many friends in the city and in Lisburn, where he was brought up. He is a son of Mrs. Sinton, Ulster Villas, Lisburn Road, Belfast, and a grandson of the late Mr. John Sinton, of Ravarnett, near Lisburn, and of Mrs. Sinton, Castle Street, Lisburn. Born in 1885, he spent his boyhood days in Lisburn, where he received his preliminary education at the Nicholson Memorial School. The family afterwards came to reside in Belfast, and lived for some time at Olney Terrace, Ballygomartin Road. Captain Sinton then resumed his education at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, and afterwards at Queen's College, and he was one of the most distinguished students of the Belfast Medical School. After a very brilliant career, during which he was a scholar for three of his undergraduate years, he graduated M.B. with honours in the autumn of 1908 in the Royal University, where he gained an exhibition and was first-class in the medicine group, first-class in the midwifery group, and second-class in the surgery group. He afterwards became house surgeon in the Royal Victoria Hospital, and subsequently, Riddel demonstrator in bacteriology at Queen's University. In 1910 he took the diploma for public health. He was also a student in tropical medicine at Liverpool. He passed into the Indian Medical Service about four years ago, taking first place, and went to Mesopotamia in November last.

Captain Sinton's brother, Mr. Victor W. Sinton, is engaged on munition work at Messrs. James Mackie & Son's Limited, and a sister, Miss Norah Sinton, is employed as a telegraphist at the General Post Office. Captain Sinton is the first medical man in Ireland to win the V.C. He is a young man of quiet and unassuming character, and he will receive the hearty congratulations of the citizens generally on the high honour which has been so deservedly conferred upon him and upon the city of Belfast.

Transcription of an article printed in the Northern Whig on 22nd June 1916

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



It was officially announced by the War Office through the Press Bureau last night that His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross Captain John Alexander Sinton, M.B., Indian Medical Service.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to hospital, and remained as long as daylight lasted attending to his duties under very heavy fire. In three previous actions Captain Sinton displayed the utmost bravery.

Captain Sinton is a son of Mrs. Sinton, Ulster Villas, Lisburn Road, Belfast, and is 31 years of age. A member of the well known Quaker family of Ravarnette, he is the grandson of the late Mr. John Sinton and of Mrs. Sinton, Castle Street, Lisburn, and, on the maternal side, of Mr. Allan Pringle, Derrymore House, Newry. As a boy he attended the Memorial School in Lisburn named after the heroic Brigadier John Nicholson, of Indian Mutiny fame, and afterwards proceeded to the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, where he soon gave promise of the outstanding [text indecipherable] which subsequently distinguished him. He studied for a time under [text indecipherable] well-known tutor, now secretary of the Belfast University, and had a brilliant career in the medical school at Queen's. He was a scholar for three of his undergraduate years and graduated M.B., B.Ch. and B.A.O., with first class honours in 1908. Two years later he was awarded the Diploma in Public Health with a prize of £10, and was subsequently Riddell Demonstrator of Bacteriology under Professor W. St. Clair Symmers. He was also for a period house surgeon in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Deciding to compete for the Indian Medical Service, he went to the School of Tropical Medicine in Liverpool and had the satisfaction of taking first place in the examination. The War Office allowed him to continue his studies for six months after his success, and he left to take up his duties in India about four years ago. He was attached to the 31st. Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers, a class squadron regiment with headquarters at Kohal. At the commencement of the operations of the Indian Expeditionary Force in the Persian Gulf, he made application for permission to go on active service, and in November last succeeded in his object by effecting a transfer to the 37th Dogras.

The official announcement of the award of the Victoria Cross to Captain Sinton will be received with widespread satisfaction by the students, past and present, of Queen's University. Since the opening of the present war many Queensmen have won distinction for themselves and their Alma Mater by gallant deeds performed ashore and afloat, but Captain Sinton is the first to obtain the coveted "For Valour." and he will be the recipient of hearty congratulations of his numerous friends on his gallant deed. It is characteristic of the man that he makes light of his wounds, and practically ignores the circumstances under which he was injured, in his latest letter home. His mother and other members of his family are naturally delighted at the signal honour that has been conferred upon him, and it is to be hoped that the citizens of Belfast will have the opportunity in the not distant future of according him a reception worthy of the man.

A brother of the VC hero is Mr. Victor W. Sinton, who is prominently identified with the manufacture of munitions in Belfast under Mr. Alex. McDowell, local representative of the Ministry of Munitions. His uncle, Mr. Edwin Sinton, is a well-known officer of the Ulster Volunteer Force in Lisburn.

Transcription of an article printed in the Belfast News Letter on 22nd June 1916

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In May 1917 he became a Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services with the Indian Medical Service. Before the war ended, John Alexander Sinton was mentioned in despatches four times and received the Order of St. George (4th Class), a gallantry medal awarded by Imperial Russia.



*War Office,
15th May, 1917.*

The following formed part of the Russian Decorations awarded in July, 1916, to the British Forces for distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign:—

His Majesty the King has given unrestricted permission in all cases to wear the Decorations and medals in question.

General Headquarters, Indian Expeditionary Force "D."

22nd December, 1916.

The Order of St. George, 4th Class.

The Reverend William Robert Fountaine Addison, V.C., Temporary Chaplain, 4th Class, Army Chaplain's Department.
Captain John Alexander Sinton, V.C., Indian Medical Service.

In 1917 and 1918, John Alexander Sinton served with the East African Force (Tanganyika) and commanded a Cavalry Field Ambulance as part of the East Persian Cordon Field Force. Between August 1918 and April 1919, he was the Senior Medical Officer to the Turkistan Military Mission.

In 1919 he was awarded the MD (honoris causa) by Queen's University, Belfast in recognition of "*his early academic distinctions and his valour in the field.*" The same university awarded him a Doctorate in Sciences for his work on phlebotomus (a mild viral disease transmitted by the bite of the sand fly) in 1927.

In late 1919 Sinton returned to India and served in the Mahsud and Waziristan campaigns in Afghanistan, being mentioned in despatches on two occasions. In 1921 he transferred to the civilian branch of the Indian Medical Service and was taken on to the staff of the Medical Research Department at the Pasteur Institute (Kasauli, near Simna). In the same year he became an Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for "*... valuable services rendered in the field with the Waziristan Force.*"³² He was also the recipient of the Indian General Service ribbon, with three clasps

³² Supplement to the London Gazette, 10th June 1921

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In January 1923, John Alexander Sinton was promoted to Major and, on 19th September, he married Eadith Seymour Steuart-Martin³³. Their daughter, Eleanor Isabel Mary Sinton, was born at Kasauli on 9th December 1924. He was the first Director of the Malaria Survey of India (now the Malaria Institute of India), an institute that was, under Sinton's direction, to become one of the chief malaria research centres in the world. He spent the next fifteen years researching the treatment of malaria before retiring from the Indian Medical Service in 1938. After retiring, Sinton became Manson Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a researcher with the Horton Malaria Laboratory.



