Falkirk Remembers

THE FALKIRK WAR MEMORIAL
Falkirk War Memorial

Remembering the fallen of two World Wars

The War Memorial in Dollar Park was unveiled on 13th June 1926. At that time it commemorated the 1193 men from the burgh who gave their lives in the First World War. On 19th July 1953 it was rededicated after the loss of another 463 in the Second World War. For reasons explained later the names of the fallen were not included unlike all the other memorials in Falkirk district. This omission has been a matter of concern to many for decades and in 2017 former Provost Pat Reid brought together a group of people to form the Friends of Falkirk War Memorial. Under the chairmanship of Morris Robb, formerly Falkirk’s Director of Architectural Services, the group raised the necessary funds from public and private sources including hundreds of members of the community. The work was completed in October 2019 and the Memorial rededicated on 3rd November.
With Thanks

The Friends of Falkirk War Memorial are grateful to all those who have helped to place the names of the fallen on the War Memorial. Their contributions are fully acknowledged at the end of this booklet.

The booklet has been produced to mark the rededication of the Falkirk War Memorial on 3rd November 2019. The addition of the names of the fallen was undertaken by the Friends to complete the work of remembrance which was not done in 1926 or 1953.

The book was written and compiled by Ian Scott of Falkirk Local History Society and funded by the Falkirk Community Schools Charity in order to encourage an understanding of Falkirk’s sacrifice in the two great wars of the 20th century among our children and young people. We hope that it will also be useful to anyone with an interest in local history as well as those whose fathers and grandfathers took part in the conflicts, and especially those who lost their lives.
It is 100 years since the Great War of 1914-18 which was one of the most terrible events in the history of our country and the world. By the time it ended in November 1918 over 12 million soldiers had died on the battlefield including more than 100,000 from Scotland.

It is hard to understand why there was such a horrific war between the world’s most powerful countries and it is certainly not possible to explain the reasons in a short booklet like this. We can only try to describe what happened rather than why it started or why it lasted such a long time and brought such destruction and pain to millions of families across the world and in our own towns and villages.

The most powerful countries in Europe, with Britain, France and Russia on one side, and Germany and Austria-Hungary on the other, were the main participants joined by many other nations like Belgium, Serbia, Italy, Turkey and later, the United States. Each thought the others were a threat to their land, or their trade or their way of life and were ready to use everything they had by way of money and men to defeat the other side.

Men came from countries that were then part of the British Empire like Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India to fight side-by-side with their Scots, Irish, Welsh and English comrades. For the soldiers who went willingly to fight or were ordered to go by their Kings or Government it was a fight to save their country and to keep the world as it was. No matter what side they were on they believed what they were told.
After the war was over a man called W N Ewer wrote a poem called *Five Souls* each representing a soldier killed in the war from Russia, Austria, France, Germany and Britain. The souls tell how they left their jobs and families to fight and die far away from home. Each one says: “I gave my life for freedom, this I know. For those who bade me fight had told me so”.

**FIRST SOUL**
I was a peasant of the Polish plain;  
I left my plough because the message ran:  
Russia, in danger, needed every man  
To save her from the Teuton; and was slain.

*I gave my life for freedom - This I know  
For those who bade me fight had told me so.*

**SECOND SOUL**
I was a Tyrolese, a mountaineer;  
I gladly left my mountain home to fight  
Against the brutal treacherous Muscovite;  
And died in Poland on a Cossack spear.

*I gave my life for freedom - This I know  
For those who bade me fight had told me so.*

**THIRD SOUL**
I worked in Lyons at my weaver’s loom,  
When suddenly the Prussian despot hurled  
His felon blow at France and at the world;  
Then I went forth to Belgium and my doom.

*I gave my life for freedom - This I know  
For those who bade me fight had told me so.*

**FOURTH SOUL**
I owned a vineyard by the wooded Main,  
Until the Fatherland, begirt by foes  
Lusting her downfall, called me, and I rose  
Swift to the call - and died in far Lorraine.

*I gave my life for freedom - This I know  
For those who bade me fight had told me so.*

**FIFTH SOUL**
I worked in a great shipyard by the Clyde;  
There came a sudden word of wars declared.  
Of Belgium, peaceful, helpless, unprepared,  
Asking our aid: I joined the ranks, and died.

