

THEIR NAMES SHALL LIVETH  
EVER MORE



*They fought for our lives With  
valour and bravery They are our  
soldiers.*

“LEST WE FORGET”



# How it All Began

World War I (often abbreviated to WWI or WW1), also known as the First World War, the Great War, or the War to End All Wars, was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised in one of the largest wars in history. Over nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as a result of the war (including the victims of a number of genocides), a casualty rate exacerbated by the belligerents' technological and industrial sophistication, and the tactical stalemate caused by gruelling trench warfare. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history and precipitated major political change, including the Revolutions of 1917–1923 in many of the nations involved. Unresolved rivalries at the end of the conflict contributed to the start of the Second World War twenty-one years later.

The war drew in all the world's economic great powers, assembled in two opposing alliances: the Allies (based on the Triple Entente of the Russian Empire, the French Third Republic, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) versus the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Although Italy was a member of the Triple Alliance alongside Germany and Austria-Hungary, it did not join the Central Powers, as Austria-Hungary had taken the offensive against the terms of the alliance.

These alliances were reorganised and expanded as more nations entered the war: Italy, Japan and the United States joined the Allies, while the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria joined the Central Powers.

The trigger for the war was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914. This set off a diplomatic crisis when Austria-Hungary delivered an ultimatum to the Kingdom of Serbia and, as a result, entangled-international-alliances, formed over the previous decades, were invoked. Within weeks the major powers were at war, and the conflict soon spread around the world.

Russia was the first to order a partial mobilisation of its armies on 24–25 July, and when on 28 July Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia declared general mobilisation on 30 July. Germany presented an ultimatum to Russia to demobilise, and when this was refused, declared war on Russia on 1 August. Being outnumbered on the Eastern Front, Russia urged its Triple Entente ally France to open up a second front in the west.

Japan entered the war on the side of the Allies on 23 August 1914, seizing the opportunity of Germany's distraction with the European War to expand its sphere of influence in China and the Pacific.





Over forty years earlier in 1870, the Franco-Prussian War had ended the Second French Empire and France had ceded the provinces of Alsace-Lorraine to a unified Germany. Bitterness over that defeat and the determination to retake Alsace-Lorraine made the acceptance of Russia's plea for help an easy choice, so France began full mobilisation on 1 August and, on 3 August, Germany declared war on France. The border between France and Germany was heavily fortified on both sides so, according to the Schlieffen Plan, Germany then invaded neutral Belgium and Luxembourg before moving towards France from the north, leading the United Kingdom to declare war on Germany on 4 August due to their violation of Belgian neutrality.

After the German march on Paris was halted in the Battle of the Marne, what became known as the Western Front settled into a battle of attrition, with a trench line that changed little until 1917. On the Eastern Front, the Russian army led a successful campaign against the Austro-Hungarians, but the Germans stopped its invasion of East Prussia in the battles of Tannenberg and the Masurian Lakes. In November 1914, the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers, opening fronts in the Caucasus, Mesopotamia, and the Sinai Peninsula. In 1915, Italy joined the Allies and Bulgaria joined the Central Powers. Romania joined the Allies in 1916. After the sinking of seven US merchant ships by German submarines, and the revelation that the

Germans were trying to get Mexico to make war on the United States, the US declared war on Germany on 6 April 1917.

The Russian government collapsed in March 1917 with the February Revolution, and the October Revolution followed by a further military defeat brought the Russians to terms with the Central Powers via the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which granted the Germans a significant victory. After the stunning German Spring Offensive along the Western Front in the spring of 1918, the Allies rallied and drove back the Germans in the successful Hundred Days Offensive. On 4 November 1918, the Austro-Hungarian empire agreed to the Armistice of Villa Giusti, and Germany, which had its own trouble with revolutionaries, agreed to an armistice on 11 November 1918, ending the war in victory for the Allies.

