

The Missing Names – Helensburgh's war dead not named on the Cenotaph

The research for this project has brought to light the names of Helensburgh men, and men who are associated with Helensburgh, who died in World War I whose names are not on the war memorial.

There are likely to be several reasons for this. Although the Town Council minutes of the War Memorial Committee are lost it is likely, that as with other war memorials, names were put forward and inscribed on payment of a subscription. It may have been that some families simply could not afford it. We know that some of the names on the memorial were put forward, and presumably paid for, by the soldier's employer.

If the bereaved family had a grave to tend to, in Helensburgh Cemetery or elsewhere, they may not have felt the need to have the name of the deceased inscribed on the memorial. The memorial was perhaps principally to remember those who are buried in a foreign field or with no known grave.

The Larchfield School men may have been boarding at the school and are remembered elsewhere in their hometowns.

For some of the names on the memorial it has been difficult to find a Helensburgh connection. It was not unusual for relatives to have the name of their war dead listed on their local memorial close to them rather than in the hometown of the deceased.

Apart from all these logical reasons, for some the grief may have been simply too much to bear to have the name of their lost relative carved into stone.

Some of the names on Helensburgh Church memorials, in the Helensburgh Roll of Honour 1914-1919, and the Helensburgh and Gareloch Unionist Association Roll of Honour are remembered with honour on other local war memorials. Not everyone remembered in the Helensburgh Roll of Honour is named on the cenotaph. The Helensburgh Roll of Honour also

gives the names on the other local memorials in Cardross (31), Rhu (32), Shandon (7), Faslane (34), Garelochhead (21), Rosneath and Clynder (16), Cove and Kilcreggan (30), Arrochar and Tarbet (15) and Luss (41).

This project has researched those named on Helensburgh War Memorial. We have not researched those not named on the cenotaph or those named on other local memorials. The brief biographies below are the Helensburgh soldiers not named on the Helensburgh War Memorial that we have identified from various sources – principally The Helensburgh Roll of Honour, local church, school and club memorials, family members and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission list for Helensburgh Cemetery.

There are 206 names listed on the World War I panel on the memorial. The ‘missing’ names not on the Helensburgh War Memorial listed here add a further 59 to Helensburgh’s loss in The Great War.

265 who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The following men named on these Rolls of Honour have not been traced -

Larchfield School

J Y Barr J K Dron D C Kennedy J W Milne J B Montgomerie-Fleming A T Orr H G C Pender
H D Robinson C Trollope

Helensburgh and Gareloch Unionist Association Roll of Honour

James Henderson Benjamin Hustler

Helensburgh Baptist Church Memorial

John C Stables

St Joseph's Church Memorial

Brian MacDonald

Old Parish Church Memorial

D H Johnstone L McDonald James McDougall R (Roderick) Nicholson Thomas Rodger

Park Church Memorial

John Boyle Davis Michie

St Andrew's Kirk Memorial

William Wadell Muir

St Bride's Church Memorial

William Davidson



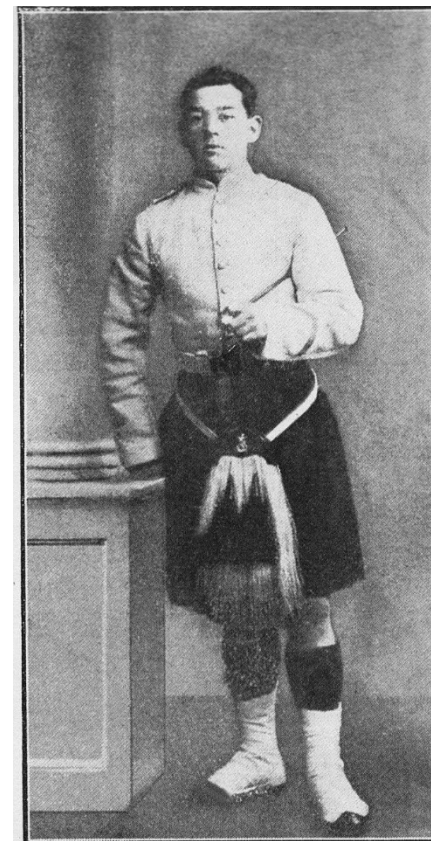
Private COLIN A. ARROL.



