

Falkland 1900-2000

Year 1917

(As researched by Jack Burgess)

6th January 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **New Year** – “The New Year was ushered in very quietly, the factories being closed until Wednesday morning. A good number spent the week end from home.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Private Charles Prain, Black Watch, arrived home on Sunday for a week’s furlough. Private Prain is a member of the original British Expeditionary Force, having come from India on the outbreak of war.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Curling** – “In playing of the 3rd round of the Linlithgow trophy at Haymarket Ice Rink last Friday, Major G.J. Lumsden’s rink again proved the winners. They meet at Shottsburn rink this week. The members of the rink are: - Major Lumsden, Provost Jackson, and Messrs W. Peggie and G. Sherrock.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Christmas Tree** – “Through the generosity of Lady Ninian Crichton-Stuart, the children attending Falkland public school were each made the recipient of a Christmas gift. The tree was erected in the Drill Hall, where the gifts were distributed on Friday last, prior to the school being closed for holidays.”

13th January 1917

Intimation from *The Fife News*: **B.O.A.F.G. Lomond Oak Lodge, No. 387** – “*Fraternal and National Insurance Sections: The Annual General Meeting of the above Lodge will be held in the Town Hall, Falkland, on Thursday evening, 18th January. Time, 7.30 p.m. prompt.*”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Church Services** – “*At both services in the parish on Sunday, the Rev. H.Y. Arnott, B.D., Newburgh, gave interesting descriptions of his work while acting as an Army chaplain in France. In the forenoon he dealt mainly with his work with the troops at the front, and in the afternoon he related his experiences while engaged in a military hospital.*”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – “*Sergt. Randolph Cameron, Canadian Contingent, formerly teller in the British Linen Bank, paid a short visit to the town while home on furlough. Private Louis Stuart, Australians, who was recently awarded the Military Medal, and Private John Abernethy, Dragoon Guards, have also been spending their leave in Falkland.*”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Destructive Fire at Newton of Falkland Maltings** – “*The maltings at Newton of Falkland, situated between Freuchie and Falkland, on Thursday night were destroyed by fire. An extensive range of buildings was burned. The outbreak was discovered about seven o’clock, and a phone message was sent to Cupar for the fire brigade. The “steamer”, drawn by three horses, left for the scene of the fire, and arrived at Newton of Falkland an hour later. The fire, meanwhile, had practically burned itself out, local efforts having been put forward to prevent the fire spreading to the other buildings, which comprise the extensive property of Mr David Bonthron, brewer and maltster. It was a big blaze, and was seen at Ladybank and all along the valley of the Eden. The damage is estimated at between £2,000 and £3,000, and the fire is said to have been caused by the overheating of one of the kilns. The brewery premises were saved. The maltings consisted of a three-storey building some fifty yards long, and it was practically gutted. Another account says: - About 6.30 on Thursday evening, passengers on the road from Freuchie to Newton of Falkland observed considerable volumes of smoke emerging from the ventilator of the malting premises of Newton of Falkland, but nothing serious was suspected until about a quarter of an hour later. The smoke having then increased in density, the fire broke out immediately above the kiln. Fortunately a fire wall prevented the outbreak from spreading northwards, and the north-westerly breeze helped to keep the*

flames from setting fire to the range of buildings to the west of the blazing premises. It was soon seen that the malting floor extending southwards for a distance of about 50 yards was doomed. By the efforts of a number of voluntary workers, and after a sufficient length of hose pipe had been attached to the hydrant, which provided a plentiful supply of water, the fire was checked before it reached the premises to the south of the now gutted buildings. Towards 9 o'clock the Cupar Fife Brigade, which had been phoned for shortly after 7 p.m., arrived on the scene, and after securing sufficient steam power on the engine, the members assisted in quenching such parts as were still smouldering, so as to prevent the fire from re-starting. The conflagration, which could be observed for many miles around and attracted a large crowd of the inhabitants of the surrounding villages and district, was the largest and most serious outbreak of fire which has occurred in the vicinity for a long period of years."

20th January 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Birth – Hutchison** – “At Ivy House, Newton of Falkland, on the 9th inst., to Mr and Mrs J. Hutchison, gunner, R.G.A., a son.”

27th January 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – “Bombardier Arthur Paterson, Canadian Artillery, Flight-Sergeant George Taylor, Royal Flying Corps, and Private William Skinner, Army Service Corps, have been home on furlough from the front this week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Johnston** – “Killed in action on 7th January 1917, Piper James Johnston, Black Watch, dearly beloved husband of Janet Johnston, 30 Landale Street, Lochgelly, and eldest son of Mr and Mrs James Johnston, Bellfield, Newton of Falkland.”

17th February 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Duke of Norfolk** – “The Duke of Norfolk, who has just died, was a brother of the Dowager Marchioness of Bute.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **War Loan** – “The people of Falkland have not been niggardly in supporting the Government in the prosecution of the war, and goodly sums have been invested in the War Loan. The Town Council have purchased £350 of new loan.”

24th February 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **A Record Concert** – “In order to make a further contribution to the County Comforts Fund, an entertainment, under the auspices of the Women’s Guild of the Parish Church, was held in the Drill Hall last Saturday. There was a large turnout, and the chair was occupied by the Rev. J.K. Russell. The programme was sustained by the Pierrot Troupe of the Hon. Artillery Company, and despite the delay occasioned by the breaking down of their motor car on the way to Falkland, an enjoyable evening was spent. From a financial point of view, this concert constitutes a record, the sum of £20 1s 6d having been realised. On the motion of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the performers.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Continuation Classes** – “The evening continuation classes which have been carried on during the winter months terminated on Thursday evening of this week. The subjects taught were English, history, mathematics, book-keeping, and shorthand, and the attendance has been satisfactory.”

3rd March 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Intoxication** – “Hon. Sheriff Bruce and Provost Stark were on the bench at a J.P. Court held in the County Buildings, Cupar, on Wednesday. John Fleming, shepherd, Pleasance, Falkland, admitted a charge of being in a state of intoxication at Freuchie on 15th February. The Fiscal (Mr J.K. Tasker) stated that accused was found lying on the street:

Provost Stark – “Is it a case of too much drink, or bad drink?”

Accused – “The truth is, I have not been well, indeed I was hardly able to come here to-day.”

Sentence was passed of a fine of 10s, or ten days’ imprisonment.”

10th March 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **B.O.A.F.G.** – “At a meeting of the Lomond Oak Lodge held in the Town Hall on Saturday last, it was decided to form a juvenile branch in connection with the Lodge, and 14 members were enrolled. This was considered a very satisfactory commencement.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – “At the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday, the question of cultivating and cropping the westmost portion of the Myre was considered with a view to increasing the food supply, and it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the scheme. Bailies Angus and Robertson and Councillors Jackson and Horne were appointed a committee to see the work carried through.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **National Service** – “A joint meeting of the Town Council, Parish Council, School Board, and the local Liberal and Unionist Committee secretaries was held on Monday evening to consider what should be done to forward the National Service movement in the district. A representative committee was appointed with Messrs George Robertson and John Brown as joint clerks, and public notice will be given of the arrangements they are to make for advising and assisting intending volunteers.”

17th March 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Concert** – “A second successful concert in aid of the funds of the Cupar and District Voluntary Workers Association was held in the Drill Hall on Saturday evening, when over £19 were realised. There was a large audience, and the chair was occupied by the Rev. J.H. Morrison. The programme, which consisted of songs, recitations etc., was sustained by Misses C. Fernie, M. Reid, M. Robertson, E.M. Piller, N. Downie, C. McCall, J. Robertson, and Messrs James Jackson and John Drysdale, along with the members of a chorus party and a class of school girls, while Miss Bryce acted in her usual efficient manner as accompanist. On the motion of the chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs Livingstone, Lomondvale, and Mrs Jackson, Chapelyard, who had organised the entertainment. A similar compliment was paid to those who had taken part.”

24th March 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **National Service** – “At a meeting of the Committee held in the school on Monday evening, it was agreed to hold a public meeting to explain further as to the National Service scheme.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cadet David A. Richardson** – “Cadet David A. Richardson, son of Mr John Richardson, formerly headmaster of Falkland Public School, has been gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Black Watch. Lieut. Richardson has already been on active service with the Seaforth Highlanders.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Band of Hope Recital** – “The annual recital in connection with the Parish Church Band of Hope was held on Sunday afternoon, when the cantata, “Harry Neil”, was rendered. The various solos and choruses were much enjoyed, as also was the story which was read by the Rev. J.K. Russell. Mr George Spence conducted the choir as usual, while Mr William Dowie assisted at the organ.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sunday School Examinations** – “The results of the U.F. Church Sunday School examination were announced on Sunday as follows: -

Senior Grade (1st Class) – Emily McLeod, 96 marks; Lizzie Pryde, 87; James Balfour, 79 (2nd Class) – Bella Todd, 71; Carrie Balfour, 68.

