

# Falkland 1900-2000

## Year 1918

### (As researched by Jack Burgess)

#### 12<sup>th</sup> January 1918

Intimation in *The Fife News*: **B.O.A.F.G.** – “B.O.A.F.G. ‘Lomond Oak’ Lodge No. 387 – The Annual General Meeting of the above Lodge will be held in the Town Hall, Falkland, on Thursday evening, 17<sup>th</sup> January 1918. Time 7.30 p.m.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – “Private Alex. Lawson, M.T., has been home on leave from the front.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Missing** – “Mr & Mrs A. Dryburgh, Summerfield, have been notified that their son, Corporal Thos. Dryburgh, Royal Fusiliers, is missing.”

#### 19<sup>th</sup> January 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Home on Leave** – “Sergt. H. Skinner, Black Watch.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Town Council** – “At a meeting on Wednesday, the Council elected as interim councillors, George Anderson, clothier, and Andrew Forrester, floorcloth manager, in place of the late Bailie Robertson

and Councillor McCall, who has left the district. Councillor John Brown was elected to the vacant junior bailiership.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Women’s Guild** – “The Women’s Guild of Falkland Parish Church has presented to each soldier from the town, a Christmas gift of one pair of socks with a tablet of soap. The executive of the Voluntary War Workers also gifted to each man with the Expeditionary Force, another pair of socks. In all, 123 pairs were sent from the Guild and 92 from the Voluntary War Workers.”

## **26<sup>th</sup> January 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Curling** – “In the final for the Falkland Club’s Rink Cup, Mr Walter Peggie defeated Mr Gordon Sturrock by 29 shots to 11.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death** – “News has been received that Gunner David Paterson, R.G.A., has died of pneumonia in Italy. Much sympathy is felt for his widowed mother who resides in High Street West.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Meeting** – “At a meeting of the Funeral and Deposit Society, Mr Wm. Gullon, High Street, was appointed Treasurer in place of the late Bailie Robertson.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Dick** – “At Balmblae, Falkland, on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., John Dick, late gas manager, in his 90<sup>th</sup> year.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death of a Nonagenarian** – “The severe weather has been very trying on the old folks in the town, and amongst others who have passed away was Mr John Dick, formerly gas manager, whose death took place on Sunday. He had reached the age of 90, and although for a number of years he was laid aside owing to paralysis, his other faculties were remarkably acute. He acted as Burgh Fiscal from 1894 to 1903.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Falkland Curling Club** – “During the recent frost, a few of the members enjoyed an occasional game on the ice. It was arranged to play for the rink cup on Friday last, and rinks skipped by Walter Peggie and Gordon Sturrock entered on the competition which resulted in a

win for the former by 29-11. The snow fell heavily most of the day and there was a good deal of "soopin". The holding of the cup falls to be decided by the members of the winning side playing a points competition, but a thaw setting in before the hour fixed on Saturday, no further progress was made. The cup will therefore remain in the hands of the Secretary until Jack Frost reappears. In present circumstances when as much open weather as possible is required, there will be little objection to his postponing his return."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Finlay** – "At High Street West, Falkland, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst., James Finlay, aged 72."

## 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1918

Intimation in *The Fife News*: **Burgh of Falkland Prices of Coal:**

"The following retail maximum prices of coal have been fixed for the Burgh: -

<b>Type</b>	<b>At Station per Ton</b>	<b>Per Cwt. Delivered</b>
<i>Wemyss Chemiss Splint</i>	27s 6d	-
<i>Leven Splint</i>	26s 6d	-
<i>Leven Jewel</i>	26s 6d	1s 7d
<i>Wemyss Jewel</i>	26s 6d	1s 7d
<i>Lochgelly Splint</i>	25s 6d	-
<i>Balgonie Household</i>	22s 6d	1s 5d