At the start of World War Two, Sinton joined the Home Guard as a Private, but was soon rescued by the War Office and spent the remainder of the war as a peripatetic advisor on malaria control. As a Brigadier, he served in India, East Africa, the Middle East and, in 1944, he oversaw the treatment of an outbreak of malaria in southern Italy.

On 21st March 1946, John Alexander Sinton was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for his work as a malariologist and record of his qualification to become a member ends :

"It is doubtful if any other author during the last thirty years ... has contributed more largely and importantly to scientific knowledge of malaria or has worked more originally and assiduously to advance such knowledge."

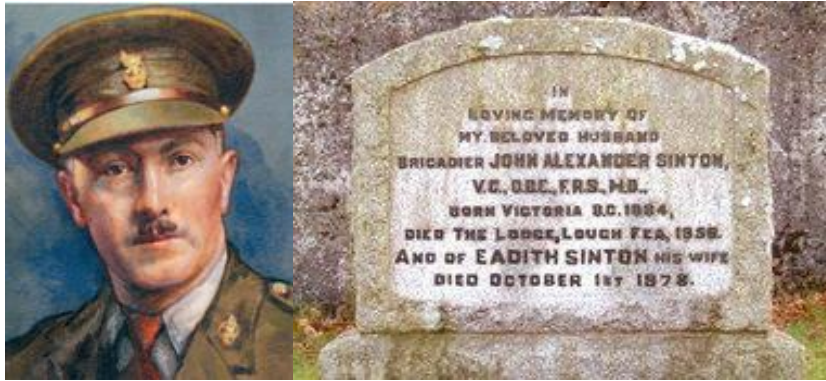
John Alexander Sinton was the first (and probably only) man entitled to include the letters "VC" and "FRS" after his name.

With the war over he retired, again, and settled in Cookstown, where he undertook occasional civilian posts such as High Sheriff (1953) and Deputy Lieutenant (1954) for County Tyrone and Justice of the Peace. Sinton continued to be involved with Queen's University where he held a Pro-Chancellor position and was Honorary Colonel of the Officers' Training Corps. He was also President of the Cookstown Royal British Legion.

Brigadier Sinton died at his home, Slaghtfreedan Lodge, at the age of 72, on 25th March 1956 and he was buried with full military honours at Claggan Presbyterian Cemetery in Cookstown. Such was the esteem with which he was held, a tradition started whereby veterans in the Cookstown Royal British Legion gathered at his graveside on the eve of Remembrance Sunday to pay homage.

³³ The spelling in the British Medical Journal obituary printed on 7th April 1956. However, some sources use *Edith Seymour Steuart-Martin* or *Eadith Seymour Stewart-Martin*

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



A small housing block for ex-service couples, built by the Royal British Legion Housing Association, was named in his honour, as was one of the Halls of Residence at Queen's University Belfast.

In October 2009, the British Army opened the Sinton Medical and Dental Centre in Lisburn as a replacement the centre destroyed by an IRA bomb in October 1996.

John Alexander Sinton wrote over 200 scientific papers (comprising twelve volumes now located in the Thomson Room in the QUB Medical Library) and received many awards and honours, including:

Arnott Memorial Medal (Irish Medical School & Graduates Association, 1917);

Chalmers Medal (Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 1929);



Bissett-Hawkins medalist (Royal College of Physicians, 1944);

Robert Campbell Memorial Prize (Ulster Medical Society, 1946);

Mary Kingsley Medal (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, 1949);

Anti-Gambia Memorial Medalist (Awarded by Egypt in 1950 in recognition of his efforts during a malaria epidemic);

Manson Medal (Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 1956)



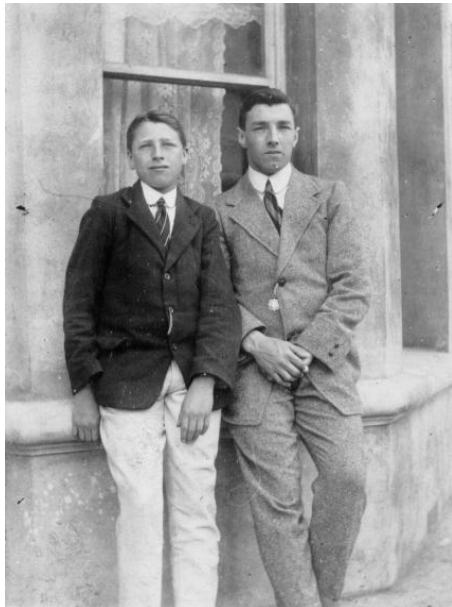
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Gordon Dill Long Smyth

The names of Gordon Dill Long Smyth and John Alexander Smyth appear on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

Gordon Dill Long Smyth was born on 10th March 1896, the sixth of eleven children born to the Rev. James Smyth and Mrs Mary Frances Dill Smyth, the daughter of the Rev. Andrew Long (Moneyreagh) and grand-daughter of the Rev. Richard Dill (Ballykelly). The Rev. James Smyth was installed as minister of Crossgar Presbyterian Church³⁴ in County Londonderry on 6th May 1874 and held the charge there until he had to retire due to ill health in 1902. Although he was recorded as the householder at 111 University Street in the 1914 Belfast Street Directory, he had died on 30th September 1913.

In the mid 1990s the History Department at Friends' School in Lisburn was given an old rusted tin box that had been retrieved from a skip. It contained 38 photographs and a series of over ninety letters and post cards (dated from 23rd September 1915 to 11th August 1917) addressed to Mrs. Smyth. They were, for the most part, correspondence that she had received from her sons, John and Gordon. One of the photographs below shows Gordon with John Alexander (born, 1892) whilst the other is of one of his sisters, probably Margaret Stewart (born, 2nd November 1894.)



John Alexander Smyth later married a Viola Millar and their son, named Gordon Dill Long Smyth MD FRCS (1929-1992), became an authority on Chronic Ear Disease.