By the end of the war or soon after, the German Empire, Russian Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire ceased to exist. National borders were redrawn, with nine independent nations restored or created, and Germany's colonies were parcelled out among the victors. During the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, the Big Four powers (Britain, France, the United States and Italy) imposed their terms in a series of treaties. The League of Nations was formed with the aim of preventing any repetition of such a conflict. This effort failed, and economic depression, renewed nationalism, weakened successor states, and feelings of humiliation (particularly in Germany) eventually contributed to the start of World War II.



Background Picture:  
Zonnebeke, West Flanders, Belgium – August 8, 2015.  
Tyne Cot, resting place of 11,900 servicemen of the British Empire from the First World War, is the largest Commonwealth Cemetery in the world.



# The Clarkson Family

**Corporal James Clarkson MM**  
*4th Bn. Grenadier Guards – 17542*

James Clarkson was born in Clackmannan and lived at 91 South Bridge in Bathgate with his wife Marion (Arthur). James was employed as a stoker with the Bathgate Gas Works but was an ex-soldier with the Grenadier Guards also. At the outbreak of war in August 1914, James immediately volunteered for active service and was serving in the trenches by October that year.

In January 1915, James was home on sick leave with frostbite and was interviewed by a representative of the Courier. Mr Clarkson frankly admitted that of the war he had little fresh to tell other than it was very hard work with every Tommy tackling the job that lay to his hand with great cheerfulness.

It was a war of trenches and artillery with progress being necessarily slow. So far as he could judge, the Germans were well handled and he did not support the theory that they were likely to crumple up until absolutely compelled to do so – which he had no doubt that they would when the better weather came.

Every day made the positions of the Allies stronger, and that of their opponents weaker. He paid a high compliment to the splendid and efficient commissariat arrangements for the British Army.

James returned to the front and served with his regiment. He was awarded the D.C.M. in June 1916 and sent a letter home to his wife and three children which contained a piece of the ribbon from the medal.

The following month Mrs Clarkson received a letter from a Chaplain stating that James had been badly wounded and was on the way to a base hospital and then to England. Then another letter came saying that he was greatly improving, but this was followed the next day by a letter with the fateful message that James had died from his wounds on the 18th of July 1916 – aged just 34.





Mrs Clarkson was presented with her husband's medal – sadly he did not live long enough to receive it. She also received a letter from the Commander of the Grenadier Guards, Henry Stuartfield, which read:

*“Dear Madam,  
Having received instructions today from the war office, I am forwarding to you your late husband's, 17542 Corporal James Clarkson of the regiment under my command, medal for bravery in the field.”*

The honour, on the front side, has a portrait of King George and on the reverse a laurel wreath with the initials G.R. and the words “for bravery in the field”.

James had four brothers who all served during the Great War. They were:

**Louis Clarkson** – a Corporal in the Scots Guards and had been through some hot times in the trenches since September 1914. He sent home a Kaiser's Iron Cross that he picked up from a captured trench. He was wounded at Neuve, Chapelle, but was able to continue in the fighting line.

**John Clarkson** – had served a full period in the Royal Field Artillery and was a reservist. When he returned to the army, he was transferred into the Royal Army Service Corp.

**William Clarkson** – a Corporal with the Highland Light Infantry and was an ex Royal Engineer. He had been involved in most of the major battles with his regiment.

**Hugh Clarkson** – had been in South Africa for many years and was in the Boer War serving with Cape Mounted Police. On the outbreak of the First World War he enlisted with the Navy.

It is not known if the remaining four brothers survived the war.





### **Sergeant James B. Gardener MM**

*16th Bn. Royal Scots – 19217*

James B. Gardener was born in Dalry in Ayrshire. His parents lived in Cochrane Street in Bathgate. He lived with his wife Christina Hutchison and was employed as a miner in Riddochhill Colliery in Bathgate.

James enlisted in Edinburgh with the Royal Scots in 1914 and was sent to France at the end of 1915. He was awarded the Military Medal in June 1916 and was badly wounded in the Battle of the Somme in July 1916, then spent some time in hospital before returning to France in 1917.