*I gave my life for freedom - This I know  
For those who bade me fight had told me so.*

There are many places and events mentioned in the poem which tell us about the experiences of ordinary men facing one another on the battlefield. Although the poet has chosen a Glasgow shipyard worker to represent Britain he could just as easily have picked an iron moulder from Grahamston or a coal maker from Glen Village.
Most of the men named on the Falkirk Memorial fought and died in Belgium and France. From the early weeks of the war in August 1914 to the very end of the action five years later, most of the fighting was along what was called the Western Front. The Belgian, British and French soldiers had halted the great advance of the powerful German army along a line which stretched from the English Channel in Belgium, across northern France and then down to the border with Switzerland. You can see the line marked on the map.

Each side dug lines of trenches facing across what they called ‘No Man’s Land’ and for years pounded the other side with millions of shells from huge guns before ‘going over the top’ on foot and trying to capture the other side’s trenches. Millions were killed doing this and sometimes they only gained a few hundred metres of land which was taken back when the enemy began their own attacks. The British army fought mainly at the Western end and it was near towns in Belgium like Ypres and Mons and at Loos and Arras in France, that the most terrible battles were fought. Later there were new weapons like poison gas and tanks which played a part but mostly the same plans were used over and over again.

Most of the Falkirk men died and are buried in the many graveyards which are found all over the area. A huge number have no known grave and are either named on the great memorials to the missing like Menin Gate at Ypres. Many of them have graves marked as ‘A Soldier from the Great War’ and ‘Known unto God’.

There were other places where British soldiers fought and died. Sometimes these were called ‘sideshows’ because they were not thought to be as big or important as the battles of the Western Front. Tens of thousands died at Gallipoli facing the Turkish forces and many were lost in Greece, Egypt and Palestine. Larbert men were among them.
World War I Time Line

Outbreak of War
4th August 1914

MARNE
September 1914

LOOS
September 1915

YPRES
April 1915

GALLIPOLI
April 1915

JUTLAND
May 1916

THE SOMME
July - September 1916

ARRAS
April 1917

PASSCHENDAELLE
June 1917

CAMBRAI
October 1917

AMIENS
August 1918

Armistice
11th November 1918
Falkirk in 1914

In 1914 Falkirk was a well-established powerhouse of industrial Scotland with over 30 iron foundries making and selling a huge variety of domestic, agricultural and industrial products to every corner of the world. Most of the population of 35,000 depended on this basic industry and on related suppliers like the coal mines, brick works and engineering shops but the town was also a highly successful retail centre with dozens of quality shops and stores attracting custom from the towns and villages of central Scotland. The arrival of the electric trams in 1905 linking the suburbs and villages of East Stirlingshire on the circular route, boosted the town’s reputation as a place to shop and be entertained. The streets were full of handsome Victorian and Edwardian buildings including an array of fine churches of all denominations packed to capacity each Sunday by a people devoted to the practice of their Christian faith. In the recent war in South Africa the ‘bairns’ had played a disproportionately large part and the town was proud of its long established reputation as ‘Fighting Falkirk’.

But it was not all sweetness and light. The tension between working men and their masters had been boiling along for decades frequently erupting into strikes as moulders and miners sought to win better pay and conditions in what was dirty, dangerous and often ill-rewarded labour above and below the ground. All over the country there were strikes and walkouts and in Falkirk district in 1912 close on 7000 foundrymen were locked out by their employers for many weeks. The declaration of war in August 1914 came as something of a relief as a common cause emerged among all classes of the community. Territorial Army units in the district were called up, the first of many to march off in optimistic mood. Over 3000 did not return to their homes and families with 1193 of them coming from the Burgh of Falkirk.
When it was clear that there was going to be a war the British Government asked men between the ages of 18 and 40 to ‘volunteer’ to join the forces, that is, of their own choice and not forced by the law. Tens of thousands answered the call encouraged by newspapers and posters produced by the Government asking them to ‘Do their Duty’. One famous poster shows the War Minister, Lord Kitchener, who was a famous old soldier pointing and saying ‘Your Country Needs You’.

Quite a number of men were ‘territorials’, that is they had been in the army and had agreed to go back again if needed. They were ‘called up’ right away while the new recruits were joining their regiments and being trained for the job they were being asked to do.