Middle Grade (1st Class) – Alice Meldrum, 87; Jean Meldrum, 82; Douglas Morrison, 100; (2nd Class) – Emily Hay, 69.

Junior Grade (1st Class) – Jean Morrison, 95; William McCartney, 89; Alick Hopkins, 82; Andrew Meldrum, 81.

In addition Esplin Morrison has obtained an honours certificate as he holds six first class certificates.”

31st March 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cultivation of Gardens** – “In response to the call of volunteers to undertake the cultivation of vacant gardens in the town, there was a very satisfactory turn out on Saturday afternoon, when the digging of three gardens was completed. Further progress has been made this week, and the ground will soon be ready for cropping.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **U.F. Church** – “To admit of the Rev. J.H. Morrison conducting the afternoon service in Freuchie U.F. Church during the absence of the Rev. P.W. Lilley on service with the Y.M.C.A., it has been arranged to have morning and evening services in Falkland, and the first of these was held on Sunday, when Mr Morrison preached an appropriate sermon on the text “Abide with us for it is toward evening”. An anthem was rendered by the choir.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **National Service** – “On Wednesday evening, Colonel Douglas, Cupar, addressed a public meeting in the Town Hall for the purpose of explaining the National Service scheme. Provost Jackson presided over a good attendance, and the Colonel received an appreciative hearing. On the call of Mr D. Bonthron, Colonel Douglas was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his stirring address. At the close of the above meeting, Mr Bonthron made certain explanations as to the proposal to form a company of volunteers for Falkland, Freuchie, and Newton, and the names of those willing to join were noted.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Y.M.C.A. Concert** – “In aid of the Y.M.C.A. Hut Fund, an excellent entertainment was given in the Drill Hall on Saturday by the Murray-Renton Troupe from Leslie, when the sum of £12 16s 4d was realised. Mr Andrew Forrester, Lomondside, occupied the chair. The programme, which was of a varied nature, was ably sustained by Misses Joey Dickson and Isabel Schoolbraid, as ballet singers and dancers, who were accompanied in the choruses and dancing by Misses Barbara Spence, Alice Carmichael and Violet Reid; Misses Jenny Dow and Isa Schoolbraid as Belgian maids; Miss Sheila Schoolbraid and Master Alex. Farmer, as picanninies; Messrs W.M. Schoolbraid and Wm. Brady, as top-boot dancer and highland dancer respectively; while Mr J. R. Blyth contributed several enjoyable recitations, and Messrs James Haining and Tom Barclay entertained the audience with their patriotic songs. Miss Duncan and Messrs T. R. Schoolbraid and Francis Dudgeon acted as efficient accompanists, and altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent. On the call of the chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the company, and the proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.”

21st April 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cadet John Venters** – “Cadet John Venters has now been gazetted Second Lieutenant.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Waste Paper** – “Satisfactory progress has been made with the collection of waste paper, and a considerable consignment is ready to be sent off.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Flag Day** – “The flag day arranged to be held throughout Scotland on Saturday first for the Funds of the Y.W.C.A. in connection with their work among munition workers is being arranged for in Falkland and district.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sphagnum Moss** – “Under the direction of Mrs Brown, Dundronnan House, a good start has been made in this district to the gathering of sphagnum moss, which is so much in demand at the military hospitals because of its healing properties. Up to a recent date, a total of 390 sacks had been filled and dispatched to London and other centres.”

28th April 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Flag Day** – “The flag day held in Falkland and district on behalf of the funds of the Y.W.C.A. realised the sum of £4 11s.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Rev. J.H. Morrison** – “The Rev. J.H. Morrison, who has been minister of the U.F. Church here for almost 16 years, was on Monday unanimously elected junior colleague to the Rev. A.J. Chrystall, Newhills United Free Church, Aberdeenshire.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Mr William Robb** – “Mr William Robb, headmaster of Falkland Public School, has now joined up for military service, and Mr John Methven, Freuchie, has taken over the superintendence of the school, while Mrs Robb is acting as a temporary assistant teacher.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **B.O.A.F.G.** – “In connection with the recent formation of a juvenile branch of the “Lomond Oak” Lodge, the Charter was

presented on Saturday afternoon by Brother Hogarth, Dunfermline. The ceremony was held in the Town Hall, and tea was afterwards served in Hardie's Temperance Hotel."



Hardie's Temperance Hotel

5th May 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Wounded in Action** – “Mr and Mrs James Oswald, Belleisle, Falkland, have received intimation that their son, Private James Oswald, Gordon Highlanders, has been wounded. Private Oswald recently returned to the front after recovering from the effects of gas poisoning.”

12th May 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lord's Supper** – “The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in both churches here on Sunday.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Captain Donaldson** – “Captain Donaldson, *Black Watch*, was home last week on short leave prior to his again leaving for the front.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Killed in Action** – “Mr and Mrs William Smith, High Street, have received intimation that their son, Private William Smith A.S.C., attached to *Sherwood Foresters*, has been killed in action. Prior to enlisting, Private Smith was a saddler to trade.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Robert Brown** – “Robert Brown, sheep grazier, Newton of Falkland, at the Sheriff Court at Cupar on Tuesday, was fined £1, or ten days' imprisonment, for allowing the carcass of a sheep to remain unburied in a field to which dogs had access.”

19th May 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sphagnum Moss** – “Falkland school children have been busy collecting sphagnum moss for the hospitals in London. In one fortnight there have been gathered, dried, and dispatched 40 sacks. The pupils have also collected a large number of herbs to be made into medicine, and a large collection of jars and bottles, the proceeds of which are to be sent to the Red Cross hospitals. These children deserve great credit for the good work they are doing.”



Article in *The Fife News*: **Cupar U.F. Presbytery – Translation of Rev. J.H. Morrison, M.A., Falkland to Newhills, Aberdeen:**

“The principal business at the meeting of Cupar U.F. Presbytery, which was held in the Session House of Bonnygate Church on Tuesday – the Rev. W.D. Beattie, Monimail, moderator – was the disposal of the call to the Rev. J.H. Morrison, M.A., Falkland, by the congregation of Newhills, Aberdeenshire, as colleague and successor to the Rev. Andrew J. Chrystall. There were present the following commissioners – from Aberdeen, Mr Forgan, Dr Mather and Mr Proctor; from Falkland congregation, Mr Peggie, Mr Robert Horne and Mr Wm. Horne. Mr Morrison appeared for himself.

Mr Forgan said the call was a singularly happy and harmonious one. When the vacancy arose, the very first name mentioned was that of Mr Morrison, and while other names were suggested, no other name was before the congregation in the same sense at all. They satisfied themselves that it was their duty to induce Mr Morrison to give the people of Newhills an opportunity

of hearing him. He occupied the pulpit and his services gave great satisfaction, and when they met to moderate in a call, every step was taken unanimously. The call was signed by 338 members and adherents, and included the name of Mr Chrystall, who lived in Aberdeen. It was a large congregation in a very strong position. They had various mills and factories, and a population of 4,000. There was evidence of happy unanimity and great goodwill towards Mr Morrison on the part of the congregation and of many in Aberdeen and district where he was known because of his labours when assistant in the South Church. In answer to the Rev. Mr Morison, Auchtermuchty, Mr Forgan said the membership of Newhills congregation was between 500 and 600.

Dr Mather corroborated Mr Forgan's statement. They had proceeded, he said, to find a minister, not by choosing a list and having a preaching competition – what most of them considered a most objectionable method – they elected a small committee to look about and see if they could find a minister suitable. This committee unanimously recommended Mr Morrison, and after hearing him preach, the congregation chose him unanimously. They were in a position to offer Mr Morrison a larger sphere of work than that he was at present engaged in. They sympathised with the Falkland people; but they must remember the Falkland people had had sixteen years of his life and work amongst them, and they must not grudge another congregation casting their covetous eyes towards him. Mr Proctor said he had been 39 years in the Newhills district as a missionary and he knew the feeling of the people very well. They were very hearty and would give Mr Morrison a cordial welcome. Mr Morrison had been under a searchlight and had come out of it very well. They had heard nothing but good about him, and had been led by the Divine hand in that matter.

The Falkland Opinion – Mr Peggie, elder, Falkland, said it was with very mingled feelings that he appeared before the Presbytery that day. They were very pleased indeed to hear that the Newhills people liked their minister so well when he was there some weeks ago. At the same time, they were very sorry to learn that he was to be taken away. He had been with them for sixteen years, and from the first day he came among them, he had been a faithful minister of the gospel. His preaching had always been fresh, and it was always a treat to listen to him Sabbath after Sabbath. He had been a student all the time. He had also proved to be an untiring worker. There was a great deal of energy about Mr Morrison, and although their congregation was small, all the organisation was good. He had done a great work among the young people. They gathered around him just like a big family round a father. In the Bible class, for instance, there was not one in the whole congregation who was of age to attend that was not in attendance, and he thought that what had cheered Mr Morrison as much as anything in his work

in Falkland was just the way the young people clung to him. At their weekly prayer meeting there was the usual number of the older people, but they could depend on the half of the whole meeting being young people – young men and young women. They had had for 12 or 14 years a Christian Endeavour Society, and in the winter nights it was something splendid just to be gathered round their little hall fire – about twenty young people – and hear Mr Morrison talk away about the things that would make him ever remembered and would make him remember Falkland. He had always taken a very active interest in public affairs, and they would miss him in Falkland in that connection. In any work connected with the burgh, he was always willing to do his share and do it well. He had himself realised that he did not only belong to the Falkland congregation, but that he belonged to the whole Church. He had tried to serve the whole Church during all those years and although he had not been anxious to leave them and that call had not been sought by him, yet it seemed that a wider sphere had opened up to him, a sphere of work for which he was well prepared and was well able to undertake. He (Mr Peggie) would just like to say that although they would be sorry to part with him and they had no doubt he would be sorry to part with them, they would not stand in the way of that call, but they would follow him with their best wishes and their prayers to that sphere of labour that had opened for him. (Applause). Mr Horne, in a few words, said people in Falkland were sorry to part with Mr Morrison and he congratulated the congregation of Newhills on getting him.

Mr Morrison's Reply – Mr Morrison, in reply to the moderator, stated that he accepted the call. He then expressed his gratitude to the Presbytery and to all who had spoken so generously of their kindly feelings towards him. His feelings towards the representatives of Falkland were certainly as warm as theirs were towards him. His time in Falkland had been exceedingly happy. He supposed every minister thought his own congregation the best, and the only difference between him and them was that he knew for a fact that his was the best. (Laughter). During the sixteen years he had been in Falkland, there had been absolute unanimity in the congregation. He well remembered that when he went there it was thought he was like Daniel going into a den of lions. (Laughter). But there had been nothing of the nature of a growl in it. There was not a crank in the whole congregation. They would search the records both of the Session and the Deacons' Court, and they would not find even an amendment moved in all those sixteen years. That did not mean they had been stagnant. They had been dealing with all the things that made rows – the introduction of instrumental music and unfermented wine; but they had been absolutely harmonious. The Presbytery could therefore imagine how exceedingly pleasant it was for him to look back over those years which had been years so crowned with goodness and mercy. Referring to the feelings and motives that had lead him to accept the call, he said that

Falkland, with all its delights, had one drawback, namely, that when one's family began to grow up, educational centres were not very accessible; but Bucksburn was well situated for that. He could not wish a bonnier manse than he had in Falkland, or a more picturesque spot in which to spend his days. As to his public work, if he was ever to take on more responsible work and work on a larger scale, he must do so now; otherwise the opportunity would pass.

The abundance of young people at Bucksburn appealed to him as an attraction. His Session Clerk had spoken of the work he had done among the young of Falkland. Although his experience there had been on a small scale, it had been an experience that encouraged him to believe that the young people of today were just as enthusiastic for the Church as their elders, and if he had success among the young, he should feel that he had not laboured in vain. Those were the motives that had prompted him to accept that call that had come to him with so much heartiness and unanimity. (Applause).

The Presbytery then released Mr Morrison from his charge at Falkland. Mr Morrison intimated that he hoped to be able to carry on in Falkland till the middle of June, and that he had made arrangements with Mr Affleck of Ladybank, who had kindly agreed to take on Freuchie till Mr Lilley's return. In compliance with the wishes of the Falkland office-bearers, Mr Bell, Auchtermuchty, was appointed interim moderator for the vacant charge, and the following were appointed a General Interests Committee: - Rev. Messrs Craig (Balmalcolm), Baynes (Auchtermuchty), and Affleck (Ladybank), and Mr David Beveridge, Kettle, and ex-Provost Crichton, Ladybank, elders."

26th May 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Flag Day** – "A flag day was held here on Saturday in aid of the Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for limbless soldiers and sailors. The sum of £4 10s was realised."

2nd June 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Volunteer Corps**. – "A meeting was held in the Drill Hall on Friday evening, when a corps was formed and 25 men were sworn in by Major Lumsden, Freuchie. Another meeting is to be held shortly when it is hoped that more of the exempted men will enrol."

9th June 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Donation** – “A pound has been handed over to Mrs Gulland, Millfield, in aid of the Falkland Red Cross Funds by three local girls, Mary Drysdale, Jenny Drysdale and Mary Anderson, being the proceeds of mascots sold by them throughout the town.”

16th June 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Late Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart** – “There is at present on exhibition in the Royal Academy, the model of a statue of the late Lieut.-Col. Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, M.P., of Falkland Palace, Fife, who was killed in action at Loos. The statue, which will be erected at Cardiff, which Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart represented in Parliament, will be the work of Sir W. Goscombe John, R.A. It will be 9 feet in height, and will represent the Laird of Falkland in his uniform as Colonel of the Welsh Regiment. In his right hand he holds a pair of field-glasses, and appears to be thinking out the situation which his survey of the scene has disclosed. In his left hand are a riding crop and papers.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Way-Going of the Rev. J.H. Morrison and Mrs Morrison** – “The congregation of Falkland U.F. Church met on Wednesday of last week to decide certain matters in connection with the forthcoming vacancy owing to the Rev. J.H. Morrison’s call to Newhills, Aberdeen. At the close of the business, Mr and Mrs Morrison were presented with a cheque from the congregation and a few friends in the town as a token of the respect and appreciation in which they have been held during their stay of 16 years in Falkland. The Rev. James Bell, Auchtermuchty, who is acting as moderator during the vacancy, very genially presided over the gathering. Mr Anderson, town clerk, handed over the gift on behalf of the subscribers, and in his remarks referred to the active interest Mr and Mrs Morrison had always shown in the work and life of the church and public affairs, in particular to the share Mrs Morrison had taken in the ladies’ local Red Cross Work Party. Mr Andrew Forrester, Lomondside, eloquently testified to Mr and Mrs Morrison’s high qualities and accomplishments and conveyed the best wishes of their friends for further success in their new sphere. Mr Morrison, in returning thanks on behalf of his wife and himself, spoke of their pleasant relationship with office-bearers and members, and the public life of Falkland and district, and expressed the desire to continue the intercourse as occasion arose. The parish minister, the Rev. J.K. Russell, and Provost Jackson, who were present as representing friends outside the congregation, added their testimony to the esteem in which Mr and Mrs Morrison were regarded. A hearty feeling prevailed throughout the meeting, and this in a measure

concealed the genuine regret at the loss of citizens who have played such an excellent part in the community.”

