

A DIFFERENT

KIND OF WAR &

A DIFFERENT

KIND OF PEACE

**MAP
COUNTERPART
AVAILABLE:
'A DIFFERENT
KIND OF PLACE'**



GHOSTS OF CONFLICT

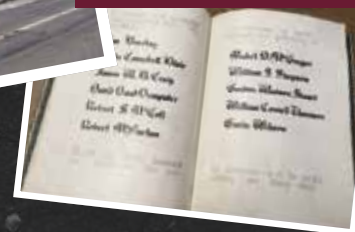
WITH THE PASSING OF GENERATIONS, IT BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT FOR 21ST CENTURY CITIZENS TO FULLY COMPREHEND THE ENORMITY OF THE SACRIFICE AND HARDSHIPS ENDURED BY PEOPLE AT HOME AS BRITAIN FOUGHT A SECOND WORLD WAR BETWEEN 1939 AND 1945.

In the south side of Glasgow two churches, Battlefield West (now Langside) and Newlands South, commemorate 29 congregation members who lost their lives in service during the Second World War.

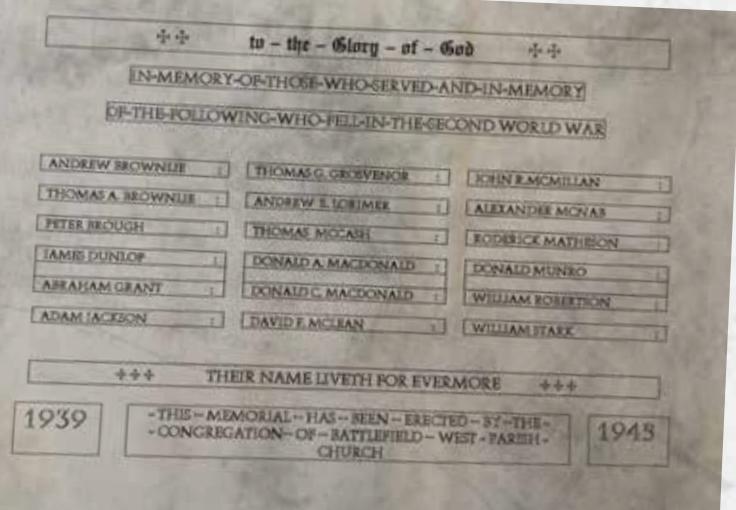
This booklet is inspired by the untold stories of these people, 28 men and 1 woman. As their personal stories interweave with the communities and landscape of Glasgow's southside, an area familiar to us today, we are able to more vividly imagine their experience.



**BATTLEFIELD WEST CHURCH
(ABOVE) NEWLANDS SOUTH
CHURCH (LEFT)**



Our research has uncovered the circumstances of the deaths of these people in war service: on land, at sea and in the air, at home and overseas. Along with the stories of some who went to war and were fortunate to return home, we are also able to illuminate the vibrant community responses to the war effort: the many volunteers signing up for air raid protection, local defence and first aid duties; the commitment of local industry to maximise output; the efforts of the churches, schools and libraries to collect, make and redistribute all manner of stuff; the shared endurance of loss, fear and hardship during the war years and beyond; and the hospitality offered to displaced, persecuted people who had lost everything.





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The Great War was still a vivid memory for many older folk when Britain again declared war on Germany in September 1939. This time advances in weapon technology brought deadly destruction to their own neighbourhood. Communities along the River Clyde, especially Clydebank, suffered most from the Luftwaffe bombing, though the south side was not completely unscathed. Occupants of a tenement in Shawlands were killed in an air raid and, in 1943, Queen's Park United Presbyterian Church was destroyed by an incendiary bomb. Between these isolated incidents people lived in constant fear, not knowing when the next attack would be. Hiding in uncomfortable, smelly air raid shelters, carrying gas masks, long queues for scarce provisions and navigating blackout hazards became realities of life. The human population changed with the arrival of refugees fleeing horrific persecution and the local landscape was transformed to protect buildings from air attack.

Massive social change followed the end of the war. Evacuation publicly exposed the realities of inner-city deprivation, creating the impetus for education reform. The National Health Service was born, offering cradle-to-grave care for the nation. As our stories illustrate, local attitudes to commemoration also changed, with a desire to invest funds in causes for public good instead of new memorials.

GIVING BEYOND MEASURE

FOR LENA ELLIOT BY JANET CRAWFORD

As dressings cover wounds
soothing pain too raw to contain
in skin alone,
I wrap my fears in uniform understanding.

Setting my head to a place
where action calms, silencing reaction
from broken bodies nursing still proud spirits.
Bringing momentary calm amidst chaos.

Sitting statuesque in concentration
I rein in the will of another being
by the thinnest of leather straps,
gripped tight with fearful enthusiasm.

Together we move, craving open aired spaces
free of the suffocating despair of loss.
Enveloped in nature, I can breathe
more deeply and think of home.

Hands hold warm limbs, bringing peace
Hands hold cool reins, finding peace
Hands hold letters carefully, sending peace
Hands hold together prayerfully...

seeking peace.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND REVITALISED A PRACTICE WHICH HAD STARTED IN WW1 OF SETTING UP HUTS OR CANTEENS FOR THOSE IN THE SERVICES, BOTH HERE IN THE UK AND ABROAD. THESE WERE PLACES FOR RECREATION AND REST FOR ALL IN THE SERVICES AND ALSO PROVIDED A PLACE OF WORSHIP FOR THOSE WHO HAD A CHRISTIAN FAITH.

Battlefield West were partially responsible for a local 'Canteen' started in Mount Florida for soldiers who were billeted locally.

The minister of Battlefield West, Rev Stanley Munro, corresponded regularly with the men on service and one person wrote that 'letters are the only things that keep us sort of human and make us really feel that the home we think so often about still exists in more than our imaginations.'

With permission from Glasgow Presbytery, Rev Munro and Mrs Munro spent five months at the Hut at Sullom Voe, Shetland.

Rev Munro wrote of the very different landscape to the tenements of Battlefield – 'sea and rolling hills of peat and in place of rattling trams there is an occasional cry of a seagull and the whistling of the wind.'

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND HUTS AND CANTEENS



The hut, made of asbestos boarding, consisted of a large kitchen, a canteen area, a Reading and Rest room and a small chapel.

Mrs Munro took on the task of the cooking providing 'apple pie, swiss roll, cut cake, shortcake, gingerbread, biscuits and various kinds of sandwiches.' Rev Munro tackled the maintenance of the building repainting the inside of the roof by 'balancing three tables on top of one another and using a brush fixed to a pole.'



REV MUNRO WROTE:

"A CHURCH HUT IS MUCH MORE THAN AN EATING PLACE WHERE THE MEN CAN DRINK A CUP OF TEA, BUT A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN ENJOY A FEW HOME COMFORTS. IT IS A CLUB WHERE MEN MEET FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDLY TALK. ANY EVENING IN THE DINING HALL YOU CAN HEAR THE BUZZ OF CONVERSATION AND THE HEARTY LAUGHS FROM THE READING ROOM."