*Cartage to Falkland, 3s per Ton.*

*Alex. Anderson, Town Clerk, Falkland. 29<sup>th</sup> January 1918.*

## 9<sup>th</sup> February 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – "Pte. Charles Oram, Black Watch, is at present home on leave."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death** – “Another of our old residents, Mr Alex. Skinner, has passed away this week, making no fewer than seven deaths among the older townsmen in the burgh during the last few weeks.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Kirk Session** – “As is usual at this time of the year, Kirk Session have been able, through the generosity of some friends, to distribute quantities of coal throughout the town.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Public Meeting** – “A public meeting with a view to stimulating interest in the Dundee “Tank” week was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening – Provost Jackson presiding. Major Lumsden, Tarvit, Mr John Baillie, bank agent, and Mr David Bonthron, addressed the meeting. Several sums were promised towards the prize fund for the county. There was a large attendance.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Bank** – “The British Linen Bank, Freuchie (Sub-Branch to Falkland), will be re-opened on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, and every Wednesday thereafter until further notice between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.”

## **16<sup>th</sup> February 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Pte. Peter Lawson, Black Watch, is home on leave this week. Pte. Peter Craig, Northumberland Fusiliers, who was wounded in December, is also enjoying a few days’ leave.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Concert** – “A concert in aid of the local soldiers was held in the Drill Hall on Saturday night. An excellent programme of choruses and solos was given. The drawings amounted to over £9.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death** – “Mrs David Garland, who was the oldest female in the town, has passed away at the ripe old age of 92 years. A few years ago she was one of a group of four old women, and spoke of herself as being their bairn. She has outlived them all. Kirsty, as she was familiarly named, was of a shrewd, pawky, and cheery disposition.”

## **23<sup>rd</sup> February 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Volunteers** – “The members of the local company of Volunteers were supplied with their uniforms on Thursday last, and all looked very smart at the usual parade on Sunday.”

## **9<sup>th</sup> March 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – “Pte. A. Patterson, New Zealanders.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cantata** – “The cantata entitled “The Way To Heaven” was rendered by the members of the Band of Hope on Sunday afternoon. The singing of the solos, duets, and choruses showed the great care Mr Spence, the conductor, had had with the children during the winter months.”

## **16<sup>th</sup> March 1918**

Advert in *The Fife News*: **To Let** – “Falkland – To Let, Houses and Gardens. Rents, £10, £4 10s, £4 4s, and £2. Apply Alexander Anderson, Solicitor, Falkland.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – “Gr. Alex Dowie, R.F.A.; Pte. G. Derrick, A. and S.H.; Gr. Alex. Fraser, R.G.A.; and Aeneas Gavin, air mechanic, R.F.C.”

Extract from *The Fife Council*: **Town Council** – “The Town Council have decided to crop that portion of the Common known as the Green Myre this season again, and, in addition, part of the ground on the north side of Myreside Farm. This extra ground had formed part of the golf course.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sermon** – “The Rev. Aeneas G. Gordon, M.A., Kingskettle, preached in the Parish Church here on Sunday, and in the course of an instructive sermon expressed the view that as the war had been responsible for a clear union between the mother country and the colonies, a close friendship with the United States of America and the occupation of

*Jerusalem by British soldiers, this country will come out of the war with her influence in the world greater than ever."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Book Canvasser and Falkland Gamekeeper** – "An action was brought in Cupar Small Debt Court on Thursday, by the Waverley Book Company, Ltd., Edinburgh, against George Sturrock, head gamekeeper, Falkland, for the sum of £2 12s 6d, less 4s paid to account, the value of 5 vols. of the "History of the Great War". Defender admitted signing a contract for the complete volumes, for which he paid 4s to account, the balance to become payable in monthly instalments of 4s each. After payment of the first instalment, the canvasser had asked payment of the full balance, £2 8s 6d, and the defender sent back the books, as he held he was only entitled to pay the 4s a month for which he contracted. In giving decree for £2 8s 6d, payable in monthly instalments of 4s, with half expenses to pursuers, Sheriff Armour-Hannay said he was bound to say he had some sympathy with the defender, because he certainly could not approve of the methods which some book canvassers adopted in going round with large, expensive volumes, and, by means of importunities, inducing country people with limited incomes to take those books and thus bind themselves to a very serious financial responsibility. He thought that that was just one of those cases, because that "History of the Great War" appeared to be a work of something like eight volumes, costing 10s 6d each – a total of 4 guineas – a very serious sum for a man, even in the position of head gamekeeper, to pay. On the other hand, he could not take the view that the contract had in any way been altered. He regarded the efforts on the part of the canvasser to get payment of the whole money due as simply an invitation to the purchaser."

