

War Memorial Unveiled in the United Free High Church.

Impressive Ceremony Witnessed by a Large Congregation. On Sunday afternoon the first war memorial in Forres, to the memory of those who fell in the Great War, was dedicated and unveiled in the High U.F. Church here in presence of a large congregation of people representing all the churches in town. The members of the local branch of the Comrades of the Great War and the local Company of the 6th Seaforth Highlanders, under the command of Captain A D MacDonal and Lieut. A W I Thomson, paraded from the Comrade's rooms in Tytler Street, headed by the local pipe band, to the church, and were joined at Cumming Street by the Forres Troop of Boy Scouts under the charge of Scoutmaster Geo. Adam and assistant-scoutmaster George R. Mackenzie. The area of the church was filled by the children of the congregation who took part in the cantata, which helped to raise funds for the memorial, the Boy Scouts, the Comrades of the Great War and the Territorials, while the side seats and gallery were packed to their utmost capacity by the general public. Rev. James Hendry, the pastor, occupied the pulpit, and Miss Gordon, Tytler Street, presided at the organ.

The service, which was a most impressive one throughout, opened with the singing of the 100th Psalm, followed by prayer and the reading of passages from the 23rd chapter of Samuel and from the book of Revelations, chapter 22, and Hymn No.477 was sung.

The Meaning of the Memorial. The Rev. James Hendry, pastor of the church, then addressed the congregation on what was meant by the service and the memorial. What did they mean by this service, by this memorial? They meant something very solemn, very serious and very thankful. They meant to give expression to a solemn sense of their having passed through a great day of the Lord, in which the heavens and the earth were shaken in judgement that all men might take better knowledge of Him with whom they had to do. In the morning of that day their own nation was suddenly called to choose its side in the strife of truth and falseness; and through all the storm that followed it was a solemn strength to their hearts before God that they had made the good choice of being true to the covenant, and it would abide for strength and honour and straight leading for those coming after them.

The soul of their nation was saved, and savingly inspired by that first good choice, yet this seriousness of things soon appeared, that their very existence was involved; and with trial and judgement searching out weaknesses of their own, neither few nor small, would they be able to endure to the end? They remembered that seriousness and how year after year it gathered into a sense of all the horrors and intolerableness that had to be endured and overcome; and even yet the earth was still trembling and men's hearts and minds were restless and were strained over the thought of what results were yet to appear of a better order of things or further confusion.

But amid all this it was very right and meet that they should express their thankfulness – solemn thankfulness to God, who had already shown them a supreme deliverance, and serious and abiding thankfulness and honour to the men through whom He wrought His deliverance, and especially all-loving grateful remembrance of those who served then at the cost of their own precious life. For such a time of service they came to their youth and manhood. “Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Christ himself did it and He left work and sacrifice for us also. “I fill up on my part” said Paul, “that which is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, in my flesh for his body's sake.” And so the blood of Christ, which speaks God's best love to them, sanctifies also the blood of their sons and brothers and husbands and gives to their blood the right to speak with authority to them that they so carry on and so build up faithfulness and righteousness and ordered liberty as that the dead shall not have died in vain.

Above our praise they are,

Their own great word is said.

Prior to the unveiling of the memorial tablet, and after the congregation had sung hymn 339, Rev. Mr Hendry intimated that for the tablet they were indebted to the cantata rehearsal collections, and the cantata class and Mr Stewart, its conductor. They were also indebted to Mr Alex. Grant, who had come down from Edinburgh, for the unveiling ceremony. Mr Grant was a worthy son of Forres and took a great interest in all things in his native town. He had also taken with him Colonel Robertson, who was to address them.

The Unveiling Ceremony. The congregation stood while Mr Henry engaged in a solemn prayer of dedication. Thereafter Mr Grant unveiled the memorial, which is a handsome tablet of fumed oak to be fitted into the vestibule window, but which was placed on the Communion Table for the ceremony. The inscription at the top runs as follows:- "Erected by the High U.F Church, Forres, to the Glory of God and in memory of those who gave their lives in the war, 1914-1919." Then came the names of the fallen:-

1915

Donald Simpson, 84 High Street, 1st Seaforths
Grigor Masson, 22 North Road, 9th Gordons
Arthur J Grant, Rowallan, 5th Scottish Rifles
George Sinclair, Long Row, Camerons
James Russell, Demerara, 10th Seaforths

1916

Alexander Fraser, Cumming Street, Royal Fusiliers
James Sinclair, Long Row, Tyneside Scottish
David S MacDonald, Mosset Terrace, Royal Scots
Chas. G Hendry, Edward Road, 4th London Infantry
John Ferguson, Caroline Street, Canadians
John MacGillivray, Tulloch Park, 2nd Seaforths
Adam G Galloway, Towerside, Royal Scots
John MacGillivray, 70 High Street, 6th Seaforths

1917

John Ross, Burnside, Scottish Rifles
Wm. Ferguson, Caroline Street, Royal Scots
James Fowlie, St. Catherines, H.L.I
John Mackenzie, Fern Cottage, 6th Seaforths
Wm. Cumming, Orchard Road, 6th Seaforths
James Younie, Bank Lane, 2nd Camerons
George Murray, Murray Place, 6th Seaforths
John A Chisholm, Mosset Terrace, 6th Seaforths
Duncan Masson, Bogton, 2nd Seaforths
James Jamieson, Urquhart Street, Scottish Borderers

1918

Alexander Robertson, Balnageith, 6th Seaforths
George Munro, Batchen Street, 6th Seaforths
Roger Mackenzie, Moycarse, 6th Seaforths
Wm. Cumming, 28 North Road, 6th Seaforths
John Sinclair, Tolbooth Street, 3rd Camerons

James Mackenzie, Dunedin Place, 6th Seaforths

John Melville, Burnside, Canadians

David Fraser, Batchen Street, Canadians

William Black, Springfield, 6th Seaforths

John Ross, Rosefield, Lovat Scouts

1919

Thomas Younie, Bank Lane, 2nd Seaforths

James Burr, North Road, 6th Seaforths

At the foot are the words – “Their name liveth for evermore.”

Rev. Mr Hendry placed a laurel wreath at the foot of the tablet and thereafter Pipe-Major Morrison, Iowa Place, played the “Flowers of the Forest” down both aisles of the Church, the congregation standing the while.

Mr Grant’s Address. Mr Grant, addressing the gathering said he was glad to be with them that day, in the church where his mother worshipped, to do honour to the memory of the men belonging to the congregation who fell in the Great War. They did well to do them honour. They went forth to preserve their liberty and their homes and in doing so made the supreme sacrifice. It was right and fitting that the church which nourished them in spiritual things, whose teachings imbued them with loyalty to God and king, should commemorate in this handsome memorial the names of her brave sons. Their memory would ever be an inspiration to them and to those who follow them in this place.

From that single congregation no less than 191 men joined His Majesty’s forces and 35 of these laid down their lives. Some of them died young, but he would have them remember that life is not to measured only by duration.

One crowded hour of glorious life

Is worth an age without a name.

What was it that these, their glorious dead, asked? They asked life put to some great use; life which they knew would purchase peace and protection for those at home. What did they mean by life? For most of those men joining up was the most Christ-like act of their lives, most corresponding to taking up their cross and following Him.

What deeds of self-sacrificing love was theirs! They stepped into the breach with a mortal purity and a vision of a better world. Their capacity for service astonished them. They proved themselves heroes of the good, old Moray stock from which they sprang. They would give the last drop from their water bottles to the sick, the thirsty, even to their foes. They threw themselves upon the bursting bomb to give their comrades a chance. They did not die in vain.

Lives of great men all remind us

We can make our lives sublime

And, departing, leave behind us

Footprints on the sands of time.

To the parents, the widows and relatives of these gallant men, to whom they were all proud to do honour that day he would say, “Here is no place for tears.” Their heroes are not dead. Their bodies may lie on the stricken fields of France, Belgium, Italy or Gallipoli, or deep down in the depths of the seven seas, but their souls go marching on.