When the number of volunteers began to fall and the losses in battle increased the Government introduced ‘conscription’. From January 1916 all single men between the ages of 18 and 41 were ‘called up’ to served in the forces. It was against the law to refuse to go. From May, married men were included. Many men who worked in jobs that were vital for the war effort like coal miners and power workers were ‘exempt’ as well as teachers and clergymen. However many of these groups continued to volunteer.
The famous Scottish Regiments each had an area of the country where they were allowed to recruit and in Stirlingshire it was the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (See page 10).

Other regiments with high Falkirk casualties were the Gordon Highlanders (24), the Royal Scots (136), the Seaforth Highlanders (54), the Black Watch (77) and the Kings Own Scottish Borderers (60). Altogether there are 73 different regiments represented on the memorial including special support groups like the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) and the Royal Engineers (RE).

As well as the soldiers there were Falkirk deaths among the sailors and airmen of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and the Royal Air Force. Before the war it was thought that much of the fighting would be at sea between the great fleets of British and German battleships but it didn’t turn out that way. The country had too many men in the navy and not enough infantrymen in the army. As a result many sailors fought on land like the soldiers to help support the other regiments.

Sometimes new recruits joined regiments that had some connection with their families. Maybe their fathers or uncles had served before. Other young men had left Larbert for a new life long before the war and we find them joining up and serving with Canadian or Australian troops. Their grieving families would be sure to have their names on the Larbert Memorial when the time came after the war to remember all of the fallen.
In 1971 the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were given the Freedom of the Burgh of Falkirk in recognition of the Regiment’s long connection with the town and the number of Falkirk men who served with such distinction in the two world wars. But the regimental history goes back several centuries and, as the name makes clear, it was not originally from these parts.

In the years after the failed Jacobite Rising of 1745 the Government realised that the fighting qualities of the Highlanders so often used against them might now in more peaceful times at home help to expand and protect the Empire overseas. The Argyllshire Highlanders were formed in 1794 and saw action in South Africa, Spain and India while the Sutherland Highlanders appeared four years later and served in America, France, India and famously formed the ‘Thin Red Line’ at Balaklava in the Crimean War when 500 men held the line against a 25,000 strong Russian attack. In the 1870s their area of recruitment was changed from Sutherland to Central Scotland and their command headquarters moved to Stirling Castle where it remained after the two regiments were merged in 1881. From then on Falkirk district became a major source of new recruits. By the time the ‘bairns’ marched off to fight the Boers in 1899, 10 of those who lost their lives out of 38, were Argylls as the South African Memorial in Newmarket Street reminds us. And so it continued in the wars of the 20th century.

Of the 1,193 killed in action in the first World War, 324 (27%) were Argylls and in the second World War, 110 of 463 (24%) were serving in the Regiment.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on the march in France in World War 1
The Faces of the Fallen

Top Row: Sgt Andrew Gibson, Pte John Fraser, Cpl John Andeson, Capt Ellis Pitcairn,
Second Row: Pte Charles McCall, Pte G Walker, L/Cpl William Mulholland, 2 Ltn Horsburgh Gibson,
Third Row: Gunner Matthew Graham, Pte David Wilson, Pte Allan McKell, Pte Thomas Harrower,
The War Graves and Memorials to the Missing

Most of the soldiers who died in the war are buried in France and Belgium though there are many in the other countries where battles took place like Turkey, Greece and Palestine. Of the 1193 soldiers now named on the Falkirk Memorial, many have no known burial place but their names appear on one or other of the great ‘Memorials to the Missing’, like Menin Gate at Ypres in Belgium or Thiepval in France. Where soldiers’ bodies were found but were not identified they are buried with a simple stone that says A SOLDIER FROM THE GREAT WAR and KNOWN UNTO GOD.

During and immediately after battles soldiers who had been killed were buried in simple graves with a wooden cross but these were replaced over the years by specially designed military gravestones which had their name and the badge of their regiment as well as a few words chosen by their families. There are tens of thousands of these named stones in hundreds of special war cemeteries all over the areas of France and Belgium and in other countries. They are kept in very good condition by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission so that families could come to see where their fathers, sons, husbands and brothers were laid to rest. Nowadays people visit to remember their great grandfathers and schools take their pupils on special visits so that they can see for themselves the land where these terrible things happened over 100 years ago.

