



The War Dead of St. Patrick's - WWI

1914 - 1918



Bernard Boyce

Rank: Private
Regiment: Cameron Highlanders
Unit: 6th Battalion.
Age: 21
Date of Death: 31st July 1917
Service No. S/40504



Additional Information: Son of Bernard Boyce and Sarah m.s. Coyle of 7, Parkburn Rd., Kilsyth. Formerly 3496 Lovat Scouts. Birthplace: Donegal, Co. Donegal, Ireland. Born 1896. Lived at 7 Parkburn Road in Kilsyth. Moved to Kilsyth between 1897 and 1901. Boyce first enlisted into the Lovat Scouts as Private 3496 before transferring to the 4th Cameron Highlanders in 1916 as Private 5233. Sent to France on 29 August 1916 and posted to the 6th Cameron Highlanders on 19 September 1916 with whom he was renumbered S40504. *On 31 July 1917 (the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres) the 6th Camerons were in the 15th Division reserve. At 9.30am the 6th Camerons advanced over the German front line and advanced towards Frezenburg. They took heavy fire from Beck Farm and Iberian Farm. The 6th Camerons reached the final divisional objective of the Green Line and consolidated. On their way to the front the CO and Adjutant were killed and the Medical Officer wounded. In the face of a German attack the troops around the 6th Cameron retired leaving them exposed. They were then hit by British and German artillery fire. It was a pretty black day with many casualties.*

Grave: Unknown
Cemetery: Remembered at Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Patrick Boyce



Rank: Private

Regiment: Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders

Unit: 1st/7th Battalion.

Age: 28

Date of Death: 7th June 1916

Service No. 2908

Additional Information: Died of wounds sustained in action. Son of Edward Boyce and Helen m.s Coyle. Husband of Kate m.s. McGinlay of 56 Smithston Row, Croy (who latterly became Mrs Kate Hagen). Marriage Record at St Patrick's No 570. Brother of Owen Boyce. There was only one soldier KIA on 07th June 1916 in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. From the regimental war diary, we read "*Enemy trench mortars and artillery very active throughout the day, about 7pm our lines were scorched with heavy shrapnel resulting in a casualty of 1 soldier killed and three wounded.*"

Grave: I.D.1

Cemetery: Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Aubigny-en-Artois, Pas-de-Calais, France.

Patrick Brown

Rank: Private

Regiment: Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

Unit: 2nd Battalion.

Age: 39

Date of Death: 9th May 1915, Flanders, France.

Service No. S/7928

Additional Information: Son of John Brown and Mary m.s. O'Donnell.

Baptismal record 758 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. *The Battle of Aubers 9th May 1915. British First Army planned a pincer attack against German positions to the north and south of Neuve Chapelle. The Southern pincer attack was to be made in easterly direction with the objective Rue du Marais - Lorgies - Ligny le Grand, incorporating La Cliqueterie (a heavily defended German strongpoint). The battle commenced at 5am with British bombardment. By 3.45pm: Bareilly Brigade incorporating the 2nd Division The Black Watch, moved up to relieve the Dehra Dun, lost more than 200 men due to enemy shelling. At 3:57pm the two lead companies of the Camerons, coming up on the left of the Black Watch a few minutes later, suffered heavy machine-gun casualties in crossing between the front lines. At approximately the same time, the two fresh battalions of the 3rd Brigade, the 1/Gloucestershire and 1/South Wales Borderers began to advance but were cut down without reaching the enemy. Bareilly Brigade was ordered to advance, even though it was clear that conditions were unchanged: few men even reached a small ditch 20 yards in front of their own front line, and the Brigade suffered more than 1000 casualties within minutes. 2nd Division The Black Watch lost 234 men, of which 8 are officers.' This battle was an unmitigated disaster for the British army. No ground was won, and no tactical advantage gained. It is very doubtful if it had the slightest positive effect in assisting the main French attack fifteen miles to the south. There is no memorial at Aubers for the men lost on that day.*



Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Richebourg-l'Avoué, Pas-de-Calais, France.

John Carr

Rank: Private

Regiment: Highland Light Infantry.

Unit: 10th Battalion

Age: 21

Date of Death: 28th October 1915

Service No. 12782



Additional Information: Son of Hugh Carr and Catherine m.s. Harvey (also spelled Harvie) who were married at St Patrick's Kilsyth - wedding record no 261. Brother of Catherine Carr baptismal record 2106, James baptismal record 2258 and Hugh baptismal record 2644. He may also have had a youngest sister Sarah who was not born in Kilsyth but was born in Driffan and who appears on the 1911 census as living with her brothers at No13 The Rows, Queenzieburn. He identified Catherine Carr, by this time Mrs Catherine McDermott (marriage record no 568 at St Patrick's Kilsyth) also living in Queenzieburn at No 8 The Rows, as his beneficiary. His birth is recorded in the statutory births register entry 495/00 0151 in 1894 and his place of birth is 81 Auchinstarry Row. From the Regimental diary we have the entry '*25th Sept 1915 - Battle of Loos - The centre 9th (Scottish) Division had to attack the formidable obstacle of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and Fosse 8, the high location of the main enemy observation posts looking across the whole battlefield. After numerous actions from various battalions in the division, men not killed, or wounded were pinned down, and only some 70 men of the rear ranks made it back to cover. To their left, the first rank of the 10/HLI was annihilated by crossfire from Railway Redoubt (across the Cambrin - La Basse road) before it had gained 20 yards; the men in succeeding ranks suffering similarly.*' After 3 days, John Carr died of his wounds.

Grave: Plot IV.C.2A

Cemetery: Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

Patrick Christie

Rank:

Regiment:

Unit:

Age:

Date of Death:

Service No.

Additional Information:

Grave:

Cemetery:

Francis Coyle



Rank: Gunner

Regiment: Royal Garrison Artillery

Unit: 4th Army Pool

Age: 26

Date of Death: 5th Jan 1917.

Service No. 54652

Additional Information: Son of Francis Coyle and Martha m.s.Haggerty. Husband of Annie. Father of Francis, Richard and Annie Coyle. Brother to Jane, John, James, Sarah, William, Patrick and Martha Coyle. Baptism Record No. 1908 St Patrick's Kilsyth. Residence at time of death - Stark's Land Croy.

Grave: XXVI.A.5

Cemetery: Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, France.

John Coyle

Rank: Corporal

Regiment: Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Unit: 6th Battalion.

Age: 30

Date of Death: 10th Aug 1915

Service No. 13387

Additional Information: Killed in Action in the Balkans after only 3 days in theatre. Son of Maggie Coyle. Brother of Peter Coyle below. Baptism Record No. 1562 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. DoB 25/01/1885. From the Regimental diary we read "*6th Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers formed at Tralee in August 1914 as part of K1 and came under orders of 30th Brigade in 10th (Irish) Division and moved to the Curragh. The battalion landed Suvla Bay, Gallipoli on 07th August 1915 and took part in an attack which led to capture on Chocolate Hill followed by the Battle of Scimitar Hill and attack on Hill 60. John Coyle was KIA during this action.*"

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.



Peter Coyle

Rank: Private

Regiment: Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders

Unit: 2 Battalion.