Lance-Sergeant GEORGE BINGHAM.



Private J. COLQUHOUN.



Corporal JOHN GRAY.

Private Robert Allan

Australian Imperial Force (38th Bn.)

Service No: 3106 **Born:** 1899 **At:** Native of Helensburgh **Family:** Son of William Mutch Allan and Mary Lochart Mathieson Allan **Family Home:** Kyabram, Victoria **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 13 October 1917 **At:** Ypres **Age:** 18 **Buried at:** No Known Grave. *Remembered with honour* - Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial to the Missing and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Sergeant Walter D Andrew

East African Supply Corps

Service No: 4017 **Born:** Unknown **At:** Unknown **Family:** Unknown **Family Home:** Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 11 February 1918 on active service **At:** Tanganyika Territory, Tanzania **Age:** Unknown **Buried at:** Dar es Salaam War Cemetery, Tanzania (concentration in early 1970s from Ndanda / Mtama Cemetery). *Remembered with honour* - Old Parish Church Memorial and Helensburgh Roll of Honour

Private A S Andrew

1st Canadian Brigade (4th Batt.) (1st Central Ontario Regiment)

Service No: 18164 **Born:** Unknown **At:** Unknown **Family:** Unknown **Family Home:** Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 3 July 1915 **At:** Flanders (Ypres) **Age:** Unknown **Buried at:** Maple Leaf Cemetery, Neuve Eglise, Belgium. *Remembered with honour* - Old Parish Church Memorial and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Private Colin Archibald Arrol

Royal Fusiliers (17th Bn.)

Service No: PS/28 **Born:** 1886 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Walter and Beatrice Arrol **Family Home:** 5, Park Crescent, Worthing **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 26 July 1916 **At:** Battle of the Somme **Age:** 30 **Buried at:** Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz, France (concentration) **Grave:** 'The Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest Joshua 1'. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Roll of Honour and Helensburgh and Gareloch Unionist Association Roll of Honour.

Lance Sergeant George Bruce Bingham

Cameron Highlanders (7th Bn.)

Service No: S/13720 **Born:** Unknown **At:** Unknown **Family:** Unknown **Family Home:** Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 20 August 1917 **At:** Ypres **Age:** Unknown **Buried at:** No known grave. *Remembered with honour* - Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Lance Corporal George Blyth

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (8th Bn.)

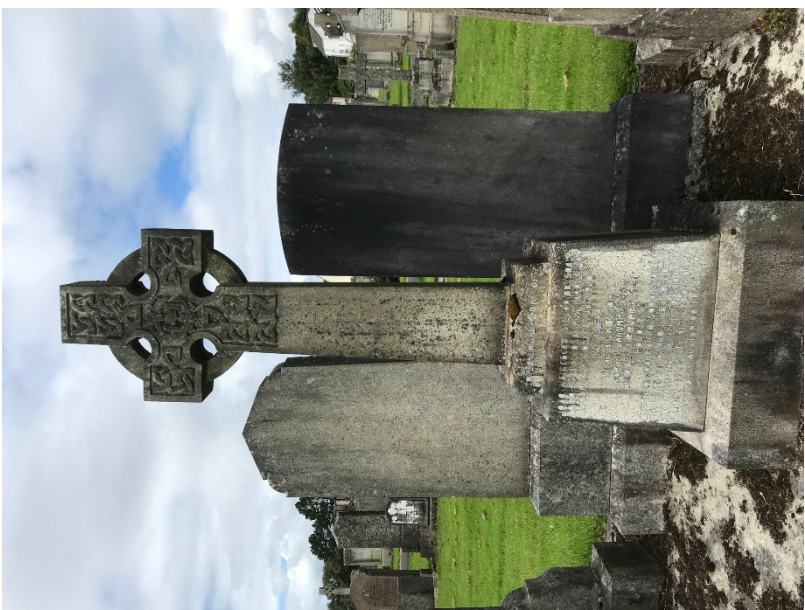
Service No: 302807 **Born:** Unknown **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of George Blyth **Family Home:** 32 East Argyle Street, Helensburgh **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 16 July 1920 **At:** Helensburgh, from effects of war **Age:** Unknown **Buried at:** Helensburgh Cemetery **Grave:** family. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Cemetery.