Menin Gate (left) in Belgium is inscribed with the names of 54,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who have no known grave. Thiepval (right) in France has 65,000 names.
Brothers in Arms

The effect on a family of the loss of a son in action is hard to imagine but for many Falkirk families the agony was doubled as brothers were lost during the four and a bit years of conflict. Until a full analysis of the 1,193 dead is completed we don’t know exactly how many pairs of brothers died. On the evidence of other places, including Larbert where 17 pairs of brothers out of 286 fallen soldiers have been identified, the Falkirk numbers must have been high. Take the case of Falkirk Parish Church, the subject of an excellent book*, out of a total of 97 names on the church memorial there were 11 pairs of brothers:

Pte William Bennie and Pte George Bennie;
Pte William Black and Flt Sgt David Black; Pte Charles Bryce and Pte James Bryce;
Pte William Fraser and Gunner James Fraser;
Pte James McKinlay and Pte Thomas McKinlay;
Sgt James McLeod and Pte John McLeod;
Pte William McLeod and Pte Walter McLeod;
L Cpl John McPhee and L Cpl William McPhee;
Pte Charles Napier and Pte Robert Napier;
2 Lt Robert Robertson and Signaller Wilfred Robertson;
Pte Harry Taylor and Pte William Taylor

*They Shall Grow Not Old* by Bill Laurie, Bill Mitchell, Ellen Hamilton and Winnie McPherson.

The same book also covers the Erskine Church War Memorial which is now in Falkirk Trinity Church. It records the names of 26 soldiers including one pair of brothers, Andrew and Robert Morrison, who lived before the war with their parents at 9 Albert Road, Falkirk.

Andrew served as a corporal in the Highland Light Infantry and was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1st July 1916. He was 20 years of age.

Robert was a Lieutenant in the Machine Gun Corps and died of wounds in 1918. He was just 24.

The grandmother of the brothers, Mrs Marion Mungall unveiled the Erskine War Memorial on 8th May 1921.
The Falkirk War Memorial

By 1919 most parishes had formed committees to oversee the process of gathering the names of those who died in action. Individual families, churches and other organisations were invited to submit names and these were sifted to ensure that names did not appear on more than one memorial and that all who were entitled to a place were included. The first village in Falkirk district to unveil a memorial was Avonbridge in October 1920. Over the years that followed 15 more were raised so that by 1924 only Falkirk remained without a memorial.

The Parish Council was slow off the mark possibly because there was a strong feeling that the burgh’s memorial should take the form of a veterans’ home rather than a monument in stone. By the early 1920s there was talk of a small plain memorial in the cemetery but that brought objections from those who thought the burgh was letting itself down. Meantime several organisations like schools and churches had unveiled their own plaques and it was not until 1923 that a proper fund-raising committee was formed and two years more before there was a design and a location. At first the idea was that it should be in Newmarket Street but eventually the Dollar Park site was selected though many thought it should be in the town centre. Money and time were in short supply and the decision was taken not to include the huge number of names. The final design was by local architect Leonard Blakey and the completed memorial was unveiled by the Duke of Montrose on 13th June 1926 before a huge gathering of Falkirk folk. Among them were the fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, wives and children of the men who did not return.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
World War I

the names on the War Memorial


**ARMY CYCLISTS CORPS** CSM J. Yates. Pte D. Marr.

**ARMY VETERINARY CORPS** L/Cpl J. McPhie.

**AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY** Pte W. Jamieson.


**AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS** Pte J. Sneddon.

**BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT** Pte R. Henderson, H. Lyon, J. Stenhouse, A. Wood.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY  Orderly W. Booth, J. Grindlay.


CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES BATTALION  Pte A. Johnstone.

CANADIAN ENGINEERS  Pte J. Rae.

CANADIAN FIELD ARTILLERY  Pte D. Miller.


CANADIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS  Pte J. McCue.

CONNAUGHT RANGERS  Pte J. McGhee.


EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT  2Lt D. Donley. Pte J. Sargent.

EAST SURREY REGIMENT  Pte A. Breingan.

EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT  Pte D. Townsend.

ESSEX REGIMENT  Pte R. Stevenson.