He was badly wounded again in April 1917 and had to return home to recover from his wounds. James was sent back to France in January 1918 and was killed in action two months later on the 21st March at Flanders.

James had a brother, William Gardener, who had been killed earlier in June 1915.



he had just turned 21 years of age, he was born 1895 and died 1959, he was an RSM with the Royal Scots, then transferred to the Royal Warwickshire Rifles, he fought bravely for King and Country at the Battle of the Somme. He was one of the lucky one's who came home. His brother John also served at the Somme and lost a leg. Harry took the same journey to the Somme in 2016, 100 years after the Battle.

### **Major John Russell**

*5th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers*

John Russell was the second son of ex Bailie Russell and not just well known in Bathgate, but Maybole where he lived.

John was brought up in Bathgate and later studied drawing and architecture. He set up his business in the town as an architect and for several years he was a member of the local Battalion and the Bathgate Long Range Club.

He left Bathgate in 1899 for Maybole and was employed as a sanitary inspector with Carrick District Council. He continued his interests in the Volunteers and was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in 1905. In 1907 he was promoted to Captain and was subsequently pushed up to Major in 1912 making him second in command of his Battalion.

At the outbreak of war in August 1914, John joined his Battalion for active duty and was sent to the Dardanelles in May 1915 – involving him in his fair share of the action. John was killed in action here on the 26th August 1915.

The same day John's father received the telegram informing him of his son's death, he received a letter from John stating he was in good health and spoke of the duties he was performing.

John had two brothers serving at the front. One with the Canadians and the other was a Chaplain. His sister was a nurse, attending to the wounded and was known to be on duty at Bangour Hospital in 1915.

Thank you to Bathgate Cllr Harry Cartmill for sharing this picture. It shows Harry's maternal Grandfather Alexander Russell,

# Bangour Village Hospital

Bangour Village Hospital was a psychiatric hospital located west of Dechmont in West Lothian, Scotland. It was officially opened in October 1906 (under the name Edinburgh District Asylum), over two years after the first patients were admitted in June 1904. In 1918 Bangour General Hospital was created in the grounds, but the hospital began winding down in 1989 with services being transferred to the newly built St. John's Hospital in the Howden area of Livingston. The final ward at Bangour eventually closed in 2004.

The hospital was modelled on the example of the Alt-Scherbitz asylum of the 1870s, at Schkeuditz, Germany, and represents one of the first village-plan psychiatric hospitals in Scotland. The Bangour institution comprised individual villas which would house approximately 30 patients each. The village also incorporated its own railway connection, a farm, bakery, workshops, recreation hall, school, shop, library and, latterly, a multi-denominational church.

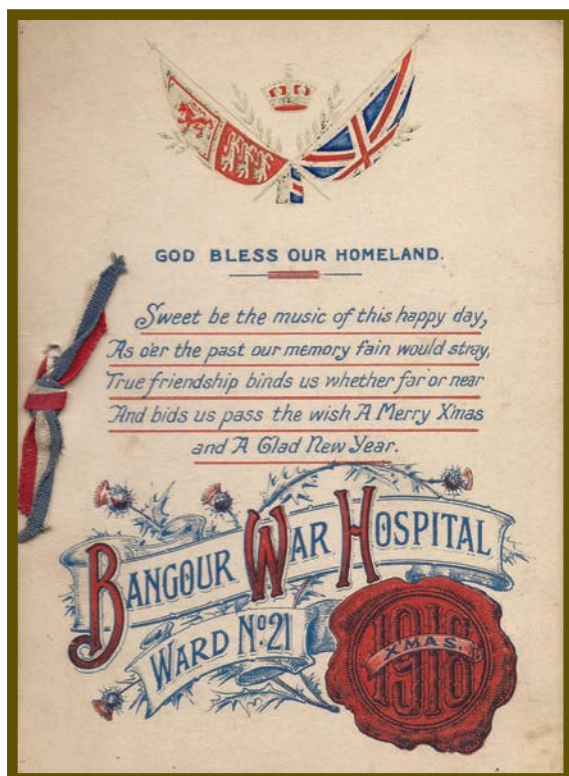
The hospital was requisitioned by the War Office during both wars when it became the "Edinburgh War Hospital" and "The Scottish Emergency Medical Hospital", reverting to a psychiatric hospital between the wars and after 1945. During the Second World War the patients were evacuated to Hartwoodhill Hospital.