This Church was justly proud of the splendid part played by son many of her sons. Forres, their beloved town, was proud of her gallant “loons” and will ever cherish their memory. Scotland would never forget the noble part they played. They had left them all a splendid heritage of noble example in service and sacrifice. It was for those who remain and who are proud of them to re-dedicate themselves that they may live better, truer and nobler men and women.

They may not rise to the height of their achievement, but if we “carry on” in the same spirit in which they had given their lives, it would be well for their country and the town they loved. He had the greatest pleasure and felt highly honoured in the unveiling the memorial to the gallant men whose names are inscribed on the scroll.

Lieut.-Colonel Robertson's Remarks. Lieut.-Colonel Robertson, V.C; O.B.E; J.P; Edinburgh, said that it was great pleasure for him to be associated with the distinguished son of their town, Mr Alex. Grant, who by the way was also a most distinguished citizen of Edinburgh. It was also a pleasure for him to be associated with the people of that congregation at the unveiling of their memorial to the memory of those who fell nobly fighting for their king, country and freedom. It would be impertinence on his part to try to sound the praises of those gallant dean after the splendid tribute paid to them by Mr Grant, son instead of referring to the dead he would address a few remarks to the living. Coming along the street that afternoon just before entering the church he was much impressed by the parading of the Comrades, the Territorials and the Boy Scouts, but more particularly by the flag, which had stood for a thousand years the battle and the breeze, and at the foot of the flag there was an old Indian Mutiny Veteran, one of the very few left now-a-days. He could almost see that old Mutiny veteran beckoning on the soldiers of the future.

He would like to say one word to those who had dear ones lying on some foreign shore and he would like to give them a legacy from that great poet Rupert Brooke, who fell himself. This verse would be as much a consolation to them as it had been to himself –

If I should die,
Think only this of me,
There is a corner of some foreign field,
That is England.

They all had an interest in that foreign field Longfellow says there is no dead when we know of such as only tradition. Let then look at it in this light and let them carry a remembrance of that someone to be proud of. The cause that these lads died for was a sacred duty imposed upon every man of their country and today the memory of their devotion to the great cause of freedom would run through the world. The war was gained by the valour, devotion and self-sacrifice of their brave men. The war was gained by the individual efforts of every soldier and sailor of the Empire fires by the interests of a righteous cause.

Far be it from any man in this country to benefit himself of the returned soldier. What they wanted in these days was a universal application of the golden rule, “Do unto others as ye would have others do to you.” There was far too much unrest in the world today, and it ought not to be. One saw it very well. Their gallant sons had gone over the top for the last time. He believed that they were looking down upon them from the white ramparts of Heaven's fortresses hoping, praying and expecting that every man and woman in this country was doing their best to carry on.

He would like, on behalf of the military authorities, to congratulate this congregation upon the honours won in the war by its members :- 1 M.C. and 2 bars, 1 D.S.C; 1 D.C.M; 8 M.M.'s; 1 Portuguese Medal, 13 1914 Stars and 19 1915 Stars. He also congratulated them on the public-spiritedness shown by their brave sons.

The last post was then sounded on the bugle by Drum-major Neil Campbell, 6th Seaforth Highlanders, Elgin.

It was intimated that a photographs of the memorial tablet is to be sent in due course to the next-of-kin of the fallen heroes.

The singing of a verse of the last paraphrase and the pronouncing of the benediction brought the service to a finish.

On the congregation dispersing, the Comrades of the Great War, the Territorials and the Boy Scouts filed past the memorial tablet and heads uncovered and falling in again marched to the Club-rooms in Tytler Street, where they were dismissed.

Forres, Elgin, and Nairn Gazette 9th February 1921.

Contributed by Stuart Farrell

Details of the Fallen

1915

Donald Simpson, 84 High Street, 1st Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 397) – No.9515, Lce/Cpl; 1st Seaforth Highlanders; born at Wellhill, Forres, 1889; joined at Fort George, Oct; 1907; served in France; killed at Neuve Chapelle, 9th May 1915. Son of Alexander (deceased) and Jessie Simpson, 84c High Street, Forres. Occupation, regular soldier. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being aged 26 and commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France panel 38 and 39. Noted as son of Mrs Janet Simpson 9a Station Road, Fife-Keith, Keith, Banffshire. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded 1914 Star, British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of war noted on the 12th October 1914.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 26th May 1915 of the following: ‘Three Forres Soldiers Killed. Information has come to hand of the death of Lance-Corporal Donald Simpson, of the 1st Seaforths, who was killed on the 9th inst. – his twenty-sixth birthday. He had been for about nine years with his regiment, chiefly in India. There are two other sons of the family serving at the front, one of them in the Scotch Greys and the other with the 6th Seaforth Territorials. Donald had been at the front in France ever since his arrival from India. Lieutenant L A Ranken, in a letter to his father on the 14th inst. says: “I much regret to inform you that your son, 9515, Lance-Corporal D Simpson, was killed in action on Sunday, the 9th inst. It may be some consolation to you to know that he fell fighting gallantly in an attack on the enemy’s entrenchments. Assuring you of my deepest sympathy, I am,” &c.’

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 2nd June 1915 of the following: ‘Tribute to Forres Soldier – Mr Simpson, High Street, Forres, the death of whose son we intimated last week, has received a letter from the Chaplain of the Indian Expeditionary Force at the front, expressing sincere regret at the death of Lance-Corporal Donald Simpson and sympathy with the parents at their bereavement. He writes: We are all very proud of our men and of the way in which they have fought. Never have men shown higher courage or a more splendid spirit, and we do honour the memory of those who have given their lives at the very front of this great battle for all we account dear and honourable. And as we miss our comrades, we know how those at home will mourn for them, but we are sure that their fathers and mother will still be proud of the lads they have given to their country and will be thankful for the memory they have left behind. With deepest sympathy & c. We regret to learn that Mr and Mrs Simpson have received intimation that their other son, Private James Simpson, of the Royal Scots Greys, has been wounded in action. His friends hope he may have a speedy recovery.’

Grigor Masson, 22 North Road, 9th Gordons – Not listed in Morayshire Roll of Honour. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as Pte. S/8981 of E Company 9th Bn Gordon Highlanders, who died 12th April 1915. Aged 19 and buried at Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, UK row C plot 143. Son of Mr G W and Mrs A Masson, 1 Leslie Place,

Forres. Born at Huntly. During WW1 cemetery used for burials from Tidworth or Fargo Military Hospital. No Medal Card in National Archives as died at home, probably as had no foreign service.

Arthur James Grant, Rowallan, 5th Scottish Rifles - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 152) – No.7034, Rifleman, 5th Scottish Rifles; born at U.F Manse, Botriphnie, Keith, 6th Feb 1896, parents residing in Morayshire since 1914; joined at Glasgow, 8th August 1914; served in France; killed near Armentieres 5th Feb 1915. Son of Robert and Mary Grant, Rowallan, Forres. Occupation, shipbroker's apprentice. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being aged 19 and buried at Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France section I row C plot 49. Son of the late Rev. Robert Grant and Mary H Grant. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of on the 5th November 1914.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 17th February 1915 of the following: 'U. F Ministers Son Killed. Last week we recorded the death of Private Arthur James Grant, 5th Scottish Rifles (Territorials). Private Grant was the youngest son of the Rev. Robert Grant, senior minister of Botriphnie U.F Church Banffshire. He was shot through the head in the trenches on Friday, February 5, and he was buried in a little cemetery in the North of France on the 6th February – his nineteenth birthday. His father retired from the ministry last year, and now resides at Rowallan, Forres. Private Grant was employed at Messrs Gardiner & Co's. St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, and on the outbreak of war enlisted in the 5th Scottish Rifles. After ten weeks training he volunteered for the front, and had been there three months on active service when he was killed. The Captain of his Company, writing to his father says :- "Your son had been in my Company since we mobilised, and I had always found him a bright cheery lad, willing to do his own share of the work, and the extra bit which makes the good soldier".'