GUARDS MACHINE GUN REGIMENT  Pte W. Pender.


IRISH GUARDS  Pte R. McColgan.

KING’S AFRICAN RIFLES  Lt L. Leslie.

KING'S ROYAL FRIGE RIFLES Pte T. Drummond, A. Hart.


LIVERPOOL REGIMENT Pte A. Dodds, W. Smith, M. Stewart.

LONDON REGIMENT Pte T. Brown.

LONDON SCOTTISH Pte N. McLean, P. Murdoch.


N.Z.E.F. CANTERBURY REGIMENT Pte A. Baird, R. Lumsden.

N.Z.E.F. OTAGO REGIMENT Pte J. Kellock.

PRINCE OF WALES' OWN (WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT) Pte T. Hart.


QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT) Pte J. Buchanan, G. Donaldson.


ROYAL ARMY VETERINARY CORPS A/Sgt M. Carmichael.

ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT Pte J. McIlroy.

ROYAL CANADIANS Pte W. Whytock.


ROYAL WESSEX REGIMENT  Sgt A.Godden.


ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS  Pte C.McDade, C.Stewart.


SOUTH AFRICAN INFANTRY Lt C.Bell. Pte A.Gow.

SUFFOLK REGIMENT Pte J.McPartlane.


WILTSHIRE REGIMENT Pte G.Greig, J.McFarlane.

WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT Sgt A.Clarke. Pte J.Mallice.

YORK AND LANCASTER REGIMENT Pte A.Herbert.

YORKSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY Pte J.Watson.

B Company of the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlander on the march in France.
World War II Time Line

Outbreak of War
3rd September 1939

GERMAN INVASION OF FRANCE AND
THE LOW COUNTRIES
May-June 1940

DUNKIRK EVACUATION
May-June 1940

BATTLE OF BRITAIN
September-October 1940

JAPANESE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR
7th December 1941

WAR IN THE DESERT
1941-1942

EL ALAMEIN
November 1942

ALLIED INVASION OF SICILY AND ITALY
July-August 1943

D-DAY INVASION OF FRANCE
June 6th 1944

FALL OF BERLIN AND GERMAN SURRENDER
May 1945

ATOMIC BOMBS DROPPED ON JAPAN
August 1945

JAPANESE SURRENDER
15th August 1945
Just 20 years after the end of the first World War, the world was once again plunged into a war that stretched across the globe and involved tens of thousands of soldiers, sailors and airman from dozens of countries.

The war was in many ways a continuation of what had happened in 1914-18 with the defeated German nation falling under the spell of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party led by Adolf Hitler which promised the restoration of the country’s status as a great power and revenge for the humiliation they thought they had suffered after the Armistice. When a resurgent Germany began to re-arm and to expand into neighbouring territory the victorious European powers, weary from the suffering of their people, hesitated to respond. Not until Germany invaded Britain’s ally Poland in September 1939 was war declared.

The war that followed was very different from the earlier conflict. The Germany army swept across France and the Low Countries of Holland and Belgium used fast moving tanks in an irresistible ‘blitzkrieg’. The British Expeditionary Force was forced to evacuate from Dunkirk though many hundreds died or were captured in the process. The use of airpower was at a different level than in 1914-18 and Britain was subjected to sustained bombing which was finally repulsed in 1940 in the Battle of Britain. A large fleet of German submarines destroyed many merchant and military vessels in an attempt to defeat Britain by cutting off supplies from America and elsewhere.

Meantime the British Army was engaged in a huge military struggle in North Africa against the German forces and those of their ally Italy. In November 1942 at Alamein the enemy was defeated and the way opened for an invasion of Sicily and Italy which followed in 1943.

In June 1944 the combined forces of Britain and British Empire along with the Americans who had joined the allies in 1941,
invaded France via the Normandy beaches and fought their way through the country and across the Rhine into Germany.

Elsewhere in the east the Germans faced another of the allies, Russia, and after early successes, began to fall back under the weight of the massive Red Army. By 1945 the allies in the west and east were in Germany closing in on Berlin when resistance collapsed and the war in Europe came to an end.