The number of patients rose to over 3,000 in 1918. Temporary marquees and prefabricated huts were erected to cope with the demand for bed space, for both patients and staff. This led to the creation of Bangour General Hospital in the surrounding grounds, which was to become noted in many medical fields, in particular its burns and plastic surgery unit which was established in 1940. It also had a 1st class Maternity Unit serving the whole of the county.

In 1989, St John's Hospital opened in nearby Livingston, and services were transferred from Bangour General Hospital, which closed in the early 1990s. The Village Hospital also started to wind down after the opening of St John's, with the last remaining ward closing in 2004.

## The buildings

The hospital site comprises numerous buildings and structures, including 13 category A listed buildings. An architectural competition held in 1898 was won by Hippolyte Blanc. The villas are domestic in character, while the nurse's home is more institutional. The villas were set within landscaped grounds, and are built in a 17th-century Scottish Renaissance style, with numerous individual variations. At the centre of the site is an Edwardian Baroque hall, and a Romanesque style church, which was designed by H.O. Tarbolton and built 1924-1930



# Scottish Pipers



Sergeant-Piper Daniel Logan Laidlaw, VC, (pictured above) The King's Own Scottish Borderers, was born at Little Swinton, near Berwick-upon-Tweed on 26 July 1875. He was the son of Robert Laidlaw, an Enginemen, and Margaret Laidlaw, of Coldingham, Berwickshire.

His siblings were William, Isabella, Alice, Mary, James, George and Margaret.

The citation read, *"On 25 September 1915 during the Battle of Loos at Hill 70, prior to an assault on enemy trenches and during the worst of the bombardment, Piper Laidlaw, seeing that his company was shaken with the effects of gas, with complete disregard for danger, mounted the parapet*

*and, marching up and down, played his company out of the trench. The effect of his splendid example was immediate and the company dashed to the assault. Piper Laidlaw continued playing his pipes even after he was wounded and until the position was won."*

He died at Shoresdean, near Berwick-upon-Tweed, on 2 June 1950, age 74, and was buried in St Cuthbert's churchyard, Norham, Northumberland, where a memorial headstone, organized by the King's Own Scottish Borderers Museum and members of the Laidlaw family, was placed over his grave on 2 June 2002.





William Smith Duguid piped the McCrae's out of Edinburgh and then again at Southampton docks where the battalion set sail – bound for the Somme.

But it was his great sorrow that he was never able to play the pipes for the battalion on their return – as up to three quarters of the battalion were slaughtered in one of the bloodiest battles of WWI.

In spite of a prolific military career Duguid was buried in an unmarked grave, but today a memorial plaque (shown overleaf) was unveiled to mark his final resting place in Edinburgh to “right an old wrong”. The plaque was unveiled to mark the centenary of the battalion's departure for the front lines of WWI. And it will also



commemorate the battalion's imposing Great Dane mascot, Jock.

The first volunteers for McCrae's Battalion were 11 professional players from Heart of Midlothian – along with fellow players from Raith Rovers, Falkirk, Hibernian and Dunfermline.

The regiment was the first of the “footballers' battalions” of the war – in a model that was replicated throughout the British military. But on their first day over the top 810 of the battalion were killed or wounded in just half an hour of action.

The memorial plaque also marks the final resting place of his daughter Euphemia and wife Fanny.



The plaque also pays tribute to Jock – the battalion’s Great Dane mascot – who, legend has it, stopped eating and pined away in the grim aftermath of the bloodbath at the Somme.