### **23<sup>rd</sup> March 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – "Pte. Robert Stark, Royal Scots, and Pte. Edie Scott Clark, M.G.C., who is a grandson of Mrs H.P. Blair, Lomond Tavern."

### **30<sup>th</sup> March 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death** – "Mr and Mrs Wm. Gordon have received information that their son, Driver Robert Gordon, has died of fever in an hospital in Salonica."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Eggs** – “During the last few weeks a number of the school children have been collecting eggs, and the teachers have been able to dispatch 20 dozen to Miss Ramsay, Hope Park, Cupar, for the benefit of the wounded in the Red Cross Hospitals at Edenfield and Ceres.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Volunteers** – “The local detachment of Volunteers were inspected on Thursday evening last by Lieut.-Col. Murray White, D.S.O., of Rungally Camp, who expressed himself in terms of admiration of the Corps, and extended a hearty invitation to the men to visit Rungally and spend the week-end there. The invitation is being taken advantage of.”

## **6<sup>th</sup> April 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Octogenarian** – “There has passed away this week another old inhabitant, Mrs David Reid, Horsemarket Street, at the age of 82 years. She was the widow of the late ex-Councillor David Reid.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Bonthron** – “Accidentally killed at Oakland, California, John Barclay Bonthron, mining engineer, Vancouver, fourth son of the late Alex. Bonthron, Newton of Falkland. (By cable)”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Obituary** – “Our obituary contains the announcement, communicated by cable, that Mr John Barclay Bonthron, fourth son of the late Mr Alexander Bonthron, Newton of Falkland, has been accidentally killed at Oakland, Vancouver.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Farm Purchase** – “Mr William Bonthron, Hole Mill, Falkland Road, has purchased from Mr Balfour of Balbirnie, Markinch, the fine farm of Forthar, near Freuchie, at present tenanted by Mr T. Nisbet. The price is stated to be in the region of £9,000.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Casualties** – “News has been received that Sec.-Lieut. David Richardson, Black Watch, has been killed in action. He was the only son of Mr John Richardson, who was headmaster of Falkland Public School for over 30 years. His parents now reside in Edinburgh.

*Mr and Mrs David Robertson have received word that their son, Pte. Mungo Robertson, Tank Corps, has been wounded in the arm and leg, and is now in hospital in France.*

*Mr and Mrs John Walker have received intimation that their son, Pte. John Walker, Black Watch, has been wounded, and is now lying in an hospital in England,*

*Miss Young, West Port, has received word that Pte. Richard Homden, Royal Scots, has been wounded in the right arm, and is now lying in hospital.”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Falkland and Freuchie Schools** – “To stimulate thrift among the pupils and to encourage the purchase of War Savings Certificates, Mr D. Bonthron, chairman of the School Board, recently offered two War Savings Certificates as prizes to investors in each of these schools. The drawing took place before the schools closed for the Easter Holidays. The winners were: -

*Falkland – Jeannie Lister and Alex. Hopkins.*

*Freuchie – Margaret Methven and James Mackie.*

*The kindly and patriotic feelings which inspired the offer met with a hearty response from the pupils, and Mr Bonthron was heartily thanked for his interest and generosity.”*

### **13<sup>th</sup> April 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **War Weapons Week** – “The amount aimed at here was £2,500, or sufficient to purchase an aeroplane, but it soon became evident that the sum would be considerably exceeded.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Anxiety** – “A good deal of anxiety prevails here at present in regard to the safety of a few of our local soldiers, as their relatives have not heard from them for a few weeks.”