Age: 26

Date of Death: 25th September 1917

Service No. S/40446

Additional Information: Son of Maggie Coyle, Brother of John Coyle above, half-brother of Charles Costello. DoB 13/12/1889. Half-brother of Mrs Jane (Bridget) Smith. Baptism Record No. 1955 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. Husband of Mary m.s. Fern Marriage Record No. 593 at St Patrick's Kilsyth, father of John Coyle. From the Regimental Diary and the soldier's own records we find - *Peter Coyle had previously been wounded in action with a gunshot wound to his left arm 31st Dec 1916 and had returned to the front 26th May 1917. A German attack on 25th September 1917 between Menin Road and Polygon Wood occurred as 33rd Division was taking over from 23rd Division and for a time threatened to delay preparations for the British operation due next day, the famous battle of Polygon Wood. 2nd Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders supported other regiments to repel the attack, Peter Coyle, now a Lewis Gunner, was killed during this defensive action.*

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.



William James Coyle

Rank: Private

Regiment: Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

Unit: 1st Battalion.

Age: 26

Date of Death: 6th April 1915

Service No. 9126

Additional Information: Son of Andrew Coyle and Margaret m.s. Devine. DoB 23/12/1889. Baptism record No. 1948 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. The 1891 census find the family having moved from Kilsyth to 13 Carlton Street Shettleston in Glasgow with William's grandmother Rebecca. By the time he married in 1913 his father was already recorded as deceased and his mother Margaret had re-married and had become a Mrs Rooney and had also by then passed away. From the 1891 census, William had 3 elder brothers, likely not born in Kilsyth Henry, James and Andrew. William was also brother of Margaret Coyle Baptism Record No. 2212 at St Patrick's Kilsyth and Patrick Coyle Record No. 2562. We can also see that his grandfather Andrew and Grandmother Rebecca had several children in Kilsyth and so William had a number of Uncles and cousins centred around Kilsyth. It is possible that after the death of both his parents the family was split up, as by the 1901 census William is recorded at the age of 12 as residing at St Josephs Certified Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys in Tranent Haddingtonshire. He was a full-time soldier before the outbreak of war, enlisting at the age of 18 in 1907. He is subsequently recorded as the husband of Mrs Elizabeth Coyle



m.s. McGrory, whom he married at St Mary's RC Chapel in Pollockshaws Glasgow on 13th November 1913. An announcement in the Scotsman as follows, (they have him as 27 years of age.) *SCOTSMAN 6/5/1915 p.8*
Another member of the Scottish Rifles, but of the 1st Battalion, who has died from wounds received in action, is Private W. Coyle, whose widow lives at 26 Rosendale Road, Pollokshaws. He was 27 years of age and had been nine years in the army.

Grave: J.63

Cemetery: Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord

William Coyle

Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment)

Unit: 11th Battalion.

Age: 32

Date of Death: 4th Nov 1915

Service No. 12314



Additional Information: Son of Francis Coyle and Sarah m.s. Starrs. William married Margaret Tobben (or Tobin) on 4 May 1910 at St Mary's RC Church, Stirling. Brother of Francis, Helen, Bridget, Susan, James and Isabella. Baptism record No1453 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. DoB 12th Sept 1883. From the Regimental Diary - *"On the 25th September 1915 the 11th Royal Scots engaged in their first major assault on the German line at the Battle of Loos. The battalion took part in actions against the village of Haisnes and a section of the line known as Pekin Trench close to Douvrin. Battalion losses over a three-day period were heavy. With regards to other ranks casualties, 32 were known to have been killed, 169 were wounded and 171 were missing. Many of this latter group were subsequently presumed to have died".* William Coyle being one of the missing soldiers and officially declared dead on 4th Nov 1915. In fact, he is likely to have died at some point in the three-day period from 25th - 27th September 1915.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

John Coyne



Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Scots Fusiliers

Unit: 1st Battalion

Age: 22

Date of Death: 30th April 1917

Service No. 25512

Additional Information: During Arras offensive, John Coyne died 30th Apr 1917. Battalion war diary. 1st Royal Scots were on the line – the Brown Line south of Cambrai Road. On the 27th April 1917 the Battalion was heavily shelled on the way up and suffered 30 casualties, they had been relieved by 30th April 1917 after two quiet days.

Grave: Bay 5

Cemetery: Arras Memorial

Bernard Cranie

Rank: Private

Regiment: Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Unit: 86th Company

Age: c38

Date of Death: 01 July 1916

Service No. 20948

Additional Information: formerly 5066, R. Munster Fusiliers. Born in Uphall Edinburgh, Resided Croy (No. 15 Smithstone), enlisted Kilsyth. Eldest son of Bernard and Mrs Mary(Ann) Crainie m.s.McMillan. (NB Spelling Cranie in civil and military records and Crainie in the Parish records). Brother of William, Helen (Baptism Record No.2422), Patrick, Hugh (Baptism Record No.2973), Margaret, Peter, Catherine, Daniel (Baptism Record No.2577), Robert (Baptism Record No.2801) and Mary Ann (Baptism Record No.3317) Crainie. Bernard appears also as Godfather to John Patrick McLaren in Baptism Record No.2698 at St Patrick's on 13th March 1897. From the Regimental Diary and the soldier's own records - *On the nights 7th - 8th January 1916, Bernard Cranie evacuated from Gallipoli with the 86th Coy MGC - 29th Division and all units returned to Egypt. Orders were received there on 25th February 1916 for a move to France. Embarking in March it arrived at Marseilles and moved to concentrate in the area east of Pont Remy between 15th and 29th March 1916. The Division remained on the Western Front for the remainder of the war. Bernard was killed in action at The Battle of Albert on the first day of the Battle of the Somme 1st July 1916.*

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.



Edward Deerin



Rank: Private

Regiment: King's Own Scottish Borderers

Unit: 8th Battalion

Age: 41

Date of Death: 25th September 1915

Service No. 14910

Additional Information: Son of Edward Deerin and Emma m.s. Matthews. Husband of Agnes m.s. Fulton. Father of John and Alexander. Brother of Margaret, Harriet, John and Jane Deerin. Born Campsie (aka Lennoxtown) DoB 11/09/1874, Resided Kilsyth - listed in the 1911 census at 12 Findlay St., Kilsyth. From the Regimental Diary - *8th Bn KOSB was part of 46th Brigade within 15th Scottish Division. At the Battle of Loos 8th Bn KOSB lost about one-third of its strength of which Edward Deerin was a casualty on the first day of the battle, 25th Sept 1915.*

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Loos Memorial

Edward Differ



Rank: Private

Regiment: Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders

Unit: 10th Battalion

Age: 20

Date of Death: 12th October 1917

Service No. S/40027

Additional Information: Son of Patrick Differ and Catherine m.s. Cunningham, of 25, Burnbrae, Twechar. Baptism Record No. 2722 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. DoB 13th May 1897. *The 10th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders participated in The Battle of Passchendaele on the 12th October 1917 with 26th Brigade, 9th Scottish Division. 81 soldiers of the Battalion lost their lives in the fighting on that day of which only 8 soldiers were identified for burial, the remainder are known only unto God, Edward Differ being one of them.*

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Patrick Differ



Rank: Lance Corporal

Regiment: The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)

Unit: 2nd Battalion

Age: 23

Date of Death: 23rd June 1917

Service No. 4812

Additional Information: Son of Patrick Differ and Bella Docherty. Brother of Patrick Differ. Born Kilsyth. Enlisted Kilsyth. DoB September 26th, 1893. Killed in Action. *After seeing action at The Battle of Vimy Ridge in the Spring, Patrick Differ was in The Battle of Messines in June. The goal was to*

take Messines Ridge, no breakout from Ypres could occur unless the ridge was captured, on 7th June 1917, at 3.10 a.m., nineteen mines, with 500 tons of explosives denoted under the German positions at Messines Ridge. Less than 3 weeks later, while in the line, Patrick was killed in action.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Patrick Docherty

Rank: Lance Corporal

Regiment: The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)

Unit: 2nd Battalion.