Private William Brabender (served as W MacKenzie)

Highland Light Infantry (14th Bn.)

Service No: 28919 **Born:** 1894 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Unknown **Family Home:** Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown

Education: Unknown **Died:** 11 June 1919 **At:** Helensburgh **Age:** 25 **Buried at:** Helensburgh Cemetery (Lair owner is the Burgh Chamberlain G. R. Murray Esq.) **Grave:** CWGC. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Cemetery.





Captain Alexander Nicholson Drysdale MC

Second Lieutenant Charles Stuart Hedderwick Corporal Duncan Downie

Private *John Alexander Ross Chisholm*

Glasgow Yeomanry (Queen's Own Royal)

Service No: 95210 **Born:** 1896 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Eng. Comdr. J Chisholm RNR RD & Mrs Marion J Chisholm
Family Home: 419, Great Western Road, Glasgow **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 20 March 1917, Killed
 in Action **At:** Unknown (Cambrai / Arras area) **Age:** 21 **Buried at:** Croisilles British Cemetery (concentration).
Remembered with honour - Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Private *John Colquhoun*

Royal Scots Fusiliers (1st Bn.)

Service No: 23778 **Born:** Unknown **At:** Glen Fruin. **Family:** Son of John Colquhoun **Family Home:** Drumfad Farm, Glen Fruin **Siblings:** Three brothers and a sister, brother William farmed at Tamnavoulin. His father, sister and two brothers at home and William, his wife and young son all died of flu within a week in February 1919. **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 3 May 1917 **At:** Arras **Age:** Unknown **Buried at:** No Known Grave. *Remembered with honour* - Old Parish Church Memorial, Helensburgh Roll of Honour and Arras Memorial to the Missing.

Second Lieutenant Frederick Charles Corley Border Regiment (attached to 8th Batt.)

Service No: Unknown **Born:** Unknown **At:** Unknown **Family:** Unknown **Family Home:** Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 12 April 1918 **At:** France and Flanders **Age:** Unknown **Buried at:** No Known Grave. *Remembered with honour* - Ploegsteert Memorial to the Missing and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Quarter Master Sergeant Peter Cumming 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade (2nd Batt. HQ)

Service No: 20760 **Born:** Unknown **At:** Unknown **Family:** Unknown **Family Home:** Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 4 November 1917 **At:** Lens / Arras area **Age:** Unknown **Buried at:** Aix-Noulette Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Corporal Duncan Downie Royal Scots Fusiliers (2nd Bn.)

Service No: 204671 **Born:** 1886 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Neil and Janet Downie **Family Home:** 36, Woodend Drive, Jordanhill, Glasgow **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 14 December 1917 **At:** Ypres Salient (?)

Passchendaele) **Age:** 31 **Buried at:** No known grave *Remembered with honour* - Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, Helensburgh Cemetery.

Captain Alexander Nicholson Drysdale MC

Highland Light Infantry (17th Bn.).

Service No: Unknown **Born:** 1884 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of John W. W. and Jane Drysdale, of Belmar, Helensburgh
Family Home: Glasgow **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 15 April 1917 of wounds received in action on 1 April 1917 **At:** Cayeux en Senterre, The Somme **Age:** 33 **Buried at:** Cayeux Military Cemetery. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Cemetery.

Private William Elrick

Highland Light Infantry (5th Bn.)

Service No: 203722 **Born:** 1897 **At:** Newmills, Aberdeenshire **Family:** Son of Mr and Mrs William Elrick **Family Home:** Stroul Lodge, Clynder **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 8 November 1918, of pneumonia **At:** Clynder **Age:** 21 **Buried at:** Helensburgh Cemetery **Grave:** CWGC, 'Sleep on dear son your labour o'er until the awakening morn.'
Remembered with honour - Helensburgh Cemetery.