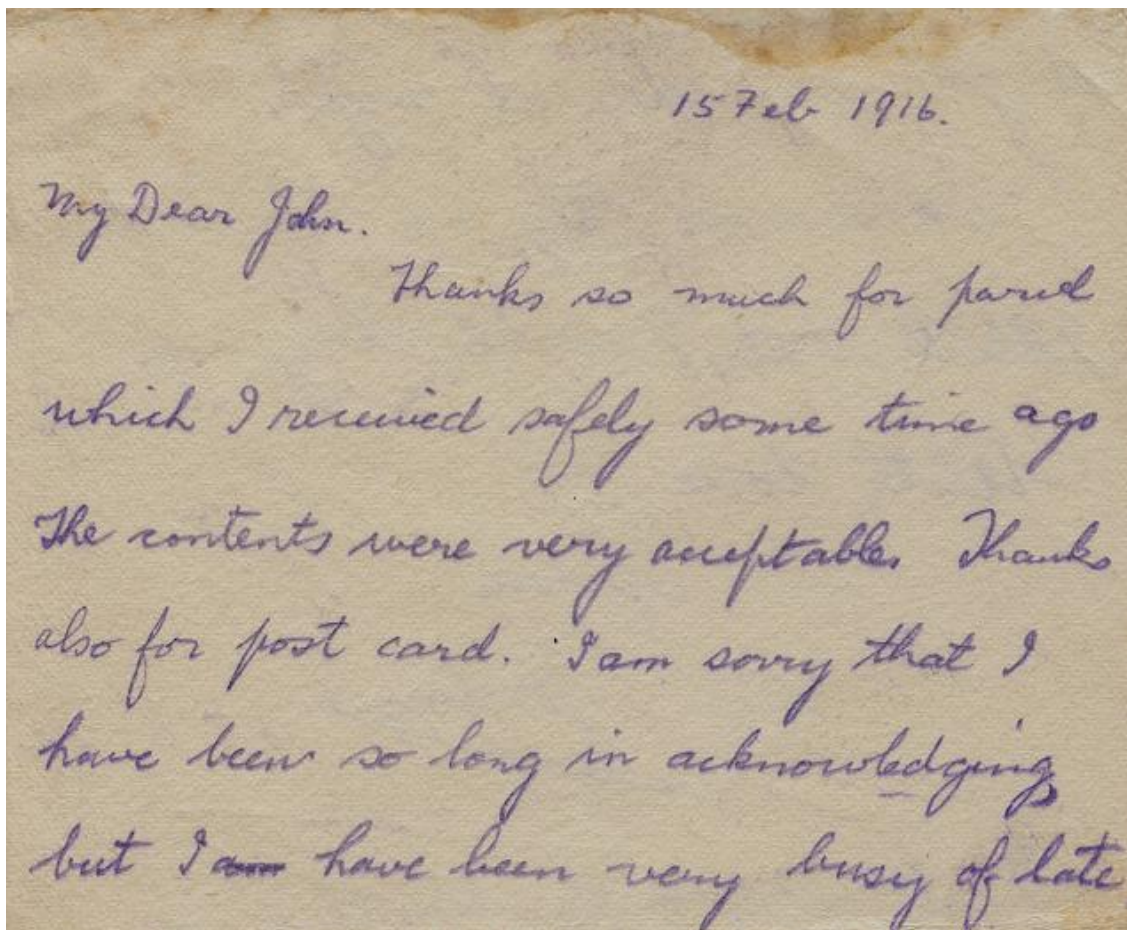
³⁴ The Belfast News Letter's report of GDL Smyth's death refers to *Crossgar, County Down* whereas the Northern Whig refers to *Crossgar, County Derry*

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Gordon Smyth had attended Royal School Dungannon, Foyle College and Royal Belfast Academical Institution before enrolling to study medicine at Queen's University, Belfast. It was at Queen's that he renewed his friendship with Eric Erickson Craig, a fellow-medical student who had also attended Foyle College. Gordon Smyth had joined Queen's University Officers' Training Corps in November 1914 and Eric Craig joined the unit in November 1915. Eric Craig received his commission in December 1915, being initially attached to the 20th (Reserve) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles before leaving for France in July 1916. Gordon Smyth received his commission in January 1916 and was transferred from the 20th Battalion to the 13th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles on 20th June 1916. Gordon and Eric both paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



The earliest letters were from John, who had been serving on the western front but had been invalided back to England. However, the bulk of the letters were from Gordon when was serving as a Second Lieutenant with 13th (Service) Battalion (1st County Down Volunteers), Royal Irish Rifles. Gordon also corresponded with his brother during his convalescence (*below*).



15 Feb 1916.

My Dear John.

Thanks so much for parcel which I received safely some time ago. The contents were very acceptable. Thanks also for post card. I am sorry that I have been so long in acknowledging but I ~~am~~ have been very busy of late.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Some of the letters were from Gordon's good friend, Eric Craig, who was then serving with the 10th (South Belfast) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. Although in separate battalions, Gordon and Eric did manage to meet up on 22nd and 23rd August and, on the 5th September, Gordon wrote to his mother saying that they hoped to meet again the following day. It was not to be. Eric Craig was already dead, having been "killed instantaneously by a German trench mortar" in Belgium, sometime between the 28th and 30th August 1916. Eric Craig was only 21 years of age when he died, barely three weeks after his arrival at Le Havre.

Writing to his mother on the 12th September (*below*), Gordon spoke about his friend's death and how he hoped to visit his grave once he returned to the area from a Divisional Training School behind the lines. He almost certainly did so as one of the photographs, found with the collection of letters, shows the road sign at the junction where the Neuve Eglise to Messines road branches off to Kemmel. It is only a few yards from the path that leads to St. Quentin Cabaret Cemetery where Eric Craig was buried.

Tuesday, Sept. 12th

My Dear mother

I am sure that the death of Eric came as a great blow to you all. I know that I was absolutely stunned when I heard of it. It happened on the afternoon of the 28th August. He was killed by a trench mortar which lit right into the trench. I believe that he was hardly cut at all but died instantaneously owing to the shock of explosion.