Image: © Daily Express

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM HOME

THE IMPACT OF THE WAR WAS FELT EARLY IN THE CHURCH COMMUNITIES. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS AND BLACKOUTS AFFECTED THE TIMES OF SERVICES AND PROTOCOLS WERE SET IN PLACE IN BOTH CHURCHES FOR THE EVACUATION OF THE BUILDING IN THE EVENT OF AN AIR RAID. A REHEARSAL OF AN AIR RAID AT NEWLANDS SOUTH IN MAY 1940 WAS CONSIDERED 'ONLY A QUALIFIED SUCCESS' AS PROGRESS FROM THE CHURCH TO THE SHELTERS WAS THOUGHT TO BE TOO SLOW!

By November 1939 over 30 of the young folk from Battlefield West were already serving with 'the Colours' with this number growing to over 170 by October 1942.

Both churches had a 'comforts' committee which was set up to raise funds, prepare and pack parcels which would be sent to all those in the services to make sure they would know they were not forgotten at home. Funds were raised by the Women's Guild, the Sea Ranger Crew and the Scouts, through sale of work events, concerts, whist drives, collecting wastepaper, and donations of money and wool, books, magazines, cast-off clothing and other items.

The 'comforts' parcels usually included woollens, laces, soap, shaving soap, razor blades, cigarettes, handkerchiefs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, boot polish, Brilliantine, chocolate and magazines and books. By January 1944 more than 1,000 parcels had been sent by Battlefield West.

In December 1941 churches also helped with the collection of the Red Cross 'Penny-a-Week' fundraising for parcels of food and clothes for Glasgow men who were prisoners of war. By November 1942 there were estimated to be over 2,000 men from Glasgow who were prisoners of war and over the next few years Battlefield West raised over £3,700 for this fund alone.

By 1944 it was already expected that the war would be ending soon, and the 'comforts committee' changed their attention to welcome home 'socials' and support for those who were to be demobilised.



Image: National Archives © Crown Copyright

WOMEN IN THE WAR

WHEN WAR BROKE OUT THE EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT WOMEN COULD DO SEEMED TO FOLLOW THE TRADITIONAL ROLES OF THE DAY, BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WOMEN WERE ALREADY CHALLENGING THESE ROLES AND WERE EAGER TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN A WIDE RANGE OF ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT.



The Glasgow Herald reports that over 2,000 women answered an appeal to work as Air Raid Wardens. A register of professional businesswomen collated for service in case of emergency included architects, lawyers, chemists, canteen managers, caterers, linguists, labour managers and supervisors of clerical workers. It was noted in The Herald that there was a long waiting list for munitions training in the Women's Engineering Society.

'Men on Service' was usually how the Battlefield West magazine recorded information on those in the services. It was not until January 1942 that it was changed to 'Men and Women on Service.' From the records it appears that 23 women from Battlefield West and 54 women from Newlands

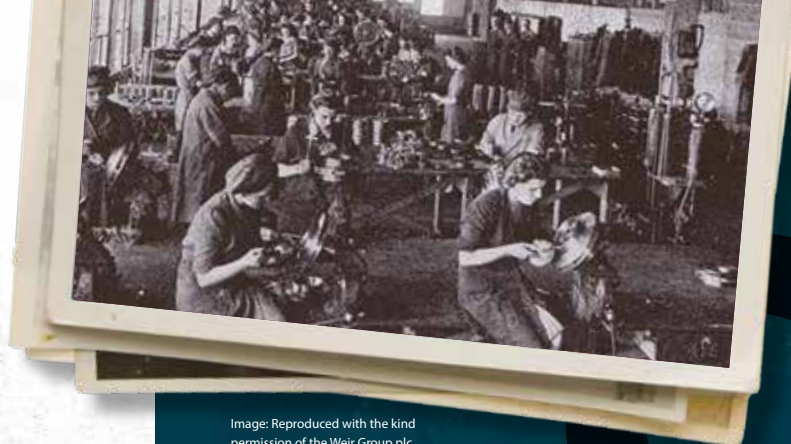


Image: Reproduced with the kind permission of the Weir Group plc

South were serving in the Voluntary Action Detachment, WRNS, the Women's Land Army, the Auxiliary Territorial Service (a branch of the army) and as nurses.

MABEL DOUGLAS MCGREGOR (30)

A Newlands South member, Mabel Douglas McGregor joined the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service and lost her life in 1942 when travelling on the SS Ceramic which was torpedoed on the way to Cape Town. Lifeboats were launched in huge seas, but only one of the 500 people on board survived.

Lena Elliot of Battlefield West served in the VAD, a voluntary unit of civilians who provided nursing care to wounded military personnel. She worked in a naval hospital in Australia and later in Hong Kong before eventually returning home in September 1946. Lena continued to live in Glasgow and died in 2000 aged 80.

Margaret Stark was one of five Battlefield West women who served with the WRNS. She served in Malta for two years before arriving home in September 1946.



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Image of Margaret Stark: © Langside Church Collection



Image: © Scotlands People

WHEN JAPAN ENTERED THE WAR IN DECEMBER 1941 WITH THEIR ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOUR, BRITISH TROOPS BECAME ENGAGED IN A WAR IN ASIA. THE TERRAIN OF MALARIA-RIDDEN JUNGLES, MONSOON RAINS AND THE SEARING TROPICAL HEAT WAS A CHALLENGE TO SOLDIERS FROM THE TEMPERATE CLIMATE OF THE UK.

The Japanese aimed to control the Pacific rim so they had access to the oil, rubber and other raw materials which would make them self-sufficient for the war.

ANDREW SYMON LORIMER (23)

Flight Sergeant Andrew Symon Lorimer joined No.82 Squadron RAF and served in India before being moved onto Bengal, where they were deployed against the Japanese offensive flying Mosquitoes. On 2nd March 1945, Lorimer as Navigator and Robert Best as Pilot set off on a night intruder mission. Their plane failed to return to base and they were listed as missing until news eventually came that the aircraft had crashed near Rangoon. Both Andrew and his pilot were killed.

WAR **IN THE** **FAR EAST**

DAVID FORRESTER McLEAN (24)

Rifleman David Forrester McLean married his sweetheart Agnes McKechnie, a nurse, in September 1943. One month later David was sent overseas with the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), 1st Battalion. He was killed in Burma fighting the Japanese.

James Garioch was commissioned into the Royal Artillery as a 2nd Lieutenant in July 1942. He served with the Long Range Penetration Groups, unofficially known as 'Chindits'. Chindit archivist, Stephen Fogden reports: 'Garioch became a Chindit in 1944, when the 51st Field Regiment, 16th British Infantry Brigade fought in Burma as part of Operation Thursday. James was the Assistant Animal Transport Officer looking after the mules and ponies.



