

Unveiling of St. Fillans War Memorial 24th September 1921



A memorial in the form of an obelisk and drinking fountain to the local men who fell in the war was erected at a cost of £240 on rising ground at the lower end of Loch Earn, where the water flows eastward, near the Bridge opposite the Drummond Arms Hotel.

The memorial was unveiled on Saturday 24th September 1921, when fine weather prevailed, and there was a large attendance of villagers and others in the district.

The design and execution of the memorial was by Messrs. D Beveridge & Son, monumental sculptors, Perth. The memorial is of red Dumfries stone, with basin inset of polished Aberdeen Granite, and also a frontal slab of the latter material bearing the following inscription and the names of the fallen in gold letters:-

“Erected by the inhabitants of the district in commemoration of those who fell in the War, 1914-1918” Then follows seven names and the inscription: -

“Their names liveth for ever-more”

Captain & Adjutant Andrew Currie Begg - 7th Battalion Black Watch



Son of the Rev. Doctor Bruce Begg, [Fox Knowe, St.Fillans](#) and late of Abbotshall, Kirkcaldy, Husband of Kate Smith Barber, Woodlands Ware, who with six children, survive. He was 36 years of age, and before the War, was on the home staff of the National Bank of India, Ltd., Bishopgate, London. *(In pre-war days he served as a volunteer in the Black Watch, enlisting in the same regiment in November 1914. In the following March he received his commission as second Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion of that regiment. In November 1915 he was made Adjutant with the rank of Lieutenant, serving as Adjutant with the 2nd Enniskillen Fusiliers for the month of December. By one of the ironies of fate he was gazetted Captain four days after his death, dating from the previous June. He was killed at High Wood on 30th July 1916.)* Aged 36 years

Private Peter Campbell Ferguson - 9th Battalion Black Watch



Born: 13th August 1895 at Glenogle: Son of Alexander Ferguson and his wife Catherine Niven Campbell, [Ardrostan Cottage, St.Fillans](#).

(Previous to joining the army he was employed at the Drummond Arms Hotel. He was 20 years of age and enlisted into the 9th Battalion of the Black Watch (Kitchener's Army) on 10th October 1916. He went to France in February 1917: wounded 23rd April 1917, he returned home, before going back to France in July 1917, he was posted to the 7th Black Watch, and saw much hard fighting while serving with that regiment. He was killed in the push of 21st March 1918.) Aged 20 years

Private Alexander James Johnston – 6th Battalion Black Watch



Born 26th June 1895, at St.Fillans. Youngest son of William Johnston and his wife Betsy Neish, [Holly, St.Fillans](#).

(He was employed as a green keeper on the golf course before he enlisted. He joined the army on 20th June 1915, receiving his basic training at Bridge of Earn and Ripon. He was on recruiting duties for some time before proceeding overseas on 26th December 1916. He was killed in the fighting in a raid on the German trenches at Vimy Ridge on 31st March 1917.) Aged 21 years

Private John Duncan McFarlane - 6th Battalion Black Watch

Born 28th November 1893, at Crieff, eldest son of Duncan McFarlane and his wife Jane Morrison, [Corranour, St Fillans](#)

(Prior to the outbreak of war, he was employed by Messrs Harley & Watt, Chemists, Crieff. He enlisted at Perth September 1916. He then received his basic training at Ripon, and when completed was sent with a draft of his regiment to India, being for a time stationed at Bangalore. He then proceeded to Mesopotamia, where he remained for over a year, and went to Palestine in April 1918, where he, as a result of shrapnel wounds, died on 3rd June 1918.) Aged 22 years

Guardsman Donald Nicholson - Scots Guards



Born 18th August 1893 at St.Fillans, eldest son of Murdoch Nicholson and his wife Helen Dewar, [Ardrostan Farm, St.Fillans](#).

(Previous to enlisting he was employed on the staff of The Birnam Hotel, Dunkeld. He enlisted 30th September 1914 and was stationed for a time at Wellington Barracks. He went to France in March 1915 and was killed in the battle of Festubert on 16th of March in the same year.) Aged 22 years

Corporal Hugh Dewar Nicolson - 6th Battalion Black Watch



Born 5th October 1894 at St.Fillans he was the youngest son of Murdoch Nicholson and his wife Helen Dewar, of [Ardrostan Farm, St.Fillans](#). He was employed with his father before joining the army.