Private Charles Parsons Fay

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (1/8th Batt.)

Service No: 326006 **Born:** 1881 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of William & Ann Fay and husband of Nellie Maud Fay **Family Home:** 3, Ossian Road, Stroud Green, London **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 21 March 1918 **At:** Somme **Age:** 37 **Buried at:** No Known Grave. *Remembered with honour* - Pozieres Memorial to the Missing, Somme, France and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

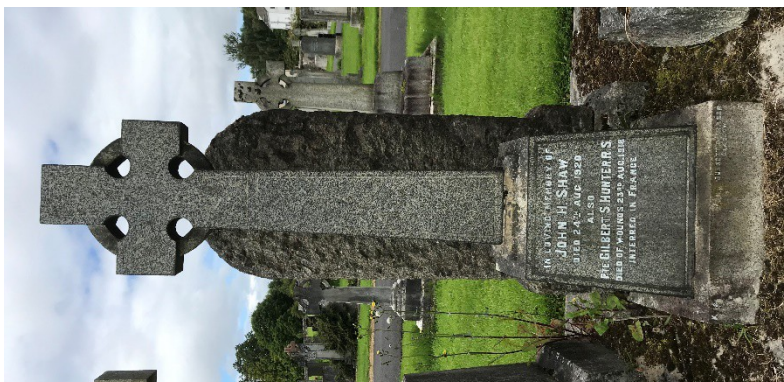
Staff Sergeant *George Robertson Gillespie*

Royal Army Medical Corps (141st Field Ambulance)

Service No: 15312 **Born:** 1882 **At:** Helensburgh **Family:** Son of William and Agnes Gillespie **Family Home:** Unknown

Siblings: Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 19 June 1920 **At:** Lancaster **Age:** 38 **Buried at:** Helensburgh Cemetery

Grave: family. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Cemetery.





Private Gilbert Shaw Hunter Lieutenant Lachlan Seymour Graham Lance Corporal George Blyth Private William Elrick

Lieutenant *Lachlan Seymour Graham*

Highland Light Infantry (12th Bn.)

Service No: Unknown **Born:** 19 September 1882 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Duncan Graham, of Glasgow **Family**

Home: Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 29 August 1917, killed in action **At:** Ypres **Age:** 34

Buried at: Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. **Grave:** 'In his will is our peace'. *Remembered with honour* – Helensburgh Cemetery.

Corporal *John Gray*

Black Watch (2nd Bn.)

Service No: 8399 **Born:** Unknown **At:** Unknown **Family:** Unknown **Family Home:** Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown
Education: Unknown **Died:** 25 September 1915 **At:** Loos **Age:** Unknown **Buried at:** No Known Grave. *Remembered with honour* - Loos Memorial to the Missing, Helensburgh Post Office Memorial and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Private James Hay

Gordon Highlanders (2nd Batt.)

Service No: S/8972 **Born:** 1884 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Jane Hay of 56, Gardner Street, Partick, Glasgow and husband of Christina Baird Hay **Family Home:** Millburn Terrace, Torphichen, Bathgate **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 23 March 1915, died of wounds **At:** France and Flanders **Age:** 31 **Buried at:** Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France **Grave:** 'Gone but not forgotten'. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Second Lieutenant Charles Stuart Hedderwick

Royal Scots (B Coy., 2nd Bn.)

Service No: Unknown **Born:** 1890 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Edwin Charles and Mary Hedderwick **Family Home:** 17, Kew Terrace, Glasgow and later Mrs M Hedderwick High May Field, Helensburgh **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 28 February 1915 **At:** Ypres **Age:** 25 **Buried at:** Godezonne Farm Cemetery, Belgium **Grave:** 'Killed in action while aiding the wounded Blessed are the merciful'. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Cemetery.