It is a great blow to us all but we must bear up & try to be cheerful. He was buried in a military cemetery behind the line and as soon as I get the opportunity I will go & see his grave

25

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies



GDL Gordon (seated)

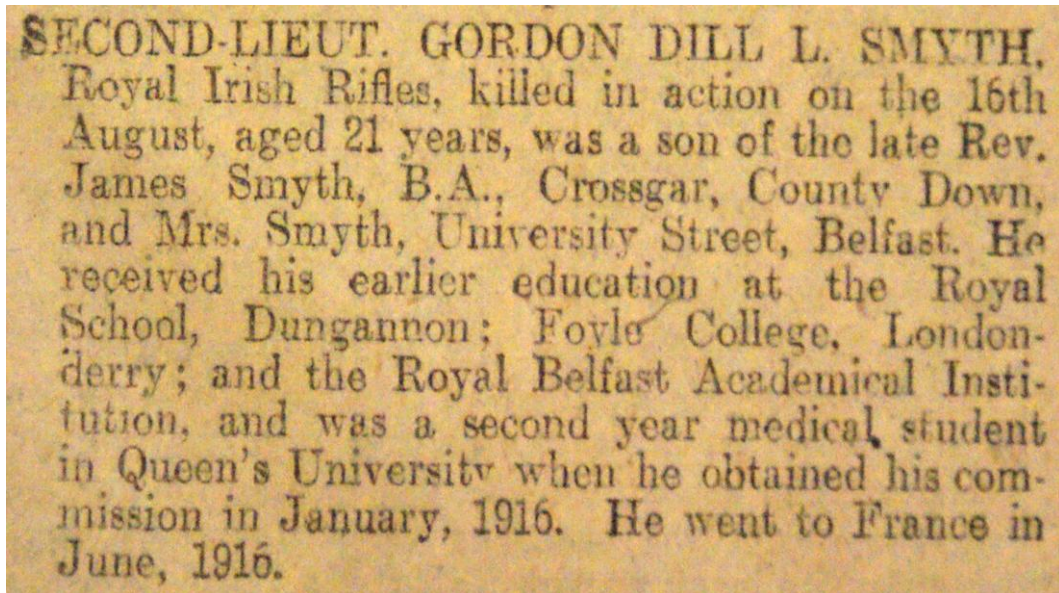
In a letter dated 5th September 1916, Gordon reports that, whilst at Lewis Gun School, “I ran into **M’Clinton** and **Stewart** of North.”. The former was Arthur Norman McClinton of Windsor Park, who also belonged to Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church, and the latter was Albert Lewis Stewart – both McClinton and Stewart had also been educated at RBAI and had represented Ireland in Rugby Union.

In 1916 Gordon sent his mother this official Christmas Card:



Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Gordon Smyth survived his friend by less than a year. He was killed in action, at the age of 21, on 16th August 1917 during the Battle of Langemarck (3rd Ypres)³⁵ and his name is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial at Ypres in Belgium. His name also appears on the Foyle College War Memorial, RBAI War Memorial, the Queen's University Belfast War Memorial and the QUB Officers' Training Corps Roll of Honour. His death was reported in the Belfast News Letter and the Northern Whig newspapers.



Belfast News Letter, 24-08-1917

Little else is known of Gordon Smyth other than the impression of him that his letters present. That impression is of a caring son constantly trying to shield an anxious mother from the reality of his life at the front. He wrote to her regularly, usually about mundane matters such as the weather, letters or parcels he had received, people he had met – including members of Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church and North of Ireland Football Club – or just family gossip. Only once, in June 1917, following a successful attack on the Messines Ridge is there any reference to the fighting, and even then it is in the vaguest of fashions:

“What do you think of the latest push?” he wrote on 15th June, *“I think that it is the finest piece of work that has been done yet”*.

More frequently he referred to occasions when he was out of the line and living in relative comfort. The principal intention of all this was simply to let his mother know that he was alive and well. Her concern at not hearing from him is evident from a letter he wrote to her on the 11th August 1917:

“I can't understand how it is that you hadn't heard from me for 8 days. I wrote every day to you except two days and the only thing that can be wrong is the postal system”.

³⁵ A total of six men (including Jack Bill, above) from the three congregations died on this date.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

11th August 1917

My Dear Mother

Received your welcome letter. I was glad to get it, & to know that you were well & having a good time in Portstewart. I can't understand how it is that you hadn't heard from me for 8 days. I wrote every day to you, except two days & the only thing that can be wrong is the postal system.

I am still resting & the weather has improved. In fact it is quite fine now, & we have quite a lot of sun. There seems to be a great crowd in Portstewart now. Are there as many Scotch people as formerly? It was very nice for you to meet so many people that you knew. How long is Isabella staying in Portstewart, & when does Madge start her work? I was delighted to hear that she had got through her examinations all right.

I was in a town near here yesterday & saw Tom Buchanan. He is looking well & seems to be having quite a good time. I also saw Culbertson Jackson. He too is in good form.

I am in a dreadful hurry to catch post so I will close hoping, that you will excuse the scribble

With love to all
from
Gordon

Thomas McClurg Buchanan and Culbertson Jackson, who were also members of Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Ironically, this was the last surviving letter that Gordon Smyth wrote to his mother.

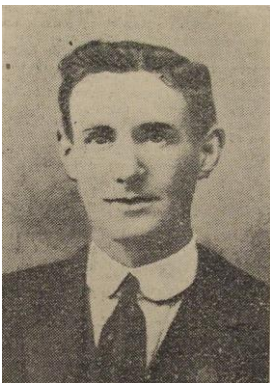
One can only imagine the anguish experienced at 111 University Street when the news that his mother most clearly dreaded finally arrived.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

John Stuart

John Stuart's name appears in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation, but not on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque. His name also appears in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Ballyalbany congregation in the Presbytery of Monaghan.

John Stuart was born on 9th March 1884, the third son and sixth child of John Stuart and Margaret Anne Stuart [nee Brown] who farmed land at Sheetrim in Bellanode, County Monaghan. The 1911 Ireland Census return shows that Margaret Stuart was a widow living on the family farm with two sons and two daughters.



At the outbreak of war, John Stuart was a Branch Manager with The Shepherds' Dairies Ltd and was a member of Armagh Temperance LOL 745 and the Royal Black Preceptory 813. He had been a member of the 6th (South Belfast) Battalion of the Ulster Volunteer Force before the war, but enlisted and served with the 1st Battalion, The Irish



Guards. John Stuart was killed in action at Zillabeke, aged 30, on 1st November 1914 and his name is commemorated on Menin Gate at the Ypres Memorial in Belgium.

PRIVATE JOHN STUART,
1st Battalion Irish Guards, of 56 Carmel Street, Belfast, killed in action at Zillabeke, on 1st November, 1914. He belonged to the 6th Battalion South Belfast Regiment U.V.F., was a member of Armagh Temperance L.O.L. 745, and Royal Black Preceptory 813. Prior to the outbreak of the war he was connected with The Shepherds' Dairies, Ltd., as branch manager. He was a native of Co. Monaghan.