A story goes of how he gave up a “plum position” as head porter of a local hospital – which came with a host of cushy benefits – to rejoin the army when WWI was declared.

Also how he deteriorated after the brutal massacre on the first day of the Somme – never recovering from the horrors he had witnessed in the trenches.

Sarah Innes, 80, when laying a wreath at the head of the memorial in tribute to her deceased father – the Adjutant of the 16th Royal Scots – spoke about Willie, saying: “He was a true soldier to go out and fight for king and country.”

Jack Alexander, 57 – the historian who led the charge to have Willie’s grave marked said: “This is just one of a number of initiatives that we’ve had over the last ten years to make sure that the battalion that was completely forgotten has now been remembered.





“It was a completely unmarked lair when he died in 1929 – the family had no money and they just left him there – and then they didn't have any money, so his wife and daughter are also buried there unmarked.

“It's significant because of Willie being the piper – and he was completely forgotten – he was a significant individual in the history of the battalion.”

Mr Alexander has also organised the building of a cairn at the village of Contalmaison in France, where so many of the soldiers lost their lives.

Major Gary Tait of 2 Scots added: “It took that spark of Jack Alexander not being content with the fact that a soldier who served with such distinction was buried in an unmarked grave.”

When WWI broke out in 1914 pipe-major Duguid was already a 40 year-old veteran of the Gordon Highlanders.

In 1897 he led his battalion in Pakistan, before fighting the Boers in South Africa.

After receiving an honourable discharge from the force he volunteered to join up again when WWI broke out.

Pipers in Scottish battalions often doubled as stretcher bearers in battle – and on the first day of the Somme Duguid dodged bullets from german machine guns to rescue wounded comrades.

But friends said that after the bloody battle he was left broken, before dying in 1929 at 53 year-old.

His family could not afford a headstone at his resting place at Piershill Cemetery in Edinburgh – a state of affairs now set to right by the McCrae's Battalion Trust.

James Alexander – the historian behind the design of the memorial – said: “It's another piece of the jigsaw puzzle.

“We need to keep the tradition of remembrance alive among young people.

“McCrae's Battalion were very idealistic, optimistic young men and it all ended in tragedy. This commemorates the gravestone of the man who led them to France.

“He was an older man who suffered watching his young comrades wiped out.”





# The British Infantry Regiments 1914-18

The “Poor Bloody Infantry” had the deadliest role of all and also shouldered the burden of much carrying and labouring work. The history and affiliations of every battalion of every British infantry regiment can be found on these pages.

## The Guards Regiments

Considered by many to be the elite of the infantry of the regular army, the Guards had no battalions of the Territorial Force and raised none for Lord Kitchener’s New Armies. In common with all other infantry regiments they eventually took in both “duration only” volunteers and conscripts but the Guards took care to maintain their pre-war standards of

efficiency and were amongst the infantry most feared by the enemy.

## Regiments by alphabet

Coldstream Guards  
Grenadier Guards  
Irish Guards  
Scots Guards  
Welsh Guards