Private David Howlison

Gordon Highlanders (4th Bn)

Service No: 235297 **Born:** 1885 **At:** Unknown (Native of Glasgow) **Family:** Husband of Helen Baird Gillespie Howlison **Family Home:** 2, Whitehill Street, Dennistoun, Glasgow **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 16 September 1917, died of wounds **At:** Dozinghem casualty clearing station **Age:** 32 **Buried at:** Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Westvleteren, Belgium. **Grave:** 'I know that my redeemer liveth'. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Roll of Honour and St Bride's Church Memorial.



Private William Brabender (served as W MacKenzie) and Private John Kelly Staff Serjeant George Robertson Gillespie Private Charles Freebairn Jardine

Private *Gilbert Shaw Hunter*

Royal Scots (2nd Bn.)

Service No: 59975 **Born:** 1899 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Benjamin and Jessie Hunter **Family Home:** 12, Ardmore Street, Dennistoun, Glasgow **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 23 August 1918, died of wounds **At:** Doullens,

Somme **Age:** 19 **Buried at:** Bagneux Military Cemetery, Gezaincourt, France. **Grave:** 'He died that we might live'.

Remembered with honour - Helensburgh Cemetery

Rifleman Robert Thornhill Hunter

3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade (1st Bn.)

Service No: 23/176 **Born:** 1893 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Mrs Jane Whyte (Note CWGC gives his middle name as Thomas) **Family Home:** 22, Maitland Buildings, Helensburgh **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 7 June 1917, Killed in Action **At:** Messines Ridge, Belgium **Age:** 24 **Buried at:** No Known Grave. *Remembered with honour* - Messines Ridge (N.Z.) Memorial and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Private Charles Freebairn Jardine

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (8th Bn.)

Service No: 302874 **Born:** 1895 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Mrs Maggie Jardine **Family Home:** 2, William Street, Helensburgh **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 13 May 1921 of effects of war **At:** Helensburgh **Age:** 26 **Buried at:** Helensburgh Cemetery *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Cemetery

Private John Kelly

Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

Service No: 17389 **Born:** 1883 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Mrs Kelly **Family Home:** Alma Place, Helensburgh **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 17 September 1920 **At:** Helensburgh **Age:** 37 **Buried at:** Helensburgh Cemetery (Lair owner is the Burgh Chamberlain G. R. Murray Esq.) **Grave:** CWGC (at burial wreaths on grave 'from Comrades of the War'). *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Cemetery.

Company Sergeant Major John McGlade

Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders (11th Bn)

Service No: S/3630 **Born:** 1880 **At:** Unknown **Family** Son of John McGlade, Denny and husband of Clara Dore McGlade
Family Home: 11, Harbour Road, Wigtown **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 15 September 1916 **At:** The Somme **Age:** 36 **Buried at:** No Known Grave. *Remembered with honour* - Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Captain Samuel Francis Henderson Mackay

East Lancashire Regiment (5th Batt)

Service No: Unknown **Born:** 1880 **At:** Helensburgh **Family:** Son of the late Martin & Agnes Henderson MacKay and husband of Valentine Renee du Bled MacKay **Family Home:** Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 13 June 1917 **At:** Died a prisoner of war of wounds received in action at Festubert. **Age:** 37 **Buried at:** No Known Grave. *Remembered with honour* - Loos Memorial to the Missing and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Corporal William McKee

Royal Irish Rifles (2nd Batt.)

Service No: 4885 **Born:** 1894 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Capt. Hugh & Mrs Charlotte McKee **Family Home:** Saul Street, Downpatrick, County Down **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 30 August 1916 **At:** The Battle of the Somme **Age:** 22 **Buried at:** Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme, France **Grave:** 'God rest and guard you boys until the grand reunion Easter Day'. *Remembered with honour* - Downpatrick War Memorial and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Private Bandsman D McKinnon

Seaforth Highlanders (2nd Batt.)

Service No: 135 **Born:** Unknown **At:** Unknown **Family:** Unknown **Family Home:** Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 25 August 1914 **At:** France (near Cambrai) **Age:** Unknown **Buried at:** Viesly Communal Cemetery, France. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Major Arthur Russell St. John Moubray MC

Royal Garrison Artillery (200th Siege Bty.)