In the Far East the Japanese had followed Germany into the war and captured many British Empire territories like Singapore and Burma, and thousands of British soldiers were posted to the east to resist further advances. The entry of the USA into the War following the attack by Japan on Pearl Harbour brought huge resources of men and equipment into the struggle and finally brought about Japanese surrender in 1945 following the use of the Atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Unlike in World War I when the first recruits were volunteers, the British forces were made up of all able bodied men between the ages of 18 and 41. This time there were many airmen recruited though, of course, the infantry regiments suffered the greatest losses. Of the 463 Falkirk casualties, 110 were Argylls, and 51 Royal Artillery. There were 63 airmen who died along with 64 naval personnel. The War Memorial now bears the names of two female casualties, Sister M. McMillan and Sister M Fowler who were Queen Alexandra’s Nurses.
The Faces of the Fallen

Top Row: Sgt John Cunningham, Pte Thomas Aitkenhead, Lieut R Harley Mathieson, Pte James Rankine,
Bottom Row: Pte Alex Brown, Pte Hugh Johnstone, L Sgt Alexander Todd, Sgt A Sinclair.
The Nimmos of Westbank

The loss of one son in battle is a heavy burden for any family but the Nimmo family of Westbank had to bear the loss of three. The eldest was George Robertson Nimmo, known to the family as Geordie, who worked as a lawyer with Russel and Aitken. When the war broke out he was serving as a Territorial with the Argylls and was commissioned as a Captain and sent to fight in the Far East. In 1944 he was awarded the Military Cross for “personal courage and devotion to duty with complete disregard for his personal safety” in evacuating casualties under heavy enemy fire. After a transfer to Manipur Province in India with the K.O.S.B he fought at the Siege of Imphal and was killed in action. Brother James was three years younger than Geordie and was working in Burma. With the Japanese threatening invasion, ‘Jimmie’ was commissioned in the Burma Levies, at the start of an astonishing and dramatic service which included a 900 mile, three month barefoot trek through the jungle to India during which he lost three stones and caught malaria. Later he parachuted back into Burma as Acting Major in a Special Operations Executive (SOE) mission to organise resistance. In February 1944 he was killed in a Japanese ambush, a year after he had received the Distinguished Service Cross in recognition of his “determination, courage and devotion to duty of a very high order”.

Jimmie’s younger brother Patrick went to Sandhurst and joined the Regular Army as a Captain in the Argylls. His theatre of war was nearer home and he was the first with the colours and the first to lose his life. Fighting with Wavell in North Africa against the Italians he died at Sidi Barrani in December 1940. Of him, a Scottish colleague said “the Argyll’s singlehanded took Alam El Dab, and . . . Nimmo’s splendid leadership of C Company contributed in no small degree to the capture of this all important sandhill.” The Chaplain recalled that “He was carrying in his breast pocket his last letter from Helen, Westbank, Falkirk, whom I take to be his sister”.

As well as the three who lost their lives, a fourth brother, William (Bill) Nimmo fought in Burma and won the M.C. for “exemplary conduct and personal leadership”. The brothers’ sister Helen commanded the Stirlingshire and Argyllshire group of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) for women and helped recruit and train hundreds of woman for what was increasingly seen as vital work. The WRVS was another organisation which benefited from her determination and organisational skills.

The Nimmo family bore the agony of overwhelming loss yet carried on with their life of service to the community comforted in some measure at least by their powerful sense of duty. Theirs is an inspiring story.
The War Memorial Name Panels
World War II

the names on the War Memorial


AIR TRANSPORT AUXILIARY 3/O A.Couser.

ARMY AIR CORPS Cpl J.Rogers.

ARMY CATERING CORPS  Sgt H.Jenkins.


BURMA REGIMENT Maj J.Nimmo.


CHESHIRE REGIMENT Pte T.Gibson.

COLDSTREAM GUARDS Lt Col D.Forbes.

DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT Cpl J.Webster, Pte R.McDonald.

DUKE OF CORNWALL’S LIGHT INFANTRY Pte E.Lusk.

DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY Pte R.Dewar, G.Gillespie, A.Tait.

ESSEX REGIMENT Pte M.Baird.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION P/O W.Bell.

GLIDER PILOTREGIMENT Staff Sgt H.Dowds.


KING’S OWN ROYAL REGIMENT (LANCASTER) Pte J.Munro.


LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS Fusilier H.Quinn.