23rd June 1917

Intimation in *The Fife News*: **Falkland School Board – Lumdsen Bursary** – “Applications are invited for Bursaries under the Deed of Trust by John L. Lumdsen, Esq., open to present and former pupils of Falkland and Freuchie Public Schools. Candidates shall have been in regular attendance at either of above Schools for at least two years, and intend to prosecute their studies at Secondary, Technical, Commercial, or State-aided Schools or Colleges, and shall intimate proposed Course of Instruction to be followed. Particulars, with Schedules of Application, may be had from Alexander Anderson, Solicitor, Falkland, Clerk to the Trustees, with whom the Applications must be lodged on or before 31st July 1917.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Gulland** – “Died in a hospital in France, on the 16th June, from wounds received in action, Captain Alexander Falkland Gulland, son of Surgeon-General Gulland, Cheltenham.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Captain Alexander Falkland Gulland Dies of Wounds** – “On Monday, news reached Millfield, Falkland, the residence of his aunt, that Captain Alexander Falkland Gulland had been dangerously wounded immediately after he and his men had taken a German trench. The following day brought the sadder intelligence that he had died in hospital. Captain Gulland joined the King’s forces when war broke out, and obtained a commission in “the Buffs”, in which fine regiment he obtained a captaincy some time ago. He was a son of Surgeon-General Gulland, Cheltenham, a grandson of the late Mr Charles Gulland, senior, who was town clerk of Falkland for the long period of 69 years, and a nephew of Mr Charles Gulland, jnr., who succeeded to the town clerkship after his father, and is well remembered as a highly gifted poet. Captain Gulland has died a brave young soldier, the last of his name in the male line of a race intimately identified with Falkland for many long years – his great grandfather, Dr William Gulland, having been medical practitioner in the ancient burgh for fully 60 years.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Livingston** – “At Lomondvale, Falkland, on the 17th inst., Mrs Euphemia Jackson, or Livingston, daughter of the late Charles Jackson, manufacturer, Falkland.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Late Mrs Livingston** – “In the early hours of Sunday morning, there passed away Mrs Livingston, sister of Provost Jackson, Lomondvale, Falkland. Of a kindly and amiable disposition, her loss will be greatly felt in the community where she was ever ready to help in any good cause, especially in those trying times through which we are passing. The funeral took place on Wednesday to Falkland Cemetery, and was attended by a large concourse of friends.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Birth – Donaldson** – “At British Linen Bank House, Falkland, on the 12th inst., to Capt. And Mrs James Donaldson, a son.”

30th June 1917

Intimation in *The Fife News*: **B.O.A.F.G.** – “Lomond Oak Lodge No. 387 – The half-yearly General Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Falkland, on Thursday evening, 5th July 1917. Time – 7.30 p.m. prompt.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Volunteers** – “A meeting of the Falkland and Freuchie Volunteer Corps was held in the Drill Hall, Falkland, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of medical inspection. The company was addressed by Captain Osborne, Cupar.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Michie** – “Previously reported wounded and missing, now officially presumed killed in action on 1st July 1916, Lance-Corporal Harry Duncan Michie, London Scottish, second son of the late James C. Michie, Newton of Falkland.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Fate of a Soldier** – “It will be remembered that in July last, Private H.D. Michie, London Scottish Regiment, was reported to be wounded and missing. He was a bomb thrower, and a comrade saw him fall wounded in the attack of 1st July. His many friends will regret that all hope of his being alive must now be abandoned. His relatives have been informed by the War Office that the gallant soldier is presumed to have been killed in action. Harry was the second son of the late Mr J.C. Michie, Excise Officer, Park House, Newton of Falkland, and was a clerk in the employment of Messrs W. Lumsden & Son, linen manufacturers, Freuchie. He was one of the most popular young men of the district, and took a keen interest in the game of cricket, being secretary of the Falkland Club for a number of years. It

is some time since Harry left his native parish, but many Falkland and Newton boys as well as other friends will retain kindly recollections of him."

7th July 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Red Cross Flag Day** – *"A flag day was held here on Saturday in aid of the Red Cross Funds, when a sum of £3 15s was realised by the sale of flags and flowers."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Picnic** – *"The Parish Church Sunday School picnic was held on Saturday in the grounds of Falkland estate. It was ideal summer weather and the children spent an enjoyable afternoon."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Home on Leave** – *"Pte. Robert Anderson, dispatch rider, Army Service Corps, arrived home this week from the front on short furlough. Pte. Anderson, who is looking very fit, has seen 13 months service in France."*

Article from *The Fife News*: **Cupar District Committee – Strathmiglo and Falkland Grievances:**

"Cupar District Committee met on Tuesday – Mr D. Lees of Easter Pitscottie presiding:

The payment of the cost of the treatment of Falkland patients in the tuberculosis ward at Thornton Poorhouse has given rise to a good deal of trouble. The pauper was sent to the poorhouse and while there developed phthisis. The question at issue is, who is responsible for the increased charge for the pauper in the phthisis ward? Falkland Parish Council hold that this duty falls on the District Committee. Mr Andrew Smith, Ceres, said he would have liked to see an agreement between the two parties concerned to abide by the decision given by the Board. Mr David Bonthronne said the Finance Committee of the Parish Council disagreed with the statement of facts as prepared by the District Committee. If the District Committee had agreed to a joint minute being lodged then the Parish Council might have agreed to accept the Local Government Board's finding. As it was, they were satisfied with their position and it was merely the District Committee that was making the reference."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Marriage – Gray – Myles** – “At Darling’s Hotel, on 30th June, by the Rev. J.K. Russell, B.D., minister of Falkland, William Gray to Christina, daughter of George Myles, Falkland.”

14th July 1917

Intimation in *The Fife News*: **A Garden Fete**:

“A Garden Fete in aid of the funds of the Falkland Red Cross Work Party will be held in the grounds of Falkland Palace on Saturday 21st July 1917. The Fete will be opened at 2.15 by Edward Balfour, Esq., of Balbirnie. Stalls, Concerts etc., etc. Tea and Refreshments. The Band of the Highland Light Infantry and the Concert Party of the Duke of Lancaster’s Own (by special permission of the Officers Commanding) will perform during the afternoon. Admission – 3d. Children – 1d. Contributions of farm produce, cakes, etc., will be gratefully received at the Palace on the morning of the Fete.”

21st July 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Holidaymakers** – “A goodly number of holiday makers have arrived in the town this week to spend the trade’s holidays.

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Red Cross Work Party** – “A sum of £1 0s 4d has been handed to the funds of the Local Red Cross Work Party, being the proceeds of the sale of dandelion roots gathered by a number of the school children.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Shell Shock** – “Intimation has been received by Mr Robert Craig, South Street E., Falkland, that his son, Pte. David Craig, Black Watch, has been admitted into hospital suffering from shell shock.”

28th July 1917

Article in *The Fife News*: **At Falkland Palace – A Garden Fete and a Contrast**:

“The industry and energy of the Falkland Branch of the Red Cross Society, as directed by their Convener, Mrs Gulland of Millfield, culminated on Saturday in a successful fete and sale of work for Red Cross Funds, held in Falkland

Palace Courtyard, by permission of the Hon. Mrs Maule Ramsay. The weather was of the "old fashioned summer" order – bright and genial, and the scene at the historic Palace was a genuine treat that awaited all who came from far and near to show their interest in the undertaking. The stalls were arranged in the centre of the lawn. In one corner was a large marquee in which concerts were given by a military concert party. Another part was dotted with dainty flower-decked tables where tea was served by a bevy of young ladies. The side-shows included – Clock golf, under the charge of Mr Andrew Collins; Pot Shots at the Kaiser, looked after by Mr Hardie; and Mr James Peggie at the rifle range did good business. The Misses Gavin and Dawson presided at a bran tub.

A look at the pretty scene inevitably suggested a comparison of the modern with the ancient. The courtiers, troopers and falconers so familiar in that famous enclosure in a bygone day had all vanished and in their place was a goodly company of fair ladies engaged in a work of mercy. We would fain have had it that that work of mercy marked a great advance on the cruel times when Falkland Palace was inhabited by kings, queens and nobles, whose lives were so much given to intrigue, treachery and war, but the contrast in that respect fails. The very purpose for which the work of mercy was undertaken brings us face to face with a war, the like of which, in respect of its magnitude and cruelty, the world has never seen. Yet there is one aspect in which we can point to a striking difference, and that is the whole-hearted energy with which good people in our time apply themselves to the relief and succour of the wounded compared with the neglect to which the victims of war were subjected in the former times.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr Edward Balfour of Balbirnie, through indisposition, the opening ceremony at Falkland Palace was performed by Provost Jackson, who said they very much regretted that Mr Balfour had been unable to be with them, and they regretted also the cause of his absence. Referring to the good work the Falkland Red Cross Work Party was doing, he said that during the course of the year they had made 92 mufflers, 259 pairs of socks, and 187 surgical dressings. In conclusion, the Provost thanked Mrs Maule Ramsay for her kindness in giving them the use of her beautiful grounds for their sale. The Rev. J.K. Russell, Falkland, thanked the Provost for his kindness in opening the sale.

The stallholders were: - No. 1 – Mrs and Miss Gulland, Mrs Tarbolton, Miss Beattie Brown, and Miss Rae-Arnot, Lochiehead; Fruit, Flowers and Farm Produce – Mrs Chisholm, Miss Forsyth, Misses Dun, Woodmill, Mrs Dykes; Toy Stall – Mrs McCall, Miss C. Peggie, Misses K. and A. McCall, and Miss A. Wotherspoon, Miss L. Finlay; Jumble Stall – Mr John Brown; Cake and Candy – Mrs Brown, Mrs Fraser, Mrs Trail, Miss Borthwick, Mrs Collins, Miss McCormack and Miss M. Chisholm; Tea Stall – Mrs Laing, Mrs Kirk, Miss

Scott, Miss M. Oswald, Miss M. Craig, Miss Jessie Anderson, Mrs Sinclair, Miss M. Dowie, Miss J. Anderson, Miss K. Rodgers, Miss C. Lawson, and Miss Cation.

During the afternoon, the pipers of a military band rendered a selection of stirring music. The efforts of a military concert party also contributed largely to the attractions of the afternoon. The drawings, including donations, amounted to £103 4s 6d.

The Falkland Work Party's Record:

Since the beginning of the war, the Falkland Red Cross work party have sent off the following: - 187 surgical pillows, 61 nightshirts, 72 day shirts, 97 mufflers, very many helmets, mitts, etc., and 1,479 pairs of socks (150 pairs of which have been given to Falkland soldier lads as they were home on leave). One of the members has been indefatigable in collecting sphagnum moss. She has organised bands of schoolchildren to gather it and the factory girls, after their day's work, have done their "bit" by carrying the moss down from the woods in baskets. Over 500 large sacks have been sent off to different centres. Waste paper has been collected and sold. Medicinal roots have been gathered and sold, and bottles also."

4th August 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Hon. Mrs Maule Ramsay** – "The Hon. Mrs Maule Ramsay, House of Falkland, has arranged for a fund to provide tea to the sphagnum moss gatherers. The first donation of 10s has been received by Mrs Brown, Dundrennan."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Gallant Conduct** – "Much satisfaction has been felt in Falkland this week by the news that Sapper E. Allen, Royal Engineers, attached to the Irish Division, has received an acknowledgement for gallant conduct and devotion to duty on the field. The parchment, which has been sent home by the gallant sapper, is as follows: -

"I have read with great pleasure the reports of your Regimental Commander and Brigade Commander regarding your gallant conduct and devotion to duty on the field on May 27th 1917, and have ordered your name and deed to be entered in the record of the Irish Division. (Signed) W.B. Hickey, Major General."

Article in *The Fife News*: **Cupar District Committee - Falkland's Tuberculosis Case:**

"The Clerk (Mr J.M. Mitchell) said the Local Government Board had written that they were prepared to arbitrate in the dispute between Falkland Parish Council and the Committee regarding the liability for the payment of a Falkland patient sent to the poorhouse at Thornton who had subsequently been removed to the phthisis ward of the poorhouse. Falkland held that they were not liable for the patient after she was removed to the phthisis ward.

The Chairman – "What is to be done?"

Dr Yule, medical officer, said the ward at Thornton was put up specially for tuberculosis cases. If the Falkland Parish Council left the case there, he did not see why the District Committee should particularly worry about it. The patient was getting as good treatment there as elsewhere.

Mr Smith – "I think we might still keep our offer open to the Parish Council of Falkland. If they are willing to refer it to the Local Government Board and agree to their decision, we will do the same, but we need not send it to the Local Government Board if the Falkland people are not willing to abide by that Board's decision."

Mr J.B. Crichton – "We have already told them that."

Mr David Dryburgh – "I may say the Parish Council are quite willing to abide by a decision on a joint memorial put before the Local Government Board."

Dr Yule – "All the facts are before the Local Government Board."

The Rev. John Henderson – "The Local Government Board will not arbitrate before they get a joint submission."

Mr Wm. Low of Blebo – "If this is a case requiring treatment right through, it is not a case for the Local Government Board at all, it is a case for us as the Public Health Authority. It will be better to get a report on the case now. Is she a phthisical patient?"

Dr Yule – "Yes."

Mr W.K. Balfour – "To my mind this Committee should pay for this case."

The Clerk said the Parish Council would have to bear the responsibility until the date of the Local Authority's resolution to undertake treatment. The question was that sufficient notice had not been sent to that Committee that the case required treatment. It was agreed to ask the Parish Council to submit a joint submission to the Local Government Board."

11th August 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – “Pte. Alexander Robertson, R.S.F., after about a year in hospital, is home on furlough this week before joining up again.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Flag Day** – “A flag day was held on Saturday in aid of the Scottish Women’s Hospitals in France and Serbia. A sum of £4 7s 4d was realised.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Wounded** – “Intimation has been received by Mrs Brown, West Port, Falkland, that her husband, Driver Wm. Brown, A.S.C., has been admitted into hospital suffering from the effects of gas poisoning.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **U.F. Church Vacancy** – “At a meeting of the United Free Church on Monday evening, it was agreed to give the Rev. James P. Batchelor, presently at Maud, Aberdeenshire, a unanimous call to the vacancy caused by the departure of the Rev. J.H. Morrison to Newhills, Aberdeen.”

18th August 1917

Article in *The Fife News*: **Cupar U.F. Presbytery**:

“A meeting of Cupar U.F. Presbytery was held in the Bonnygate class-room, Cupar, on Tuesday, the Rev. W.D. Beattie, Monimail, moderator.

Call by Falkland Congregation – The Rev. James Bell, Auchtermuchty, reported as moderator of the Falkland congregation, the steps that had been taken to fill the vacancy caused by the translation of the Rev. J.H. Morrison to Newhills, Aberdeen, and the call it had led up to in favour of MR J.P. Batchelor, Maud, Aberdeenshire. Messrs Forrester, Alex. Anderson and Walter Peggie attended as representatives of the Falkland congregation in support of the call. Mr Forrester said the vacancy committee had been very united in everything that had been done, and that unity had been greatly due to the kind direction they had received from Mr Bell, the moderator. (Applause.) They had had the pleasure of hearing Mr Bachelor preach, and the congregation were very much struck by the way he presented the truth.

His sermon was highly spiritual in its tone, and his prayers seemed to breathe the very spirit of the Master.

Mr Anderson said he was not able to be present in the church when Mr Batchelor preached, but he afterwards found the feeling of harmony so strong that he had no difficulty whatever in falling in with the congregation. Mr Peggie said they had been fortunate throughout the whole of the vacancy – fortunate in securing Mr Bell as moderator, and fortunate in having a very excellent leet of preachers. Perhaps Falkland congregation had redeemed itself this time. They learned something at the last vacancy and got a very severe lecture from Mr Murray perhaps done them good (Laughter.)

The Rev. Cape, in moving that the call be sustained, said the Presbytery's duty was very clear. They had had ample testimony from the moderator in the vacancy, and from the representatives of the congregation of the feeling that prevailed, and he was sure it gratified their hearts to know that the Falkland congregation was so hearty and unanimous in its choice. Mr Batchelor was unknown to him, but they knew from experience that they could pretty well judge the judgement of the congregation of Falkland, and as he had passed through that trying ordeal and come out successfully, they need have no hesitation in proceeding with the call. He congratulated the congregation on its unanimity. It would have been lamentable had there been any division, but under wise guidance the congregation was thoroughly at one in the matter, and they as a Presbytery rejoiced.

The Rev. John Murray seconded, and congratulated the congregation and the acting Moderator on the settlement they had so speedily, so heartily, and so unanimously reached. They had been rather unfortunate in their vacancies in these past years. Vacancies had been protracted indefinitely – he did not think through any fault of the Presbytery – but in such a way as to incline them somewhat to lose their self-respect. Falkland people had managed to recover entirely their self-respect. When they thought of their last experience at Falkland when there was division and other things, and considered the manner in which the call had come to them that day they could not but remark the very strong contrast presented, and he was sure it was the hope of the Presbytery that that settlement so well begun would end in justifying them in inducting Mr Batchelor to the church at Falkland.

The Moderator then presented the call to Mr Batchelor and wished him all prosperity in his work in Falkland. The ordination was fixed to take place on Thursday, 30th August.”

25th August 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parish Council** – “At a meeting of the Parish Council, the rates for the year 1917-18 were fixed as follows: -

Poor rate – owners, 2 ½ d per £1; occupiers, 2 ½ d per £1; school rate – owners, 5 ¾ d per £1; occupiers, 7d per £1.”

1st September 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Donaldson** – “Killed in action, 23rd August, Captain James Donaldson, Black Watch, Royal Highlanders, B.L. Bank House, Falkland.”