Service No: Unknown **Born:** 1891 **At:** Lake County, Florida, USA **Family:** Son of Mrs L. A. and the late A. R. Moubray, RNR
Family Home: c/o Col. Marshall, 32 Lancaster Road, South Norwood. **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 2 July 1918, died of wounds **At:** Somme **Age:** 27 **Buried at:** Crouy British Cemetery, Crouy-sur-Somme. **Grave:** 'Died of wounds age 27. Not lost but gone before'. *Remembered with honour* - Park Church Memorial and Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Private Joshua Reid

Gordon Highlanders (1/6th Batt.)

Service No: S/41496 **Born:** 1888 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of William & Isabella Seaton Reid **Family Home:** Bothwell and later Mr Reid Tynron, Adele Street, Motherwell **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 23 November 1917, Killed in Action **At:** Battle of Cambrai **Age:** 29 **Buried at:** Flesquieres Hill British Cemetery, Nord, France (concentration). *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Private John Rice

Cameronians, Scottish Rifles.

Service No: 11269. **Born:** 12 August 1896. **At:** 33, Grant Street, Helensburgh. **Family:** Illegitimate son of domestic servant Catherine Rice. Stepson of Mr James Stocks and Catherine Rice. **Family Home:** 33, Grant Street, Helensburgh. **Siblings:** (half siblings) Agnes, Elizabeth, Margaret, Alexander and James. **Education:** Empress Training Ship. **Died:** 3 July 1916. Killed in action. **At:** The Battle of the Somme. **Age:** 20. **Buried at:** No Known Grave. *Remembered with honour* - Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.

Private James Sorley

Royal Scots Fusiliers (1st Batt,)

Service No: 20755 **Born:** 1896 **At:** Unknown **Family:** Son of Mr and Mrs J Sorley **Family Home:** 35, East King Street, Helensburgh **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 24 December 1919, from war causes **At:** Helensburgh **Age:** 23 **Buried at:** Helensburgh Cemetery **Grave:** CWGC. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Cemetery.

Driver Henry Sproat

Royal Field Artillery ('Y' 5th Trench Mortar Bty.) and Royal Horse Artillery

Service No: 2620 **Born:** Unknown **At:** Unknown **Family:** Unknown **Family Home:** Unknown **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 19 April 1918 Killed in Action **At:** Thiennes area **Age:** Unknown **Buried at:** Tannay British Cemetery, Thiennes, Nord, France. *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Roll of Honour.

Chief Writer Ernest John Turner

Royal Navy.

Service No: 345231. HMS 'Hampshire'. **Born:** 1883 **At:** Southsea **Family:** Married in 1911 to Margaret K. Turner, daughter of John Donaldson, gardener of Helensburgh. Ernest and Margaret had a young son, Ernest born in 1914, who grew up to have a very distinguished military career. **Family Home:** Palestine Place, 31, James Street, Helensburgh. **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** unknown. **Died:** 5 June 1916. **At:** Mine explosion off Orkney with Kitchener on board. **Age:** 33 **Buried at:** Lost at Sea. *Remembered with honour* - St Columba's Church Memorial, Helensburgh and Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

Air Mechanic Second Class Timothy Wilfred Warren

Royal Flying Corps (Recruit's Depot)

Service No: 60319 **Born:** 1899 **At:** Glasgow **Family:** Son of Thomas Thorburn Warren and the late Maggie Warren **Family Home:** Geilsland, Beith, Ayrshire **Siblings:** Unknown **Education:** Unknown **Died:** 16 March 1917, of sickness **At:** Aldershot **Age:** 18 **Buried at:** Helensburgh Cemetery *Remembered with honour* - Helensburgh Cemetery.



Private DAVID HOWLISON.



Q.-M.-Sergeant PETER CUMMING.



Rifleman ROBERT THORNHILL HUNTER.



C. S.-M. JOHN M'GLADE.



Private William Muir

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Timothy Wilfred Warren

Private James Sorley