“ 16th Brigade were the only Chindit Brigade to march into Burma in February 1944. They had an arduous time and fell behind with their strategic plan, to attack and capture a Japanese airfield at a place called Indaw. According to the war diary for 51 Field Regiment, James was flown out of Burma, simply reported as being sick. It is doubtful that he recovered enough to go back in. **”**

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DURING THIS PERIOD LANGSIDE AND NEWLANDS WERE HOME TO A LARGER NUMBER OF MERCHANT SEAMEN THAN IS REPRESENTED BY ANY OTHER BRANCH OF THE SERVICES. THIS WAS NOT UNUSUAL AS GLASGOW WAS A NAVAL CITY WITH STRONG LINKS TO THE SEA AND ALL THINGS MERCANTILE.

Many joined the Armed Services only for the duration of the War and were generally aged between 18 and their early 30s. The Merchant Navy offered a career that one could join at 14, remaining until retiral at 65 or older if you were a Captain or Chief Engineer. In this area with its slightly more up market housing there was a higher than usual number of residents who were older ship's officers and invariably family men. Without decrying the loss of younger men in the war, which is generally regarded by society as a young man's lot, the loss of so many older family men could be viewed as having had a greater impact on the community.

Seven of those on the Battlefield West memorial were in the Merchant Navy: William Christie Stark, Donald Munro, Alexander McNab, Alexander Jackson, Donald Aloysius MacDonald, Donald C MacDonald and Peter Brough, while William Stevenson Simpson was from Newlands South.

THE MERCHANT NAVY IN WW2

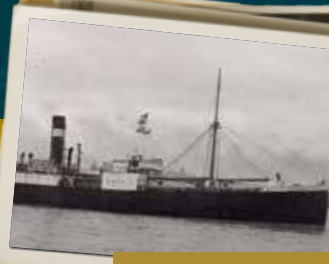
WILLIAM STEVENSON SIMPSON (40)

Second Officer

William Stevenson

Simpson served

on the Steam Ship Hatasu. With a maximum speed of 10 knots the Hatasu was trailing behind the rest of the convoy on the crossing to New York when she was torpedoed by a U-boat in 1941. The boat split in two and sank within minutes. William was one of the 40 crew who died either as a result of the explosion or were drowned. Only 7 of those on board survived.



STEAM SHIP HATASU

DONALD MUNRO (57)

Second Engineer Donald Munro was aboard S.S. Eastmoor, a British armed cargo ship on passage from USA to UK, when it was torpedoed by U-71. Missed by the first and second torpedoes, she sank within twelve minutes of the third torpedo strike on 31st March 1942, 600 miles east of Hampton Roads. 16 of 52 crew lost their lives, including Donald who was presumed drowned.

ALEXANDER McNAB (25)

Alexander McNab followed his father into the Merchant Navy and in 1939 was serving as a steward on the HMS Princess Victoria, originally a car and cattle ferry for the Stranraer to Larne route. The following year, while laying a huge mine barrier off the Dutch coast, the Princess Victoria hit a mine at the mouth of the River Humber. Alexander was one of 37 of the 120 crew who perished, a number of bodies being washed up on beaches in Norfolk.

WILLIAM CHRISTIE STARK (26)

William Christie Stark had just been promoted to Second Officer of the SS Stanbank when she set off on her first trip from the Clyde in 1942 to New York to collect supplies bound for Port Sudan. The Stanbank left New York harbour on 1st May fully loaded and just 4 days later was struck by a torpedo from U-boat U-103, 200 miles NW of Bermuda. The ship sank within minutes, but all the crew were able to reach lifeboats. Captain Niddrie recalled later that Second Officer Stark was keen to take one of the boats and head to Bermuda for help. Along with 8 other men, Stark set off.

The small flotilla of the 40 remaining survivors were eventually found and rescued after 10 days of drifting on the open sea. On arrival at Bermuda Captain Niddrie reported the missing boat with Stark, but an air search was unsuccessful in finding the boat and crew.

ALEXANDER JACKSON (22)

Alexander Jackson was serving as Chief Engineer on the SS Lackenby in 1943 when it was enroute as part of convoy SC-117 from Tampa, Florida via New York, Loch Ewe in Wester Ross and then south to London. The Lackenby strayed from the convoy either through engine trouble or maybe because she was an older ship and could not maintain convoy speed. She was struck by two torpedoes from U-624, sinking its victims in minutes. She sank south of Cape Farewell, Greenland, with the loss of the master, all 38 crew and 7 Royal Navy gunners.

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PETER BROWN BROUGH (19)

Peter Brown Brough served as 3rd Radio Operator on the SS Empire Endurance, a German built British cargo ship. While en route unescorted, from Swansea to Capetown she was 200 miles off Ireland when she was attacked by U-73. She was struck by 2 torpedoes, broke in two and sank in minutes. 48 crew were rescued, but Peter was not among them.

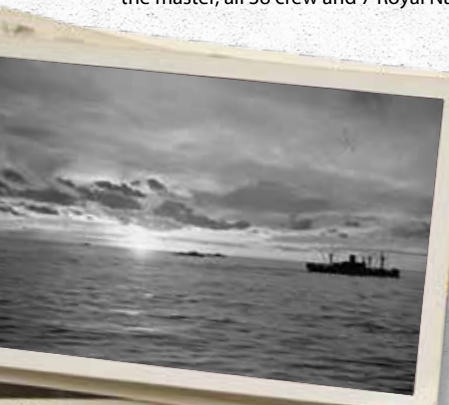
SS EMPIRE ENDURANCE

DONALD ALOYSIUS MacDONALD (22)

Donald Aloysius MacDonald was an officer in the Boys' Brigade at Battlefield West. During the war he served on the SS Toward, which was designated as a convoy rescue ship for two years. During that time the Toward rescued 337 sailors over 45 convoy trips. Her final voyage was in 1943 when en route from Halifax, Canada to Greenock she was torpedoed by U-402 and sank in two minutes. Donald was one of the 43 crew who were lost, with 24 being picked up by the HMS Mignonette.

DONALD C MacDONALD (AGE UNKNOWN)

According to the Battlefield West Church magazine, Donald C MacDonald was awarded a George Medal for gallantry at sea. Sailing as part of a convoy the order was to scatter when they were attacked by U-boats. Instead, Captain MacDonald doubled back and rescued 85 men. He was posted as missing on 1st May 1944 and in September that year official word was received that Donald had been lost with his ship. He had also been in the Boys' Brigade and left a widow and a baby daughter. We do not know his age.