George Sinclair, Long Row, Cameron Highlanders - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 401) – No. S/9920, Pte; 5th Cameron Highlanders; born at Dam of Burgie, Rafford 24th August 1896; joined at Forres, 10th August 1914; served in France; wounded in Battle of Loos, 25th Sept. 1915, died 28th Sep. 1915, and buried in New Cemetery, Chocques, France. Son of Alexander and Alexandrina Sinclair, 8 Russell Terrace, Forres. Occupation, farm servant. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being aged 19 and buried at Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France section I row E plot 63. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of war noted as France on the 10th May 1915; noted as died of wounds.

Death Notice in the *Elgin Courant & Courier* of the 5th November 1915 of the following: 'Sinclair – Died of wounds at No.1 Clearing Station, Chocques, France, on September 28th, Private George Sinclair, C Company, 5th Battalion (Lochiel's) Queens Own Cameron Highlanders, aged 19 years, sixth son of Mr and Mrs Alex Sinclair, 8 Russell Terrace, Forres.'

James Russell, Demerara, 10th Seaforths – Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 381) - No.1894, Cpl; Seaforth Highlanders; born at New Elgin 28th Jan. 1892; joined at Fort George, May 1915; served in France; killed at Battle of Loos, 25th Sep. 1915. Son of William Russell, Academy Place, Forres & Christina Henderson or Russell (both deceased). Occupation, manager of Tea Plantation in Demerara. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being S/7184 of the 8th Bn Seaforth Highlanders and commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France panel 112 to 115. Medal Card in National Archives notes

him as S/7894 being awarded 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of war noted as France on the 7th August 1915.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 13th October 1915 of the following: 'Forres Casualties. Corporal James Russell. Word came by wire on Saturday night of the death of Corporal James Russell, who was killed in the recent advance action in France. He was a son of the late Mr William Russell, mason, Academy Lane. James, who was a most promising young lad, was employed on a sugar plantation at Demerara and in the spring of this year he gave up a good position and came home to fight for King and country. He enlisted in the 10th Seaforths.'

1916

Alexander Fraser, Cumming Street, Royal Fusiliers - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 118) – No.230846, Pte; 2/2nd London Regt; born at Forres, 14th July 1892; joined in London, 2nd Nov. 1914; served in Malta, Gallipoli, Egypt and France; killed at Gommecourt 1st July 1916. Son of Mina Fraser, 10 Cumming Street, Forres. Occupation, private secretary. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as Pte. 2849 of the 1st/2nd Bn and commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France pier and face 9d and 16b. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of war noted as Egypt on the 30th August 1915.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 5th August 1916 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Pte. Alex. Fraser. It was with regret we learned on Tuesday that Private Alex Fraser, of the Queen's Westminster Rifles, had been killed on 1st July, while engaged in bombing a German trench in the recent advance. He enlisted into the City of London Royal Fusiliers in November 1914, and went to Malta in January of last year, and was with that battalion in Gallipoli and Egypt. On proceeding to France in May last he was transferred into the Queen's Westminster Rifles. He was for nearly six years in the office of the "Forres Gazette", but left about four years ago to take up the duties of Secretary to Mr Charles Roberts, M.P for Lincoln. Private Fraser, who was in his twenty-fifth year, and whose mother resides at 10 Cumming Street, Forres, was home on leave in June last for the first time.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 9th August 1916 of the following: 'Local Casualties. Killed. Private Alex. Fraser. We print above a photograph of Private Alex. Fraser, of the Queen's Westminster Rifles, whose death at the front on the 1st of July we recorded last week. We tender our warmest sympathy to his mother, who resides at No.10 Cumming Street, Forres, and with his many friends in Forres. He was for about six years employed in the office of the *Forres Gazette* and had commanding qualities as a pressman. During his later years he was on the reporting staff of the paper and discharged his duties with great ability. He had the journalistic instinct in a very high degree and he had a keen desire to pursue a literary career. He had every prospect of his highest ambition being realised, for he had hardly reached his majority when he was appointed secretary to the well known member for Lincoln, who has testified elsewhere to the esteem in which he held wherever he was known.

The *Lincoln Leader and County Advertiser* of Saturday prints Private Fraser's photograph and says:- It was with a shock of the deepest regret that many Lincoln Liberals received the news this week that Mr Alec Fraser had been killed in action. Mr Fraser was for some years private secretary to Mr Charles Roberts. In that capacity he came in contact with most of the Liberal workers of the city, and he won amongst them a position almost of affectionate respect. He established some strong friendships in Lincoln houses, to which the news of his death has come as one of the hardest shocks of the war. In conveying the news to a well known Lincoln Liberal, Mr Charles Roberts writes :- "I know you will be very sorry to hear

that poor Fraser was killed as long ago as July 1st. I have only just heard. He was leading a bombing party, and was killed by a bomb. One of his friends in his platoon wrote to me, and I am afraid there can be no doubt about it. It is a real grief to me, and I am afraid will be a tragic blow to his people.”

Mr Fraser enlisted at the very outbreak of the war and went through the Dardanelles campaign. He was one of the few who won for the time the heights of Achi Baba, and he sent us a spring of heather which he had plucked from the summit. It has been our pleasure from time to time to receive accounts of his progress, and we had been looking forward to a happy and thrilling reunion some day. To us, as to so many of his friends, the tragedy of his death is a poignant grief and sorrow. A Lincoln Liberal, who was his close personal friend, writes us the following appreciation:- The news of his death came not unexpectedly. A parcel sent to him by a Lincoln friend was returned marked (Private Fraser, 2849, not in the --). The pitcher goes to the well once too often. Alex Fraser had seen fighting in the Gallipoli, and against the Senussi, and lastly in France. To those of us who were privileged to know him as the private secretary of Mr Charles Roberts, his loss is indeed hard to bear. The message, “Fraser was killed by a bomb on July 1st, whilst leading a bombing party” is simple enough, and conveys almost more than enough. How did he, of all men, come to be leading a bombing party. For Alec Fraser was a giant of peace. A Scotchman of the Scotch. Not given to many words, a quiet, deep-thinking, intellectual man. A democrat, whose vision was on the distant future when wars shall be no more. A hater of militarism in all its forms. During the time which I have known him we have argued long, and sometimes bitterly, on the military question. His contention was that the bigger the armies the bigger the danger of international relations coming to the arbitrament of force. Almost a peace at any price man, and he met his death, after fighting in three continents, whilst leading a bombing party. The irony, the glorious irony of it! But here in his splendid fate, here you find the man. For his country, for the upholding of right, as against brute force, he made the grand sacrifice of all that was dear to him. He gave up his appointment as the private secretary of a Member of the Government with its opportunities of promotion and its possibilities of a life of comparative ease. He gave up the golden opportunities of the future to take his place in the ranks of the Army of the Empire. He claimed his unchallengeable privilege to stand shoulder to shoulder with the sons of the people, disdaining to apply for a commission, or to use in any way the powerful Government influence he might probably have had for the asking. He put aside – temporarily, he hoped, and we hoped – his most cherished ambitions. And thus he fell.

A modest, unpretending, simple hero. Writing to a Lincoln friend, he said “I have spent today wheeling coal in a barrow. This I find is a different occupation to having my tea on the Terrace of the House of Commons, but I am doing my bit, and hope shortly to be in the trenches.” A humourist too, “Only two great men have come from my native town” he would say, “Lord Strathcona and myself. And poor Strathcona’s dead.” Who says that the Scotchman – but that old joke is dead. Proud of his nation, he was a lover of his dear old people’s poet, Robbie Burns. Was there a line written by “Robbie” that he hadn’t read or couldn’t recite. It was an inspiration to hear him, with all the fervour of his soul, recite “The Cottar’s Saturday Night.” And a great admirer of his “chief” he was a Radical. A real genuine democrat and a man; a believer in the dignity of labour and the nobility ideaful, but above all things Alec Fraser believed in human love, in judging men by their deeds, instead of creeds and titles; the liberty of soul, of thought, and speech, and the sacred rights of the individual. The war has claimed him, as it is claiming the very best of our young manhood. Death is the victor; we are the poorer! Such is human destiny.’