(He enlisted 22nd June 1915, and his capability soon gained him promotion, for some time he was engaged at Ripon as an Instructor in the reserve Battalion of his regiment. He went to France in December 1916, and on 23rd April 1917, at Rocklin Court he was killed by the bursting of a shell.) Aged 22 years

Captain William Debnam McLaren Stewart - 1st Battalion Black Watch



Eldest son of Major William Stewart, (Bengal Lancers) and his wife Sarah Lily Mary McLaren, of [Ardvorlich](#). Born 15th April 1893. Educated at Wellington, where he played in the Collage XV.

(He joined the Black Watch at Aldershot in 1914, and soon afterwards was posted to the 2nd Battalion in India. On the declaration of war, he left with his regiment for France, reaching the western front in October 1914. He took part in various actions including Neuve Chapelle and Richbourg l'Avone, where he was wounded. He returned to the front in October 1915, when he got his own company and transferred to the 1st Battalion. He was killed in action at the battle of the Somme near Fleurs on 25th September 1916. He was mentioned in dispatches by Sir Douglas Haig 9th April 1916.) Aged 23 years

A Strange Anomaly

The following two casualties from the Great War appear on the Church memorial plaque but not on the War memorial itself.

Captain Archibald Randal Davidson -

1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders Commemorated on the Arras Memorial



Only son of Major G. H. Davidson D.S.O - (late Royal Scots) and his wife Ethel Maud Fairbairn - [Craigdarroch, St.Fillans](#).

(He was educated at Ardvreck, & Glenalmond - While at Glenalmond, he was a member of the shooting eight, representing the school at Bisley, also a member of the cricket team and football fifteen, doing excellent service for his school on all occasions. He attended Sandhurst preparatory for a military career, In November 1914; he received a commission in the 1st Gordon Highlanders, and was attached for a short time to the 3rd Battalion of that regiment, proceeding with a draft on 8th February 1915, to the western front to join his battalion there. He saw much fighting, and in the battle of Loos of 25th September 1915, was badly

wounded. Returning home, after his recovery he was stationed in Ireland, going back to France in May 1917. He was killed in action 4th June of the same year. He was twice mentioned in dispatches.) Aged 21 years

Captain Percy W Thomas McGregor-Whitton

2nd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial



Youngest son of Colonel James McGregor Whitton (late of the Royal Scots Fusiliers) and his wife Eva Dora Harvey, [Ardchoille, \(Earnholm\) St.Fillans](#)

(He joined his regiment at Gosport, on 24th February 1914 and went to France in the early days of the war. He was promoted Lieutenant on 15th November 1914. In March 1915 he was severely wounded in the head, returning home and after convalescence returned to France in September 1915. He re-joined his regiment at Loos, taking part in that memorable engagement; also at Givenchy, La Basse, Auchy Railway Triangle, and Hohenzollern Redoubt. He was promoted Captain in the same year, and in July

of 1916 as Senior Captain of his Battalion led the attack capturing Montauban and surrounding woods, being twice wounded, He remained at duty losing three of his four subalterns and 65 per cent of his men. He led the attack on Maltby Horn Farm, capturing this and Maltby Horn Trench along with sixty prisoners. He was killed at Trone Wood on 9th July 1918, and buried close to where he fell.) Aged 21 years

Given their families standing and the fact that St Fillans was - and still is a close-knit community I find this a bit strange.

[Another Anomaly on the Roll of Honour in the Church 1914-1918](#)

Which lists 24 names of locals serving in the Great War; however there is no mention of?

[Sister Alice Scott](#)



Wife of the Rev. A W H Scott, [the Manse, St.Fillans](#).

Before the war she was a member of the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Service Reserve. She was called up on the outbreak of war. Mobilised on 11th August 1914, she went to France 16th August of that year, serving for the greater part of the time on the ambulance train until August 1915, and was sister in charge. From March to September 1916, she was Matron of the Red Cross Hospital, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, and from April 1917 to March 1919 was Matron of the Red Cross Hospital, Arbroath.

