

In a Foreign Field – Memorials to the Missing

Many of Helensburgh's soldiers died in battle and their remains were not recovered. Men were often buried in temporary battlefield cemeteries and after the Armistice the Imperial War Graves Commission, as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was then known, carried out what was called a 'concentration'. The mortal remains of the war dead were collected from the battlefield cemeteries and re-buried in the new Imperial War Grave cemeteries.

In the beautifully maintained Commonwealth War Grave cemeteries the graves of all soldiers, regardless of rank, religion or country of origin are marked with a uniform headstone of white Portland limestone.

However, some men were lost forever on the battlefields and at sea and have No Known Grave. These men, approximately 315,000 in France and Belgium alone, are remembered with honour on the great memorials built overseas to honour their sacrifice. The inscription on the Menin Gate in Ypres encapsulates the intention of these memorials, "Here are recorded names of officers and men who fell in Ypres Salient, but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death".

The names of Helensburgh men with no known grave, 101 altogether, appear on twenty-six memorials to the missing.

All images, unless stated, Courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Arras Memorial to the Missing. Arras, Pas de Calais, France.



Helensburgh Soldiers

Andrew Alexander Adam, Walter Bain, William Dempster, James Don, Thomas Elliot (Elliott), Murdoch Gillies, James Graham, James Kelly, James Kidston Law (Arras Flying Services Memorial), Francis McClymont, John McHardy, Murdoch MacKay, Archibald McKillop, Alexander Neish, Alan Hope Smith Nicholl, Thomas G. Proudfoot, Alexander Richardson, Alexander Leitch Stewart, John Bennet (Jack)Taylor, William Thomson.

Not on the Helensburgh Cenotaph – John Colquhoun

Loos Memorial to the Missing. Loos, Pas de Calais, France.



Helensburgh Soldiers

Robert Blaney, Alva Alexander Graham, John Gourley Harvey, John Healy, Thomas McCready, Samuel MacKay, Gordon Fordyce MacLachlan, John O'Brien, Ralph George Campbell Robb, Samuel L. Robertson, Malcolm Smith.

Not on the Helensburgh Cenotaph – John Gray, Samuel McKay.

Ypres, The Menin Gate, Memorial to the Missing. Ypres Salient, Belgian Flanders, (up to 16 August 1917).



Helensburgh Soldiers

George Anderson, David Dorward, George McGeachy, Gilbert McInnes, John MacKenzie, Donald MacLachlan, Joseph Paterson, Joseph Pratt, Patrick Joseph Rock, James Stewart.

Not on the Helensburgh Cenotaph – Robert Allan.

Thiepval, The Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. Somme, France.



Helensburgh Soldiers

Patrick Burns, David Gilmour, John Graham, William McDougall, Andrew McShee, Samuel McWilliams, John Glen Paton, Alfred Anthony Douglas Raeburn, Mathew Freer Rodger, Albert W. Smith, William Walker.

Not on the Helensburgh Cenotaph – John McGlade, John Rice.

Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing. Ypres Salient, Belgian Flanders, Passchendaele, (after 16 August 1917).



Helensburgh Soldiers

James Black, James Gibson, Charles William Hewer, William Hosie, Archibald R McKechnie.

Not on the Helensburgh Cenotaph – George Bingham, Duncan Downie.

Ploegsteert Memorial to the Missing, France and Flanders, Lille.



Helensburgh Soldiers

Lawrence Burns

Not on the Helensburgh Cenotaph -

Frederick Corley

Nieuport Memorial to the Missing, West-Vlaanderen, Belgian coast.



Helensburgh Soldiers

John Leitch

Vimy Memorial to the Missing, Canadian Forces. Arras, Vimy Ridge, Pas de Calais, France.



Helensburgh Soldiers

James Carson, Christopher Strang McGregor, James Alistair White.

Le Touret Memorial to the Missing, Pas de Calais, France. (October 1914 – September 1915)



Helensburgh Soldiers

John Eugene Havelock Currie

William Archibald Robertson

Soissons Memorial to the Missing, Aisne, France.



Helensburgh Soldiers

John MacDonald

David Wilson



Cambrai Memorial to the Missing, Loverval, France

Helensburgh Soldiers

Dugald McMillan

Villers - Bretonneux Memorial to the Missing, Somme, France.



Helensburgh Soldiers

Malcolm Graham McBryde

Pozières Memorial to the Missing, Somme France.



Helensburgh Soldiers

Not on the Helensburgh Cenotaph -
Charles Fay
Thomas McFarlane.

The Indian Memorial of Neuve-Chapelle, Memorial to the Missing, France.



Helensburgh Soldiers

Herbert Wardlaw Milne



Caterpillar Valley Memorial to the Missing New Zealand soldiers of the Battle of the Somme. Somme, France.

Helensburgh Soldiers

Walter Battison



Messines Ridge New Zealand Memorial to the Missing. Ypres, Belgium.

Helensburgh Soldiers

Not on the Helensburgh Cenotaph –

Robert Thornhill Hunter

Doiran Memorial to the Missing, Macedonia and Salonika, Greece.



Helensburgh Soldiers

Charles Hill Dodds

Helles Memorial to the Missing, Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey.



Helensburgh Soldiers

Thomas Rennie Burdon

Harold Stark

Canterbury Provincial Memorial to those with no known grave, Christchurch, New Zealand



Helensburgh Soldiers

William Smith Sinclair

© Christchurch City Council, New Zealand.

Lone Pine (Australia) Memorial to the Missing. Gallipoli, Turkey



Helensburgh Soldiers

Harold James Macrae Keith

David Robertson

Basra War Memorial to the Missing, Mesopotamia (Iraq).



Helensburgh Soldiers

Arthur Leslie Hamilton

John McDougall (Thomson).



India Gate Delhi. Commonwealth Forces, North West Frontier and Third Afghan War.

Helensburgh Soldiers

George Hair Ronald.

Plymouth Naval Memorial. Royal Navy, lost at sea with no known grave. England.



Helensburgh Sailors

William Dickson

John Fraser

Chatham Naval Memorial, Royal Navy, lost at sea with no known grave. England.



Helensburgh Sailors

James Henry Digby Watson

Harry Webster

Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Royal Navy, lost at sea with no known grave. England.



Helensburgh Sailors

Alexander Campbell

Frank Lowson Ramsay

Not on the Helensburgh Cenotaph -

Ernest Turner

Hollybrook Memorial to the Missing and those Lost at Sea. Southampton, England.



Helensburgh Sailors

John Joseph McIlvaine

Tower Hill Memorial Merchant Marine, lost at sea with no known grave. London, England.



Helensburgh Sailors

Daniel Sellars McMillan