Belfast Evening Telegraph

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Sir William Willis Dalziel Thomson DL FRCP MD BA BSc DPH

William Willis Dalziel Thomson's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation. His name also appears on the Roll of Honour plaque in Malone Golf Club.

William W. D. Thomson was born in Hillsborough on 8th September 1885 to Dr. William Thomson JP of Annahilt and Elizabeth Thomson (nee Greer). He was the grandson of the Rev. James Thomson (Minister of the Seceder Congregation in Ballynahinch before taking the charge at Magherally Presbyterian Church) and of the Rev. Thomas McGregor Greer (Minister of Annahilt Presbyterian Church between 1839 and 1886).

WWD Thomson was educated at Campbell College, where he was recorded as a boarder in the 1901 Ireland Census, before matriculating at Queen's College, Belfast. As a university undergraduate WWD Thomson held three separate scholarships – the Dunville Studentship, Senior Scholarship and Queen's College Scholarship – but supported himself financially by teaching Botany at the Victoria College (on University Road) and Princess Gardens School (on University Street), where one of his sisters was Headmistress. He was residing at 60 University Street when he joined the Queen's University Officers' Training Corps in October 1908, holding the rank of Colour Sergeant when he left the OTC in October 1910. He was also heavily involved in student activities, including:

- Committee member of the Belfast Medical Students Association (1905);
- Senior Secretary of the Belfast Medical Students Association (1907-08);
- SRC Representative at the Fifth Annual Congress of British University Students (1907), Secretary of the SRC Publications Committee (1907); and
- President of the Students Representative Council (1908), which made him a member of Queen's University Senate.

He was awarded three first class honours degrees – Bachelor of Arts (1907³⁶), the primary medical degree (comprising Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Obstetrics, 1910³⁷) and Bachelor of Science (1913) – along with the Diploma in Public Health (1912). He was a Gold Medallist when he graduated as a Doctor of Medicine in 1916.

^{36 31} Awarded by the "Royal University of Ireland" and the "Queen's Universities in Ireland" respectively.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

WWD Thomson was the Resident Medical Officer at the Belfast Fever Hospital³⁸ at Purdysburn – the 1911 Ireland Census records him at House 82, where the patients were suffering from Scarlet Fever (99 cases), Diphtheria (36 cases) and Typhoid (6 cases) – and was a Physician and Clinical Pathologist at the Mater Infirmorium between 1912 and 1919. At Queen’s University, he was Demonstrator of Physiology (1911) and the Riddell Demonstrator of Pathology (1912 – 1916).



WWD Thomson received his commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps and was promoted to Captain in 1917, serving under Colonel (later Sir) Almroth Wright in an RAMC Research Unit attached to the 13th General Hospital at Bologne. Captain Alexander Fleming was a member of the same unit and the friendship between Fleming and Thomson continued after the war, and Fleming stayed with the Thomsons when he visited Belfast to deliver lectures.³⁹

In 1918, WWD Thomson became a Member of the Royal Society of Physicians and, in 1919, he became a Physician at the Royal Victoria Hospital and was subsequently appointed to the Chair of Medicine at Queen’s University in 1923. He had also studied medicine at Dublin, London, Paris and Budapest and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1928. He represented QUB on the General Medical Council and held the Presidencies of the Northern Ireland Branch of the British Medical Association (1932/33), the Irish Medical Schools’ and Graduates’ Association (1936/37), the Ulster Medical Society (1937/38) and the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland (1949/50). After the Second World War, when the National Health Service was established, WWD Thomson was a member of the new Northern Ireland Hospital Authority. In 1948, he was made a Deputy Lieutenant for the City of Belfast and, in 1950, he was awarded a Knighthood in the New Year’s Honours List and was appointed as Physician-in-Ordinary to the household of the Governor of Northern Ireland (Vice Admiral William Spencer Leveson-Gower, 4th Earl Granville, KG GCVO CB DSO).



³⁸ Also known as the Infectious Diseases Hospital, part of the East Down Poor Law Union

³⁹ Alexander Fleming’s wife presented Josephine Thomson with a replica of her husband’s Nobel Prize for Medicine medal.

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WWD Thomson had married Josephine Hunter Barron (born, 1887), the daughter of Humphrey Barron JP (of “Walton”, 6 Fortwilliam Park) in 1914 and they lived at 25 University Square (with a second home, “Seven Tiles”, in Donaghadee).

Their only child, Humphrey Barron Thomson MB BCh, was born in 1919 and was married to Mary Graham Thomson. He served as a Captain with the RAMC, attached to the East Surrey Regiment, during the Second World War and was killed, aged 25, on 14th December 1941 during the fall of Singapore. His name is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial.

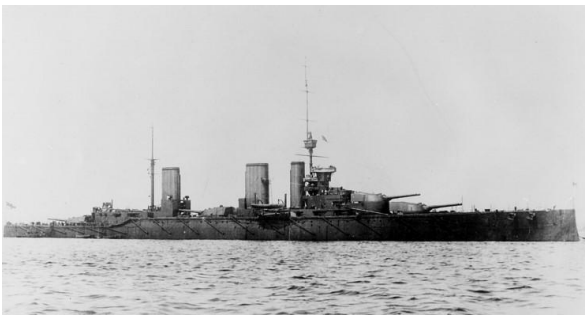
Sir William Willis Dalziel Thomson died, aged 65, on 26th November 1950, and is buried in the graveyard at Annahilt Presbyterian Church.

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Herbert Thorpe and Alfred Victor Thorpe

The names of Herbert Thorpe and Alfred Victor Thorpe appear on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque but the names do not appear in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation.