Decorations: - Royal Red Cross; Mons Star 1914; Victory Medal; and Service Medal

Could this be a reflection of the anti-suffrage movement?

Roll of Honour 1914-1918 - They also Served

15 names taken from the Roll of Honour in Dundurn Parish Church

Captain Arthur Armstrong – 1st Scottish Rifles



Eldest son of the Rev Thomas Armstrong and Catherine Gray [the Birran, St Fillans](#) He enlisted as a private in the early days of the war, and went to France in December 1914. He was attached to the Trench Mortar Battery of his regiment, and on 22nd August 1916 he was taken prisoner. *(He was educated at Morrison's Academy, Crieff, and was Dux Gold medallist of that institution in 1909.)*

Died 23rd July 1947 in Paris

Lieutenant Edmond Arrenton Armstrong – 98th Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Second son of the Rev Thomas Armstrong and Catherine Gray [the Birran, St Fillans](#) *(Following service in the first war he went on to have a long and illustrious career in the civil service. Served in the Scottish Office 1935-41; War Cabinet Office 1941-47; deputy advisor to the Viceroy on war Administration in India 1943-44; Under-Secretary Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation 1947; Controller, Civil Aviation Ground Service 1957-60; Died 17th June 1966 at 16 Oxfangs Road, Edinburgh*

Sergeant Robert Carmichael – 1st Battalion Black Watch



Second son of Peter Carmichael and Catherine McDonald [Ive Cote, \(Kirklea\) St Fillans](#) *(A career soldier who served in the Sudan 1884-1886 and was invalided out of the army in 1915) He went on to work for the Caledonian Railway Company.*

Died 3rd February 1930 at Oakbank St Fillans

Private John Mailer Duff - Military Transport Army Service Corps
Second son of Walter Duff and Margaret Stern Mailer [Hillview, St Fillans](#)
(Before the war he was a coachman at Ardvorlich and living in one of the estate cottages)
Died 1977 at Kilmarnock

Private John Ferguson – 6th Battalion Black Watch
Eldest son of John Ferguson and Margaret McLaren [Woodhouse, St Fillans](#) Died
7th January 1951

Private William McLaren Ferguson – 6th Battalion Black Watch
Second son of John Ferguson and Margaret McLaren [Woodhouse, St Fillans](#)
(Before the war he was a cabinet maker in Comrie) Died 15th November 1958

Private James Wilson Ferguson – 3rd Battalion Gordon Highlanders
Third son of John Ferguson and Margaret McLaren [Woodhouse, St Fillans](#)
(Prior to the outbreak of war, he was a gamekeeper at Glencairn Ballater, he enlisted 22nd
February 1915, wounded 27th April 1916, transferred to the Royal Engineers 14th March 1918.)
Died 24th May 1966 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Private Peter Ferguson – 52nd battalion Gordon Highlanders
Youngest son of John Ferguson and Margaret McLaren [Woodhouse, St Fillans](#)
Died 11th Sept 1989 Wickham, Kent, England

Private Duncan Kay – 3rd Battalion Black Watch
Eldest son of Duncan and Jessie Kay [Tullybanocher Farm](#) (Prior to enlisting he worked
with his father on the farm.) Died 24th February 1934 at St Fillans

Private Duncan McFarlane – 3rd Battalion Black Watch

Private Robert McIntyre – 4/5th battalions Black Watch Youngest son of Duncan
McIntyre & Jessie McCulloch [Kindrochat](#) A retired farmer he Died 11th February
1966 at Stirling

Private James McFarlane McLaren – 5th Battalion Cameron Highlanders Second son
of John McLaren and Matilda Jane Whigham McFarlane [Tigh-na-Craig](#) (Prior to
enlisting he was an Ironmongers Assistant) Died 10th May 1937 at Tigh-na-Craig, St Fillans

Private Lachlan Cameron Robertson – 10th Battalion Black Watch Eldest son of Peter Cowan Robertson and Catherine Cameron Easter Dundurn (He enlisted 25th February 1915: having survived the war *died at Taynuilt 8th February 1921.*)

Trooper John Stewart Cameron - Auckland Mounted Rifles N.Z.E.F. Second oldest son of Hugh Cameron and Jessie Stewart Fernside (Before the war he was working in a brewery in Edinburgh. He then immigrated to New Zealand. *He died from wounds received in Gallipoli 17th August 1915.*)

Private John Riddoch – 7th Battalion Black Watch



Second son of John Riddoch & Christine Kettles Station Cottages, St Fillans

(He enlisted at the age of 20, received his basic training at Blairgowrie and Norwich, went out to France 27th December 1916 invalided home for a time then returning to France in September 1917 Taken prisoner in the German offensive of 21st March 1918. Released 12th November 1918. He went on to work with the Caledonian Railway Company.