Age: 21

Date of Death: 3rd Aug 1918

Service No. 4567

Additional Information: Son of James Docherty and the late Margaret m.s.Jamieson of Parkfoot Kilsyth. Brother of Isaac Docherty. Half-brother of George, Margaret and May Docherty. Baptismal record at St Patrick's 2739. DoB 05/08/1897. From the Regimental Diary - *2nd Bn Leinster Regiment joined 88th Brigade in 29th Division during April 1918. On 03rd August 1918 they were in the front line at Strazeele in the MERRIS sector. "A" Coy was relieved by 12th Royal Scots in the front line and moved into support trenches. A patrol went out, on the patrol two soldiers were killed and one other wounded. Patrick Docherty was one of the two soldiers killed on this patrol.*

Grave: II. F. 30.

Cemetery: Borre British Cemetery, Hazebrouck, France.



Michael Drain

Rank: Private

Regiment: Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders

Unit: 2nd Battalion

Age: 25

Date of Death: 21st September 1918

Service No. 303330

Additional Information: Son of Alexander Drain and Mary m.s.Toner. Baptismal record at St Patrick's Kilsyth 2280. Date of birth 31/03/1893. Brother of Mary Baptism No1956, Catherine Baptism No. 2060, Sara Baptism No. 2413 and Alexander Baptism No.2682. In his military Will he leaves his estate to his sister Catherine by this time a Mrs Lewsley, who lives at 44 Charles Street Kilsyth. From the Regimental Diary - *2nd Bn Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders were part of 98th Brigade in 33rd Division during September 1918. On 21st September during the fighting for and recapture of Ridge Wood, a phase of The Battle of Lys, the battalion carried out three*



attacks during the day, the first being at 5:40 am, a second at 3pm and a final attack at 7.45pm. They met with strong German opposition however achieved the objective, 21 soldiers were killed during the action and 113 wounded, Michael Drain was one of the 21 men killed in this action.

It is also clear that Michael Drain had an eventful was having been a casualty twice before as this article in the Kilsyth Chronicle recorded two years before he was eventually killed. 1st Week April 1916 Kilsyth Chronicle '*Private Michael Drain of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders was in hospital in France, having been shot in the head. This was the second time the former miner had become a casualty, having previously survived a gas attack.*'

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Henry Fleming

Rank: Guardsman

Regiment: Scots Guards

Unit: 1st Battalion

Age: 23

Date of Death: 11th November 1914

Service No. 8217

Additional Information: Son of Henry Fleming and Mary Ann m.s. Mahood. Resided 13 Brick Row (aka Kingston Row) Kilsyth. Enlisted Cowdenbeath resided at time of enlistment Lumphinnans, Fife. *Henry Fleming arrived in France 02nd September 1914 and joined the 1st Bn Scots Guards who took part in its second major engagement at the First Battle of the Marne. This action saw the German advance halted after much bitter fighting. The sides soon dug-in the trenches that would become one of the defining symbols of the First World War. In November 1914, the battalion took part in the First Battle of Ypres and saw very heavy fighting at Ypres and in the surrounding area. On 11th Nov 1914 161 men of the 1st Bn, including Henry Fleming, lost their lives, only a handful of these men received a burial and they are remembered on the Menin Gate memorial*

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Panel 11, Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Daniel Peter Paul Glancey

Rank: Private

Regiment: Highland Light Infantry

Unit: 1st Battalion

Age: 34

Date of Death: 19th December 1914

Service No. 9607

Additional Information: Son of Patrick Glancey and Elizabeth m.s. Brown, of 12, Edward St (and variously in 1891 census 28 Parkfoot Street and Croy Row i.e. Auchinstarry in various baptism records).. Enlisted, 1904. Killed in Action. Brother of Peter, John, James, Annie, Elizabeth, Patrick, Charles and Samuel. From the casualites own records and the Battalion diaries we find - *Daniel Glancey was a regular serving soldier in his 10th year of a 12-year*



enlistment. 1ST Bn HLI moved to France via Egypt and landed at Marseilles 1st December 1914. Early morning of 19th December 1914 by 10.00am, the enemy was seen massing for a counter-attack near the Orchard, which was being mortared. A little way south, the 1st Bn HLI attacked in front of Givenchy. They also got into 200 yards of the lightly-held enemy front line but casualties were heavy as the enemy counter-attacked again and again. Men crossing no man's land in support were scythed down by machine gun fire, Daniel Glancey became a casualty 19th December 1914.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Richebourg-l'Avoué, Pas-de-Calais, France.

James Gribbin

Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Scots - Lothian Regiment

Unit: 3rd Battalion

Age: 37

Date of Death: 13th March 1915

Service No. 16994

Additional Information: Spelling of this family names varies between 1871 Census as 'Gribben', 1881 Census as 'Gribbon' and 1891 Census as 'Gribbin'. Son of John Gribbin and Mary F Gribbin. Brother of Ciney, Edward, Maryanne, Michael Elizabeth, Henry, Alice and Patrick. It would appear that the family lived in the Croy area possibly Auchinstarry at 1871 then moved to Harpers Brae Lasswade by the 1881 census and then returned to Auchinstarry Rows by 1891. (Glasgow Herald 17th March 1915)

"A telegram received at Kilsyth on Saturday conveyed the information that Private James Gribbon, a local man serving with the Royal Scots, had been accidentally killed that day at Weymouth. Private Gribbon, who was 37 years of age, was the sole support of his widowed mother, with whom he resided at 60 Auchinstarry Rows, Kilsyth, before joining the forces."

Grave: 2nd Extn. 1231.

Cemetery: Kilsyth Cemetery, Scotland.



John Hendry

Rank: Pioneer

Regiment: Royal Engineers

Unit: WR/23496

Age: 24

Date of Death: 24/02/1919

Service No. WR/23496

Additional Information: Son of Bernard Hendry and Jane m.s. Gray, of North Barwood, Kilsyth. Brother of Bernard jnr, Maggie. Edward, Mary, Ethel, Janie and Sarah. DoB 20/04/1894. Baptismal record No.2385 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. *John Hendry enlisted 06th April 1916 into the Royal Field Artillery, he transferred to the Infantry, June 1916 and served with the Scottish Rifles in France until April 1917 when he transferred to the Royal Engineers. He served with 349 Road Construction Company and was in the*



service of 318 Road Construction Company of the Royal Engineers based in France when he died. He was due to complete his service and transfer to the Army reserve on 9th April 1919, however when he was home on leave from France he died on 24th February 1919 from Epidemic Influenza (Spanish Flu) and is buried in Kilsyth cemetery.