James Sinclair, Long Row, Tyneside Scottish - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 401) – No.650, Pte; 20th M.F Tyneside Scottish; born at Duffus 22nd Sept 1875; enlisted at

Newcastle-on-Tyne 7th March 1915; served in France; wounded 3rd July 1916, died 10th July 1916, and buried at St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France. Son of Alexander and Alexanderina Sinclair, of 8 Russell Terrace, Forres. Occupation, Tramcar Driver. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as No. 20/650 of the Northumberland Fusiliers 20th (Tyneside Scottish) Bn and being aged 41 and buried at St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France section A row 25 plot 28. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war. Noted as to have died of wounds.

Death Notice in the *Elgin Courant & Courier* of the 21st July 1916 of the following: 'Sinclair – Died of wounds on July 10th, at 12th General Hospital, Rouen, France, 650 Pte James Sinclair, 1st Tyneside Scottish, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Alexander Sinclair, 8 Russell Terrace, Forres.'

David Smith MacDonald, Mosset Terrace, Royal Scots - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 258) – No.27588, Pte; 2nd Royal Scots; born at Applegrove Cottage, Orchard Road, Forres, 14th Oct 1890; joined at Edinburgh, 29th Nov. 1915; served in France; killed at Battle of Somme 17th July 1916. Son of Duncan MacDonald, Lea Cottage, Forres, and Mary Smith or MacDonald (deceased). Occupation, hairdresser. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France pier and face 6d and 7d. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 5th August 1916 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Pte D S MacDonald. Mr Duncan MacDonald, salmon fisher, Lea Cottage, Forres, has been informed that his youngest son, Private David Smith MacDonald, Royal Scots, was killed in action on the 17th July. Previous to enlisting in November of last year Private MacDonald, who was 26 years of age, was employed with Mr H H Wood, hairdresser. He was a prominent member of the Wednesday Football Club.'

Charles George Hendry, Edward Road, 4th London Infantry - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 178) – Surname given in R of H as Henry. No.1855, Sgt; Civil Service Rifles; born at Keith, 22nd Oct 1894, residing in Morayshire since 1903; joined in London, Jan. 1914; served in France; killed at High Wood on the Somme, 15th Sept. 1916. Son of Georgina Henry, 3 Edward Road, Forres. Occupation, clerk in Civil Service.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as Lance-Serjeant being aged 22 and commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, pier and face 13c. Son of John and Georgina Henry, "Banchory", Forres. Medal Card in National Archives notes him a Cpl being awarded 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of war noted as France on the 17th August 1915.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 30th September 1916 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Sgt C G Hendry. Mr and Mrs J W Hendry, Edward Road, Forres, received information on Wednesday that their only son, Sergeant C G Hendry, Civil Service Rifles, had been killed in action on the 15th inst. His Coy. Q.M.S; writing to Sergeant Hendry's parents on the 22nd inst; stated that he had been killed leading his platoon with the greatest gallantry in an attack on the German lines. He had endeared himself to his comrades by his cheerfulness under all circumstances, and they joined in expressing sincere sympathy with the sorrowing family in their loss. Being a member of the Civil Service Rifles in London, Sergeant Hendry, who was 22 years of age, mobilised with them, and after training in England proceeded to France in March of last year and had been at the front ever since. He was home for six day's leave in January last.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 4th October 1916 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Sergt C G Henry, Forres. Last week Mr J W Henry, photographer, Tytler Street, received information that his son, Sergeant Charles G Henry, of the Civil Service Rifles of the County of London Territorials, had been killed in action in France on Friday, the 15th ult. Quartermaster- Sergeant Hinde, of his Company, writes as follows on the 22nd September, to his father: It is with regret that I have to inform you of the death of your son, Sergt G C Henry. He was killed in an attack on the German line on the 15th inst; giving a splendid example of gallantry to the men of his platoon. Everybody will miss him greatly. His never-failing cheerfulness in all circumstances had endeared him to the whole company. All his comrades join me in offering you sincerest sympathy in your bereavement, yours truly & c. Sergeant Henry entered the Civil Service three years ago and gave great promise of advancement, being an excellent student. Of a bright and unassuming disposition, he endeared himself to all who knew him, being a great favourite amongst them. He was mobilised with the Civil Service Rifles at the outbreak of war and after training, chiefly at Watford and St. Albans, proceeding with his regiment to France in 1915. He was home on leave for six days in January 1916. He had attained the rank of corporal, but his progress thereafter was rapid he being promoted to sergeant early this year. We join in extending our warmest sympathy to the sorrowing parents and daughter on the irreparable loss they have sustained.'

John Ferguson, Caroline Street, Canadians - Not listed in Morayshire Roll of Honour. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as J Ferguson Pte 104230 102nd Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment), aged 28, died 31st October 1917 and commemorated on the Menin Gate (Ypres) Memorial, panel 18-24-26-30. Canadian Archives note him as born Dallas 23rd June 1889 enlisted Regina, Canada 23rd July 1915 Wife Minnie Ferguson, 2326 - 16th Avenue; Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Occupation, clerk.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 14th November 1917 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Sergeant John Ferguson, Canadians. The wife of Sergeant John Ferguson, of the Canadians, has received information that her husband was killed in a recent action in Flanders. He was a most promising young man, well known in Forres, having been brought up with his grandmother, Mrs Urquhart, Caroline Street. He was a booking clerk in the service of the Highland Railway and emigrated to Canada some years ago. He readily got employment on the Canadian Pacific Railway. When the war broke out he enlisted and after a time in training came across with one of the Canadian contingents in April last year. He was promoted Sergeant and for a time did clerical work. He went to the front in September last. Much sympathy is felt for his grandmother and his young wife. He was twenty-seven years of age.'

John Alexander MacGillivray, Tulloch Park, 2nd Seaforths - Not listed in Morayshire Roll of Honour. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being John MacGillivray Pte S/11136 2nd Seaforth Highlanders died 23rd Oct. 1916 and buried at Guards Cemetery, Lesboeufs, Somme, France section VIII row D plot 89. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 25th November 1916 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Miss MacGillivray, Tulloch Park, Forres, has received word that her brother, Signaller John A MacGillivray, Seaforths, has been killed in action. He was the second son of the late Mr James MacGillivray, Shogle, Rafford, and served his apprenticeship with Low & Company, grocers, here.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 22nd November 1916 of the following: 'Local Casualties. Signaller J A MacGillivray, Forres. Miss MacGillivray, Tulloch Park, Forres, has received official information that her brother, Signaller John Alexander MacGillivray, 2nd Seaforths, was killed in action on 23rd October. He was the second son of the late Mr James MacGillivray, Shogle, Rafford. He served his apprenticeship with Messrs Lindsay & Low, Forres. Signaller MacGillivray enlisted at Edinburgh about a year ago.'

Adam George Galloway, Towerside, Royal Scots - Listed in Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 131) as George Galloway, No.40911, Pte; 9th Royal Scots and H.L.I; born at Towerside, St. Leonard's Road, Forres, 13th Dec. 1889; joined at Edinburgh June 1915; served in France; killed in action 18th Nov. 1916. Son of William Galloway, of Towerside, St. Leonard's Road, Forres Margaret Gray or Galloway (deceased). Occupation, artist. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him of the 16th Bn Highland Light Infantry and being aged 27 and buried at Frankfurt Trench British Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, Somme, France section A row C plot 15. Medal Card in National Archives notes him as George Galloway formerly Pte 3434 of the 9th Bn Royal Scots being awarded 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of war noted as France on the 18th November 1915.

John MacGillivray, 70 High Street, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 295) – No.3965, Pte; 6th Seaforth Highlanders; born at Forres 12th August 1883; joined at Forres, Oct; 1915; served in France; killed in France at Battle of the Ancre, 13th Nov. 1916. Son of John and Margaret McGillivray, 70c High Street, Forres. Occupation, baker's vanman. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France pier and face 15c. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war. Noted that medals were returned.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 2nd December 1916 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Pte John MacGillivray. Mr and Mrs MacGillivray, 70 High Street, Forres, have been notified that their eldest son, Private John MacGillivray, Seaforth Highlanders, has been killed in action. Before enlisting he was employed with Messrs Grant & Co; bakers. Mr and Mrs MacGillivray have three other sons serving – two in the Canadians and one in the Seaforths.'