Died 8th August 1962 at Perth

The Strathearn Herald 30th September 1921

The unveiling ceremony was performed by the Earl of Ancaster, who was accompanied by his two daughters Lady Katherine H Drummond Willoughby and Lady Priscilla Drummond Willoughby and his son the Hon. John Willoughby.

The Rev. Adam W.H. Scott, parish minister, presided at the ceremony, and was assisted in a devotional service by the Rev. William Hall, East United Free Church, Comrie, Rev. John Martin St.Fillans and the Rev. J. McCracken, Burntisland, then officiating in the St.Fillans United Free Mission Church. After the singing of the 23rd Psalm by the company, led by Mr Henry McKinstry, Comrie.

Lord Ancaster performed the unveiling ceremony and said:-



Having unveiled that memorial they had set up to their gallant brothers who laid down their lives in the Great war, he thought it would be expected that he should say a few words to them on the solemn, and perhaps sad, occasion. They were gathered together that day to do honour to those men from that neighbourhood who made the supreme sacrifice and died that Britain might live. There were many of us, he knew, who at the beginning of the war - a war which, he might say, was forced upon us, and which our conscience, our duty, and our solemn treaties compelled us to enter - believed that the spirit of Britain was not what it was in the past. Though it was true there had been previous wars of considerable importance, there were many who thought when it came to a great day of trial, in which the whole nation would be severely tested, that our countrymen, softened perhaps by civilisation and by education, immersed in commerce, and engaged in peaceful business for so many years, would be unable to lay aside their interests and to rise equal to the occasion, and show the old spirit of endurance and bravery which had been shown by our ancestors in the past. But he was proud to say, as all of them were proud, that our nation rose equal to the occasion, especially were they thankful to those gallant men whom they were assembled together that day to honour, and to whom they placed a permanent memorial on that spot which they loved and for which they fought. (Hear, hear) He knew that at a time like that they must all feel sad. It was a sad thing, indeed, for all of them to think that brave, active, clever, energetic men, at the prime of their life, should be cut off, and many years of usefulness wasted. It is a sad thing, but alas! He was afraid it was only too true that the dreadful arbitrament of war fell hardest on the bravest and best. These were the ones who were cut off, and it was

the old and infirm who were left. Death with his scythe had cut a broad swath through our ranks. There was scarcely a family or home throughout the British Isles which did not mourn the loss of one of its useful members. He was thankful to say that many had come through the crisis, and many to whom we owed a great debt of gratitude for having managed and organised so well, also fought in the front-line trenches, but were alive and with us today; but alas! I fear it is those men today whose memory we honour that in the fiercest of the attack were the men who led the van, and when retreat was inevitable, when the hordes of the enemy were sweeping across the plain, these men were probably the last to leave the field, and finally they failed to return. Their hearts, he was sure, went out in sympathy to those who had suffered the loss of such gallant men as their relatives. He had said that they at this time were full of sorrow at the loss of these gallant men whom they were met to honour. He had also said that they were proud to think they possessed the spirit of our ancestors, which enabled us to say as they said that Britain's never shall be slaves. We were at the same time thankful to the Almighty that he had vouchsafed to us the victory, and allowed us to triumph over our enemies. He could only say in conclusion that he thought it was only right, and it had been a happy idea, that throughout the length and breadth of our country – in the great metropolis of London, in our capital in Edinburgh, in every great city, in country town, and hamlet, in every one of our remote glens, we had raised a permanent memorial to show that the whole British nation were united in the days of trial, united as they never were before, and that the whole country, without distinction of class, and without any distinction of religion, gave of their best when the country had the need. (Hear, hear) he would like to say further that perhaps no country gave more than their Highland glens. It was well known by every soldier who took part in the war that our enemies dreaded most the Highland Division – he believed the 51st Division – and of all men who fought that the country might be free, none stood higher than those who came from the glens in the Highlands of Scotland. (Hear, hear) He had great pleasure in unveiling a memorial to such men, who, by the manner of their death, showed what a noble life should be. (Applause)