Grave: 2nd Extn. 181.

Cemetery: Kilsyth Cemetery, Scotland.

William Hoey

Rank: Driver

Regiment: Royal Field Artillery

Unit: 20th Div. Ammunition Col.

Age: 22

Date of Death: 26/07/1918

Service No. 192511

Additional Information: Son of Peter Hoey and Bridget ms Hughes. Brother of Edward Baptism record 5359 at St Patrick's Kilsyth and Peter Baptism Record 5536 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. Appears as Godfather to Edward Hoey on St Patrick's Baptismal record No.5359. Died of wounds recieved. It would appear that his parents moved back to Clelland in Lanarkshire after his death. He is also remebered on the Clelland memorial. He was remembered locally as a gifted musician. NB The attached clipping from the Kilsyth Chronicle misprints his name as 'Hay' not 'Hoey'.

Grave: IV. F. 33.

Cemetery: Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension

David Jennings

Rank: Sergeant

Regiment: Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders

Unit: 1st/7th Battalion.

Age: 30

Date of Death: 13/10/1918

Service No. 'S/24291'

Additional Information: Husband of Catherine Jennings m.s. McAteer. Father of Agnes and Catherine. Listed on Census at 45 Brick Row (aka 45 Kingston Row) David Jennings served throughout the war and had been seriously wounded on two separate occasions, firstly by gassing and then by shell and on both occasions after recovery returned to the front line until - War diary 13th Oct 1918 – *Enemy opened counter preparation barrage between 05:15 and 06:30 hours. At 09:00 our barrage, mostly 18 pounds opened on LIEU ST. AMAND and PAVE WALENCIENASS. C Coy pushed through B & D Coys and headed for village in attack formation. Enemy put down an intense machine gun and artillery barrage, but line went on steadily to within 100x of village where they were held up again after suffering many casualties. Enemy artillery was firing at point blank range and again owing to exposed positions orders were given to withdraw which movement could not be done until dusk and men lay out all day under heavy machine gun fire. Flank units were also held up. During day enemy continued heavy artillery*



fire. Party of 30 Germans came out from village and were fired upon by our men causing casualties. At 19:00 4th Gordon Hrs moved up and took over our positions, relief complete about 21:30. 16 killed, 96 wounded. David Jennings was one of the soldiers killed during this action. Please contact us if you wish to know more information on this casualty as there is too much to publish here.

Grave: II. D. 5.

Cemetery: Auberchicourt British Cemetery, near Douai, France.

George Kelly

Rank: Private

Regiment: Highland Light Infantry.

Unit: 12th (Service) Battalion.

Age: 28

Date of Death: 27th October 1918.

Service No. 42572

Additional Information: Son of Christopher Kelly and Ellen Kelly m.s. Murphy. Bother of Mary, James, Michael, Christopher, Bella, George, Henry, Elizabeth, Edward, Jane, Margaret and Ellen Kelly. DoB 08/10/1890. Baptismal record No.2007 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. Formerly 24501, Royal Scots Fusiliers. Died of wounds. George Kelly was originally enlisted as 24501 Private in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and later transferred to 12th Highland Light Infantry. In 1917 they were in action in The First and Second Battle of the Scarpe, including the capture of Guemappe during the Arras Offensive. On the 3rd of February 1918 they transferred to 106th Brigade, 35th Division. They were in action in The Battle of Courtrai and the action of Tieghem during the Final Advance in Flanders. George was wounded in action and sent home as a casualty later dying of wounds and buried in Kilsyth cemetery.

Grave: 3rd Extn. 274.

Cemetery: Kilsyth Cemetery, Scotland.



John (Patrick) Kelly

Rank: Corporal

Regiment: The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)

Unit: 1st Battalion

Age: 19

Date of Death: 30th December 1917

Service No. 4425

Additional Information: Born Kilsyth. Enlisted Stirling. Resided Kilsyth. Son of Michael Kelly and Jane McAllister DoB 06/03/1898. Baptismal record at St Patrick's No.2815 Brother of Mary-Ann, James, Isabella, Jane, Elizabeth and Catherine. Possibly also remembered on the Campsie War Memorial as well as Kilsyth. Cause of death - drowning. *On the 30th December 1917, the Troopship S.S. Aragon arrived at Alexandria Harbour, having sailed from Marseilles on the 17th December. She was laden with around 2,700 troops bound for the conflicts in Palestine. As she arrived in a convoy bound for the port, the rest of the ships sailed onwards to Alexandria and she lay up ten miles off shore, awaiting her escort. The 9588 ton of ocean liner drifted gently as she waited within sight of land but was torpedoed by the German Submarine and minelayer the UC-34. The destroyer HMS Attack dashed to her rescue as she sunk quickly, as well as every available ship within reach. Many of the men rescued and taken onto the HMS Attack had just stripped their oil drenched clothes from their bodies and laid on the deck when she too was torpedoed by the same submarine, almost blowing her in two.*

Grave: Died (drowned) at Sea off Alexandria en route Egypt aboard the Troopship S.S. Aragon.

Cemetery: Remembered at Chatby Memorial, Alexandria, Egypt.



Michael Kelly

Rank: Private

Regiment: Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders

Unit: 10th Battalion

Age: 25

Date of Death: 01/04/1915

Service No. S/2421

Additional Information: The youngest son of James Kelly and Mary A Kelly m.s. McNulty. Brother of Bernard and Thomas. Born Cumbernauld (Smithstone). Resided Kilsyth and Auchinstarry. Enlisted Lennoxton. *(Glasgow Herald 3rd April 1915) "A telegram received at Kilsyth yesterday stated that Private Michael Kelly, 10th Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, had died in the Cambridge hospital at Aldershot. He had been in hospital there for about six weeks, and pneumonia supervened. He was a young man of 25 years of age, and was employed as a miner at St. Flannan's Colliery, Kilsyth, up till August. He leaves a widow and three children."*

Grave: R 306 (93).

Cemetery: Aldershot Military Cemetery, England.



Patrick Kelly

Rank:
Regiment:
Unit:
Age:
Date of Death:
Service No.
Additional Information:
Grave:
Cemetery:

Patrick Killiard

Rank: Private
Regiment: Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders
Unit: 1st/7th Battalion.
Age: 20
Date of Death: 23 Apr 1917
Service No. 278580



Additional Information: Baptismal record No. 2692 at St Patrick's Kilsyth, father Michael Killaird and mother Margaret m.s. Kelly of 9 Greenyard Cottages, Cumbernauld Station, Glasgow. Brother of Catherine Elizabeth and Timothy. DoB 21/01/1897. From the soldier's own records and the Battalion diary we find - *The third attack on Roeux was seen as part of the Second Battle of the Scarpe, which began on the 23 April 1917. Once again XVII Corps was ordered to attack Roeux, this time with the 51st (Highland) Division including 1/7th Bn A&SH. An attack was made south of the railway line and made some progress into the village but German counter attacks, supported by accurate artillery bombardment, were very effective and by the end of the day only the western outskirts of the village remained in British hands. Patrick Killiard was killed during this action.*

Grave: I. B. 63
Cemetery: Level Crossing Cemetery, Fampoux, France.