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Local residents known to have perished while serving in the Merchant Navy and who have no known grave:

Name: William Simpson Rank: 2nd Off Age: 40
Ship: SS Hatasu DoD: 2.10.41 U-Boat: U431
Complement: 47 Total Killed: 40

Name: Donald Munro Rank: 2nd Eng Age: 57
Ship: SS Eastmoor DoD: 31.3.42 U-Boat: U71
Complement: 52 Total Killed: 16

Name: Alexander McNab Rank: Stoker Age: 25
Ship: HMS Princess Vict. DoD: 18.5.40 Mine
Complement: 120 Total Killed: 37

Name: Alexander Jackson Rank: Chief Eng. Age: 22
Ship: SS Lackenby DoD: 25.1.43 U-Boat: U624
Complement: 39 Total Killed: 39

Name: Mabel McGregor Rank: Q.A. Nurse Age: 22
Ship: SS Ceramic DoD: 7.12.42 U-Boat: U515
Complement: 654 Total Killed: 653

Name: William C. Stark Rank: 2nd Off Age: 26
Ship: SS Stanbank DoD: 5.5.42 U-Boat: U103
Complement: 48 Total Killed: 9

Name: John Stewart Rank: Greaser Age: 25
Ship: SS Zealandic DoD: 17.1.41 U-Boat: U106
Complement: 73 Total Killed: 73

Name: Peter Tait Rank: 3rd Off Age: 63
Ship: SS Lurigethan DoD: 23.1.41 U-Boat: U105
Complement: 51 Total Killed: 17

Name: Robert Taylor Rank: C.Stew Age: 45
Ship: SS Clan McArthur DoD: 12.8.43 U-Boat: U181
Complement: 129 Total Killed: 53

Name: William Watt Rank: Chief Eng. Age: 54
Ship: SS Tacoma Star DoD: 1.2.42 U-Boat: U109
Complement: 97 Total Killed: 97

TO POP FROM MARY, YOUR MOTHER

FOR JAMES DUNLOP
BY CAROL JAMNEJAD

You were my boy, ever loved
but never grew old

Turned to dust under African skies

Not by a bullet, but a mosquito I was told

You were my boy, ever loved
but never grew old

Thank you for your last letter with its
pressed yellow marigold.

An only child, you were my late
arriving prize

You were my boy, ever-loved but never
grew old

Turned to dust under African skies

THE MENTION OF THE RAF IN WW2 IMMEDIATELY CONJURES IMAGES OF EVENTS SUCH AS THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN OR THE DAMBUSTERS RAID, BUT THE REALITY OF THE MANY AND VARIED ROLES PERFORMED BY THE RAF DURING THE WAR IS NO LESS HEROIC, MORE WIDE RANGING AND MORE COMPLEX THAN MANY REALISE. THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH SO MANY YOUNG AIRCREW PERISHED IS EQUALLY TRAGIC AND HEARTRENDING, AS THE STORIES OF OUR LOCAL RESIDENTS REVEAL.

By the end of the war, the RAF was 963,000 strong, with a further 153,000 women in the WAAF, this despite the astonishing losses incurred over the course of the conflict. The total loss over the three sections of the RAF - Bomber Command, Coastal Command and Fighter Command - was 66,761, with over 9,618 wounded and 9,836 made prisoners of war.

The horrendous toll taken by the war on the young men and women of the RAF is sadly reflected in the losses incurred by families attending Battlefield West and Newlands Churches. Some of these stories are told in the Queen's Park School section and the Far East section. Here are four more stories of lives cut short in service to their country.

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE



**BRISTOL BLENHEIM FIGHTERS
USED BY 254 SQUADRON**



COLIN CAMPBELL BLAIR (26)

Flying Officer Colin Campbell Blair was a son of the manse, the elder child of Rev Duncan Blair, Minister of Newlands South Church. A trainee barrister, Colin volunteered for RAF service in December 1938, his skill and daring in Spitfires leading to his becoming a Flying Officer, initially in the Army Co-operation Squadrons in France, then in the Photographic Reconnaissance Unit Squadron. On 26th September 1941, he flew from Wick to photograph enemy installations at Stavanger and Kristiansund in Norway, but did not return.

JAMES WILLIAM BARRIE CRAIG (21)

Flight Sergeant James William Barrie Craig, also a member of Newlands South Church, enlisted with the RAF Volunteer Reserve as a pilot in January 1937, eventually serving as a Sergeant Observer with Coastal Command's 254 Squadron in Bristol Blenheim fighters. The squadron moved to a new base at RAF Sumburgh in Shetland in January 1941, where the aerodrome was little more than a grass field with the men sleeping in tents. James died during operations over Norway on 10th February 1941.



ANDREW McMILLAN SMITH BROWNLIE (29)



Flight Sergeant Andrew McMillan Smith Brownlie, a member of the congregation of Battlefield West, flew with 108 Squadron, night bombers based at RAF Kabrit in Egypt, undertaking raids on Libya and Greece. On 16th March 1942, Andrew was on board an RAF Consolidated 32 Liberator aircraft on a ferry flight home from North Africa, intending to pay his parents a surprise visit. Tragically, the aircraft lost navigation in a thick fog over Ireland and crashed into a hillside. Of the 6 crew and 13 military passengers, 15 were killed, including Andrew.

WILLIAM CONNELL THOMSON (28)

Burma-born Flight Sergeant Pilot William Connell Thomson was a well-travelled engineer before returning from overseas to volunteer for service. A married man and a father, he and his wife Nancy attended Newlands South Church. William became a sergeant instructor in Canada, before serving as a ferry pilot and then ultimately with a night fighter squadron. On 29th November 1943 he was landing his Bristol Beaufighter as part of a training exercise near RAF Cranfield, but crashed on approach and was killed.



BRISTOL BEAUFIGHTER

Images:

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File:Bristol_Beaufighter_ Mk.IC_1944

AFTER THE WAR IS OVER

BY LINDA DEVLIN

Life erupts from decay
Fireworks burst in display of cheer
My voice is hard with fear
The ghosts of conflict here instead
Only loss in my head
For you my love are dead o'r there
Life now not ours to share
My journey one to bear alone
Knowing life must go on
You gave your blood and bone for me
To live, love and be free
It was your destiny to fight
And win for truth, peace, light
So I will take delight and roar
Men like you ended war
Your honour we restore today.

ANCILLARY SERVICES

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS:

JAMES DUNLOP (34)

Sergeant James Dunlop, known to his friends as 'Pop', died on 18th September 1945 while serving in the Belgian Congo. The Battlefield West Church magazine records the sadness of the congregation as he died after hostilities had ended.



JOHN REID McMILLAN (34)

John Reid McMillan was a telephone engineer and when war broke out he used his skills to join the Corps as a Signaller. All we know of John is that he died on 4th April 1945. He is buried in Cathcart Cemetery.

ROYAL ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL ENGINEERS:



GORDON WATSON STUART (24)

Gordon Watson Stuart had qualified as a chartered accountant but joined up as a Private in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Sadly Gordon contracted tuberculosis and was sent home where he died on 13th April 1944. He is buried in Eastwood Cemetery.

Images:

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© British Medical Journal (Kinghorn G, Robert Steel Morton 1917-2002, Sexually Transmitted Infections 2002; 78, 322-323)



146 BATTLEFIELD ROAD
GLASGOW, S.2

Telephone: LANGSIDE 4673



ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS:

DR JOHN WILLIAM BARCLAY (34)

Captain John William Barclay, familiarly known as Ian, joined the RAMC in 1942. After a period of service in the UK he was posted to India, where he fell ill. He was sent home for treatment, but died on 4th July 1944. He is buried in Mearns Cemetery.

John was the youngest of three sons of Andrew and Elizabeth Barclay, all of whom died before their time. Both of John's older brothers were killed during the Great War and are named on the Newlands South Church Roll of Honour.