Lord Ancaster's appropriate remarks were followed by Piper Duncan McFarlane, Comrie, playing most sympathetically "The Flowers of the Forest", the proceedings terminated with the Benediction and singing of the National Anthem. A number of beautiful wreaths were afterwards placed at the base of the memorial, and the ceremony having been appropriately concluded, the gathering slowly dispersed.

From first to last the ceremony was the most impressive ever witnessed in St. Fillans and marked a sad, if red letter, day in the life of the district.

[Strathearn Herald 28th November 1947](#)

Sunday the 23rd of November 1947,

After the Second World War it was decided to erect a granite panel on the existing memorial. To commemorate two young men who had made the supreme sacrifice in the war.

Flight Sgt George Albert Kitchener Hunter of 108 squad RAF

Volunteer reserve. *Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial* Forth son of John Charles Hunter and Agnes Baird Blairgowrie Arms, Wellmedow , Blairgowrie *(thought to have been the local Police Officer living at Earn Grove prior to the war)*

On 27th June 1942 He was a Rear Gunner in one of seven Wellington Bombers which took off from the Kabrit-Sidi Barrani area of Egypt, their mission to attack enemy concentrations in the Sidi Barrani area. Motor transports and tanks were bombed with many fires started, and a considerable amount of strafing was carried out. Their aircraft did not return to base, it was thought it had been intercepted by a Junkers 88-night fighter, which had started a fire in the aircraft with its first burst. With the exception of Flight Sergeant Hunter, the rest of the crew managed to escape the plane by parachute. He was presumed dead over Egypt 28th June 1942. Aged 27 years

Private Duncan McIntosh of the 2nd Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers Son of Alexander and Catherine McIntosh Station Road, St Fillans

Until 1942 the KSOB were at Razmac then they left for Peshawar, after tough training they sailed with the 7th (India) Division to Burma in September 1943. The second battalion crossed into the Arakan, and took part in the critical actions at Ngakydauk Pass and in the 'Admin Box'. In early 1945 they marched towards the Irrawaddy where he took part in the assault that turned the Irrawaddy Line. He was killed in action on 20th April 1945. Aged 23 years

The Unveiling Ceremony

Following the afternoon service, the congregation and many others gathered for the unveiling ceremony. The 23rd Psalm was sung, and the Rev David J McLaren called on Mrs Catherine Macintosh (*Station Road*) whose son is commemorated to unveil the tablet. A prayer of dedication and a short address by the Rev David J McLaren followed, and the proceedings finished with the singing of the 2nd Paraphrase and the National Anthem.

Commonwealth War Grave

In addition to the two names of the panel there is a Commonwealth War Grave Plaque attached to the gate at the Dundurn burial ground commemorating:-

Captain David William Ian Cookes – Royal Artillery 129 Field Regiment



Only son of Cyril Ian Cookes and Phyllis Dorothy Forsyth. Edinburgh

(He was educated at Trinity Collage Glenalmond from 1930 to 1935 where he served as a Lance Corporal in the officer training corp. He entered Worcester Collage in October 1935, and achieved 2nd Class honours in Jurisprudence in 1938. He was a member of the Collage boat club, and rowed in the 1st Tripod in 1936 and the 2nd Tripod in 1937)

He was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery on 31st May 1939, and saw service during the Burma campaign with 129 Field Regiment. Following the war he returned to his parents' home in Edinburgh, but died there at 12 Succoth Avenue from an illness contracted while on active service 12 April 1946 Aged 29 years

The state of This Commonwealth war grave is a sad reflection on Perth & Kinross Councils and the villagers disregard and lack of care to the memory of one of those who gave their life in the service of their country.

Victory Celebrations in Dundurn Parish

Victory in Europe was a fairly low-key affair in the Parish. Whilst no doubt villagers were elated and indeed celebrated privately that we had won the struggle over Germany, as the war against Japan continued in the far-east and Burma, plans for a celebration appeared to have been put on hold.