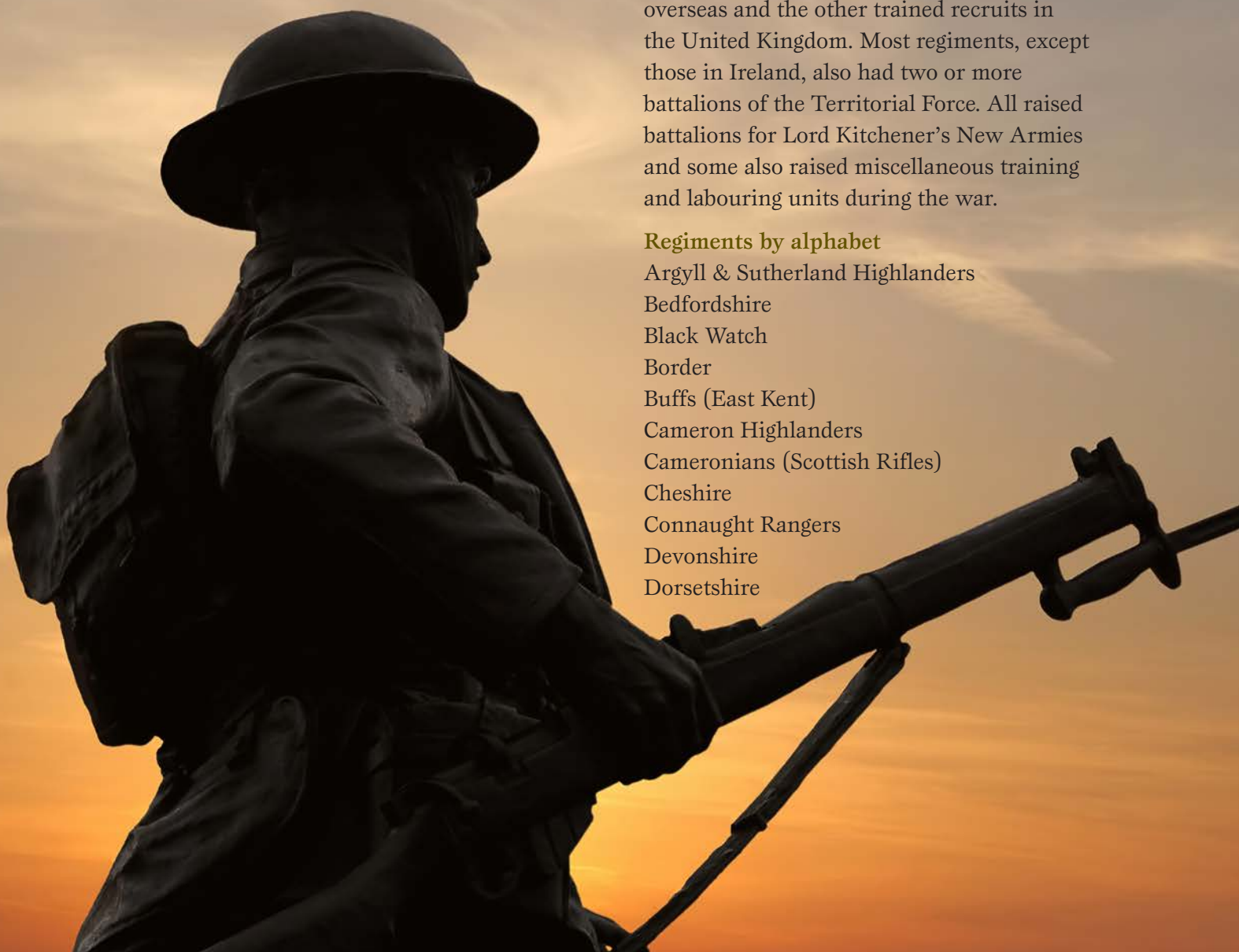
The Guards also raised a Machine Gun Regiment

## The Line Regiments

The majority of the infantry was made up of regiments with county or other regional affiliations. Most had two battalions of the regular army in 1914: one was usually overseas and the other trained recruits in the United Kingdom. Most regiments, except those in Ireland, also had two or more battalions of the Territorial Force. All raised battalions for Lord Kitchener’s New Armies and some also raised miscellaneous training and labouring units during the war.

## Regiments by alphabet

Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders  
Bedfordshire  
Black Watch  
Border  
Buffs (East Kent)  
Cameron Highlanders  
Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)  
Cheshire  
Connaught Rangers  
Devonshire  
Dorsetshire





Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry  
Duke of Wellington's (West Riding)  
Durham Light Infantry  
East Lancashire  
East Surrey  
East Yorkshire  
Essex  
Gloucestershire  
Gordon Highlanders  
Hampshire  
Highland Light Infantry  
King's (Liverpool)  
King's Own (Royal Lancaster)  
King's Own Scottish Borderers  
King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry  
King's Royal Rifle Corps  
Lancashire Fusiliers  
Leicestershire  
Leinster (Royal Canadians)  
Lincolnshire  
Loyal North Lancashire  
Manchester  
Middlesex  
Norfolk  
Northamptonshire  
North Staffordshire  
Northumberland Fusiliers  
Ox & Bucks Light Infantry  
Queen's (Royal West Surrey)  
Rifle Brigade  
Royal Berkshire  
Royal Dublin Fusiliers  
Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)  
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers  
Royal Irish Fusiliers  
Royal Irish Regiment  
Royal Irish Rifles  
Royal Munster Fusiliers  
Royal Scots  
Royal Scots Fusiliers  
Royal Sussex  
Royal Warwickshire

Royal Welsh Fusiliers  
Royal West Kent  
Seaforth Highlanders  
Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derbys)  
Somerset Light Infantry  
South Lancashire  
South Staffordshire  
South Wales Borderers  
Suffolk  
Welsh  
West Yorkshire  
Wiltshire  
Worcestershire  
York & Lancaster  
Yorkshire

### **The Territorial-only Regiments**

Some infantry regiments were exclusively composed of part-time volunteer soldiers of the Territorial Force and had no Regular or New Army battalions.

### **Regiments by alphabet**

Cambridgeshire  
Herefordshire  
Hertfordshire  
Highland Cyclist Battalion  
Honourable Artillery Company  
Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion  
Kent Cyclist Battalion  
London Regiment  
Monmouthshire  
Northern Cyclist Battalion

### **Miscellaneous Regiments**

Some infantry regiments just do not fit into any of the classifications above.

### **Regiments by alphabet**

The Household Battalion  
Channel Islands Militia – Royal Militia of Jersey and Royal Guernsey Light Infantry  
The British West Indies Regiment  
Royal Newfoundland Regiment



# Lest We Forget

64 men from Cochrane Street, Bathgate died in the Great War.

Scots Soldiers that died during the Great War estimated to be between 100,000 and 148,000.

887,000 soldiers from the UK and colonies died in the Great War, and more than 1.6 million were wounded, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

World War One was one of the deadliest conflicts in the history of the human race, in which over 16 million people died. The total number of both civilian and military casualties is estimated at around 37 million people. The war killed almost 7 million civilians and 10 million military personnel.



This World War 1 legacy booklet has been published by  
Ancre Somme Association.





"I am both humbled and delighted to be asked to be a Patron for the Ancre Somme Association Scotland. We can never fully repay the debt we owe those who have served and sacrificed for our country but we should all be ready to do all we can to acknowledge them through engagement, education, and remembrance.

The Association has made huge steps forward in a relatively short time and has captured the concept of remembering the Great War, WW2 and subsequent Wars and Conflicts through positive, open and transparent education and engagement across a broad cross section of the community. Encompassing all ages and backgrounds, acknowledging and supporting differing understanding and awareness of these momentous events, the Association is managing to ensure that a strong and unbreakable link to our shared history will remain and grow with those we most owe that education; our youth. There are a number of organisations who by nature support service personnel and their legacy; Ancre Somme Association Scotland also delivers this by remembrance, but crucially it is developing a credible and tangible liaison with education providers to deepen that understanding. I applaud and wholeheartedly support their positive efforts in this challenging but hugely rewarding area.

By affiliating and sharing, the Association has and will continue to reach out and engage with our communities ensuring that the core elements of its constitution are met and delivered in full. To do this a programme of awareness and fundraising has been entered into and I commend everyone to supporting them wherever they are able to do so.

I personally further commend the Association for all the hard work that they do to preserve the collective memory of those who have served by engaging with so many and I wish them every success indeed as they continue their outstanding work. I commit my support to them in all that they do.

**ASA Patron Lt. Col. Gary Tait MBE**



GOD BLESS ALL WHO HAVE SERVED IN  
HER MAJESTY'S ARMED FORCES  
PAST, PRESENT &  
FUTURE



FROM A GRATEFUL NATION  
“THANK YOU”