James Lagan

Rank: Leading Seaman
Regiment: Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve
Unit: Drake Battalion.
Age: 24
Date of Death: 30 December 1917
Service No. Clyde Z/5457



Additional Information: Son of John and Priscilla Lagan of Cumbernauld. *James Lagan was previously wounded in action with a gunshot wound to his right leg on Monday 13th November 1916 during action on the western front, 13th - 19th Nov 1916 the Battle of Ancre, final phase of Battle of the Somme leading up to capture of Beaucourt by 63rd (RN) Division. After a period of invalidity James re-joined the Battalion on the 15th June 1917. He was again in action on the western front with Drake Battalion 20th November-31st*

December 1917 Cambrai Operations, including 30th & 31st December 1917, The Action of Welch (or Welsh) Ridge where James was killed in action along with 56 others of Drake Battalion.

Grave: XXX.E.2

Cemetery: Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, France.

Frank (Francis) McAuley

Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (formerly the Royal Dublin Fusiliers)

Unit: 8th Battalion

Age: 22

Date of Death: 9th September 1916

Service No. 25387 (formerly 12956)

Additional Information: Son of John McAuley and Bridget m.s.Carroll.

Brother of Rose Ann, John, Bridget, Catherine, Lizzy and James McAuley.

Killed in Action in Flanders, France. DoB 06/05/1894. Baptismal record No.

2396 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. Shown on the 1901 census at 55 Brick Row (aka

Kingston Row) Kilsyth. From the Battalion Diary and the soldiers own

records - *8th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers formed part the 16th Irish*

Division and played an important part in capturing the towns of Guillemont

and Ginchy. Although the division suffered massive casualties during these

successful actions between 1st and 10th September 1916 the division gained a

reputation as first-class shock troops. Frank McAulay was killed in action

during this action that was the final stages of The Battle of the Somme and is

remembered on the Thiepval memorial.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.



Francis McBride

Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Munster Fusiliers

Unit: 6th Battalion

Age:

Date of Death: 17th August 1915

Service No. 3067

Additional Information: Died of wounds (Sustained Gallipoli).

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Helles Memorial, Panel 185 to 190, Gallipoli, Turkey.



Patrick McCann



Rank: Private

Regiment/Service: Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Unit: 1st Battalion

Age:

Date of Death: 4th June 1915

Service No. 18093

Additional Information: Born Kilsyth. Enlisted Kilsyth. Killed in Action in the Balkans after being in theatre for only two weeks.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.

William McCann



Rank: Lance Corporal

Regiment/Service: Highland Light Infantry

Unit: 1st Battalion

Age:

Date of Death: 17 May 1915

Service No. 8283

Additional Information: Born Kilsyth, resided at Burnbank Lanarkshire. Enlisted at Hamilton. Killed in Action.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Richebourg-l'Avoué, Pas-de-Calais, France.

James McCart



Rank: Private

Regiment/Service: Royal Irish Fusiliers

Unit: 5th Battalion

Age: 50

Date of Death: 16th August 1915

Service No. 11821

Additional Information: Son of the late Michael McCart and Jane McCart. Also served in India and in the South African War. From the regimental diary we have - *the landing at Suvla Bay was an amphibious landing made at Suvla on the Aegean coast of Gallipoli. After landing 07th August 1915 on the morning of 16th August 1915, the 5th Royal Irish Fusiliers relieved the Royal Dublin Fusiliers on the Pimple which was fired on from the left with eight machine guns and from the right by artillery fire. All day long the hill was held while the men of the battalion were repeatedly counter attacked and often in hand to hand fighting. James McCart was killed during the action.*

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.

Patrick McCart



Rank: Private

Regiment/Service: Highland Light Infantry

Unit: 1st Battalion

Age: 22

Date of Death: 26/10/1918

Service No. 31463

Additional Information: Son of William McCart and Annie m.s. Glancy brother to Sister Mary Ann McCart and also William, Michael, Elizabeth, Jane, Hendry, Charlotte, James and George McCart.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Panel 35 & 64, Basra War Memorial, Iraq.

Patrick McDermott



Rank: Private

Regiment: Highland Light Infantry

Unit: 12th Battalion

Age: 22

Date of Death: 25 March 1918

Service No. 25139

Additional Information: Son of John McDermott and Ellen m.s. Boyce.

Baptismal record at St Patrick's Kilsyth No. 2564. Brother of John, Thomas, Margaret, Peter, Ellen, Daniel, Mary, Catherine and Ann. DoB 07/01/1896.

From the soldier's own records and the Battalion diary we have - *First Battle of Bapaume. 24th -25th Mar 1918 - The movements of 25th March 1918 were extremely confused and reports from different battalions and divisions are often contradictory. 12th Bn HLI were part of 35th Division and participated in this battle in defence of a German offensive known as Operation Michael*, Patrick McDermott was killed in this action on this day with 50 other soldiers of the Battalion.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Panel 72, Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France.

John McGachey

Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Munster Fusiliers

Unit: 6th Battalion

Age: 22

Date of Death: 13 Aug 1915

Service No.1045

Additional Information: Son of Daniel McGahey and Mary m.s. Ferns.

Brother of Daniel. Born 17th June 1892 in Linwood Renfrewshire, Residing Kilsyth, Enlisted Kilsyth. The announcement of his death printed in the Glasgow Evening Times has him resident at the time of his death in Croy.

The Sunday Post 05/09/1915 has the following, '*Kilsyth Men in Casualty List: Kilsyth Saturday Night. Private John McGachey, 22 years of age (his actual age would have been 23 by the time this was reported) and a miner to trade at Smithstone has been killed at the front. Private Daniel McGachey also of Smithstone has been wounded having lost an arm. He was well known as a footballer with Croy Celtic and Kilsyth Emmet with whom he gained inter county honours.*' NB Private Daniel McGachey also mentioned in this article was discharged April 1916 as no longer fit for active service. He could have been either John's brother or another McGahey - son of John McGachey and Margaret Hendrie, we do not know which.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.



William McGachey

Rank: Private

Regiment: Somerset Light Infantry

Unit: 1st Battn.

Age: 20

Date of Death: 15th November 1918

Service No. 29624

Additional Information: Son of William McGachey and Theresa m.s.Eccles.

Grave: III.A.23

Cemetery: Cambrai East Military Cemetery



Francis McGeough

Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Unit: 2nd Battalion

Age: 32

Date of Death: 12th October 1916

Service No.12798

Additional Information: Son of Patrick McGeogh and Mary Ann McGeogh m.s. Campbell. Brother of Helen, John, James, Mary, Sarah, Lizzie and Alice. DoB 17/03/1884 Baptism No. 1490 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. Born



Cumbernauld, resided Croy, enlisted Kilsyth, Killed in Action. From the soldiers own records and the battalion diary we have - *The Battle of Le Transloy was the final offensive mounted by British Army during the 1916 Battle of the Somme, further attacks were mounted on the 12th October 1916 including the Newfoundlanders at Gueudecourt, but there was little chance of a significant gain. The 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers suffered 12 casualties on the 12th October 1916 as part of this action and are mainly remembered on the Thiepval memorial, Frank McGeough is listed as one of the men killed in this action on this date.*

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Robert McGlinchey

Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Unit: 'C' Coy, 6th Battalion

Age: 34

Date of Death: 10th Aug 1915

Service No. 13034

Additional Information: Killed in action at Gallipoli. Son of Robert and Mary McGlinchey, of Kildrum, Killea, County Donegal. Brother of William, John, Maggie and Bernard. Enlisted Kilsyth Aug 1914. The 1901 Census of Ireland has him as a farm servant in Donegal. 1911 census has him at 107

Drumtrocher Street Kilsyth lodging with the O'Donnell family. He is listed also in the baptismal register of St Patricks Kilsyth as Godfather to Samuel O'Donnell record no. 3720 son of James O'Donnell and Rebecca O'Donnell m.s. McLellan with whom he is a lodger. Clearly the O'Donnell family having taken him in formed a relationship with him. From the soldiers own records and from the Battalion diary we have - *6th Bn Royal Dublin Fusiliers landed at Suvla Bay on 7th August 1915 and were then attached to 33rd Brigade on 9th Aug 1915. They moved forward to positions near Chocolate Hill in support of Brigade attack (heavy casualties), fighting in the area continued until 13th August 1915 when it finally subsided. Afterwards, this sector of the Helles front would remain one of the busiest and most violent for the remainder of the campaign. Robert McGlinchey was killed in action on 10th August 1915.*

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.

James McGrandles

Rank:

Regiment:

Unit:

Age:

Date of Death:

Service No.

Additional Information: Son of James McGrandles and Hannah m.s. Tonner



Grave:
Cemetery:

Constantine McMahon

Rank: Private
Regiment: Highland Light Infantry
Unit: 14th (Service) Battalion
Age: 29
Date of Death: 11 Mar 1917
Service No. 23701



Additional Information: Son of Constantine McMahon and Ann m.s. McDonald. Born Bridgetown Glasgow. DoB 12th August 1887. Residence Kilsyth, Killed in Action. Enlisted Glasgow. Listed as Godfather to George Burns, Baptismal record no. 3977 at St Patrick's Kilsyth on the 17th September 1909. From the soldiers own records and the Battalion diary we have - *March 1917 was a quiet month for 14th Bn HLI, only two soldiers were killed during this month, Constantine McMahon and 28797 L/Cpl Patrick McNulty, born Sligo, resided Bonnyrigg, Midlothian. The Battalion war diary reads that on the 10th March the battalion marched to Howitzer Road and takes over Bethume Road sector. On the 11th March slight enemy shelling is reported. War diary reports at the end of month only two other ranks killed. Both soldiers are buried in Perrone War Cemetery.*
Grave: V.D.22
Cemetery: Peronne Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Richard McManus

Rank: Private
Regiment: Royal Scots Fusiliers
Unit: 7th Battalion (listed in error by CWGC as 1st Battalion.)
Age: 43
Date of Death: 28th September 1915
Service No. 13277



Additional Information: Husband of Catherine m.s. Conaghan. Father of Francis, Hugh, Elisabeth, Helen and Patrick McManus. See Baptismal records 3199, 3811 and 3914 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. He is shown in the 1901 census as a coal miner residing at 42 Brick Row, Kilsyth. Died of wounds sustained. Birthplace Chryston. From the soldier's own records and the Battalion diary we have - *Richard McManus was wounded and later died of wounds received the Battle of Loos - 7th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers with 15th (Scottish) Division. 26th Sept 1915 - Reinforced by 21st Division, they are to recapture Hill 70. A bombardment of two rounds per gun per minute was ordered. In confusion, some units did not receive an order to withdraw from the most advanced positions. At 05:30am another heavy German attack against the 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers on the Eastern side of the Loos Crassier.*
Grave: XII.C.2
Cemetery: Remembered at Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.

Bernard McKay

Rank: Lance Corporal

Regiment: Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders

Unit: 10th Battalion.

Age: 38

Date of Death: 10 August 1918

Service No. S/40631

Additional Information: Son of Daniel McKay and Sarah Ann m.s.Cunningham. Brother of Bridget, Alice Margaret, Patrick, Daniel Sarah and Francis. Husband of Janet McKay m.s. Garvie, residing at 15, Broadcrofts, Kirkintilloch. Father of Mary, Daniel, Bernard, James and Sarah. DoB 20/10/1880. Baptismal record at St Patrick's Kilsyth No 1221. Enlisted Kirkintilloch. Killed in Action. From the soldiers own records and the Battalion diary we have - *Bernard McKay was killed in action on the third day of the Battle of Amiens on 10th August 1918. The offensive opened at 4:20 a.m. on August 8 and achieved immediate success. The troops and tanks advanced eight miles, capturing 400 guns and causing 27,000 casualties, including 12,000 prisoners. The success of the first day had been due to surprise, the drive and firepower of the infantry, the large number of tanks, and counterbattery dominance.*

Grave: VII.B.5

Cemetery: Marfaux British Cemetery, Marne, France.



Robert McKenna

Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Scots Fusiliers

Unit: 2nd Battalion

Age: 22

Date of Death: 30th Oct 1914

Service No. 5902

Additional Information: Died of wounds. Born Cumbernauld 29/09/1891, Baptised St Patrick's Kilsyth record No.2113, Son of Patrick and Jane McKenna m.s. Loudon, brother of Owen, Mary, Annie, Patrick and William. DoB 29/09/1891. From the soldier's own records and the battalion diary we have - *The Battle of Gheluvelt, 29th – 31st October 1914 - At the end of October large concentrations of German assault troops assembled for a further breakthrough. The morning of 29th October 1914 saw repeated mass German infantry attacks astride the Menin Road against the British 1st and 7th Divisions, forcing them back to Gheluvelt. Robert McKenna died of wounds received during this action.*

Grave: II. A. 52.

Cemetery: Ypres Town Cemetery Extension, Belgium.



Patrick Meechan MM

Rank: Sergeant
Regiment: Royal Field Artillery
Unit: "C" Bty. 108th Brigade
Age: 36
Date of Death: 01 August 1917
Service No. 84499



Additional Information: Son of Archibald Meechan and Jeanie m.s. Purdie. Husband of Helen m.s. Doherty, of 129, Backbrae St, Kilsyth. Father of Archibald and Catherine. Brother of Jane, Terrence, Francis, Archibald, Elizabeth and George Meechan. Awarded the Military Medal for a conspicuous act of gallantry under fire. Baptismal record No 1067 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. DoB 14/03/1879. Born at Smithstone (now Cumbernauld) near Kilsyth. *It is difficult to establish during which action the military decoration was awarded to Patrick Meechan for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire. His bravery was acknowledged in the London Gazette on 11th and 13th Oct 1916, during service he was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant. He died in August 1917 after almost 2 years in theatre of war.*

Grave: III.A.20

Cemetery: Remembered at Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Flanders, Belgium.

Owen Mellon

Rank: Private
Regiment: Canterbury Regiment, N.Z.E.F.
Unit: 1st Battalion
Age: 29.
Date of Death: 2nd October 1917.
Service No. 6/1621



Additional Information: DoB 27/01/1888. Son of John Mellon and Agnes Carberry of 53 Auchinstarry Rows. Brother of Charles, James, John, Catherine, Rachael, Mary, Thomas, William (below also KIA), and Hugh Mellon who in the Baptismal records of St Patrick's Kilsyth are variously no.s 533,659, 781 and 948. (James Mellon also shows as Gunner Service No.2/1183 in the New Zealand Army Nominal Rolls as living at the same address in New Zealand and with the same parents in Auchinstarry. Also 2nd Lt Hugh Mellon (commissioned in the field) with the Northumberland Fusiliers was awarded a military cross. Hugh served with the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers with service number 23773.) Owen shows up in St Patrick's also as Godfather at 2 baptisms 2970 Michael Griffin on 9/05/1899 and 3090 Thomas McBride on 26/03/1900. An article published in the Kilsyth Chronicle in August 1915 states that his '*mother recieved a short communication stating that Owen had been injured in battle at the Dardanelles*' - this is two years before he died. He was '*one of 7 brothers - 6 of whom were fighting at the front and the 7th was tending the wounded at a temporary hospital in France.*'

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

William Mellon

Rank: Sapper

Regiment: Royal Engineers

Unit: 170th Tunnelling Coy

Age: 30

Date of Death: 29th July 1916

Service No. 156183

Additional Information: Husband of Nellie Mellon m.s.Frazer, of 24, High Craigends, Kilsyth, Glasgow. Father of Sarah, Agnes and Winnie Mellon. Wedding record 553 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. Son of John Mellon and Agnes Carberry of 53 Auchinstarry Rows. Brother of Charles, James, John, Catherine, Rachael, Mary, Thomas, Owen (above also KIA), and Hugh Mellon who in the Baptismal records of St Patrick's Kilsyth are variously no.s 533,659, 781 and 948. (James Mellon his brother, also shows as Gunner Service No.2/1183 in the New Zealand Army Nominal Rolls as living at the same address in New Zealand as Owen above, and with the same parents in Auchinstarry. Also 2nd Lt Hugh Mellon (commissioned in the field) with the Northumberland Fusiliers was awarded a military cross. Hugh served with the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers with service number 23773.) Formerly 12799, R. Dublin Fus. 170th Tunn. Coy., R.E. Killed in Action.

Grave: I.O.6

Cemetery: Noeux-Les-Mines Communal Cemetery, Arras, France.



James Molloy



Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Scots Fusiliers

Unit: 1st Battalion

Age: 36

Date of Death: 26th Sept 1917 at The Battle of Polygon Wood.

Service No. 14308

Additional Information: Husband of Catherine Molloy m.s.Brannan, Father of Francis, Anne, James, Ellen, Joseph, John and Mary. From the war diary – *the battle of Polygon Wood, third battle of Ypres, 1st Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers went over the top at 05:50 am and reached their objective and held the line until 09:45 am. Orders were sent up the line that the troops were to advance and capture next objective at a zero hour of 6.30 pm, during the advance the troops then occupied shell holes 200yds from HILL 40 and the enemy brought down a barrage until 10pm. 59 men were killed in action and 327 wounded. James Molloy was killed during the action.*

Grave: Unknown.

Cemetery: Remembered at Panel 60-61, Tyne Cot Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Patrick Murphy

Rank: Corporal

Regiment: Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Unit: 9th Battalion

Age: 40

Date of Death: 9th September 1916

Service No. 13386

Additional Information: Patrick Murphy was an Irishman who came to Kilsyth with his wife Mary and daughter Bridget (who was born in Co. Wicklow shortly after 1901), Patrick and Mary are listed in Ireland at the 1901 census. Other than Bridget their first child they had 9 other children who were baptised at St Patrick's Kilsyth In total he was father of Bridget born Ireland, Elizabeth baptism No.3486, John No. 3650, Patrick jnr No. 3758, Mary No 3837, Thomas No. 3949, Margaret No.4106, James No.4199, Christopher No. 5538 and Annie No. 5627. Each and every child has Daniel Murphy as Godfather - we are researching whether Daniel was a relative of his, also living in Kilsyth. Regimental records show that '*on 19th September 1916, the 9th Bn Royal Dublin Fusiliers the battalion was in the support trench which it had dug. The assault on GINCHY had been ordered. At zero hour (4.45pm) the line advanced under the artillery barrage on the first objective, each battalion assaulting with 4 companies in the front line. Left Battalion (9th R.D.F) advanced to the second objective at 5.25pm but suffered very heavy officer casualties. The battalion, owing to the loss of officers, carried on beyond the second objective and had to be brought back. The line gained was then consolidated, Patrick Murphy and 68 men of the Battalion killed in action.*'

Grave: Plot XV – D.20

Cemetery: Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille



Daniel Murray



Rank: Private

Regiment: The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)

Unit: 1st Battalion.

Age: 21

Date of Death: 3rd September 1917.

Service No. 4143

Additional Information: Son of John Murray and Margaret m.s. McGinlay.

DoB 29/05/1895. Baptismal record at St Patrick's Kilsyth No. 2503.

Youngest brother of James, Catherine Margaret, Anne, John and William.

Killed in Action at Salonika. Daniel Murray joined the 1st Battalion Leinster Regt 24th May 1915 and in November 1915 the battalion was transferred to Macedonia. He died 03rd Sept 1917 while serving in the battalion at Paprat and is now buried in Lahana military cemetery. After the Armistice, 41 of the graves in Plots were brought in from the two front line cemeteries at Paprat (about 12 km north-west of Lahana) and from other small burial grounds.

Grave: III.B.8

Cemetery: Lahana Military Cemetery, Lachanas, Greece.

Bernard O'Neill



Rank: Private

Regiment: Wellington Regiment NZEF

Unit: 3rd Battalion

Age: 32

Date of Death: 20th December 1917

Service No. 51187

Additional Information: Son of Michael O'Neill and Mary-Ann m.s. Donnelly of 31 Kingston Row (aka Brick Row), Kilsyth.. Brother of Bridget, John, Michael, Margaret, Mary-Ann jnr. Patrick, James, Daniel, Francis, Charles and Joseph. Bernard's brothers James and Patrick were also killed in service. Baptismal record No.1611 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. DoB 23/09/1885. *Bernard O'Neill joined the battalion 13th Oct 1917. In November, with the brigade, he returned to the Ypres sector to man the lines vacated by the 110th Brigade of 21st Division along the Broodseinde Ridge, which included Polygon Wood. Regular patrols were run into No-Man's Land and minor skirmishes occurred up and down the brigade's positions, Bernard and three others were killed 20th Dec 1917.*

Grave: XXIII.A.1

Cemetery: Buttes New British Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Zonnebeke, Belgium.

James O'Neill



Rank: Private

Regiment: 26th Infantry Regiment US Army

Unit: 1st Division (aka The Blue Spaders)

Age: 27

Date of Death: 06th October, 1918

Service No. US Army 68185

Additional Information: Son of Michael O'Neill and Mary-Ann m.s.Donnelly of 31 Kingston Row (aka Brick Row), Kilsyth. DoB 2nd Feb 1892.

Baptismal Record No.2145 Brother of Bridget, Michael, Margaret, Bernard and Mary-Ann jnr. Patrick, James, Daniel, Francis, Charles and Joseph.

James' brothers Bernard and Patrick were also killed in service.

James's sister Mary Ann, a widow who was briefly a Mrs Murphy, subsequently married a man called John Harper, they had 4 children baptised in St Patrick's Kilsyth and then emigrated to Boston USA in June 1913.