The Village Committee set up a Welcome Home Fund, and between May and the end of June a variety of activities were undertaken to raise funds to eventually celebrate the event, culminating with a garden fete at *Port-Mohr*, placed at the committees disposal by John and Jean Gavin. The Committee Chairman, Rev David McLaren, introduced Mrs. McNair-Snadden, who opened the fete with an interesting address in which she spoke of the great debt the country owed to its members of the services, and of the duty to remember those who had made the supreme sacrifice.

Miss Betty Mudie (*the Village Shop*) presented Mrs. McNair-Snadden with a gift of books from the Committee. Mr. Fettes (*Ardshean*) thanked Mrs. McNair-Snadden. In the evening a Whist Drive and Dance was held in the Hall, with Card-Master Mr. Urquhart Mudie, (*the Village Shop*), and M.C. Mr. James Hepburn, (*Ingleside*). The Treasurer Mr. James Donaldson announced that the drawings had reached the gratifying total of £176 with The Welcome Home Fund standing at £711.

By the 21st of August 1945 the St. Fillans Village Committee had just completed its plans for the celebration of victory, when the news came that Japan had surrendered.

Bonfire Blaze on Loch Side

On the evening of Wednesday 22nd there was a Service of Thanksgiving in the Parish Church conducted by the Rev David McLaren. Though the notice had to be very short there was a large congregation. Later, a large bonfire, which had been in the process of construction all day, was lit on the shore of the Loch by Mr. Tom Mackenzie (*Dunollan*), who had carried out the arrangements. On Thursday evening the Library Hall was filled with an enthusiastic audience for a Victory Concert and Dance. Those taking part were Mrs. Lamb, Misses Macduff, Ferguson and McLeod. Mr. Nicol, (*Colleopard*) and the Ladies Choir. Mr. Lamb acted as accompanist. After tea, came the dance for which Mrs. McNaughton (*Oakbank*) played. Mr. John Mills (*Rose Cottage*) was Chairman. A collection was taken for the Sports Fund that realized over £11.

On Saturday afternoon sports were held on the golf course, the weather was perfect and a record crowd for St. Fillans attended. A silver cup for the champion of the sports was given by Mr. Mackenzie and presented by Mrs. Mills to Miss Olive McLeod.

On Sunday a service in accord with the National Day of Thanksgiving was conducted by Rev McLaren. Members of the Home Guard and Civil Defense Forces attended in uniform for what was probably their last parade.

Some villagers Wartime memories:

Ian Moncrieff,

Football and Fags. Introduction to Sweet Chaparral, Passing cloud and Pasha via Polish and Canadian soldiers. First pair of long trousers at fifteen and my last year at school. Too much time devoted to Billiards! Bonfires on Knock Mary, The Knock and in the middle of Sauchie Place in Crieff. Jack Halley (Skite) a champion piper at 16 years old played the bagpipes while his Dad was legless!

Weekly episodes of a hundred lines for being late arriving at French lessons because of Morrison's girls arriving for Art lessons each Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock. Clothing; hand-downs from neighbors' lanky sixth formers. Red stockings!

Demolition of Anderson Air Raid shelter in garden. No garden lover but filled the garden and nearby allotment with potato plants in preparation for my Father's return from Burma. Double summertime Football, Fags, Freedom!

From Cathy Moncrieff:

Although I was a very wee girl during the War years, a few memories come clearly to my mind... waiting in the dusk whilst my Gran or Mum secured the "Blackout" blinds on the windows, ensuring that no single chink of light escaped once the gas lamps were lit. They danced round the kitchen on VE day with relief. Safe again.

I had my very own little ration book with its strange letters and numbers on the little coupons; it allowed me to have "sweeties". But most vividly, I remember my lovely Dad, home on leave while serving in the RAF. We would visit my Granny and Grandpa's house at Tomaknock and coming home on a Winter's night to Crieff with glittering stars in a deep blue sky, my Daddy would carry me on his shoulders, I'd snuggle into the back of his head with my hands round his neck, my face nuzzling the roughness of his tweed cap, smelling his "Willy Woodbine" cigarettes, feeling such love and warmth. With only a tiny knowledge of terror and wars raging in distant places, I was certain that this was a good place to be! All my life I have remembered how very safe and loved I felt, knowing my Dad would always look after me. Joy when he came back home!