Dr Robert Steel Morton spent the 6 years of the war as a Captain in the RAMC, 3 of them in the Middle East, looking after the health of the troops, with a focus on venereology and infectious diseases. He was awarded an MBE in 1942 for this work.

After the war Robert had a long and distinguished career in venereology in Manchester and Sheffield. He died on 2nd May 2002 and was described as 'one of the major influences that helped shape venereology as a discipline during the post-war period.'



DR ROBERT
STEEL MORTON

THOSE WHO CAME HOME

WHEN WAR BROKE OUT, FIVE OF THE SEVEN SONS OF THE MCCREATH FAMILY OF 216 LEDARD ROAD, ALL MEMBERS OF BATTLEFIELD WEST CHURCH, WERE CALLED UP.



Douglas McCreath (Cameronians, Scottish Rifles) began his service as Rifleman, was promoted to Company Sergeant-Major and finally reached the rank of Lieutenant. He was sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force in 1940, and later took part in the Scheldt Campaign and the Liberation of the Netherlands.



Robert McCreath and Tom McCreath (Royal Navy) were sent as land crew to England, while Joe McCreath (Royal Corps of Signals) served first in NW Europe, possibly in the occupation of the Rhine, and was then posted to India. John McCreath, the youngest in the family, served in Motor Torpedo Boats (MTBs) in the North Sea.

Fortunately, all the McCreath sons survived the war. Robert, an ardent piper, was appointed President of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association in 1977 and was awarded an MBE in 1981 for his work for the RSPBA and the Boy's Brigade. Douglas married Jenny, who he had met while at Bridge of

Allan for training, moving to 171 Ledard Road in the early 50s. Their son Douglas is now a member of Newlands South Church.

James (Jimmy) Brown of Berrisdale Avenue, also a member of Battlefield West, joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders as a Private as part of Unit 5 Commando. James was captured during Operation Chariot, the raid at St Nazaire on 28th March 1942. He was taken to the Prisoner of War Camp Stalag 8B in Poland. After several attempts he finally escaped to Switzerland and from there returned to the UK. It was for this that he was awarded the Military Medal.

After the war, Jimmy Brown trained in mining and petroleum, and later went on to work for Royal Dutch Shell in Trinidad, Turkey, Kuwait and Venezuela. He became a respected Professor of Petroleum Engineering at Heriot-Watt University. He died in March 1994.

Image: © IWM HU 47096, iwm.org.uk



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LANGSIDE'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

IN THE INTERWAR YEARS, LANGSIDE'S BURGEONING JEWISH POPULATION HAD OUTGROWN THEIR ORIGINAL SYNAGOGUE AT LOCHLEVEN ROAD. QUEEN'S PARK SYNAGOGUE AT FALLOCH STREET, WHICH COULD HOLD 500 CONGREGANTS, OPENED IN 1927.

Since the 1880s Glasgow had seen an influx of Jewish migrants, mainly from eastern Europe, some escaping persecution and pogroms and others seeking opportunities offered by the industrial development and international trade links in the west of Scotland. The majority of early Jewish settlers put down roots in the Gorbals.

By the 1930s Glasgow's Jewish population numbered around 15,000 and by then many had relocated to the better accommodation offered by Glasgow's southern suburbs such as Govanhill, Battlefield, Queen's Park, Langside and Pollokshields.



CONGREGATION OF QUEEN'S PARK
SYNAGOGUE IN THE 1950S (ABOVE)
QUEEN'S PARK SYNAGOGUE (RIGHT)



This settlement pattern was accompanied by the establishment of new Jewish institutions in Langside such as Queen's Park Synagogue, kosher shops, like Michael Morrison and Son's delicatessen on Sinclair Drive and welfare support organisations. By the 1930s many pupils attending Queen's Park Secondary School were Jewish.

The turbulent political environment of the 1930s saw some attempts by Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists (BUF) to garner support for their extreme views in Glasgow. Mosley visited Glasgow Green in the early 1930s. While the city's strong left-wing traditions kept BUF numbers low, the Fascists held several rallies at speaker's corner by the gates of Queen's Park. These events were met with strong, successful counter demonstrations organised by groups such as the Glasgow Jewish Worker's Circle, the Labour Party and the Labour League of Jews. Extreme right-wing ideology never gained a strong foothold in Glasgow.



MICHAEL MORRISON &
SONS, DELICATESSEN

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GERTRUDE JACOBSON

ORPHANAGE FOR JEWISH CHILDREN

THE GERTRUDE JACOBSON ORPHANAGE WAS FOUNDED IN 1913 IN MEMORY OF THE 14-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER OF JOSEPH AND RIVKA JACOBSON. THEY DONATED THEIR SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE AT 53 MILLBRAE ROAD AS AN ORPHANAGE FOR JEWISH CHILDREN, WHERE KOSHER FOOD WAS PROVIDED AND ORPHANS COULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE WITHIN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. THE ORIGINAL BUILDING HOUSED 10 CHILDREN, INITIALLY LOCAL ORPHANS AND LATER REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM HUNGARY, BELGIUM AND ELSEWHERE.

In 1919 the institution moved to a larger detached villa at 6 Sinclair Drive which could accommodate 40 residents.

The orphanage's principles reflected the wider Scottish philanthropic traditions of the period – to provide short-term support with the intention of generating self-help and independence in the children taken in. Recollections from those who passed through this and other similar institutions of the period describe their care as 'not indulgent' and 'rooted in preventing long-term dependence on welfare'.

During the 1930s the Gertrude Jacobson orphanage started to take in refugee children escaping persecution from the rise of Nazism in Europe. Ten Kindertransportees arrived at "The Gertrude" as early



GERTRUDE JACOBSON ORPHANAGE 1917

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as 1934 and many of these children, some as young as five, had travelled by train across Europe, taking several days to arrive in Glasgow, via London, bewildered, alone and scared.

It is believed that over 1,000 Jewish refugees arrived in Glasgow during this turbulent period and additional support services were set up to support the influx, such as foster family networks and another hostel at Garnethill, which opened in 1939.

Early in the war years residents and staff of the Gertrude Jacobson Orphanage were evacuated to Birkenhead hostel in Skelmorlie, Ayrshire where they attended local schools and worked on farms.

In the immediate aftermath of the war, the Gertrude Jacobson Orphanage took in boys and young men escaping the horrific events in Europe. Amongst those who stayed there in 1945 was an 18-year-old Auschwitz survivor, Moyshe Younger, who was eventually re-united overseas with other family members in the aftermath of the Holocaust. The Habonim Bayit youth centre for Jewish children and teenagers later occupied the orphanage site until the building closed its doors for the last time in the 1980s.

THE EVACUATION OF GLASGOW CHILDREN

THE OUTBREAK OF WAR BROUGHT A DRAMATIC CHANGE TO DAILY LIFE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN IN GLASGOW. ALL SCHOOLS CLOSED FROM THE START OF SEPTEMBER 1939 AS PLANS TO EVACUATE THE CITY'S ENTIRE SCHOOL POPULATION TO SAFER RURAL LOCATIONS FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR WERE ENACTED.