James followed in April 1914 before the outbreak of WW1. They all lived in Brighton, Massachusetts in the greater Boston area. James received his draft card in 1917 and served with the US armed forces and returned to fight in Europe where he was killed in France.

Grave: Plot A Row 25 Grave 21

Cemetery: Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery
Romagne, France

Neil O'Neil



Neil O'Neil (Senior), Dublin Fusiliers.

Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Unit: "C" Coy. 2nd Battalion.

Age: 34

Date of Death: 21 March 1918

Service No. 41196

Additional Information: Son of John O'Neil and Catherine m.s. McGahey of Auchinstarry, Croy; husband of Margaret O'Neil, of 67, Auchinstarry Rows Croy. Enlisted Kilsyth. Killed in action. Formerly 1051, Royal Munster Fusiliers. Baptismal record No.1392 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. DoB 16/12/1882. Born Cumbernauld. Brother of Charles, Margaret, James, Patrick and Grace O'Neil.



On 21 March 1918 the Germans began an immense bombardment as part of their last-gasp major offensive known as Operation Michael. At 4.40am the Germans fired 1.16 million shells over an 80km front in a 5-hour period their shells were both explosive and gas. At 9.35 am, 500,000 German soldiers advanced through the mist. During the day the Dublin's withstood the direct attack, Neil O'Neill was killed during this action.

Grave: II.A.30

Cemetery: Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile, Picardy, France.

Patrick O'Neill



Rank: Private

Regiment: Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders

Unit: 2nd Battalion

Age: 26

Date of Death: 21st June 1916

Service No. S/7868

Additional Information: Son of Michael O'Neill and Mary-Ann m.s. Donnelly of 31 Kingston Row (aka Brick Row), Kilsyth.. Brother of Bridget, John, Michael, Margaret, Bernard, Mary-Ann jnr. James, Daniel, Francis, Charles and Joseph. Baptismal Record at St Patrick's Kilsyth No. 1957. DoB ? March 1890 Patrick's brothers James and Bernard were also killed in service. *After a short spell in billets the 2nd battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders were in trenches from 12th June 1916 until the 18th June 1916 in an area known as the Givenchy village line. During this week 9 soldiers of the battalion were killed, and 26 soldiers wounded. Patrick O'Neill was wounded during at some point during this week and later died of his wounds on the 21st June 1916.*

Grave: Churchyard Extension O.6

Cemetery: Cambrin near Amiens in France.

James O'Rourke



Rank: Lance Corporal

Regiment: Highland Light Infantry

Unit: 1st Battalion.

Age: 36

Date of Death: 22nd May 1915

Service No. 6568

Additional Information: Son of Patrick O'Rourke and Mary m.s. Nickleson. DoB 15/07/1879. Uncle of Patrick O'Rourke (below) who was also killed on service with Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Died of wounds sustained. Place of birth Fairlie, Ayrshire. Place of Residence Kilsyth.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.

Patrick O'Rourke



Rank: Private

Regiment: Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Unit: 6th Battalion

Age: 19

Date of Death: 9th August 1917

Service No. 29232

Additional Information: Son of Patrick O'Rourke and Jeanie m.s. Barnes. Brother of Helen, James, Jeanie, Mary and John O'Rourke. Nephew of James O'Rourke (above) who was also killed on service with HLI. Resident in Kilsyth on 1911 census with sibling Baptismal records in St Patrick's Kilsyth as No.s 3558 Jeanie, 3705, Helen and 3864 John. Enlisted Balfon. Born

Renton. Killed in Action. DoB 9/4/1898. From the soldier's own records and the Battalion diary we have - *Although shown as 6th Bn RDF, Patrick O'Rourke was serving with 2ND Bn RDF in an area known as FREZENBERG. The battalion were in front line trenches 05th & 06th August 1917 having to pass through a heavy barrage on way to trenches. Enemy artillery and aeroplanes were very active, and a gas attack had taken place. The battalion suffered heavy casualties.* P. O'Rourke died of his wounds.

Grave: LIII.H.12

Cemetery: Tyne Cot Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.

James Starrs

Rank: Private

Regiment: Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

Unit: 1st Battalion

Age: 26

Date of Death: 29th April 1918

Service No. S/7506

Additional Information: Son of Thomas Starrs and Margaret m.s. Thomson of 10, Kingston Rows, Kilsyth. DoB 08/08/1892. Brother of Agnes and Mary-Ann Starrs. Baptismal record No. 3654 at St Patrick's Kilsyth. From the soldier's own records and the battalion diary we have - *James Starrs arrived in France 29th April 1915. He originally served as Private, S/7506 in the Black Watch. His medal index card indicates he transferred into the Royal Engineers with service number 153217. During his service he was taken a prisoner of war and died 29th April 1918 in Aachen, Germany after exactly 3 years' service in the theatre of war – his parents inscribed his headstone with the opening of a hymn - "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee." He is buried in Cologne, Germany.*

Grave: XIII.F.15

Cemetery: Cologne Southern Cemetery, Cologne, Nordrhein-Westfal, Germany.

Patrick Turley

Rank: Private

Regiment: Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders

Unit: 1st/8th Battalion

Age: 21

Date of Death: 12th April 1918

Service No. S/40706

Additional Information: Son of Mrs Rose Ann Differ m.s. Turley. Adopted son of her husband Mr John Differ. Half-brother to Mary, Bridget, James, John, William and Margaret Differ. Census records show that after the early death of his mother he lived with his step father at 34 Market Street. Residence Kilsyth. Enlisted at Dumbarton. Killed in Action. *Patrick Turley enlisted 8th February 1915 when he was 18 years old. After three years in trenches he participated in the action known as the Battle of Hazebrouck with 1/8 Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders who were then part of 61st Division. The Division was coming into action about the Clarence River, they*

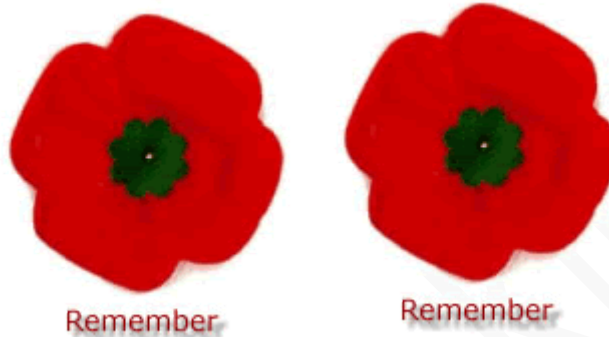


had been engaged in many days of continuous fighting south of Arras. With the arrival of the division, battle-weary though they were, the enemy's progress in this sector of the front was definitely checked. Patrick Turley was killed during this action 12th April 1918 at 21 years old.

Grave: Unknown

Cemetery: Remembered at Ploegsteert Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

***For much of the research information on the WW1 casualties our thanks to Pat Docherty (Kilsyth).
Thanks also to Paul Molloy (Coatbridge), George MacDonald (Kilsyth) and Tom Keim (San Francisco).***



A Prayer Card in their honour



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae (1872-1918)

If there are any additions, inaccuracies or omissions please let us know.

The Parish of St Patrick's Kilsyth holds many unpublished records pertaining to the men listed and some others who were not killed. Contact us if you would like access to these records. We would be pleased to publish any photographs of these casualties or any additional information that you may have.