

They Died in the Conflict in Season 1917-1918

Frederick James Albert, born in England about 1892, but residing with his parents in Edinburgh, played junior football with Corstorphine Rangers and joined St Bernards in 1912. The centre-forward made 13 league appearances over two seasons, scoring seven goals. He also averaged more than a goal a game in the Scottish Cup, with nine strikes in eight appearances. After two seasons in Edinburgh, he may have emigrated. A Private Frederick James Albert, 36th Battalion, Australian Infantry, was killed on 12 October 1917, age 25.

[The man that you mentioned earlier is most probably the same one mentioned above.]

Robert William Atherton, born at Bethesda, Wales, on 29 July 1876. grew up in Scotland. He began his career with Dalry Primrose then had a short spell with Hearts. Joined Hibernian in 1897 where he had six successful seasons. He captained the last Hibernian side to win the Scottish Cup in 1902 and the following season helped them to win the Scottish League First Division title for the first time. Atherton played nine times for Wales, scoring two goals. At Hibernian, he made 75 league appearances, scoring 25 goals. After three years at Middlesbrough, he had a brief spell at Chelsea which brought an end to his footballing career. After retirement Atherton moved back to Edinburgh where he became a steward in the Merchant Navy. It was while serving on ss *Britannia* that he lost his life on 19 October 1917, after his ship disappeared without trace, either due to a mine or enemy action. He was 40 years old, and is commemorated on Tower Hill Memorial.

James Brannick, born at Manchester in 1889, made three appearances for Everton in season 1912/13, scoring two goals. He had another season at Goodison without playing, before joining St Mirren in 1914, and played in a total of 38 league matches for them, scoring 11 goals. Private James Brannick, Lancashire Fusiliers, was killed in action on 10 August 1917. He is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium.

Thomas Callaghan, born at Birmingham around 1884 came to prominence in some junior matches. He began his career with English side Glossop in season 1904/05, playing in 73 league matches before moving on to Manchester City in season 1907/08, playing in only two league outings. Moving north to play with Partick Thistle in 1909, he spent two seasons at Firhill, playing in 57 league matches and scoring eight goals. He spent season 1911/12 at St Mirren (18 appearances/three goals) before returning to Partick Thistle for one final season (1912/13) where he played in a further 23 league matches, scoring one goal. Thomas Callaghan enlisted in the Somerset Light Infantry, transferred to the 20 Battalion, London Regiment, and was killed in action on 20 February 1917.

Robert Main Christie, born at Dunblane on 15 November 1865, was capped for Scotland against England on 15 March 1884 when Scotland won 1-0. His Queen's Park team mate John Smith scored the only goal. Other famous Queen's Park players in the side were Walter Arnott, Charles Campbell and William Anderson.

He played in the English FA Cup final for Queen's Park against Blackburn Rovers in 1884, scoring the Queen's Park goal in a 2-1 defeat. He played a part in the Boer War, commanding one of the volunteer companies of the Black Watch. An Architect and Civil Engineer by profession, he was well known in the Dunblane area. It was with Dunblane FC that he began his football career and his brother "A J" (Alexander Jack) Christie was also a Scotland international player capped in 1898 and 1899. Robert was President of the SFA in season 1903/04. He was a Major in the Labour Corps at the time of his death from wounds on 15 May 1918. His grave is located at St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen.

Robert Craig, born at Beith on 2 May 1888, joined Celtic from Vale of Garnock Strollers in 1906. He played in 13 league matches over three seasons at Parkhead, and afterwards had a short spell with Morton, where he played in three league matches. Short spells at Brighton, Carlisle, Darlington and Renton followed this. Season 1911/12 saw him at Dundee Hibernian (19 appearances/four goals). Private Robert Craig, 5th Battalion, South Wales Borderers, was wounded on 11 April 1918 and subsequently died of his injuries on 19 April 1918. He is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

James Gray, born at Dunfermline around 1893, joined Dunfermline Athletic in March 1913, making two first team appearances in Division Two. Season 1913/14 saw him make one more appearance before he joined the army. He was a Sergeant in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and was killed in action on 24 April 1917.

Alexander Johnston, born at Falkirk around 1880, started out with Camelon before joining Falkirk in August 1904. The outside-right played in five Division Two matches for the Brockville club (one goal) and was a post office worker for 20 years. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery in June 1916, and was transferred to France around July 1917. At 37 years of age, he died on the Flanders battlefield on 17 August 1917.

Alexander McAllister, born in Kilmarnock around 1878. A coal miner to trade, he joined Sunderland and was an ever present in seasons 1899/1900 and 1900/01. The half-back helped the Roker Park side win the league championship in 1902. He made a total of 225 appearances for Sunderland, scoring five goals. He also had time at Derby County. Sandy contracted food poisoning whilst serving with the Northumberland Fusiliers in France and died on 31 January 1918.

Daniel McKellar, born at Glasgow in 1892, started out with Ashfield and Bellshill Athletic. He joined Airdrieonians in 1914 and played in three league matches at Broomfield. In season 1914/15, Kilmarnock was his club and he went on to make 37 league appearances for the club, scoring once. In 1916 he joined up with the 9th Battalion Highland Light Infantry, and was killed in action on 13 April 1918. His name is one of 11,000 with no known grave commemorated on the Ploegstreet Memorial, South of Ypres.