'Operation Pied Piper' was activated during 1st, 2nd, and 3rd September 1939 and a total of 120,000 mothers and children were evacuated from the city of Glasgow to the countryside and coastal locations for safety, as it was widely believed that German bombing operations would begin immediately.

The excited evacuees were told to present themselves at their local school and bring a gas-mask, a toothbrush, a change of underclothes and a label. They walked to their nearest railway station and travelled by train out of the city to many different parts of Scotland including Perthshire, Aberdeenshire and Ayrshire.

Image copyright: © The Herald



On arrival, after long journeys, the children were taken to schools and church halls where they were selected by local people and taken into their homes. Families were kept together.

Some parents chose to send their children to stay with friends or family who lived outside the city, instead of going to a designated location.

For many children the evacuation experience was full of exciting new adventures, but some felt homesick and found the experience difficult, living with strangers in unfamiliar environments. These extraordinary memories have lived in the hearts of former evacuees throughout their lives. Most are no longer with us which makes the recording of their stories all the more important.



“

We went to the local primary school. I spent my 9th birthday there. We had a great time because we had the freedom of the countryside.

BILL DICKSON, EVACUATED TO HUNTLY, ABERDEENSHIRE

The brothers had the freedom of playing outside in the fresh air but they were always hungry. The family fed their own children first and the three boys had to wait and eat whatever was left.

ROBERT, TOMMY & JOHN SINGLETON, EVACUATED TO LEADHILLS, SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

Lily and her sister weren't separated, they were kept together. The family they stayed with had a large house with a cook, a table maid and kitchen staff.

LILY LANGAN, EVACUATED TO COMRIE, PERTHSHIRE

”



Image: www.monifiethhistorysociety.co.uk

IMPACT OF WAR ON GLASGOW SCHOOL DAYS

DESPITE OFFICIAL ENCOURAGEMENT, THE NUMBER OF EVACUEES TAKING UP RURAL BILLETS FELL FAR SHORT OF THE ANTICIPATED TARGETS, AND MANY EVACUEES RETURNED HOME WITHIN A FEW WEEKS AS THE FEARED BOMBING RAIDS DID NOT INITIALLY MATERIALISE.

By the end of 1939 around 85% of Glasgow's school population still lived in the city, while the schools remained closed, with many school buildings reassigned for military or civil defence purposes.

It was not until April 1940 that compulsory school attendance was reinstated in Glasgow. By then many city schools could only safely accommodate up to half of their complement of pupils at any one time, so double-shift systems were established whereby children were in lessons for around half their school week. This situation commonly persisted in Glasgow for the first two years of the war.

War-time schooling was also marked by a severe shortage of teachers, class sizes of sometimes 50 or above, scarcity of materials, food rationing and air raid disruptions. Schools and their pupils were actively involved in war effort activities such as collecting scrap paper, rags and kitchen waste, knitting socks for service personnel, organising fundraising concerts and jumble sales.

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SCHOOL



ECKEN'S PARK SCHOOL,

“If we were to try and assess his quality as a headmaster, it was the human element in Mr MacRae that was most evident.”

[illegible]

THOMAS GALBRAITH GROSVENOR (23)

Thomas Galbraith Grosvenor joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and served with 201 Squadron, stationed at RAF Castle Archdale on Lough Erne, Northern Ireland. As Sergeant Air Gunner/Wireless Operator on board a Sunderland of Coastal Command, Thomas was part of the patrol work guarding the sea lanes in the North Sea. The record of Thomas' death states that he died 'in the sea' at Castle Archdale in an accident on 30th June 1943.

THOMAS KINNOCH McCASH (21)

Flight Sergeant Thomas Kinnoch McCash joined the RAF and served with 83 Squadron. On a mission to Berlin, as one of 677 bombers, Thomas' Lancaster III failed to return. Attacked by a Junkers night fighter the airplane exploded in the air and the wreckage was spread over a radius of 2 ½ km. Thomas and the navigator were found dead in the fields near Bovrup, in Southern Denmark.

WILLIAM BURNS ROBERTSON (21)

William Burns Robertson also joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and trained as a Wireless Operator and Air Gunner. He was just 21 years old when, along with 9 other planes, his Hampden AD909 was sent on a mission in January 1942 to Brest Harbour in France, a base for German warships.

William's plane did not return. It is not known what happened as no wreckage or remains were ever recovered.



FOR WILLIAM STARK BY GAIL WINTERS

I feel the rain upon my face
and I think of you.
I feel the cold upon my body
and I want to warm you.
I watch the waves tumble towards me
and I want them to return you.
I smell the fear of others passing
and I want to hold you near.
I sense your tears
and I want to soothe you.
I hear your heartbeat,
it goes on in mine.

WET

AS THE WAR DRAGGED ON, TWO OF QUEEN'S PARK SCHOOL'S FORMER PUPILS COULD BE SEEN IN PICTURE HOUSES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS PEOPLE FLOCKED TO CINEMAS FOR THEIR PATHÉ NEWS UPDATES, PUBLIC INFORMATION BROADCASTS AND MUCH NEEDED ESCAPISM.



FLORENCE MARJORIE ROBERTSON

Florence Marjorie Robertson, better known as Anna Neagle, was an international star of stage and screen by 1939. Her wartime performances included acclaimed portrayals of nurse Edith Cavell and pioneering aviator Amy Johnston, as well as appearing in entertaining musicals such as *Sunny* and *No No Nanette*.

WELL-KNOWN FORMER PUPILS



ARTHUR STANLEY JEFFERSON

Arthur Stanley Jefferson, better known as Stan Laurel, whose professional music hall career started in Glasgow around 1906, was also an international star by the war years. As one half of comedy duo Laurel and Hardy, he offered popular slapstick humour and musical entertainment in feature films such as *Saps at Sea*, *Air Raid Wardens* and *Jitterbugs*. During the short period he was a pupil at Queen's Park School, Stan was reputedly more often truant than in lessons, preferring instead the education offered by local music halls. Despite this, it appears Stan felt a fond connection with his former school. It's widely reported that during Laurel and Hardy's tour of Scotland in 1947, Stan visited Queen's Park School, meeting pupils and to their great delight handing out sweets - which were still rationed in Britain then!

ALLY MACLEOD

In 1942 future Scottish professional football player and manager Alexander (Ally) Reid MacLeod enrolled at Queen's Park secondary school when his family settled in Mount Florida

that year. Earlier in the war the MacLeod family had experienced first-hand the horrors of the Clydebank Blitz of March 1941. In his memoirs, Ally recalled skipping school (like his predecessor Stan Laurel) one post-war afternoon in November 1945 to watch Rangers play Moscow Dynamo at Ibrox. The 14-year-old avoided sanctions the next day when he pointed out that his teacher had travelled to the match on the same bus.





G. & J. WEIR[®]

WARTIME PRODUCTION

AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR G. & J. WEIR ENGINEERING WORKS AT CATHCART HAD BEEN OPERATIONAL FOR OVER 50 YEARS. BY 1939 THE COMPANY HAD EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SITES AT YOKER, THORNLIEBANK AND SLOUGH.