### **20<sup>th</sup> April 1918**

Extract from “*The Fife News*: **Eggs** – “A further collection of nine dozen eggs has been sent to Miss Ramsay, Hope Park, Cupar, for the benefit of the local Red Cross Hospitals. This is the third contribution from Falkland.”



## **4<sup>th</sup> May 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cuckoo** – “The cuckoo has again made its annual visit. It was heard here for the first time this year on Wednesday morning.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Driver Andrew Wallace, A.S.C., and Private James Hay, Black Watch, who was gassed some time ago, now home on sick furlough.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Missing** – “Mr and Mrs Sturrock, Chancefield, have received intimation that their son, Pte. David Sturrock, M.G.C., attached Seaforths, is missing.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **P.O.W.** – “Mrs Lawson, Bank Street Cottage, has received a post-card from her husband, Driver A. Lawson, A.S.C., stating that he is a prisoner of war, and well.”

## **11<sup>th</sup> May 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Nurse Denholm** – “Nurse Denholm, who has been district nurse for some time, has left the district, having been called up by the military authorities.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Woodmill Farm Let** – “Woodmill farm, on the Falkland estate, which is to be vacated by Mr George Dun on the expiry of his lease at Martinmas, has been let to Mr Gibson, Kirriemuir, at a rent of over 30s per acre.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Communion** – “The communion was dispensed here in both churches on Sunday. In the evening, the Rev. P.W. Lilley of Freuchie occupied the pulpit of the Established Church, and the Rev. W.D. Beattie of Monimail preached in the United Free Church.”

## **18<sup>th</sup> May 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – “Driver Wm. Brown, A.S.C., is at present home on sick furlough.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Missing** – “Mrs Cowan, Royal Terrace, has received word that her son, Pte. James Cowan, Royal Scots, is missing. His wife resides in Glasgow.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Gassed** – “Mrs Hamilton, Cross Wynd, has received a letter from her son, Pte. Robert Hamilton, M.G.C., saying that he has been admitted to hospital suffering from gas poisoning.”

## **25<sup>th</sup> May 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sick Furlough** – “Pte. Dick Homden, R.S., is at present home on sick furlough.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Missing** – “Mrs David Craig, Well Brae, has received information that her husband, Pte. David Craig, B.W., is missing.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Storm** – “A severe thunderstorm accompanied by heavy rain passed over the district on Wednesday afternoon. The rain caused a good deal of flooding.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Prisoners of War** – “Pte. Jas. Ross, B.W., Pte. David Sturrock, M.G.C., and Pte. James Cowan, R.S., who were reported missing are now known to be prisoners of war.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Property Purchase** – “Mr George Gavin, factor, Falkland Palace, has purchased for the Falkland estate at the price of £400, the property at Spalefield, near Strathmiglo, extending to about four acres, from Mr Archibald Galloway. This small property lies right in the heart of the Falkland estate.”

## 1<sup>st</sup> June 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Casualties** – “Mr and Mrs Middleton, Post Office, have received word that their son, Private John Middleton, Australians, has been dangerously wounded in the head and arm, and is lying in hospital in Egypt. Private David Craig, Black Watch, who was reported missing, is now known to be a prisoner of war.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Marriage – Peggie – Seath** – “At 2 Harley Terrace, Kirkcaldy, on 25<sup>th</sup> May, by the Rev. J.C. Boyd, Corpl. James Peggie (R.G.A.), elder son of Walter Peggie, Falkland, to Ina Isobel Jack, daughter of William F. Seath.”

## 8<sup>th</sup> June 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Private Robert Walker, R.E., is at present home on leave.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Meeting** – “At a meeting of the Funeral and Deposit Society on Saturday, Mr Christopher Drysdale was appointed secretary in place of his deceased father.”

## 15<sup>th</sup> June 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Prisoner of War** – “Pte. Peter Lawson, Black Watch, previously reported missing, is now known to be a prisoner of war.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death** – “Pte. Eben. Downie, Australian Imperial Forces, has died in hospital at Freemantle, after undergoing a serious operation.”

## 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Business Offer** – “An offer by Messrs C. Jackson & Sons, Ltd., to supply duck tents, has been accepted by Government.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Appointment** – “Mr Alex. Anderson, solicitor, has been appointed procurator for the poor for Falkland and Ladybank.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Meeting** – “A meeting of the British Women’s Temperance Association was held in the school last Thursday. There was a large attendance.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Gassed** – “Mrs Lister, Horsemarket Street, has received a letter from her son saying that he has been badly gassed and is now lying at Bangour Hospital.”

## **29<sup>th</sup> June 1918**

Intimation in *The Fife News*: **Falkland School Board – Lumsden Bursary** – “Applications are invited for Bursaries under the Deed of Trust by John L. Lumsden, Esq., open to present and former pupils of Falkland and Freuchie Public Schools. Candidates shall have been in regular attendance at either of the 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 1918. Dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 1918.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Meeting** – “At a meeting of the School Board, it was decided to close the school for the summer holidays from 26<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> August.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death of a Soldier with a Long Record** – “Intimation has been received by his mother that Lance-Corporal William Black, Black Watch, died of wounds in Egypt on 10<sup>th</sup> June. He had served nine and a half years in the regular Army. He went to France with the first Indian Expeditionary Force and had also seen service in Mesopotamia and latterly in Egypt.”

## **6<sup>th</sup> July 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – “Pte. John Walker, Black Watch, and Pte. Peter Walker, R.G.A., are at present home on sick furlough.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Exhibition** – “An exhibition was held in the Red Cross Rooms of the different herbs and roots gathered by the children under the supervision of Mrs Brown, Dundrennen. The drawings, amounting to over £5, were in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sunday School** – “The Sunday School children connected with the two churches here held their annual outing last Saturday. Those belonging to the Established Church met in Scroggie Park on the Falkland estate, and those of the United Free enjoyed themselves on the church lawn.”

## **13<sup>th</sup> July 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sale of Work** – “A sale of work held under the auspices of the Parish Church Women’s Guild, for Guild purposes and comforts for soldiers, brought in about £100.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Red Cross Week** – “The sum of £180 was realised in Freuchie in aid of Red Cross week, by means of a fancy dress parade and sports. Major J.L. Lumsden of Eden Valley House contributed £100 of the amount.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Sale of Work** – “A sale of work promoted by the Women’s Guild and opened by Mrs Gulland, Millfield, was held in the vestry on Saturday afternoon. The drawings, amounting to over £110, were in aid of the Local Soldiers’ Comfort Fund and church purposes.”

## **20<sup>th</sup> July 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Contract** – “Messrs C. Jackson & Sons, Ltd., have secured a War Office contract for the supply of tent duck.”

## **27<sup>th</sup> July 1918**

Intimation in *The Fife News*: **A Garden Fete** – “A Garden Fete will be held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> July, in the Grounds of Falkland Palace, by kind permission of the Honourable Mrs Maule Ramsay, in aid of the Funds of the Red Cross Work Party. The Fete will be opened at 2.30 p.m. by J.A. Patullo, Esq., Lathrisk. Stalls: - Cake, Produce, Baskets, Work, Jumble. Tea from 3.30. Concerts and Other Attractions. Admission: - Adults, 6d; Children under 14, 3d. Contributions gratefully received at Palace on forenoon of Fete.”