MILITARY POLICE  L/Cpl L.McDonald.

NZ INFANTRY  Pte W.Rae.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT  Pte W. De Vries, C.Smith.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE YEOMANRY  Trooper M.Martin.


QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S NURSES  Sister M.Fowler, M.McMillan.


QUEEN'S OWN HUSSARS  Trooper C.Gardiner.

QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS  Trooper J.Nelson.

QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT  Pte R.Jack.

RECONNAISSANCECORPS  Trooper W.Kelly.


ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS  Lt M.Rosenberg. Pte G.Corbett, J.Martin, R.Waddell,


ROYAL CANADIAN ORDNANCE CORPS  Pte J.Taylor.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS  Sgt A.Stevenson. Pte G.Corbett, G.Sanderson, C.Wemyss.

REME  Pte C.MacPherson, A.Revie.

ROYAL FUSILIERS Fusilier J.Roberts.


R.N. RESERVE Skipper R.MacDonald. R.N.V.R Surgeon Lt D.Walker. Sub-Lt J.Bell, R.Warner,

ROYAL NORFOLK REGIMENT Pte A.Kay, R.Young.

ROYAL PIONEER CORPS Pte W.Bryce.


ROYAL TANK REGIMENT 2Lt A.Dowding. Trooper M.Hunter, J.Wylie.

ROYAL ULYSTER REGIMENT Rfn J.Sheerin.

ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT L/Cpl G.Nagle.


SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY Pte A.McGraw.

TYNESIDE SCOTTISH Pte W.Anderson.
On 3rd November 2019, 93 years after the Falkirk Memorial was first unveiled, it was rededicated with the names of all the fallen inscribed. Many skilled people gave of their time and talents and the project was successfully completed in October 2019. The following were involved and deserve the thanks of the whole community. They have helped honour those who gave their lives and whose great sacrifice should be remembered by all future generations who owe them more than they will ever know.

The Friends Committee
Chairman: Morris Robb, Treasurer: Pat Reid, Secretary: Ian Scott, Provost Billy Buchanan, Major Jim Bain (Argyll Association), Douglas Cameron (Eden Consultancy), Tom Mc Morrow MBE, Gillian Gardner (Falkirk Trinity Church), Claire Mennim (Falkirk Community Trust), Councillors Gary Bouse and John Patrick.

Design and Reconstruction of the Memorial
The new plinths were designed by Morris Robb and constructed by stone mason Con Bonner of Falkirk Stone Masons Ltd. John Gillespie and his staff at Sterling Precast provided the other elements of the construction and Gary Sweeney of Helix Building Surveyors and Tommy Thomson of TBB Architectural Services advised the Friends on design matters, costs and contracts. The whole project was managed by Craig Fenwick of CAMS Construction and others involved were Falkirk Council’s Design Engineer Gary McGregor and the Council’s direct works team who upgraded the surrounding area, including painting and landscaping.

The names of the fallen were compiled by Major Jim Bain from the Falkirk Rolls of Honour with advice from military authorities, and the design work was done by Douglas Cameron, Rose O’Connor and James Halsall of Eden Consultancy. Katrena Hawkins and her team at Quality Masonry Services inscribed the 1656 names on the four black granite slabs.

Eden Consultancy provided PR, marketing and publicity and Adrian Mahoney of The PR Store secured press and social media coverage of the fundraising campaign, the build up to the dedication and the event itself.

Jill Buchanan and the Falkirk Herald supported the project from the outset and gave the Friends maximum coverage during the last two years.

On the day of the dedication Rev Robert Allan of Trinity Church led the ceremony, the Piper was Neil Clark and the Bugler, Lauren Robb of the Unison Kinneil Brass Band.

Funding the Project
The majority of the funding was provided by the Falkirk Common Good Fund and there were significant individual contributions from the Nimmo and Mathieson families. Members of the Argyll Association based in Grangemouth raised thousands of pounds through public collections, and local cadets took part in similar events. The Falkirk public and many people from well beyond the area contributed large amounts via social media and street collections. Other support came from the national Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Association, The Friends of Dollar Park, the Rotary Club of Falkirk, Falkirk Probus Club, the SSAFA (The Armed Forces Charity) and the Falkirk Community Schools Charity.