1917

John McDonald Ross, Burnside, Scottish Rifles - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 374) – No.4291, Pte; 9th Highland Light Infantry; born at Forres 12th Nov. 1892; joined at Glasgow 8th June 1915; served in France; killed on the Somme 6th Feb. 1917. Son of James and Elizabeth Ross, Lady Cumming's Cottages, Burnside, Invererne Road, Forres. Occupation, draper.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being Pte 331525 9th Bn (Glasgow Highlanders) Highland Light Infantry, aged 24 and buried at Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France section I row A plot 34. Commemorated on Forres War Memorial as L/Cpl of the H.L.I.

Medal Card in National Archives notes him as being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 18th November 1916 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Wounded. Pte J Ross. Mr and Mrs Ross, Lady Cumming's Cottages, Forres, have received information that their son, Private J Ross, H.L.I; has been wounded on the left shoulder.'

Private Ross served his apprenticeship as a draper with Messrs James Gordon & Son here. Another son is serving with the Seaforths.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 14th February 1917 of the following: 'Forres Soldier Killed. We regret to learn that yesterday morning Mr James Ross, blacksmith, Forres, received information that his son Pte John Ross (24) of the Glasgow Highlanders, has been killed in action. Lieut. A J Walker, 2nd Lieut. of his Company, sends a sympathetic letter to his father testifying to his fine qualities as a soldier, his keenness of observation and value as a good marksman. He had only recently joined the sniping section. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents. Pte Ross served his time as a draper with Messrs Gordon & Sons, drapers, Forres, and was in the employment of Arthur & Company, wholesale warehousemen, Queen Street, Glasgow. He accompanied his regiment to France over a year ago.'

William Urquhart Ferguson, Caroline Street, Royal Scots - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 111) – Coy.-Sgt-Major; 15th Royal Scots; born at Dallas, Morayshire; joined at Edinburgh; served in France; killed in France 28th April 1917. Occupation, carpenter. Commonwealth War Graves Commission has him recorded as CSM 19491 Urquhart Ferguson 16th Bn Royal Scots and notes him as being aged 30 and buried at Roeux British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France row D plot 40. Noted as husband of Jessie Ferguson, 13 Railway Terrace, Aviemore. Medal Card in National Archives notes him as Warrant Officer Class II and of being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 16th June 1917 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Missing. C.S.M W Ferguson. Mrs Ferguson, Aviemore, has been informed that her husband, Company Sergt Major Wm Ferguson, Royal Scots, has been officially reported as missing since 28th April. On the outbreak of war he came from Alaska, U.S.A; and enlisted in the Royal Scots, being wounded last July. He is a grandson of Mrs Urquhart, Caroline Street, Forres.'

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 7th July 1917 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. C.S.M. Wm Ferguson. Sergt-Major William Ferguson, Royal Scots, grandson of Mrs Urquhart, Caroline Street, Forres, who was recently returned as missing since 28th April, has now been reported killed on that date. When war broke out he returned to Scotland from Alaska and enlisted in the Royal Scots.'

James Lawrence Fowlie, St. Catherines, H.L.I - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 118) – Lieut; Highland Light Infantry; born at Singapore 12th Feb. 1896; joined at Sandhurst Dec. 1914; served in France; killed at Guemappe, Battle of Arras 23rd-24th April 1917. Son of Peter and Mary Fowlie, Singapore. Occupation, student. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being aged 21 of the 1st Bn H.L.I attached 10th Bn H.L.I and buried at Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France section V row C plot 6. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of war noted as France on the 21st March 1916. Address given as P Fowlie Esq (Father) 23 Canna Place, Hampstead, NW3.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 2nd May 1917 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Local Soldiers Killed. Lieut. Fowlie, H.L.I; Forres. Dr and Mrs Fowlie, St. Catherines, have received intimation of the death of their eldest son, Lieutenant James Lawrence Fowlie, Highland Light Infantry, near Arras, on the 24th ult. This is severe blow to the sorrowing parents, like many another sorrow to fathers and mothers in like circumstances, and they have genuine public sympathy in their sad loss. Dr Fowlie's bright son, although born in Singapore on 12th February 1896, was really a Forres boy, and in his early infancy

probably owed his life to the loving care he got at St. Catherines, and St. Catherines was his home all his brief span of life. He received his early education at Clifton Bank, St. Andrews, passing on for a term at St. Andrews University. Like every other high-spirited boy, he elected to join up at the outbreak of war. Choosing the army as his profession, he went to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst and was gazetted to the 3rd Battalion Highland Light Infantry in May 1915. After some months training – afterwards instructing – in signalling, he got the desire of his heart at last and went to France in March 1916 to the – Battalion of the H.L.I. He came through the battle of the Somme without a scratch, was promoted Lieutenant and commanded a company during a brief fortnight in that fight. In October 1916 he was chosen for the post of Brigade Intelligence Officer and since then, has been at the headquarters of the – Brigade, in the – Division. He was at home at Forres on leave in March and had been back at the post of duty just over five weeks when he met his death. Yesterday a letter in the following terms came to Dr Fowlie from the Brigadier-General: April 26th 1917. You will have heard by now of the death in action of your son, who was Intelligence Officer in my Brigade and attached to my Brigade Headquarters. Will you and his mother please accept my sincere sympathy, and that of my Staff. We are all very distressed about it. He was a first-rate fellow and was doing gallant work during the fight of the ---, sending in information about how the battle was going on from an advanced position. He gave us most valuable information by means of a telephone he had with him. I regret to say he and the signalling sergeant were both killed by a shell that came into the trench about one o'clock on the morning of the ---. We have got his body in are burying him this afternoon in a cemetery at Arras. We will send you the exact locality later. I personally shall miss him and his services more than I can say. His death was instantaneous. Yours very sincerely, & c.'

John Mackenzie, Fern Cottage, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 308) – No.266023, Cpl; 1/6th Seaforths; born at Forres 12th March 1895; joined at Elgin, 1915; served in France; killed 9th April 1917. Son of John McKenzie (deceased) and Mary McLean or McKenzie, 47 Fern Cottage, North Road, Forres. Occupation, baker. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being aged 22 and buried at Highland Cemetery, Roclinourt, Pas de Calais, France section II row D plot 14. Medal Card in National Archives notes him as formerly Acting Cpl 2823 of the Seaforth Highlanders and of being awarded 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of war noted as France on the 5th December 1915.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 9th June 1917 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Corp J Mackenzie. Official intimation has been received by Mrs Mackenzie, Fern Cottage, Forres, that her son, Corporal John Mackenzie, Seaforth Highlanders, was killed in action on 9th April. He was engaged in Admiralty work at Invergordon before the outbreak of war. Deceased was about 23 years of age and leaves a widow, who resides in London.'