Donald McLeod, born at Laurieston on 28 May 1882, began his career with Stenhouse Thistle and Stenhousemuir. The full-back joined Celtic in May 1902 and had six and a half good years at the Parkhead club.

He helped them to three league titles and two Scottish Cups between 1902-1908. After playing in a total of 131 league matches for Celtic, he was transferred to Middlesbrough in October 1908. He had won four full Scotland caps while with Celtic, twice against Ireland and once against Wales and England. His 138 league appearances in the Middlesbrough side shows he was a regular. Gunner McLeod was in the 466th Battery of the 65th Royal Field Artillery (RFA), died from wounds on 6 October 1917, and is buried in Dozinghem Military Cemetery in Poperinge, Belgium.

Archibald McMillan, born at Campbeltown about 1894, was a signed Celtic player by August 1913, but he did not feature in the Parkhead side. Ayr United signed the outside-left in June 1914, and he went on to make four appearances in the league with the Ayrshire side. He soon joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and was killed in action on 23 November 1917 in the battle of Cambrai, North of Arras. Archie is buried in Rocquigny-Equancort Road British Cemetery, Manancourt.

David McWalter, born at Luncarty, Perthshire, around 1891, joined St Johnstone from Luncarty in October 1912. The outside-right played in 49 league matches, scoring 14 goals in his three seasons with St Johnstone. He later joined the Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on 2 February 1918, aged 27, in Greece, and is buried in the Sarigol Military Cemetery in Kriston, Greece.

Adam Miller, born at Eyemouth in 1883, signed for Berwick Rangers in 1905 from Coldstream. Hibernian took him on trial in November 1905, and he played in two league matches at Easter Road. The centre-forward then played one league match for Raith Rovers the following season (1906/07). He emigrated to Australia in 1912, and when war broke out he enlisted in the 9th Battalion of the Australian Infantry Forces as a Private. After fighting at Gallipoli, he went to France in March 1916 where he saw action at Armentieres, Pozieres, on the Somme and at Bullecourt. Private Adam Miller was killed in action at Ypres on 21 December 1917 and is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ypres.

Herbert Murray, born at Aberdeen on 11 December 1886, graduated from Aberdeen University in 1908 with a degree in the Arts. For a while he was a teacher at Alloa and Robert Gordon's Technical College, Aberdeen. It was while studying that he began his football career with Arbroath, East Stirlingshire and then went senior with Clyde in 1906/07. He played 46 times for Clyde, scoring five goals. Two seasons back in his home town of Aberdeen followed where he made 40 appearances (three goals). Queen's Park took him back down to Glasgow in season 1910/11 where he played 11 times for the amateur side. The much travelled player was at St Johnstone next (12 appearances/one goal) in Division Two. He finally went back to Aberdeen in 1912 where he added another eight matches and two goals. After enlisting in the Gordon Highlanders, he was killed in action on 25 July 1918. He was awarded the Military Cross during service.

William Pickering. Born at Glasgow, started his career with junior side Ashfield, but was soon taken south by the lure of Burnley in season 1912/13. The centre-forward played in the Burnley reserve side, and bagged an impressive 33 goals in 37 reserve matches in 1912/13. His scoring ratio obviously attracted attention, and he went on to play in 15 league matches for the first team, scoring six goals. With the shutdown of English football after season 1914/15 ended, Pickering was soon on his way back to Scotland where he made five appearances for Morton, scoring four goals. He joined the Seaforth Highlanders and was shot through the head at Mesopotamia on 9 November 1917.



James Hamilton Speirs. Born in Glasgow on 22nd March 1886, Jimmy Speirs signed for Rangers in June 1905 from junior side Maryhill. He went on to play in 53 league matches for the Ibrox side, scoring 24 goals. This was followed by a couple of years at Clyde (13 apps/5 goals) before moving south to join Bradford City.

His greatest success came in his second season with Bradford, when he was the club's captain and goalscorer in their FA Cup Final victory of 1911, in a team featuring eight Scottish-born players. Speirs made 86 league appearances for Bradford City, scoring 29 goals. Three seasons at Leeds City followed this (73 apps/32 goals) before the outbreak of World War One. Speirs was capped by Scotland in 1908. Jimmy Speirs volunteered to join the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in 1915, and was soon promoted to Lance Corporal, Corporal then Sergeant.

Speirs won the Military Medal for bravery on the battlefield but was killed in action at Passchendaele on 20th August 1917, at the age of 31.

Robert Torrance, born in Kirkintilloch in 1888, joined Bradford City in 1907 from Kirkintilloch Harp for £5. While at Bradford the defender made a total of 161 appearances. He played in the replayed FA Cup Final of 1911 and received a medal. A Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery, he was killed in action on 24 April 1918.

James Gilmour Wilson, born in Kilwinning around 1895, started out with Kilwinning Rangers and in 1914 joined Queen's Park. The left-back had 42 league starts before joining the 2nd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers. He was killed by sniper fire on 15 December 1917. James was the son of Mrs Wilson, Eglinton Arms Hotel, Kilwinning and was 22 years of age. He is mentioned on the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial.