

Our War Dead - in affectionate memory of the Young Men of this Church who made the Supreme Sacrifice

In our Church we have memorial windows which commemorate the deaths of the young men from the St Andrews Presbyterian Church during the two world wars. The largest central window contains an image of a warrior surrounded by the symbols of Scotland, Ireland and England with the epitaph 'in affectionate memory of the Young Men of this Church who made the Supreme Sacrifice'. The names of the fallen are listed on the two adjacent windows that contain full names, date of death and service or regimental badge. Separately, within the sanctuary a single memorial to John Brash is contained within one of the windows on the south side of the building.

This is the 70th anniversary year of the end of the start of these conflicts and this prompted me to find out more about the 15 men named on these windows.

Information concerning those who died in both wars is available via the internet and it is largely from this source and other service records that the information about the circumstances surrounding the deaths has been obtained.

The search of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site shows that the First World War victims were all desperately young men and whose ages were as young as 18 with others in their early twenties. They died in France and also in Belgium with nearly all serving in a variety of infantry and artillery regiments. Two were killed in action in the disastrous Gallipoli campaign where they were laid to rest, and one Lieutenant Wells was decorated receiving the Military Cross in France for 'conspicuous gallantry'.

The loss of life was mercifully less during the Second World War with three men commemorated. Pilot Officer Watson was 'one of the famous few' a Spitfire pilot who was killed during the Battle of Britain and Fireman / Trimmer Lynch died on SS Cairnmona torpedoed off Aberdeen.

The Memorial Citations provide a varied amount of information some being full of interesting facts about their lives and relations, whereas others are disappointingly brief. These records also tell us something about the congregation during the early part of the last century, and it is fascinating to see that even then the pattern of a gathered congregation appears to have been established. The wide geographical spread of the regiments including many from Scotland Ireland and Wales, elsewhere in the Midlands and Yorkshire suggests perhaps that many families had migrated recently into the city a characteristic we still see today with our congregation coming from all parts of not only the British Isles but overseas as well.

The details are as follows:

Second Lieutenant JOHN BRASH

8th Bn., attd. 1st/5th Bn., East Lancashire Regiment
who died age 20
on 25 August 1918
Son of John and Jessie Brash, of Filey. Born at Nottingham.
Remembered with honour
SUCRERIE MILITARY CEMETERY, COLINCAMPS

Gunner JAMES CHAPMAN

63121, "A" Bty. 112th Bde., Royal Field Artillery
who died age 35
on 01 July 1917
Son of the late James and Mary Chapman, of Aberdeen; husband of Janet Chapman,
of 62A, Julian Rd., West Bridgford, Nottingham. Chief Clerk, Victoria L. F. Society,
Nottingham. Enlisted 1914.
Remembered with honour
BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION (NORD)

Second Lieutenant ARCHIBALD JOHN EWART

11th Bn. attd. 8th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)
who died age 21
on 28 September 1916
Son of Archibald W. D. Ewart and Clara Helen Ewart, of 1, Postern St., Nottingham.
Remembered with honour
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX MILITARY CEMETERY

Lance Corporal DONALD PATRICK CLARKE GRANT

S/22804, 7th Bn., Cameron Highlanders
who died
on 12 April 1917
Born at Loanhead, Midlothian 1st Nov., 1889. Son of the Rev. John Charles Grant,
M.A., and Ellen Jemima Clarke Grant, of The Manse, Nottingham. Educated at
Nottingham High School, and Edinburgh High School. Manager, British Crown
Insurance Office, Nottingham.
Remembered with honour
ARRAS MEMORIAL

Aircraftman 1st Class HORACE STEPHEN GRAY

352243, Royal Air Force
who died age 39
on 09 September 1939
Son of Stephen and Maria Gray, of Ebbw Vale; husband of Doris Muriel Gray, of
Ebbw Vale.
Remembered with honour
BLACKWOOD (LIBANUS) WELSH BAPTIST CHAPELYARD

Rifleman ARCHIBALD McMILLAN HANNA

12892, 15th Bn., Royal Irish Rifles
who died
on 01 July 1916

Remembered with honour
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

Private J HEMMINGWAY

12389, 9th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
who died
on 02 December 1915

Remembered with honour
AZMAK CEMETERY, SUVLA

Fireman and Trimmer RICHARD LYNCH

S.S. Cairnmona (Newcastle-on-Tyne), Merchant Navy torpedoed off Peterhead by
U13
who died age 32
on 30 October 1939
Son of Richard and Susan Lynch; husband of Catherine Lynch, of Edinburgh.
Remembered with honour
TOWER HILL MEMORIAL

Second Lieutenant DONALD EWAN MARSHALL

18th Sqdn., Royal Flying Corps
and 4th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)
who died age 19
on 07 August 1917

Son of Robert J. and Nellie K. Marshall, of 28, Burford Rd., Nottingham.

Remembered with honour
LILLERS COMMUNAL CEMETERY

Second Lieutenant WILLIAM HENRY RATCLIFFE

4th Bn. attd. 1st Bn., South Staffordshire Regiment
who died age 19
on 01 July 1916

Son of Thomas S. Ratcliffe, of The Sheiling, Cyprus Rd., Mapperley Park,
Nottingham.

Remembered with honour
DANTZIG ALLEY BRITISH CEMETERY, MAMETZ

Driver JOHN JOHNSTONE SIMPSON

741287, 37th Div. Ammunition Col., Royal Field Artillery
who died age 29
on 18 April 1917

Son of John and Henrietta Simpson, of The Retreat, Lowdham, Notts; husband of
Emily Simpson, of Park Cottage, The Hendre, Monmouth.

Remembered with honour
ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY

Lieutenant JAMES KNOWLES TURPIN

"A" Bty. 241st (South Midland) Bde., Royal Field Artillery
who died age 25
on 14 August 1917

Son of Harry and Minnie Turpin, of 68, Henry Rd., West Bridgford, Notts. Native of
Nottingham.

Remembered with honour
VLAMERTINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY

Private FRANCIS GEORGE WALLACE

20863, 9th Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment)

who died age 18

on 13 November 1915

Son of Mary Wallace, of 2, Argyle Terrace, Shakespeare St., Nottingham, and the late
James Wallace.

Remembered with honour

HELLES MEMORIAL

Pilot Officer ARTHUR ROY WATSON

44187, 152 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

who died age 19

on 28 November 1940

Son of Arthur and Agnes Cooper Watson, of Nottingham.

Remembered with honour

NOTTINGHAM SOUTHERN CEMETERY

Second Lieutenant LEONARD FRANK WELLS

MC

9th (Yorkshire Hussars) Bn, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

who died age 19

on 11 October 1918

Son of Leonard and Robert Agnes Wells, of Fiskerton, Nottingham. Born at
Nottingham.

Remembered with honour

NAVES COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION

Corporal WILLIAM ERIC WOODWARD

109974, 52nd (Depot) Bn., Durham Light Infantry

who died

on 29 June 1919

Remembered with honour

NOTTINGHAM (NEW BASFORD) CEMETERY