Intimation in *The Fife News*: **“Lomond Oak” Lodge B.O.A.F.G.** – “The half-yearly General Meeting of the “Lomond Oak” Lodge B.O.A.F.G. will be held in the Town Hal, Falkland, on Thursday Evening, 1<sup>st</sup> August, time 7.30 p.m.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **School Board** – “Mr David Bonthron, Newton House, who had acted as chairman for over three years having recently resigned from the Board, Mr Andrew Forrester, floorcloth manager, Falkland, has been appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr David Drybrough, farmer, Freuchie Mill, has accepted office as chairman and also as representative to the School Board’s Association.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Mr Andrew Forrester** – “Mr Andrew Forrester, floorcloth manager, has been appointed to fill the vacancy at the School Board caused by the resignation of Mr David Bonthron, Newton House. Mr Bonthron has given a long period of service in the interest of education in the parish. Mr David Drybrough, farmer, Freuchie Mill, has accepted the office of chairman and has also been appointed representative to the School Boards Association.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Parade** – “A Fancy-Dress Cycle Parade in aid of the funds of the Red Cross was held in Falkland House Grounds on Monday evening, the Hon. Mrs A. Maule Ramsay acting as a judge. The prize-winners and the characters they represented were: -

*Private Charles Fleming (bed patient); Eila Bonthron (cow-boy); John Senior (Spanish bull fighter); Mary Fleming and Barbara Inglis (tinkers); Betty Jack (princess); Jean Anderson and Chrissie Lawson (mother and son); Kate Venters (sixty years ago). The drawings amounted to over £11."*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Young Lady's Sad Death** – "Following the death of Miss C. Matthew, Lorne Street, Newburgh, while on holiday, comes the death of another Kirkcaldy young lady under equally painful circumstances. Miss Janet Clunie, Alexandra Street, was spending her holidays at Falkland, and, turning ill early in the week, her mother was sent for. The young lady's condition became serious, and she was brought home in a motor car. Despite every care and attention, she passed away, another victim of the influenza epidemic. Much sympathy will be felt for her parents in their tragic bereavement."

### **3<sup>rd</sup> August 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Garden Fete at Palace for Red Cross** – "On Saturday, the old Palace of Falkland once more woke up to the sound of the Scottish pipes, and its quadrangle was filled with a gay crowd, inspecting the stalls of the Red Cross Work Party. The garden fete was a brilliant success, and although the weather was at times showery, it did not damp the ardour of the enthusiastic throng. This year a novelty was introduced in the shape of a fancy dress cycle parade. Curious figures passed and repassed, and one wondered what the old time dwellers in Falkland Palace would have thought of them. Prince Edward of England and Princess Margaret of Scotland were to be expected in those surroundings, but a cowboy from the wild west, a toreador, and a patient in a bed with temperature chart, attended by charming, though miniature, Red Cross nurses, provided a delightful surprise. The Rev. J.K. Russell began the proceedings by introducing Mr Pattullo of Lathrisk, who gave an account of the doings of the Red Cross work party, and declared the fete open. He mentioned the steady work of the Falkland local Red Cross, which was organised at the very beginning of the war, and had sent out such quantities of socks, shirts, mufflers, etc., etc., to our brave men at the front, as well as to hospitals. Nearly 2,000 pairs of socks, 114 nightshirts, 98 dayshirts, 293 surgical pillows and about 1,023 large sacks of sphagnum moss had been dispatched. The moss had been gathered and dried by school children under the guidance of Mrs Brown, Horse Market. They had also collected waste paper, bottles, and medicinal herbs. Provost Jackson thanked Mr Pattullo for opening the fete and called for a second vote of thanks to him for his substantial help in the shape of a cheque for £50 received a few days

before. The fete realised, along with donations and collections, and bicycle parade, about £193.”

## **10<sup>th</sup> August 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **School Holidays** – “The public school was re-opened on Tuesday morning after the summer holidays.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Flax** – “Flax pulling began on Wednesday morning in one of Mr Shanks’s fields on Falkland Wood.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Prisoners of War Fund** – “The result of the appeal made on behalf of the Prisoners of War Fund is: -

Concerts - £7 0s 10d; cultivation of gardens - £8 12s 9d; exhibition of herbs - £5 5s; sale of old bottles - £1 10s; Established Church special collection - £15 18s 11d; Total - £38 7s 6d.”