Article from *The Fife News*: **Captain Donaldson, Falkland, Falls at the Front – A True Hero:**

“In the death on the western front on Thursday last week of Captain Donaldson, Falkland, a gallant soldier and a noble-minded gentleman has fallen. The sad news was conveyed by wire to Mrs Donaldson on Tuesday morning, and has cast a gloom over every part of the county where the Captain was known. He was a soldier of the finest type. Early in his career he was a member of the Bankers Company of the Queen’s Edinburgh Volunteers, and on the outbreak of the Boer War, he went with that company, then attached to the Royal Scots, and served through the South African campaign. Later, he drilled with the Leslie Company of the Black Watch and went with that regiment to the western front in the present war. In the same engagement in June 1915 in which Lieut. A.C. Westwood, Cupar, was killed, Captain Donaldson, who was an intimate friend of the lieutenant (the two having billeted together in their training at Kinghorn), lost an eye and was invalidated home. A keen soldier, he returned to his old comrades on the field at the earliest opportunity, and was received on his arrival among them, by an enthusiastic welcome that spoke for itself of the affectionate regard in which he was held by all ranks. It was characteristic of the Captain that when in Cupar after he was wounded, he called at Railway Place on the wife of Sergt.-Major Lumsden, and left with her a tangible token of his gratitude for the Sergt.-Major, who was a Military Medallist, has himself since made the great sacrifice also.

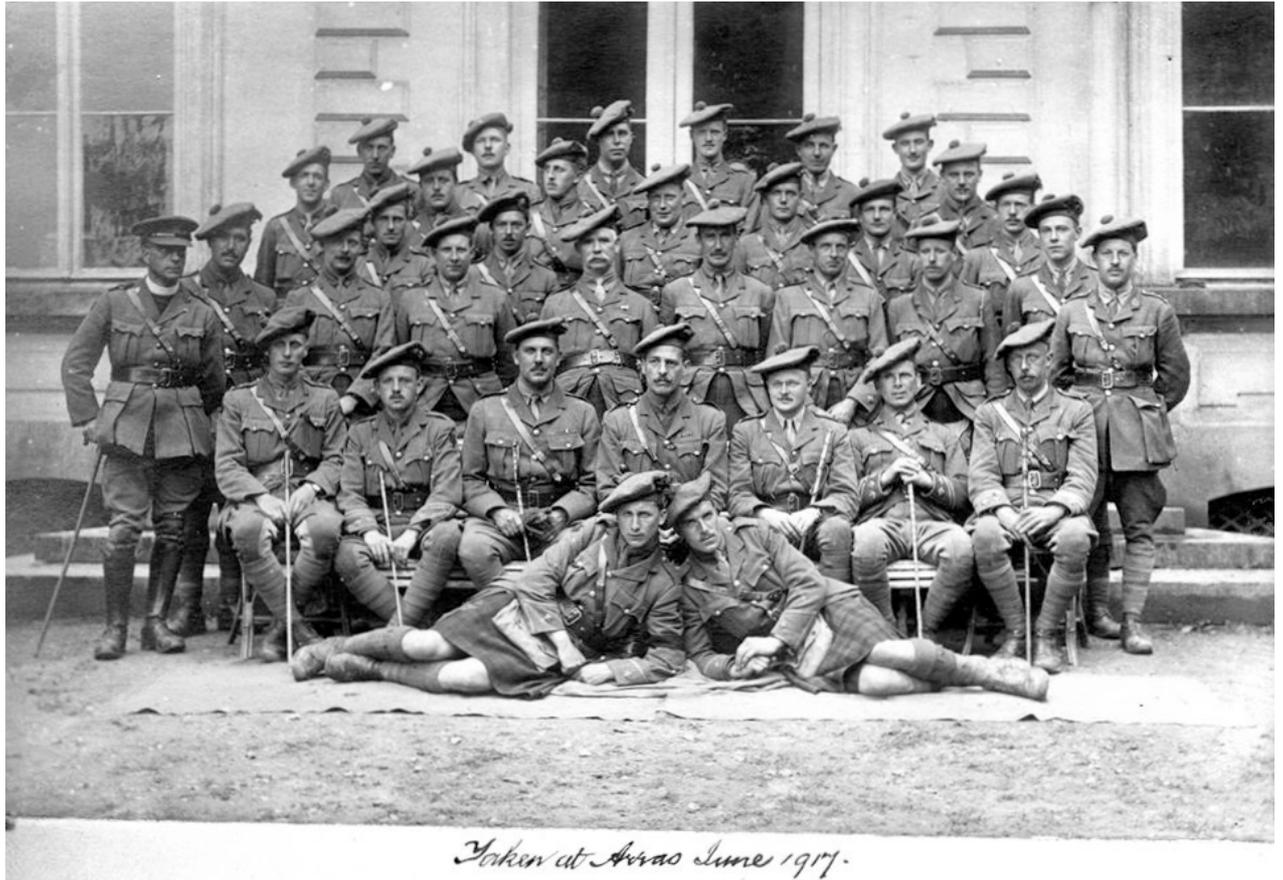
It will be remembered that it was Captain Donaldson who discovered the grave of Capt. Slacke, the late Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart’s private secretary, and laid a wreath of flowers upon it. In Falkland and district the Captain was held in the highest esteem. He had been joint-agent with Mr Alexander Anderson of the British Linen Bank in Falkland since 1909, and he took a great interest in all the public work of the parish. He was a member of the Town Council, the School Board and the Parish Council, secretary to the

Curling Club, secretary to the Y.M.C.A., and president of the Literary Society. A special effort of his was the starting of a Boy Scout company in Falkland. To this movement he devoted himself with great enthusiasm and inspired the lads with much of his own love of duty. It will be noticed that with the news of his death there is also published the intimation that he had just been made one of the new J.P.'s of the county.

A short memorial service was held in his memory in Falkland U.F. Church on Wednesday evening, and was taken part in by the Revs. J. Bell, Auchtermuchty; J.K. Russell, minister of the parish; and P.W. Lilley, U.F. Church. It need hardly be added that wide-spread and heart-felt sympathy is expressed for Mrs Donaldson and her four children.”



Captain James Donaldson



Officers of the 9th Battalion Black Watch Royal Highlanders taken in Arras, France, June 1917.

Captain James Donaldson is seated on the front bench, second from the right.

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Fifeshire Volunteers** – “On Thursday evening, the Falkland detachment of the Fifeshire Volunteers were inspected by Major Lumsden, Tarvit, who expressed his satisfaction with the progress made since he last inspected the force.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Ordination of New U.F. Minister** – “As arranged by the Cupar U.F. Presbytery, the ordination and induction of the Rev. J.P. Batchelor, as minister of the U.F. Church here in succession to the Rev. J.H. Morrison, recently translated to Newhills, Aberdeenshire, took place on Thursday. The proceedings were followed with interest by the congregation. The Rev. James Whyte, Ceres, conducted the service and the Rev. John Gilmour, Kettle, ordained the new minister to his charge, and addressed both minister and congregation. Addressing the minister, he said he was entering upon his ministry in the most stirring and memorable period of the history of

the Church and nation. They were being tested and sifted as never before. Into the crucible of the war both had been cast, and they believed that out of it there would emerge a new nation and a new Church. Mr Batchelor would be called on to play his part in shaping and moulding the times – those happy times which they trusted were fast approaching. To be a successful minister it just meant that all his ministerial efforts must be made in a spirit of disinterestedness – all his aims and activities must have for their one object his people's good. Nothing injured a minister's influence more than a selfish spirit. It was the very canker that ruined and destroyed all pastoral influence. Turning to the congregation, Mr Gilmour also impressed upon them the duty of supporting and encouraging their minister in all his efforts to carry on the work of the charge. The members of the Presbytery, along with the church office-bearers and friends, were entertained to tea in the hall by the ladies of the congregation. In the evening a social meeting was held in the church. The Rev. James Bell, moderator in the vacancy, presided during the first part of the meeting. Mr Andrew Forrester, in presenting Mr Batchelor with pulpit robes, suitably referred to the occasion, and the robing of the new minister was gracefully performed by Mrs Peggie and Miss Bryce. Mr Batchelor then took the chair, and a presentation of a carriage clock to Mr Bell in recognition of his services as Moderator was made by Mr Anderson. Anthems were rendered by the choir, Miss Horne taking the solo parts. Among other speakers who took part were – the Rev. J.H. Morrison, the late minister; the Rev. Mr Peddie, Kennoway; the Rev. J.K. Russell, minister of the parish; and the Rev. P.W. Lilley, U.F. Church, Freuchie.

The Rev. J.P. Batchelor is the second son of Mr Alex. Batchelor, 19 Morgan Street, Dundee. He graduated M.A. at St Andrews, and took his Divinity course at Aberdeen. During his last year at Aberdeen he conducted the mission station at Maud.

Article from *The Fife News*: ***New Justices of the Peace for Fife:***

“The following gentlemen have had their names added to the Commission of the Peace of the County: -

James Donaldson, Falkland.”

8th September 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: ***Harvesting*** – *“Harvesting is now general in the district, and crops on the whole are excellent.”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Donation** – “The sum of £5 has been forwarded to the Y.M.C.A. Camp and Fleet Fund, Edinburgh, from some of the employees and office staff of Messrs Charles Jackson & Sons, Ltd.”

15th September 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Pte. James Birrell, A.S.C., is home on furlough this week, and is looking very fit.”

22nd September 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Flag Day** – “A Flag Day in aid of the Y.M.C.A. Huts was held on Saturday, when the sum of £4 was realised.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Wounded Soldiers** – “A party of wounded soldiers from Wemyss Castle were on Tuesday entertained to tea by a number of local ladies and gentlemen.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Burgh Assessments** – “The Town Council have fixed the assessments for the current year. They are increased by ½ d on both owners and occupiers.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Golden Wedding** – “Mr and Mrs John Skinner, Pleasance, Falkland, celebrated their golden wedding on Saturday. Mr Skinner has for many years been manager of the Pleasance Works.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Bible Society** – “The annual meeting of the Falkland and Freuchie Auxiliary of the National Bible Society was held in the hall of the U.F. Church, Falkland, on Wednesday of last week. Dr Jack, vice-president, was in the chair. The Secretary, Mr John Methven, M.A., and the Treasurer, Mr Walter Peggie, submitted reports, which were found to be very satisfactory. The subscriptions from the district for the past year had increased this being mainly due to the collections at the church services, which are now held each year both in Falkland and in Freuchie. This year, the services fall to be held in Falkland U.F. Church and the Established Church, Freuchie, the ministers of these churches exchanging pulpits. The

Rev. J.P. Batchelor was welcomed to the meeting and unanimously elected as a member of Committee.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Food Control** – “The arrangements for carrying out the necessary details in Falkland parish are now well advanced. The members of the sub-Committee who have agreed to act are: - Mrs Bonthron, Newton House; Mrs Robertson, West Port, Falkland; Provost Jackson, Falkland; Councillors Brown and Chisholm, Falkland; Mr Walter Peggie, treasurer of Falkland Equitable Co-operative Society Ltd; Mr Andrew Venters, grocer, Falkland; Mr George Gavin, Falkland Palace; Mr R. Nelson, Freuchie; Mr D. Dryburgh, farmer, Freuchie Mill; and Mr W. Bonthron, farmer, Forthar Mill, Freuchie. Mr Alexander Anderson, town clerk, Falkland, is acting as clerk to the sub-Committee, and his office has been designated as the Food Sub Office for the district, which includes the whole of Falkland parish – that is the burgh, villages of Newton and Freuchie, Balmbrae, and the landward portion of the parish. The Committee have arranged to attend at the Town Hall, and School Cookery Hall, Freuchie, to assist householders in the filling up of forms during evenings as intimated throughout the district, and information may be had at the Food Sub Office.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Dick** – “At Balmbrae, Falkland, on the 16th inst., John Dick, youngest son of John Dick, late gas manager, in his 46th year.”

29th September 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Morrison** – “Died of wounds at dressing station, 20th August, John Neil, third son of John and Annie Morrison, Winnipeg, Canada, late of Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh, and grandson of the late Neil Morrison, Falkland.”

6th October 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Lance Corpl. E. Allan, Royal Engineers, is home on leave this week from Flanders, and is looking very fit.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Volunteers** – “The local Volunteers travelled to Perth on Sunday along with the other Fife Companies to be inspected by the Duke of Connaught.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “Mr A. Collins was presented with a pocket book by the office staff of Messrs Chas. Jackson & Sons Ltd., on his leaving to join the Forces. Miss Reid, typist, kindly made the presentation.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Morrison** – “At Falkland, on the 27th Sept., Mary Annie Henderson or Malcolm, widow of Thomas Morrison.”

13th October 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Winter** – “Winter has set in very early this year, and the East Lomond had its first mantle of snow on Sunday morning.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **School Board** – “At a meeting of the School Board it was decided to close the schools for three weeks, from 12th October, to allow the children to assist the farmers in the potato lifting.”

20th October 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Volunteers** – “The local company of volunteers journeyed by motor transport to Tarvit range, Cupar, on Sunday to pass the classification stage in musketry.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **New Bank Agent** – “Mr John Baillie, who for the past fourteen years has acted as accountant at the Cupar branch of the British Linen Bank, has begun duties as joint agent of the same bank’s branch at Falkland in succession to the late Captain James Donaldson, who was killed in Flanders in August.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **For the Men at the Front** – “The following represents a year’s work of the Parish Church Women’s Guild and Voluntary Workers: -

Mufflers, 331; mittens, 450 pairs; socks, 451 pairs; sleeping socks, 77 pairs; operation stockings, 22 pairs; helmets, 76; shirts, 2; moss bags, 622; bomb bags, 50;

Invalid garments - 5 night shirts, 3 bed jackets, 1 day shirt, 1 pair sleeping socks, 2 flannel bandages.”

27th October 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Private Mungo Robertson, Tanks Corps, has been home on leave this week. Private Robertson, who has seen two and a half years active service, is looking very fit.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Books** – “Books have been written on “The Call of the Sea” and “The Call of the Wild”; but the most up to date and fascinating talisman is “The Call of the War”. Apropos of this the donning of the khaki by Miss Agnes Strudley, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Strudley, Bruce Arms, Falkland, who left home on Monday of this week to take up her duties in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps proves to the most sceptical pessimist the indomitable spirit abroad and the absolute impossibility of anything but an ultimate and complete victory. As is well known, the W.A.A.C. is doing splendid work, its main object being the release of competent men for the firing line. The duties taken up are multifarious and range from sewing canvas wings for aeroplanes to cooking dinners. Economy in the latter has become a science in the Army. Formerly there was considerable waste; now there are no scraps and all meals from the W.A.A.C. are made up so fresh and dainty. Miss Strudley leaves with the kind wishes of a host of friends, and it is to be hoped her example will be fruitful in maintaining the 250 per week of entrants expected by the W.A.A.C.”

3rd November 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Nurse** – “Nurse Denholm, the new nurse, has begun her duties in the district.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Harvest Thanksgiving** – “A harvest thanksgiving service was held in the Parish Church on Sunday. The collection was taken in aid of the Red Cross Funds.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Concert** – “A grand concert was given in the Drill Hall by the “Star Shell” troupe of the D.L.O.Y., Ladybank, in aid of the funds of the Falkland and District Nursing Association. A sum of over £18 was realised.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Schools** – “The schools re-open on Monday morning after three weeks’ potato holidays. Owing to the severe weather, potato gathering has been somewhat prolonged this year, but by the end of this week, farmers will have got their crop pretty well lifted.”

10th November 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sacrament** – “The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was dispensed here in both churches on Sunday.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: - **A.G.M.** – “The annual general meeting of the Falkland Funeral and Deposit Society was held on Saturday, 3rd November when the report was submitted. It was stated that eight deaths had occurred during the year, and the meeting agreed to fix an assessment of 2s 4d on each member.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Wild Herbs for Medicinal Drugs – Wonderful Work by Children** – “Much has been said and written as to the advisability of growing medicinal herbs in our country and so preventing Germany, after the war is over, resuming the monopoly in drugs, which she enjoyed so long. We were told it was our duty to devote part of our gardens to the cultivation of such plants, and we heard of farms in England being devoted to acres of what used to be considered weeds. An energetic member of the Falkland Red Cross Work Party, Mrs Brown, Dundrennan, Horse Market, has been carrying on all summer work in this direction, but in what seems a much better way. She has interested the school children and has found them most zealous and clever in the work. Many a ramble she has led them and has guided them in their collection of plants growing by roadsides and in waste places. These plants she has, with great trouble, dried and packed and dispatched to a

botanical medical depot. As a result, the sum of £6 10s has been handed in to help the funds of Falkland Red Cross Work Party. Besides this, the children have been interested in many different wild plants and taught their names and uses. They have also experienced the pleasure of giving up part of their time to helping their country. A great many other collections have been organised in Falkland, such as waste paper, bottles, etc., and, most important of all, vast quantities of sphagnum moss have been collected in the woods of Falkland House, by the kind permission of the Honourable Mrs Maule Ramsay, and dispatched to various depots. This has been done by bands of school children, and the factory girls have carried it on in the summer evenings after their busy day's work. The awful war has certainly helped us all to know the joy of self denial and self sacrifice."