William Cumming, Orchard Road, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 79) – No.241935, Pte; 1/5th Seaforth Highlanders (T.F); born at Forres 27th May 1897; joined at Elgin May 1915; served in France; killed at Vimy Ridge 9th April 1917. Son of Hugh G and Sophia Gilmour Cumming, Orchard Cottage, Forres. Occupation, chemist. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being 5th Bn Seaforth Highlanders and buried at Highland Cemetery, Roclinourt, Pas de Calais, France section II row A plot 27. Medal Card in National Archives notes him as formerly 6191 of the Seaforth Highlanders and of being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 25th April 1917 of the following: 'Killed. Mr Hugh Cumming, slater, Forres, has been informed that his son, Private Wm

Cumming, was killed in the great push on the 9th inst. The Captain of his Company sends a letter of sympathy to the parents and, testifying to the good work he did, says his death is much regretted alike by officers and men of his section. Deceased was a chemist with Mr Harrold, Forres, before joining the Territorials.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 2nd May 1917 of the following: 'Local Soldiers Killed. Private W. Cumming, Forres. Since we noticed the death in action in Private Cumming, his father received the following letter from the Chaplain of his Regiment, following on the one we printed from the Captain: Dear Mr Cumming, I write to express to you the profound sympathy we all feel towards you on the death of your dear son. His officer, I believe, has written to tell you how bravely and triumphantly he did his duty. We can ill afford to lose such soldiers as he. But to you the loss must be woeful indeed. At his burial we prayed very fervently that the sure promises of God in Christ will be amply fulfilled to you in your need. May God richly comfort you! We buried his body in a well-marked soldier's cemetery, near Rolincourt, which is near Arras. We shall all meet again "in the morning" where he is now, with the Redeemer, and even the longest separation here on earth will appear as nothing then. With heartfelt sympathy, I am, Yours very sincerely, A Boyd Scott. There is great regret at the sad death of this brave young Seaforth, who had not yet attained his majority and had not seen more than eight months service, and was wounded in November. The bereaved parents, to whom general sympathy is extended, have three other sons serving – Charles, with the Canadians, Henry, in the R.A.M.C; in Mesopotamia, and was in India, and James, with the Royal Defence Corps in the south of Scotland. His father, Mr Hugh Cumming, formerly an enthusiastic non-commissioned officer of the Old Volunteers, is also in the new regiment.'

James Macandrew Younie, Bank Lane, 2nd Camerons - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 481) – No. S/22469, Lce-Cpl; 6th Cameron Highlanders; born at Gorsky Place, Forres 23th Sept. 1888; joined at Glasgow 10th April 1916; served in France; died in France of gas-shell wounds 16th July 1917. Son of William and Mary Younie, 3 Bank Lane, Forres. Occupation, grocer. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being aged 29 and buried at Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium section I row G plot 5. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 28th July 1917 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Lc-Corpl Jas Younie. Mr and Mrs Younie, Bank Lane, Forres, have received information that their son, Lance-Corpl James Younie, Camerons, has died from the effects of gas. He was employed by Messrs Cooper & Co; Glasgow, before enlisting. Mr and Mrs Younie have two other sons on active service.'

George Murray, Murray Place, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 253) – No.241964, Pte; 3/6th and 1/5th Seaforth Highlanders; born at Mossett Terrace, Forres, 25th June 1896; joined at Fort George 1st May 1916; served in France; killed in action 6th Sept. 1917 at Ypres. Son of George and Elizabeth Murray, 4 Church Street, Dingwall. Occupation, butcher. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being of D Company 5th Bn Seaforth Highlanders aged 21 and commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium panel 132 to 135 and 162a. Medal Card in National Archives notes him as formerly 6223 of the Seaforth Highlanders and of being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 29th September 1917 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Pte G Murray. Mr and Mrs Murray, 4 Murray Place, Forres, have been informed that their son, Private George Murray (Joe), Seaforths, was killed in action on the 6th inst. He

joined in May 1916, and had been in France for over a year. Before enlisting deceased, who was 21 years of age, was employed as a butcher with Messrs Gill & Co; Invergordon.'

John Alexander Chisholm, Mosset Terrace, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 57) – No.266621, Pte; 2/6th Seaforths; born at Fraser's Buildings, Forres, 21st Nov. 1891; joined at Elgin, Jan. 1916; served in France; presumed killed in Belgium 4th Oct. 1917. Son of Joseph and Catherine Chisholm, 10 Mosset Terrace, Forres. Occupation, watchmaker. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being 2nd Bn Seaforth Highlanders and buried at Cement House Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium section XIII row A plot 34. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 17th November 1917 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Missing. Pte John Chisholm. Information has been received by Mr Joseph Chisholm, Mosset Terrace, that his eldest son, Pte John Chisholm, has been missing since the 4th of October. He enlisted in January 1916, and went to France in July last. He was employed with Mr George Milne, watchmaker here, before enlisting.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 21st August 1918 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Private John A Chisholm, Seaforths. Private John A Chisholm, Seaforths, eldest son of Mr Joseph Chisholm, Mosset Terrace, who was reported missing in October 1917, is now presumed to have been killed on that date. He joined up in 1916, was 24 years of age and was in the employment of Mr Spark, watchmaker, Nairn, before enlisting.'

Duncan Masson, Bogton, 2nd Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 225) – No. S/22895, Pte; Seaforth Highlanders; born at Abernethy, residing in Morayshire since two years old; joined at Cromarty 13th June 1917; served in France; killed in action at Arras 24th Dec. 1917. Son of Andrew Masson, Nethy Bridge and Jane Grant or Masson. Occupation, farm servant. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being buried at Monchy British Cemetery, Monchy-Le-Preux, Pas de Calais, France section II row B plot 7. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Death Notice in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 9th January 1918 of the following: 'Masson – Killed by shellfire in France, on 24th December, Private D Masson, Seaforths, beloved husband of Lizzie Masson, Rosefield Cottage, Forres – deeply mourned.'

James Jamieson, Urquhart Street, Scottish Borderers - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 191) – No.7635, Pte; K.O.S.B; born at Forres, 3rd June 1885; joined at Fort George; served in France; killed at the Somme 3rd Dec. 1917; awarded Military Medal. Son of James Jamieson, Forres and Margaret McLean or Jamieson (both deceased). Occupation, labourer. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being of the 1st Bn K.O.S.B aged 32 and commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France panel 5. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded Military Medal, 1914 Star, British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of war noted as France on the 2nd September 1914.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 29th August 1916 of the following: 'Local Casualties – Corpl Jamieson, K.O.S.B; adopted son of Mr James Gordon, Urquhart Street, Forres, who was a reservist, and has been at the front since the outbreak of war, has been killed in action.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 26th December 1917 of the following: 'Forres Soldier Killed. Mrs Gordon, Urquhart Street, has received information that her adopted son, Corporal James Jamieson, K.O.S.B; was killed in action on December 3rd. Corporal Jamieson, who was a reservist, went to France at the beginning of the war. When he

was in the army, previous to the war, he served with his regiment in India and other foreign parts.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 27th March 1918 of the following: 'Posthumous Honour to Forres Soldier – Among the recently conferred distinctions in the posthumous honour of the Military Medal to the late Private James Jamieson, K.O.S.B; who was killed in action in France on the 3rd of December. He was the adopted son of the late Mrs Gordon, Urquhart Street, Forres, and served with his regiment in India before the outbreak of war.'

1918

Alexander Robertson, Balnageith, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 359) - Lieut; 6th Seaforth Highlanders att. M.G.C; born at Mains of Balnageith, Forres, 28th May, 1890; joined at Elgin, June 1915; served in France; wounded in the head at Messines, June, 1917, and killed on active service, 28th Jan; 1918. Son of Hugh and Joan Robertson, Mains of Balnageith, Forres. Occupation, mill owner.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as 6th Bn Seaforth Highlander attached 101st Machine Gun Corps (infantry) being aged 27 and buried at Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Pas de Calais, France section II row H plot 13. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being formerly Acting Lce-Cpl 3137 of the Seaforth Highlanders, and as being awarded British and Victory Medals with entry into a theatre of war noted as France on the 31st December 1917. Noted as being eligible for Silver War Badge on 21st May 1918 and to have died of wounds. Address for correspondence given as J C Robertson Esq, Mowen, Forres.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin and Nairn Gazette* of 13th June 1917 of the following: 'Forres Officer Wounded – Mr Hugh Robertson, Balnageith, has received official intimation that his son, 2nd Lieutenant Alex Robertson, Machine Gun Corps, has been wounded in the head and is in hospital in France. 2nd Lieutenant Robertson was in the employment of Messrs Robertson & Fraser Limited, Waterford Mills, Forres, before enlisting.'