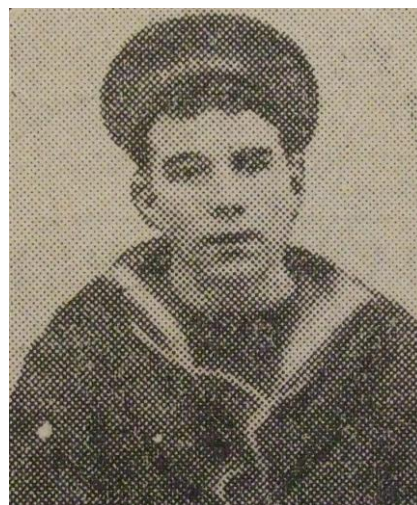
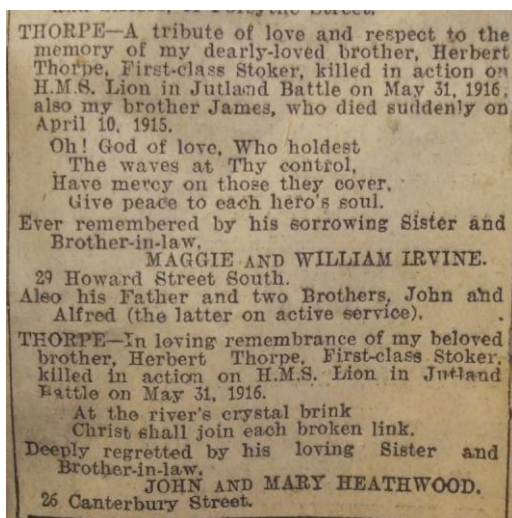
They were the sons of James Thorpe, a Brush Maker with the Northern Brush Company, of 31 Malvern Street (1880) and Townsend Street. Their sister, Mrs Irvine, was living at 29 Howard Street South in 1915 and it is probable that Herbert and Alfred were boarding with her after the death of their father. A second married sister, Mary Heathwood, was living at 26 Canterbury Street



Stoker (1st Class) Herbert Thorpe served and died on *HMS Lion*, a battle-cruiser of the Splendid Cats class. Stoker Thorpe was present when the *Blucher* was sunk by Admiral Beatty's squadron and *Lion* participated in the battles of Heligoland Bight (28th August 1914), Dogger Bank (24th January 1915) and Jutland (31st May 1916). At Dogger Bank, the *Lion*

scored a somewhat lucky hit on the *Seydlitz* which caused a cordite flashback that burned out the latter's two rear turrets. During the Battle of Jutland, the *Lion* was hit by a 12" (305 mm) salvo from the *Lützow* which blew the roof off one of the "Q" turret. Dozens of Royal Marines were killed, but a far larger catastrophe was averted when Major Francis Harvey, the wounded turret commander, ordered the magazine to be sealed and flooded, thereby preventing the cordite propellant from setting off a massive explosion.

It was during this engagement that Herbert Thorpe was killed and his name is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.



Rifleman Alfred Victor Thorpe was born in 1879 and served with the 6th Battalion, Royal

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Irish Rifles, which was part of the 10th Irish Division. He died, aged 38, on 16th May 1917 and is buried in the Struma Military Cemetery in Thessalonika, Greece. His death was reported in the Northern Whig newspaper:



Mrs. Irvine, 29, Howard Street South, Belfast, has received official intimation that her brother, Rifleman Alfred Thorpe, Royal Irish Rifles, was killed in action on May 16. Deceased is the third brother Mrs. Irvine has lost since the commencement of the war, Herbert being killed on H.M.S. Lion in the battle of Jutland, and another dying suddenly some time ago.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William Bell Wilson & John (Jack) Wilson

The names of William Bell Wilson and John (Jack) Wilson appear on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

They were the two sons of James Wilson (Oil Merchant) and Susan Wilson of 43 Rugby Road.

John (Jack) Wilson was born in late 1889 or early 1890 in Belfast and was a Mill Furnisher with M R McCausland & Company of Waring Street. He served with the 14th (Young Citizens) Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles and was wounded in November 1917.

William Bell Wilson was born on 4th July 1885 in Belfast and was living at “Shandon Villas” on the Upper Lisburn Road in 1910 before emigrating to North America. He arrived at New York’s Ellis Island on 28th January 1914 aboard the SS *Olympic* and was a Commercial Traveller living in Winnipeg when he enlisted.



Having previously served one year with the 90th Winnipeg Rifles, William Bell Wilson enlisted for overseas duty in May 1916. In France, the Winnipeg Rifles (also known as The Black Devils) became the 8th Infantry Battalion, which was part of the 2nd Infantry Brigade in the 1st Canadian Division. Private William Bell Wilson was killed in action, aged 33, on 2nd September 1918 and is buried in the Dominion Cemetery at Hendecourt-Les-Cagnicourt in France.

"At 5 a.m., Sept. 2, the major operation against the Drocourt-Queant line was launched. Preceded by an intense barrage and assisted by Tanks, the Infantry pushed forward rapidly, and the Drocourt-Queant line (the first objective) and its support line (the second objective), including the village of Dury, were captured according to programme."

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

TRAILING DA
NO 10

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 523966

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Folio.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your surname? *Wilson*
- 1a. What are your Christian names? *William Bell*
- 1b. What is your present address? *St Regis Hotel wife Cannon*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Belfast Ireland*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *James Wilson*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *43 Rugby Road Belfast Ireland*
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Father*
5. What is the date of your birth? *July 4th 1885*
6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Schooler*
7. Are you married? *No*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? *Yes*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *No*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *1 year in 90th Battalion*
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the }
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? } *Yes*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *William Bell Wilson*, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

William Bell Wilson (Signature of Recruit)

Date *May 8th* 1916. *St. Hatten* (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *William Bell Wilson*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

William Bell Wilson (Signature of Recruit)

Date *May 8th* 1916. *St. Hatten* (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath

before me, at *Winnipeg* this *8th* day of *May* 1916.

W. J. [Signature] Captain
(Signature of Justice)

Commissioner of Oaths,

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

John Bremner Wright

John Bremner Wright's name appears on the Donegall Pass Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Donegall Pass congregation.

John Bremner Wright was born in Belfast on 1st June 1892, the youngest of four children born to William Wright and Mary Bremner Wright. His father was a linen warehouseman and the family lived at 52.2 Great Victoria Street in 1901 and at 109 Agincourt Avenue in 1909. After attending the Model School, John Bremner Wright worked for Messrs. John Arnott & Company, a Linen Manufacturer and Retail Drapery company with premises at the intersection of Bridge Street and High Street in Belfast. On 18th November 1915, John Bremner Wright joined the London Irish Rifles (Territorial Force), but he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps in July 1916 before embarking for France in August 1916. On 21st September 1917, John Bremner Wright was badly wounded during military action and died, aged 25, on 11th November 1917 at St Luke's Hospital in Halifax, Yorkshire. The Chaplain and medical staff in France and Halifax spoke in the highest terms of his patience during great suffering. Private John Bremner Wright is buried in Belfast City Cemetery.