17th November 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – “At a meeting of the Town Council on Friday evening, Mr John Drysdale, High Street West, was elected a Councillor in place of the late Captain Donaldson.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Kirkin' O' The Council** – “The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Councillors attended divine services in the Established Church on Sunday forenoon, and in the U.F. Church in the afternoon.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Died of Wounds** – “Intimation has been received that Gunner George Gunn, R.G.A., has died in hospital as the result of wounds received in action. Gunner Gunn was a native of Falkland, where his widow and family reside.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **A.G.M.** – “The annual general meeting of the Falkland Equitable Co-operative Society Ltd., was held in the Society's rooms on Friday evening, Mr Walter Peggie in the chair, when a dividend of 2s 9d per £1 to members and 1s 4 ½ d per £1 to non-members was declared. Mr Wm. Smith, High Street, was appointed chairman in place of Mr Alex. Grieve who has resigned.”

24th November 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Privates George Myles, George Page, Black Watch, and Pte. Thos. Myles, Canadians, have been home on furlough this week, and all looking very fit.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Gassed** – “Mr and Mrs Hay, South Street, have received intimation that their son, Pte. James Hay, Black Watch, has been gassed, and admitted into King George’s Hospital, London. Pte. Hay has been twice wounded, the last time being in January of this year.”

1st December 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Sergt. George Taylor, R.F.C., has been home on leave this week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Collection** – “A collection in aid of the Prisoner of War Fund realised the sum of £14.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Wounded** – “Mrs Thos. Drysdale has received intimation that her son, Pte. Andrew Drysdale, Black Watch, has been wounded in the recent fighting.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lecture** – “The local Volunteers had a lecture on map reading by Lieut. Black, Freuchie, on Thursday evening, and during the week-end seven of the company had a taste of military duties, they having volunteered to guard an aeroplane which had landed in the district.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **School Children** – “The school children have been doing grand work under the supervision of Mrs Brown, Dundrennan. During the year, they have gathered 17 different kinds of herbs which have realised £7 10s, 250 bags of sphagnum moss, 50 cwts. of waste paper, 1700 bottles, 2 cwts. of chestnuts and 2 cwts. of acorns. Great praise is due to these children whose record will probably be difficult to beat.”

8th December 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Private Thomas Grant, A.S.C., Bombardier R.L. Butters, R.F.A., and Private Wm. Page, Labour Battalion, are home on leave from the front this week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Concert** – “A very successful concert in aid of the local Comforts’ Fund was given in the Drill Hall on Saturday night. There were two sketches, and the local choir, under the leadership of Mr R. M. Bruce, Freuchie, rendered an excellent programme. The drawings amounted to £16 8s.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “The Rev. J.P. and Mrs Batchelor were waited upon at the manse on Friday evening and presented with a handsome clock from the U.F. congregation on the occasion of their marriage. Miss Horne, The Neuk, made the presentation.”

15th December 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – “Lance Corpl. Wm. Anderson and Pte. J. Collins, A. & S.H., Ptes. R. Laing, R.A.M.C., D. Munro, A.S.C., and J. Ross, Black Watch.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation** – “The members of Falkland and Freuchie Volunteers have presented Sgts. Johnstone and Cody and Corpl. Bradley, on Thursday evening, each with a sum of money in recognition of their services as instructors to the Company since its formation.”

22nd December 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Pte. William Skinner, R.L.M.C., and Sapper R. Walker, R.E., are home on leave from the front this week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Entertainment** – “A grand entertainment organised by Mrs Robertson, Viewhill, and Mrs Brown, Dundrennen, in aid of the local soldiers, was given in the Drill Hall on Saturday evening by the young workers of the Red Cross. With songs, recitations, and a sketch, a

very pleasant evening was spent. Miss Bryce was accompanist. The drawings amounted to over £15.”

29th December 1917

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Defended Herself with a Hatpin** – “A fine of £1, with the alternative of 10 days’ imprisonment, was imposed on Robert Tweedie, a soldier, at Cupar Sheriff Court on Tuesday, for having assaulted a domestic servant belonging to Falkland by throwing her down on the highway on the Kilmany and Wormit highway. Accused stated that the girl made him angry by sticking a hatpin into his head.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Christmas Treat to Public School Children** – “For many years it has been the invariable custom for one or other of the landed proprietors in the district to remember the young folks at Christmas. The House of Falkland has been remarkably generous on this as on numerous occasions. The kindness of the Hon. Mrs Maule Ramsay in providing the usual entertainment, notwithstanding the privations of war time, has been most highly appreciated. The scholars, numbering about 180, assembled in the Drill Hall on Christmas Eve under the charge of Mr John Methven, headmaster, Mrs Robertson, Mrs Robb, and Miss Martyn, teachers. Mr Gavin, estate factor, organised the function, and Mr W.E. Strudley, Bruce Arms Hotel, was purveyor. Mr David Bonthron, chairman of the School Board, presided, and among the guests included in the gathering were: -

Rev. J.K. Russell, Rev. J.P. Batchelor, Rev. Father Gordon, C.S.S.R., Kinnoul, Perth; Provost Jackson, Mrs Bonthron, Mrs Batchelor, Miss Low, Mr and Mrs Brown, Mr and Miss Anderson, Mrs and Miss Henderson, Miss Christie, and others. Grace was said by the parish minister, and the youngsters at once attacked the tables, which were loaded with fare, plain and fine. The supply of tea was unlimited, and within a very short time few fragments remained. A programme of songs and recitations followed, which reflected great credit on teachers and scholars, and at the close, on the call of Mr Methven, three ringing cheers were given for the generous hostess, Mr Gavin undertaking to convey the company’s appreciation to her in London. The National Anthem was lustily sung, and in separating there was a service of apples to the children.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Lawson** – “At Westport, Falkland, on the 24th inst., Thomas Lawson.”

Falkland Almanac

Population according to census 1911 (Parish) – 2,356

Justices of the Peace – James Donaldson, Falkland; George Gavin, Falkland; John Walker Jackson, manufacturer, Falkland.

Magistrates and Town Council – Provost Charles Jackson; Bailies, John Angus and George Robertson; Town-Clerk and Treasurer, Alexander Anderson; Councillors, John W. Jackson, Robert Ness, William Horne, John Brown, Robert Drysdale, Andrew Lister, James McCall, and David Chisholm; Representative, Cupar District Licensing Court – Provost Jackson; Fiscal, W.D. Robertson; Town Officers, John Walker and Robert Strachan; Burgh Assessor, George S. Hardie.

Places of Worship – Parish Church, Rev. J.K. Russell, B.D., United Free Church, Rev. J.P. Batchelor, M.A.; Plymouth Brethren, Various Teachers.

Parish Council – David Bonthron (Chairman), Robert Nelson, David Rymer, George Gavin, Provost Jackson, Walter Peggie, Alexander Fraser, David Drybrough.

School Board – Members, David Bonthron, David Drybrough, William Horne, William Bonthron, George Gavin, Dr J.G. Jack, and John Brown. Teachers – Falkland School, Wm. Robb, M.A., and Assistants; Freuchie School, John Methven, M.A., and Assistants. Clerk, Alex. Anderson.

Inspector, Clerk and Registrar – George S. Hardie.

Gas Company – John Sim, Manager.

Bank – British Linen, Alexander Anderson, Agent.

Solicitor – Alexander Anderson, N.P.

Medical Practitioner – J.G. Jack, M.B., Ch. B.

Curling Club – Patrons, Captain A. Maule Ramsay; J.A. Patullo, Lathrisk House; Patroness, Hon. Mrs A. Maule Ramsay; President, Alexander Shanks; Vice-President, Walter Peggie; Secretary and Treasurer, Alex. Anderson.

Lomond Oak Lodge, No. 387, B.O.A.F.G. – Thos. D. Hopkins, Secretary; John Drysdale, Treasurer.

Free Masons, St John Lodge, No. 35 – Thos. D. Hopkins, R.W.M.; David Campbell, Secretary; Andrew Venters, Treasurer.

Funeral and Deposit Society – Secretary, Robert C. Drysdale; Treasurer, George Robertson Snr.

Halls – The Town Hall, High Street; The Drill Hall, South Street.