As it had been during the Great War, Weirs was a significant and innovative contributor to the 1939-45 war effort. Amongst other essential supplies, the Cathcart factory produced:

- Auxiliary engine room machinery and pumping equipment for wartime ships.
- 25 pounder field gun carriages and other artillery.
- Water evaporating & distilling equipment for use on land and at sea.

At peak wartime production the company employed 4,009 men and 1,214 women across its four sites.

Many of the female workforce were employed on the assembly lines at Cathcart, and this was of particular interest to Eleanor Roosevelt when she visited the factory in November 1942.



**WEIR'S MOBILE
EVAPORATING PLANT**

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**ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
VISITING WEIR'S CATHCART
FACTORY IN NOVEMBER 1942**



CATHCART HOME GUARD

60 MEN FROM G. & J. WEIR'S CATHCART FACTORY WERE AMONGST THE 250,000 WHO RESPONDED TO A RADIO APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR FOR 'LOCAL DEFENCE VOLUNTEERS' BROADCAST ON THE 14TH OF MAY 1940.

Eventually renamed the Home Guard, hundreds of these units were formed throughout the country to defend coastal areas, airfields, factories and explosives stores in the event of invasion. Their members were local volunteers who were ineligible for military service, usually because of their age or reserved occupation. In Glasgow the bulk of these companies were formed from work units, such as those of G. & J. Weir's Cathcart and Yoker factories. The Home Guard were given military training aimed at slowing down the progress of any invasion – a very real threat in the early years of the war.

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www.iwm.org.uk





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**EQUIPMENT LIKE THIS 'Z' ROCKET
LAUNCHER WAS OPERATED BY CATHCART
HOME GUARD ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNNERS**

One year after its formation
Cathcart Home Guard had
approximately 160 members

and was by then part of the 5th Battalion City of
Glasgow Home Guard, affiliated to the Highland
Light Infantry. Originally an efficient infantry unit,
the Cathcart Home Guard was called on to assist
Anti-Aircraft Command in 1943. The unit was
then sub-divided into an Infantry division under
the command of Captain Alexander McGilp,
Engineering Clerk at the factory and a platoon of
Anti-Aircraft Gunners led by Captain John Russell
Lang, Weir's Director of Works.

Glasgow-Cathcart

Schiffshilfsmaschinenbau „Weir Ltd.“

Länge (weil. Grösse): 4' 15' 48" Breite: 55' 48' 12"

Mittelzeitung: -- 13' 27" (Mitte 1941) Zielhöhe über NN 25 m

Masstab etwa 1:8.000



WEIRS AS A TARGET

**AS A MAJOR SUPPLIER TO THE WAR EFFORT
G. & J. WEIR LTD WAS A POTENTIAL TARGET FOR
AERIAL ATTACK AND A SURVIVING LUFTWAFFE
AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPH FROM
1941 FEATURES THE CATHCART FACTORY.**

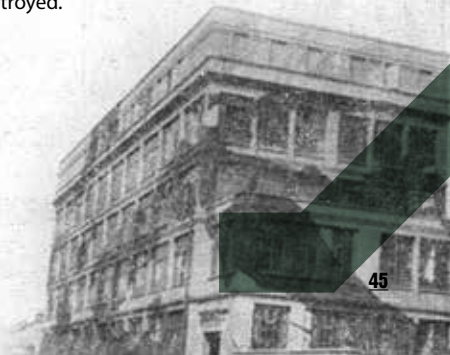
Defensive measures taken by the company
included investment in the aforementioned
Home Guard units and camouflaging buildings.

Fortunately, for those living and working
within the vicinity of the Cathcart factory, it
was never bombed.

However, G. & J. Weir's Yoker factory was severely
damaged by devastating air raids on the 13th and
14th of March 1941, which became known as the
Clydebank Blitz. The workforce fought tirelessly
to prevent the fires spreading to other parts of
the site using specialist fire-fighting equipment
designed by Weirs. Despite extensive damage to
some of the buildings, the Yoker factory was back
in full production within a week.

Although there were no human casualties at
the Yoker site, three employees of Weirs were
killed in their own homes during these deadly
attacks. Within those 48 hours approximately
1,200 civilians died and all but a few buildings in
Clydebank were destroyed.

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PEOPLE

MANY LEADING FIGURES IN THE G. & J. WEIR'S COMPANY HAD SIGNIFICANT ROLES IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT WARTIME ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY. THREE OF THESE ARE HIGHLIGHTED HERE.



WILLIAM DOUGLAS WEIR
1ST VISCOUNT WEIR

As the Second World War approached, chairman William Douglas Weir was appointed special advisor at the Air Ministry (from 1935-38) to inform national plans for the air force expansion. Having been a prominent figure in the organisation of military supplies during the Great War, he once again had an influential role in the organisation and operation of efficient industrial supply chains to support the 1939-1945 war effort. By 1940 he was a leading figure in the Ministry of Supply and later Chairman of the Tank Board.



HAROLD HILLIER
OBE

G.& J. Weir's Chief Engineer, Harold Hillier was appointed Consultant Designer to the Director General of Artillery in 1940. He provided advice on improvements in weapon design to various government committees throughout the war years. Harold was awarded the OBE in 1943 for services to the Admiralty and the Ministry of Supply.



**COMMODORE
JAMES GEORGE WEIR**
CMG, CBE

William's younger brother, James George, was a pioneering aviator who served with the Royal Flying Corps between 1914-16 and was decorated for his First World War services. In the interwar years he was a leading innovator in the production of experimental autogyro machines and an autogyro piloted by James was a regular sight in the sky above Cathcart, as he commuted between his Ayrshire home and the factory.

By the mid-1930s James was a Governor and Director of the Bank of England and in the early war years he worked for the Allied Purchasing Commission in Washington. In 1941 he returned to the UK and applied his engineering skills overseeing tank design at the Ministry of Supply.



**ROYAL NAVAL
BARRACKS AT DEVONPORT**

ARMY AND NAVY

**THE MEN WHOSE NAMES APPEAR BELOW SERVED
WITHIN SEPARATE MILITARY ORGANISATIONS, BUT
ALL WERE UNITED BY A SINGLE PURPOSE.**

Some saw service and died overseas while others were deployed across the UK to protect the home front against attack and invasion. We believe some may have previously served in the Great War, but we have yet to learn more about their early lives...

Matheson, Grant and Brownlie attended Battlefield West Church, McFarlan, Wilson and McColl attended Newlands South Church.

Images: © IWM B 11420, © IWM BU 1761



RODERICK MATHESON (40)

Before joining the Royal Navy, Roderick Matheson had been employed as an inspector of weights and measures. At the age of 25 he married 22-year-old Isabella (Isa) Sloan and ten years later, around the time Roderick joined up, he was living with his family at Lochleven Road, Battlefield. We don't know anything about his war service, except that latterly he was stationed at HMS Drake, the navy base at Devonport, Plymouth. Two months after the end of the war, on the 26th of November 1945, Able Seaman Roderick Matheson died at home from coronary thrombosis. He is buried with other members of his family at Cathcart Cemetery.

