

DUNBAR BURGH AND PARISH WAR MEMORIAL WORKING GROUP

PROPOSED NAMES FOR ADDITION TO WAR MEMORIAL

All of the undernoted have been accorded “casualty” (war dead) status by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, are not listed on any local War Memorials, and had a demonstrable connection with Dunbar Burgh and Parish. In each case a detailed Candidate Name for Addition Form was prepared to assist the Working Group to consider the proposed names in a systematic manner.

WWI

James Burns. Born 9th May 1898, Stevenson Mains Farm, Haddington. Originating from a family of farm workers, he was a blacksmith in West Barns before enlisting. Private, 4th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, Service No. S/16912. Killed in action, 20th July 1918, France/Flanders.

Henry George Congdon. Born 7th February 1867, Army Barracks, Dunbar. Brought up in the town, he joined the Royal Engineers at Edinburgh in 1884. His first period of service ended in 1905 when he was discharged, with a pension. He re-enlisted at the outbreak of WWI. As Regimental Sergeant Major, Royal Engineers, Service No. 44469, was mentioned in dispatches and awarded among other medals a Belgian Croix de Guerre. Died of wounds, 28th May 1918, Varennes, France.

Thomas Fairbairn Frater. Born 21st October 1878, Victoria Street, Dunbar. His family were part of the town’s fishing community. He joined the Royal Navy in 1903, Service No. 303083. Served as a stoker on a succession of cruisers and battleships, and latterly was 1st Stoker at HMS “Actaeon”. Died by accidental drowning, 25th September 1919, England.

Louis Frederick Kerridge. Born 14th April 1880, St George District, Edinburgh. His parents ran Kerridge’s Hotel, Bayswell Park, Dunbar, where he was a waiter, and was well known in the town as a player for Dunbar Football Club. Private, 1st Battalion, Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders, Service No.3/6258. Killed in action, 27th January 1915, France/Flanders.

John Mellis Macdonald. Born 11th October 1892, Port Lodge, Dunbar. His father was a highly regarded local medical practitioner. He joined the Officer Training Corps when at Edinburgh University. Captain, 1st Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). Killed in action, 20th July 1916, the Somme, France.

Hugh McKie. Born 18th March 1891, Alloway, Ayr. Married on 27th March 1918 Catherine Polwarth Stewart of Bridge Cottage, West Barns, daughter of a long-standing local family. Sergeant, 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers, Service No. 205535. Died of Pleurisy, 8th February 1919, France.

Frederick Cecil Reed. Born 22nd December 1854, Woolwich, Kent. Had a long connection with Dunbar Barracks, where he began as an apprentice, and subsequently enlisted as a clerk with the Royal Garrison Artillery at age 18, Service No. 23593. A career soldier, he rose to the rank of Captain, (Adjutant) 3rd/7th Battalions, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Died 28th April 1915, Scotland.

Percival Sudworth. Born August 1878, Wigan, Lancashire. A career soldier, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal during the South African Campaign, and the Meritorious Service Medal in WWI. As Regimental Sergeant Major, Royal Scots Greys, Service No. D/20758, he set up his family home in Belhaven. Died 16th January 1919, Northern Ireland.

David James Thomson. Born 11th September 1893, Shore Street, Dunbar. From a family of farm workers. Private 1st/8th Battalion, 51st Division, Pioneers Brigade, Royal Scots, Service No. 325184. Died of wounds, 12th July 1917, France.

Alfred Edward Turnbull. Born 10th March 1882, Pinkerton, Dunbar Parish. Son of a farmer, he was raised in the local area and studied medicine at Edinburgh University. Surgeon, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Died when HMS "Cressy" was torpedoed by a German submarine, North Sea, 22nd September 1914.

WWII

John Minto Clarke. Born 27th September 1906, Bengal, India, son of father in British Army. Enlisted in Royal Artillery at Jutogh, India at age 16, Service No. 1422511. A career soldier, he was posted to the Barracks, Dunbar in late 1920s, and married on 8th January 1932 Margaret Isabella Gordon of 106 High Street. As Staff Sergeant, Royal Army Ordnance Corps was killed in action, 10th April 1942, Malta. His daughter (born 1941) and two grandsons continue to live in Dunbar.

William Edward Davies. Born c. 1919, Manchester. Married on 14th April 1943 Margaret Millar Marr of Castle Cottage, New Harbour, Dunbar, whose father was a fisherman. Private, 5th Battalion, Kings Own Scottish Borderers, Service No. 3193742. Died by accidental drowning, 24th June 1944, Scotland.

William David Gillespie. Born 13th January 1913, Castle Place, Dunbar. Raised in the town, he took up a post in a rubber plantation in Malaya. Private, 21st Federated Malay States Volunteer Force, 1st Perak Battalion, Service No. 6637. Was captured by Japanese forces on, or about, the fall of Singapore. Died 9th October 1943, Japanese Prisoner of War Camp, Thailand.

John Henry Evershed Wright. Born 6th March 1916, West Port, Dunbar. His father was a private in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and mother hailed from a family of farm workers. Joined army in Dunbar in 1938. Gunner, Royal Artillery, Service No. 1567661. Died 13th April 1943, United Kingdom.