Reported in the *Forres News* of 22nd September 1917 of the following: 'We observe that 2nd-Lieut Alexander Robertson, Seaforths, son of Mr and Mrs Robertson, Balnageith, has been gazetted Lieutenant. He was wounded in the head recently and has made a satisfactory recovery, being now attached to the Machine Gun Company.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of 6th February 1918 of the following: 'Another Forres Officer Killed – We regret to learn that Mr and Mrs Hugh Robertson, Balnageith, received official information that Lieutenant Alexander Robertson, Seaforth, attached to the Machine Gun Corps, their second son, was killed at the front in France on 28th January. He had proved a most promising officer and was much liked by his fellows. His parents have received good testimony to that effect. Previous to joining the colours in May, 1915, Lieutenant Robertson was a partner in the firm of Messrs Robertson & Fraser Ltd; Waterford Mills. He was wounded in action at the battle of Messines in the month of June last year and was sent to hospital at Grantham, where he was invalided for a time. He came home on draft leave on Christmas week, on the expiry of which he returned to duty in France. He was twenty-eight years of age and his death is much deplored, great sympathy being extended to the bereaved family.'

Reported in the *Elgin Courant & Courier* of 8th February 1918 of the following: 'Lieut. A Robertson, Forres. Much regret was felt in Forres when it became known that Lieutenant Alexander Robertson, Machine Gun Corps, second son of Mr Hugh Robertson, Balnageith, Forres, had been killed in action. Lieut. Robertson was in his 28th year. He enlisted in the

Seaforth Highlanders in June, 1915, and later transferred to the M.G.C. He returned to the front only at New Year after recovering from wounds.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin and Nairn Gazette* of 13th February 1918 and the *Elgin Courant & Courier* of 15th February 1918 of the following: 'The Late Lieut. A Robertson, Forres. We reproduce a photograph of the late Lieut. Alexander Robertson, of the Seaforths, second son of Mr and Mrs Robertson, Balnageith, Forres, whose death we recorded in our columns last week. At the morning service on Sunday, Rev James Hendry, of the U.F High Church, Forres, made appropriate reference to the sad event, remarking that he was the twenty-fourth name that had been added to the roll of honour of those connected with the congregation who had made the supreme sacrifice since the beginning of the war.'

Reported in the *Northern Scot and Moray & Nairn Express* of 16th February 1918 of the following: 'Lieutenant A Robertson, Forres. Lieutenant Alexander Robertson, Seaforth Highlanders, attached to the Machine Gun Corps, was killed in action in France on January 28. He was wounded at Messines in June 1917, and after recovery returned to France in December last. He was the second son of Mr and Mrs Robertson, Mains of Balnageith, Forres, and prior to the outbreak of war was associated with his father in the business of Messrs Robertson & Fraser Ltd, Waterford Mills, Forres.'

George Munro, Batchen Street, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 247) – No.203451, Pte; 1/6th Seaforth Highlanders; born at Forres, 20th Dec. 1894; joined at Forres, 6th August 1914; served in France; killed in France 28th March 1918. Son of John Munro, Murodch's Buildings, Forres, and Jamesina Ross or Munro. Occupation, farm servant.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being 2nd Bn Seaforth Highlanders and commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France bay 8. Medal Card not in National Archives but was probably awarded 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 26th June 1918 of the following: 'Forres Soldier Killed. Mrs Munro, 4 Academy Place, Forres has received official information that her husband, Private George Munro, Seaforth Highlanders, was killed in action on 28th March. He was twenty-three years of age and prior to enlisting he was employed as a farm servant with Mr Hugh Robertson, Balnageith.'

Roger Mackenzie, Moycarse, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 275) – No.6261, Pte; 1/6th Seaforth Highlanders; born at Rothes 12th Sept. 1887; joined at Forres 9th Sept. 1914; served in France; wounded 6th April 1917; died 1st May 1918. Son of Hugh and Annie Mackenzie, Moy Carse, Forres. Occupation, farm servant. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being 202756 8th Bn Seaforth Highlanders aged 23 and buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France section IX row B plot 12. Husband of Margaret McKenzie, 5 Sydney Place, Nairn. Medal Card not in National Archives but was probably awarded 1915 Star, British and Victory Medals.

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 5th May 1917 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Wounded. Private R Mackenzie, Seaforths, son of Mr Hugh Mackenzie, Moycarse.'

William Cumming, 28 North Road, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 79) – No.265734, Sgt; 6th Seaforth Highlanders; born at Forres 22nd Jan. 1882; joined at Forres 13th Sept. 1914; served in France; killed at Cambraie 11th April 1918. Son of Donald and Maria Cumming, Fernside Place, Forres. Occupation, carpenter. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as 5th Bn Seaforth Highlanders being aged 37 and commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France panel 112 to 115. Husband of

Annie Cumming, 28 North Road, Forres. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 24th April 1918 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Sergeant William Cumming, Forres. Mrs Cumming, 28 North Road, Forres, has received a letter from a sergeant in the Seaforths stating that her husband Sergt William Cumming ("Bally"), Seaforths, was killed by machine gun fire on the 11th inst. He enlisted shortly after the outbreak of war and prior to that was employed by his father, Mr Donald Cumming, carpenter. Much sympathy is felt for the widow and three young children.'

John Sinclair, Tolbooth Street, 3rd Camerons - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 401) – No. S/29546, Pte; Cameron Highlanders; born at Auldearn, Nairnshire, 19th June 1898, residing in Morayshire for seven year; joined at Inverness 1st March 1916; served in France; died of wounds at Pierrefonds, France 24th July 1918. Son of William and Margaret Sinclair, 13 Tolbooth Street, Forres. Occupation, tramcar driver. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being aged 20 and buried at Royalieu French National Cemetery, Compiègne, Oise, France section III row G plot 39. Son of William and Margaret Sinclair, "Long View", High Street, Forres. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 16th October 1918 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Died of Wounds. Signaller John Sinclair, Camerons. Mr Wm Sinclair, has received intimation that his son Signaller John Sinclair, Cameron Highlanders, who was previously reported wounded on 23rd July, died from his wounds the following day. Before enlisting, about two years ago, he was employed in the British Linen Bank at Inverness, having served his apprenticeship in the local branch here under Mr Brown. Much sympathy is felt for the sorrowing parents.'

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 19th October 1918 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Died of Wounds. Signaller John Sinclair, Cameron Highlanders, son of Mr William Sinclair, cabinetmaker, served his apprenticeship in the British Linen Bank here, and was employed in the Inverness branch before enlisting, about two years ago. Deceased was 20 years of age.'

James Mackenzie, Dunedin Place, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 307) – No.266191, Sgt; 3/6th and 4th Seaforth Highlanders; born at Keam, Duffus 9th March 1882; joined at Elgin 23rd June 1915; served in France; killed at Rheims 29th July 1918. Son of John and Jessie Mackenzie, of 2 Iowa Place, Forres. Occupation, butcher. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being 4th Bn Seaforth Highlanders aged 36 and commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. Husband of Robina Mackenzie, 2 Dunedin Place, Forres, Morayshire. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 28th August 1918 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Sergt James Mackenzie, Seaforths. Mrs Mackenzie, 2 Dunedin Place, Forres, has received official information that her husband Sergeant James Mackenzie, Seaforths, was killed in action on 29th July. He is the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Mackenzie, 2 Iowa Place, and was 36 years of age. Before enlisting Sergeant Mackenzie was in business as a butcher in the New market here. Much sympathy is felt for the widow and three children.'

John Jeans Melville, Burnside, Canadians - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 228) – No.1015579; Sgt; 72nd Btn. Canadians; born at Bishopmill, Elgin, 15th April 1887; joined at Vancouver, Canada, Dec. 1916; served in France; killed at the Battle of Arras 2nd Sept. 1918; awarded Military Medal. Son of Alexander and Isabella Melville, Burnside, Invererne Road, Forres. Occupation, stores manager. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as

being buried at Wancourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France section III row C plot 24. Awarded Military Medal, British and Victory Medals.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 25th September 1918 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Killed. Sergt. John James Melville, M.M; Canadians. Mr and Mrs Melville, Burnside, Forres, have received information that their only son, Sergeant John James Melville, M.M; Canadians, has been killed. The Major of the Canadian Infantry Battalion writes on the 17th inst. to Mr Melville, expressing his regret at the death of his son, who was killed by machine gun fire on 2nd September, during operations in the field. His body was buried by his comrades in --- British Military Cemetery, where a cross has been erected to his memory. The Major adds – "I would like to take this opportunity of expressing to you my keen appreciation of the very excellent work performed by your son at all times during his service with us. He was well known personally to me and I need hardly tell you that his loss to me and the Battalion is great. Besides his excellent qualities as a soldier, he was one of the best football players in the Battalion and has on many occasions gained honours for his unit in that capacity. He has recently been promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and I have no doubt had he been spared he would have received further promotion. He was awarded the Military Medal for his excellent work during operations in August. He is greatly missed by all who knew him and his loss is mourned by all ranks. Assuring you of my deepest sympathy in your bereavement, I am, Yours sincerely, George H Kirkpatrick, Major".'

David Fraser, Batchen Street, Canadians - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 120) – Capt; 50th Canadian Infantry; born at Elgin 1885; joined at Blairmore, Alberta, Canada 1915; served in France; killed at Cambrai 27th Sept. 1918. Son of William Fraser, Cloddiemoss, Dyke, Forres and Catherine Hutcheson or Fraser (deceased). Occupation, painter. Commonwealth War Graves Commission has his rank as Major, notes him as being aged 34 and buried at Quarry Wood Cemetery, Sains-Le-Marquoin, Pas de Calais, France section III row A plot 38. Husband of Christina A Fraser, Blairmore, Alberta.

William Black, Springfield, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 29) – No.315518, Pte; Tank Corps; born at Forres 25th May 1883; joined at Inverness 4th July 1918; served in France; died in hospital in France 28th Oct. 1918. Son of William (deceased) and Wilina Black, Springfield, Forres. Occupation, ploughman. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being buried at Mount Houn Military Cemetery, Le Treport, Seine-Maritime, France section VII row N plot 5b and was in the Reinforcement Depot. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 15th November 1916 of the following: 'Forres Military Tribunal. The local Military Tribunal met in the Council Chamber on Tuesday – Provost Douglas, chairman, presiding. There were also present – Baillie David Ross, Mr R Urquhart, town clerk; Councillor D H Reid, Mr James Souter, and Mr W G Leitch, along with Mr Wm Fraser of Knockomie, military representative, and Mr James Hendry, clerk to the Tribunal. Mr MacDonald, Springfield, claimed exemption for William Black, who is employed by him, and whose services were indispensable to him on the farm. Mr Fraser said that Mr MacDonald himself being able to assist at the work, he thought it could be quite well done by him and a boy. Mr MacDonald disputed his being able to do much work in the way of labouring, and he found it quite impossible to get any temporary assistance. The Tribunal decided to allow Mr MacDonald till the 28th of May to get the ploughing and seeding of the farm accomplished, with which decision Mr MacDonald expressed himself as being satisfied.'

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 13th November 1918 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Died. Pte Wm Black, Tank Corps. Mrs Black, Springfield, Forres, has received information that her son, Pte Wm Black, Tank Corps, has died of influenza in France. He was 27 years of age, and was a farm servant with Mr MacDonald, Springfield, Forres, on enlisting four months ago.'

John Macpherson Ross, Rosefield, Lovat Scouts - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 374) – No.32156, Pte; Lovat Scouts and 5th Camerons; born at Rosefield Cottages, Forres 28th Jan. 1899; joined at Forres 12th March 1918; served in France; died of wounds in France 5th Nov. 1918. Son of Alexander and Mrs Mary Ross, Rosefield Cottage, Forres. Occupation, draper. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being buried at Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France section VII row C plot 19. Medal Card in National Archives notes him being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 13th November 1918 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Died of Wounds. Pte John Ross, Camerons. Information has been received that Pte John Ross, Camerons, third son of Mr and Mrs Ross, The Toll (previously reported wounded) has died of wounds. He was 19 years of age, and was in the employment of Messrs J Hamilton & Sons, draper, on enlisting.'

1919

Thomas Petrie Younie, Bank Lane, 2nd Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 482) – No.9500, C.S.M.; 2nd Seaforth Highlanders; born at Gorsky Place, Forres 13th Sept. 1888; joined at Fort George 27th Sept. 1906; served in France and Belgium; wounded by gunshot in left leg; died from effects of wounds 2nd July 1919; awarded Military Medal, and mentioned in despatches. Son of William and Mary Younie, 3 Bank Lane, Forres. Occupation, regular soldier.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him buried at Forres (Cluny Hill) Cemetery plot 2141. Medal Card in National Archives notes him as Warrant Officer Class II being awarded Military Medal, 1914 Star, British and Victory Medals and Silver War Badge (SWB List G/A/949) with entry into a theatre of war noted as France on the 22nd September 1914. SWB List notes him with Badge No. B215564 enlisted 26th Sept. 1906 and discharged from Depot on 24th May 1919 due to sickness aged 30 years and 241 days.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 15th November 1916 of the following: 'Forres Soldiers' Honours – Awards of the military medal for bravery in the field to Forres soldiers have been gazetted as follows: To Company Quartermaster Sergeant J M Tulloch Pirie, Seaforths, 29a North Road, Forres, who was killed in action on the 23rd ult; and to Company Quartermaster Sergeant T P Younie, Seaforths, son of Mr and Mrs Younie, Bank Lane, Forres. The war experience of this soldier is rather remarkable. He went to the front from Shorncliffe in August 1914, and has passed unscathed through all the fighting. He has been home on furlough twice and we recall an interview we had with him that left lasting impressions. It would appear that he is only non-commissioned officer surviving of those who accompanied him from England of the Seaforth regiment to which he belongs.'

Reported in the *Forres News* of the 4th August 1917 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Wounded. Sergt T Younie. Information has been received that Sergeant Thomas Younie, Seaforth Highlanders, son of Mr and Mrs Younie, Bank Lane, has been wounded. He had been at the front since the beginning of the war, and has been mentioned in despatches. His brother, James, died from the effects of gas received in action about three weeks ago.'

Death Notice in the *Forres News* of the 5th July 1919 of the following: 'Younie – At Leancoil Hospital, Forres, on the 2nd inst; C.S.M. Thomas Petrie Younie, M.M; 2nd Seaforths, twin son of Wm. Younie, mason, 3 Bank Lane, Forres, aged 31 years. Funeral from 3 Bank Lane, Forres, Today (Saturday) at Two o'clock p.m; to Cluny Hill Cemetery. Friends omitted please accept this intimation and invitation.'

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 9th July 1919 of the following: 'Military Funeral – The remains of C.S.M. Thomas Petrie Younie, twin son of Mr and Mrs Younie, 3 Bank Lane, Forres, were interred with military honours in Cluny Hill Cemetery on Saturday. A detachment of the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders from Fort George was present in command of Sergeant-Major Fraser. A party under Sergeant Mackenzie fired three volleys over the grave of their dead comrade, after which the Last Post was sounded. There was a large attendance at the funeral, Rev. James A Campbell conducting services at the house and at the grave. Sergeant-Major Younie was discharged from hospital at Aberdeen six weeks ago and died at the Leancoil Hospital here from the effects of gas poisoning.'

James Burr, North Road, 6th Seaforths - Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, page 40) – No. S/23334, Pte; Gordon Highlanders; born at Aberdeen 16th Sep 1899, residing in Morayshire for past 12 years; joined at Forres August 1914; served in France and Italy. Son of William and Elizabeth (deceased) Burr, 48 North Road, Forres. Occupation, carter.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes that he died 26th Feb 1919 of the 6th/7th Bn Gordon Highlanders and buried at La Louviere Town Cemetery, Belgium, plot B6. Also listed on Forres War Memorial as Gordon Highlanders. Medal Card in National Archives notes him in the Gordon Highlanders being awarded British and Victory Medals with no date given as entry into a theatre of war.

Reported in the *Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette* of the 29th April 1919 of the following: 'Forres Soldier's Death in Service – Private James Burr, Gordons, who died in Belgium on February 26th, was the youngest son of Mr William Burr, carting contractor, Forres. He was only 19 years of age and in civil life was employed as house footman at Brodie Castle.'