ABRAHAM LOVE GRANT (25)

Abraham Love Grant died on the 24th of April 1945 as the result of wounds sustained while serving as a Gunner with the Gordon Highlanders, 84th Anti Tank Regiment in Italy. The son of James Grant and Janet Love of Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire, Abraham had lived at 9 Morley Street before his war service. He is buried at the Argenta Gap War Cemetery, south of Venice.

THOMAS ALLAN BROWNLIE (24)

Private Thomas Brownlie of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 8th Battalion was the son of Jessie and William. Sadly, Jessie died of cancer when Thomas was just 7 years old. When he was older Thomas joined his father in the family dairy business.

We believe Thomas was injured during the prolonged Italian campaign. He died of a cerebral tumour at Killearn Hospital, Stirling on the 21st August 1944.



**WILLIAM BROWNLIE'S
DAIRY CART PULLED BY
'ROSE'. THE LAD BESIDE
THE CART IS WILLIE
McGRAW**

Image reproduced with the kind permission of Margaret Greene

ROBERT MCFARLAN (48)

Before his war service, Robert McFarlan worked for the family auction business in Giffnock, while living with his wife Helen in Kintore Road, Newlands. During the Second World War, Robert served as a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery, 10th Technical Training Group based in the UK. His father William had died of heart failure in 1927 and the same fate was to befall Robert, who died on 4th November 1944.

GAVIN WILSON (44)

Gavin Wilson was a Private in the Black Watch, Royal Highlanders 9th Home Defence Battalion, a unit formed in November 1939 from volunteers aged 45 to 55 who had previously served in the armed forces. Prior to the war Gavin had been a bank clerk and he lived with his wife Agnes and their daughter in Giffnock. Gavin was posted to Dundee as part of home defence measures to protect potential targets such as the Tay Bridge. He died of a heart attack at the Bell Street drill hall at 5am on the 11th March 1940.



ROBERT SMYTH McCOLL (21)

Lieutenant Robert Smyth McColl of the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry of the Royal Armoured Corps was the son of Helen and Robert Smyth McColl, the

celebrated former professional footballer and co-founder of the RS McColl sweetshop and newsagent chain. In the late autumn of 1944, Robert's regiment was engaged in the hazardous job of clearing pockets of stubborn German resistance in the Netherlands, west of the Meuse River. Robert died during this action, on 31st October 1944. He is buried in Bergen Op Zoom War Cemetery in the Netherlands.

NIGHT

FIRE

FOR THOMAS MCCASH

BY ANNETTE MCGARILL

Time to go home.

Duty done.

Berlin mission accomplished.

They veered Eastward, the turret gunner spoke.

'Enemy aircraft approaching forty degrees west – evasive action required'

Distance put them out of danger.

The fighter returned.

The first volley missed.

They climbed, but not fast enough.

Falling, falling through the night sky.

Fire like exploding stars.

Wireless messages a frantic background noise.

Thomas thought of home.

MEMORIALS AFTER THE WAR

BOTH NEWLANDS SOUTH AND BATTLEFIELD WEST CHURCHES WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THOSE WHO WOULD BE RETURNING FROM THE WAR. WELCOME HOME EVENTS WERE HELD AT BOTH CHURCHES AND A 'WELCOME HOME' SCROLL, A REHABILITATION COMMITTEE AND WEEKLY SOCIAL GROUPS WERE PART OF THE SUPPORT OFFERED BY NEWLANDS SOUTH FOR RETURNING SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN.

At the end of WW1 at Newlands South it had been decided to commemorate the fallen with two grand commemorative stained-glass windows, together with brass and bronze wall memorial plaques. This time the focus was on the wellbeing and rehabilitation of those returning, with a simple Memorial Book for those who did not return.



**MEMORIAL
HALL WINDOWS**



**MOZART ALLAN JR LAYING THE
FOUNDATION STONE AND
ERSKINE COTTAGE (BELOW)**



The final sum of £920 which was raised by the congregation was much less than the suggested target of £2,000 (£85,000 in today's money) for various support projects. Of this total, £220 was used for the Memorial Book, with the balance of £700 given to Erskine Hospital, which cares for veterans, with the purpose of providing a cottage for an ex-serviceman and his family.

At Battlefield West Church the records show that plans were already underway for an extension to the halls of the church as part of the concern for the spiritual and physical wellbeing of the young people in the area. It was decided that these halls would become the memorial for those who had not returned.

Mr Mozart Allan, the session clerk and convenor of the fund-raising committee, worked tirelessly for 10 years in encouraging the congregation to contribute to the fund. A further £125 was raised in 1950 to add a bronze plaque to the WW1 memorial, which was unveiled by Mr James McGraw, a former officer in the RAF.


At long last, on the 6th April 1956, the memorial halls were completed, and a service of dedication was held, followed by a 'social'.

Images: © Langside Church Collection,
Erskine Cottage © 2021 Google.

SHARE YOUR STORIES


THIS BOOKLET IS PART OF A WIDER PROJECT TO GATHER RECOLLECTIONS, DOCUMENTS AND ARTEFACTS ILLUSTRATING THE EXPERIENCES OF FOLK LIVING AND WORKING WITHIN THE LANGSIDE, BATTLEFIELD, CATHCART AND NEWLANDS AREAS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

WE AIM TO CREATE A COMMUNITY ARCHIVE, SO WE NEVER FORGET. IF YOU HAVE A STORY YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH US VIA:

 facebook.com/groups/858478987589940

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 info@langsidecommunityheritage.org

 Post or hand delivery to:
Finn's Place,
Langside Church,
167 Ledard Road, Glasgow G42 9QU

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
HEARING YOUR UNTOLD
STORIES!**

**A HUGE THANKS TO THE WONDERFUL TEAM
OF VOLUNTEERS WHO WORKED SO HARD ON
THIS PROJECT AND THE ORGANISATIONS THAT
SUPPORTED US.**

**OUR THANKS TO LINDA JACKSON AND THE WRITERS
OF THE FINN'S PLACE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP
FOR THEIR POETRY CONTRIBUTIONS. YOU CAN
HEAR ALL OF THEIR WORK ON THIS PROJECT ON THE
LANGSIDE WALK ON GUIDIGO.**



**Newlands
South
Church**



DOWNLOAD OUR GUIDES

Our project has also created two self-guide audio tours to enable you to follow in the footsteps of the people featured in this booklet. You can download each audio tour to your digital device via an App called 'GuidiGO'. Here's how to get them:

- + Search for 'GuidiGO' in the App Store or search engine on your device.
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- + Once installed search GuidiGO for our tours by typing 'Langside' or 'Newlands'.
- + Select and download your tour.

You can then access the tour anytime and follow the narrative at your own pace.

Women Munitions Workers at Weir's Factory
Tom Purvis (1888–1959)

© the Estate of Tom Purvis, image
courtesy of Glasgow Museums.

**MAP
COUNTERPART
AVAILABLE:
'A DIFFERENT
KIND OF PLACE'**

A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR &

A DIFFERENT OF KIND PEACE



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Council, Langside Area Partnership.