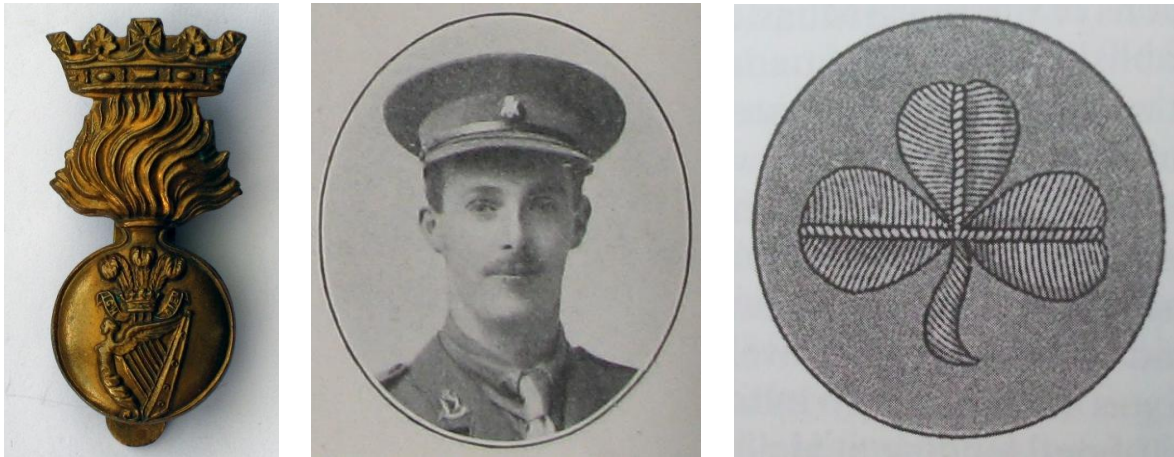


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Robert Wright

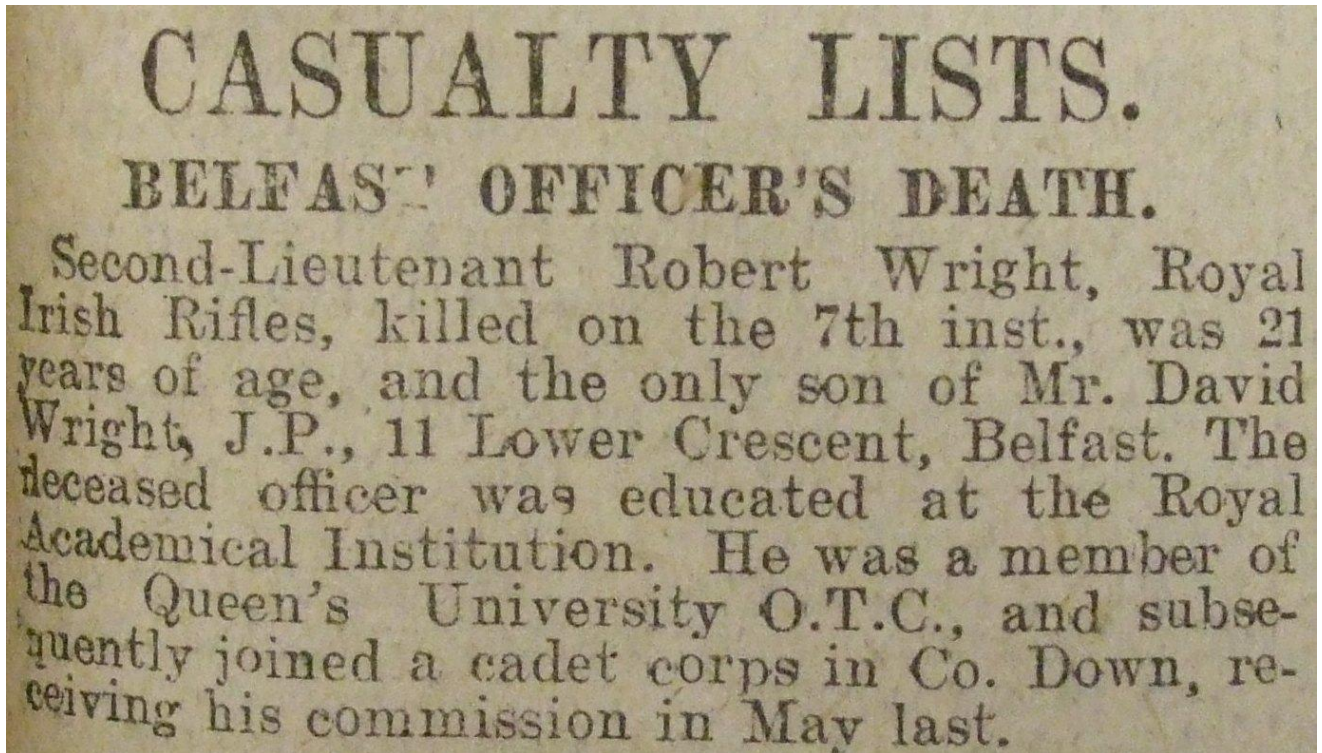
Robert Wright's name appears on the Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Fitzroy Avenue congregation.

Robert Wright was born on 8th March 1896 at "Downan" in Ballantrae, Ayrshire, the third of four children (and the only son) born to David Wright and Marion Dunlop Wright (who later lived at "The Moat" in Dundonald). David Wright, a Justice of the Peace, owned a bottle manufacturing company on Stranmillis Road close to the family home at "Dunesk" (130 Stranmillis Road). The family moved to 11 Lower Crescent in 1912.



Robert Wright was educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institution and Queen's University. In September 1914, he joined the Officers' Training Corps and received his commission with the 18th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, a home-based reserve battalion, in May 1916. He was posted to Egypt in September 1917, having been attached to the 2/5th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers, which was part of the 31st Brigade, 10th (Irish) Division. Robert Wright was killed in action, at the age of 21, on 7th November 1917 during the Third Battle of Gaza, in which the city was captured by British forces under the command of General Allenby.

The battalion suffered over 120 casualties with 23 men being killed. Second Lieutenant Robert Wright is buried in the Gaza War Cemetery and his name is commemorated on the RBAI War Memorial, Queen's University War Memorial and the QUB Officers' Training Corps Roll of Honour.