Sally Watson's War Time Memories

We did not celebrate VE Day; VJ Day was the celebration in India as the Japanese were knocking on our door, fighting their way through Burma, on VE day. To celebrate VJ Day, a huge Darbah was held on the Poona Race Course and the Indian State Regiments, together with the Indian Army, marched passed the Viceroy, Viscount Mountbatten. The Infantry Regiments were dressed in khaki with colorful turbans, the fast moving Ghurkhas and the Cavalry with pennants floating from

their spears, their horses' bridles jingling as they trotted by. The camels of the Camel Corps lurched from side to side followed by elephants with heavily decorated howdahs on their backs as they plodded by the motorized units. The parade went on and on; there was a contingent of Women's Army Corps India dressed in their fluttering khaki saris, to differentiate from the American WAC. My Mother was a junior Commander (equivalent to a Captain) serving at Southern Command and then as Quartermaster to the Indian Military Hospital, for which she was awarded an MBE.

Memoirs by Elspeth Smylie

War broke out on my 5th and my brother's 3rd birthday. Dad, a naval reservist, was called up and before he left found a safe house for the family in Dumfries shire. Mother was pregnant with her 4th child (there was a 2nd son in between). The house was a farm laborer's cottage. It had no running water and no electricity. My mother, a city girl, was faced with, to us, unimaginable problems. She had to carry water every drop from a well in buckets. With no lighting, except oil lamps, and no inside loo and the one we had which was a dry toilet had to be emptied manually.

This arrangement did have its advantages – we were safe and the farm people were very kind and we had ample milk and the odd egg or two. Sometimes a pheasant seemed to have dropped dead on the doorstep. Otherwise, with no refrigerator, all perishables were kept in a meat safe round the back of the house in the shade.

The nearest shop was some 8 miles away, so everything had to be bought from vans. Mum had a bike, useless with 4 children to look after but it was there for an emergency.

I went to school; it was about 2 miles away with no transport. So I cycled on my big tricycle for half of the way then had to walk through the short cut up through a wood, aged 5. When it snowed I went late on the milk lorry, sometimes clutching a hard-boiled egg to keep my hands warm and to eat for my lunch. With hindsight we were happy, we had such freedom. Now I don't know how my mother did it!

Memories from Kathleen Walls

I remember families coming together, supporting each other throughout the war years. I was living in Milltimber near Peterculter, Aberdeen shire. I finished school during the war years and then went on to attend St Andrews University living in the Halls of Residence. Food was supplied by the University and we were well catered for. I remember being at St Andrews when the end of the war was proclaimed.

My Father served with the Gordon Highlanders, he was based full time in Scotland during WWII, and however, he served his main war effort during WWI. Our family was very fortunate to have a large garden with plenty of fruit and vegetables. My father turned our coal cellar into a hen house much to my Mum's displeasure as the hens would escape and eat the fruit and vegetables from the garden!

The garden railings were removed from around our home and used for materials to support our war effort, my family were concerned initially that our dog would escape but he religiously stuck by my Father's side.

The Royal Indian Army Mule Company was stationed close to our home and I remember watching them play polo in the field opposite.

During the war, toilet rolls were in very short supply, I remember cutting up sheets upon sheets of newspaper into quarters and hanging them up next to the loo to use instead of toilet roll.

Memories from Eva Gibson

Eva was a member of a mobile ambulance unit in the Middle East 1942-43. Writing to her mother Mary at the Achray Hotel she wrote that they had received instructions to proceed to a port some distance away to help in attending to a shipload of survivors from a ship that had been sunk in convoy. "I got the shock of my life when one of the first of the shipwrecked survivors I saw coming of the ship was Rhona McLean from Crieff, I am glad to say that she was uninjured and appeared to be none the worse for her adventure". Eva herself had been rescued from a torpedoed vessel in the Mediterranean when proceeding east to take up her duties. While she lost all her kit and belongings when the vessel went down she had one satisfactory moment that made up for all the hardship and danger she had undergone, when she stood on the deck of the destroyer that had rescued her from the stricken ship and saw the U-boat that torpedoed them itself sent to the bottom for the last time.