Belfast Evening Telegraph, 12th November 1917

The battalion war diary states the following about the day's action:

"The battalion was ordered to attack the Hareira Tepe redoubt situated about 2 miles north of the Rushdi system. At 7am the attack was launched supported to the right by the 6th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and 4 Vickers Guns. The battalion came under heavy shell fire shortly after the attack commenced but casualties were few from this cause. About 1200 yards from the position, the battalion came under the most heavy concentrated machine gun fire and during its advance to the final position suffered many casualties. The right and centre portion of the line reached a position about 300 yards from the object from which further advance was impossible. The Turks retired and the battalion was able to charge the position; the Hareira Tepe redoubt was found to be a very strong position with two lines of fire and numerous machine gun emplacements. The redoubt dominates the surrounding positions: from information received from prisoners and from personal observation, it was defended by at least 30 machine guns and a garrison of about 300 men. The battalion camped on the occupied ground. The Divisional Commander personally congratulated the CO and the battalion on their magnificent performance."

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

Samuel Kerr Wright

Samuel Kerr Wright's name appears on the Donegall Pass Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Donegall Pass congregation.

Samuel Kerr Wright was born on 13th March 1887 in Belfast, the eldest of five children (one son and four daughters) born to Robert Donaldson Wright and Mary Ann Wright. The family was living at 35 Outram Street in 1901 but later moved to 23 Sunnyside Street in 1911 (by which time Samuel had left home) They were living 42 Sunnyside Street when Samuel Kerr Wright was killed.



In March 1915, Samuel Kerr Wright enlisted in the 1st Battalion, the Victoria Rifles of Canada, which became the 24th (Victoria Rifles) Battalion of the CEF. Private Samuel Kerr Wright was killed in action on 4th June 1916 and is buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium.

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

ATTESTATION PAPER.

66123

66123

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your name?..... Samuel Kerr Wright.
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... Belfast Ireland.
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... Robert Wright (Father)
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... 42 Sunnyside St. Belfast, Ireland.
5. What is the date of your birth?..... 13th March 1887
6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... Labourer.
7. Are you married?..... no
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?..... yes.
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... no
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?.,
If so, state particulars of former Service. no
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?..... yes.
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?..... yes.

Samuel K. Wright (Signature of Man).
Victor Surmel (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Samuel Kerr Wright, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date March 8th 1915 Samuel K. Wright (Signature of Recruit)
Victor Surmel (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Samuel Kerr Wright, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date March 8th 1915 Samuel K. Wright (Signature of Recruit)
Victor Surmel (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Montreal, this 8th day of March 1915

(Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

(Approving Officer)

Section 2 : First World War – Servicemen Biographies

William Munro Yool

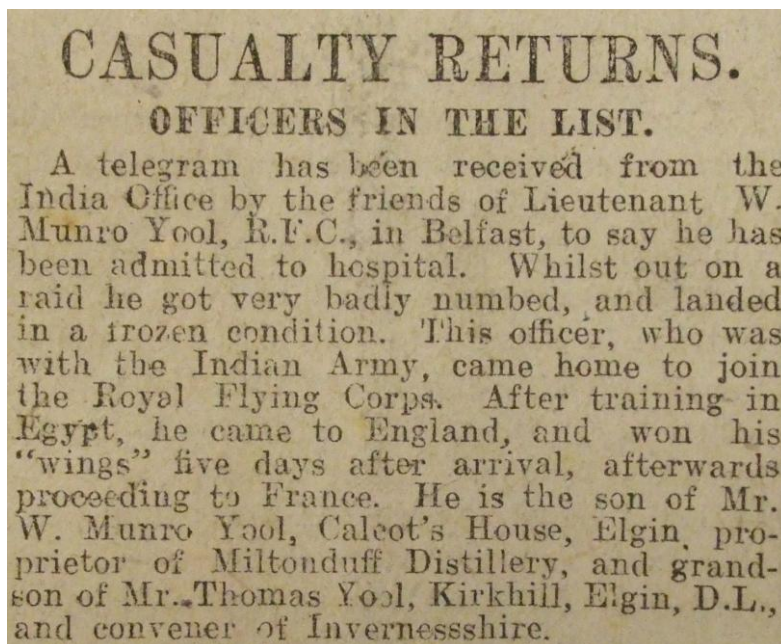
William Munro Yool's name appears on the Crescent Presbyterian Church War Memorial plaque and in the PCI Roll of Honour for the Crescent congregation.

William Munro Yool was born on 26th May 1894, the son of Mr William Munro Yool ("Caleot's House", Elgin), the proprietor of Miltonduff Distillery, and grandson of Mr Thomas Yool ("Kirkhall", Elgin) a Deputy Lieutenant and convenor for Invernessshire.

William Munro Yool junior was educated at RBAI and Glasgow Academy before matriculating at Queen's University Belfast. Whilst he was at Queen's, he joined the Officers' Training Corps and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant with 11th (Reserve) Battalion, The Prince of Wales' (North Staffordshire) Regiment on 11 January 1915, but he was later attached to the Indian Army and saw service in Egypt.



WM Yool was promoted to Lieutenant on 5th January 1917 and was transferred to the Garrison Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, before joining the Royal Flying Corps in May 1917. On 12th November 1917, the Belfast Evening Telegraph carried a report that William Munro Yool had been admitted to hospital following a flight during which "he got very badly numbed and landed in a frozen condition".



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He resigned his Army commission in April 1918 to take up a commission in the Royal Air Force, which was to become his career. WM Yool married Miss CG Milton, of Regent's Park, in 1918 and held the rank of Flying Officer in October 1919.



In 1934, WM Yool flew one of two Vickers Valentia aircraft (from No. 70 Squadron RAF based at Hinaidi in Iraq) which supported four Wapitis of 84 Squadron in the first reinforcement flight to Singapore. During this flight, his aircraft suffered an oil leak which forced him to make an emergency landing on the only beach for 300 miles. He was able to repair the leak with chewing gum and take off before his aircraft was engulfed by the incoming tide.

As he rose through the commissioned ranks, WM Yool occupied operational, administrative and training posts and, in September 1940, as a Group Captain, he was Staff Officer to the Chief of the Air Staff.

In January 1941, he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire and received a Knighthood (Companion of the Order of Bath) in January 1946. In the same year his portrait, now in the National Portrait Gallery, was painted by Walter Stoneman.

Sir William Munro Yool CB CBE retired from the Royal Air Force with the rank of Air Vice-Marshal (HQ RAF Mediterranean and Middle East) in June 1949. However, he continued serving in a reserve capacity and, in 1951, was the Director of Auxiliaries, Reserves and Air Cadets. He died on 19th September 1978.