## **17<sup>th</sup> August 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Private William Cation, Black Watch, is at present home on leave.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Killed in Action** – “Private A. Pringle Forrester, Gordon Highlanders, son of Mr Andrew Forrester, floorcloth manager, has been killed in action.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Lumsden Bursary** – “Falkland School Board, as trustees for the Lumsden Bursary, have made the following awards: -

£15 each to Mr John McCallum and Miss Margaret Chisholm, students at St Andrews University; £10 each to Misses Mary Leishman, Bessie Gilmour, Elsie McLeod, and Annie D. Hastie, for a commercial training in shorthand and typewriting at Dundee; and £2 10s to Christopher R. Drysdale for correspondence classes.”



## **31<sup>st</sup> August 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Meeting** – “Mr Pettigrew, of the National Union of General Workers, addressed a meeting in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Missing** – “Mrs R.C. Drysdale, High Street, has received intimation that her son, Pte. Tom Drysdale, Gordon Highlanders, is missing.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Furlough** – “Pte. Robert Anderson, A.S.C.; Pte. Peter Sinclair, Black Watch; S-M John Crombie, R.F.A., and Pte. S. Campbell, Scottish Horse, att. Black Watch, are on furlough this week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Obituary** – “Another of our oldest residents has passed away in the person of Mrs David Fernie. Deceased, who was in her 82<sup>nd</sup> year, was the last surviving member of the family of the late James Bethune, wincey manufacturer.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Birth – Shanks** – “At Falkland Wood, Falkland, on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, to Mr and Mrs Alexander Shanks, a son.”

## **7<sup>th</sup> September 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Private James Craig, Canadians; Private A. Reekie, Cameron Highlanders; and Gunner P. Walker, R.G.A., are home on leave this week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Casualties** – “Gunner T.C. Myles, Canadian Artillery, has been wounded in the left foot and hand. Gunner Myles is the son of Mr and Mrs George Myles, Pleasance, and before proceeding to Canada, was a clerk in the employment of Messrs Chas. Jackson & Sons, Ltd.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Presentation to a Gang Leader of Flax Gatherers** – “Miss Greig, daughter of Mr J.B. Greig, 8 Rosebery Terrace, Kirkcaldy, who was for some time a gang leader at the Somerset flax gathering, and has been superintending the flax gathering in the Falkland district, was entertained by the gatherers in Brunton House on Thursday night last week. Acting on behalf of the workers, Mrs Bett, Cross Wynd, in making the presentation, said she had great pleasure in asking Miss Greig to accept a handbag and a purse as a small token of the esteem in which she was held by them. For several weeks they had worked at this new kind of work under her supervision, and she had always been kind and courteous to each of them and ready to help in any way possible. Wherever it was her duty to go, they hoped she would have happy recollections of the time spent in Falkland. Miss Greig suitably replied.”

### 14<sup>th</sup> September 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Farmers** – “The farmers in the district have been busy leading this week, but their work is being much hindered by repeated showers.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Wounded** – “Mr and Mrs George Myles, Pleasance, Falkland, have received intimation that their eldest son, Pte. Geo. Myles, Black Watch, has been seriously wounded in both legs.”

### 21<sup>st</sup> September 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Robert Kennedy, wireless operator; Pte. Alex. Robertson, R.S.F.; Gunner Peter Walker, R.G.A.; and Pte. Tom Brown, M.G.C., are home on leave this week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Died of Wounds** – “Miss Reekie, High Street West, Falkland, has received intimation that Pte. Harry Burt, Gordon Highlanders, has died of wounds in France. He was 18 ½ years, and previous to his enlistment was employed with Messrs C. Jackson & Sons, Ltd.”

### 28<sup>th</sup> September 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Sec.-Lieut. Walter Venters, Royal Scots, Pte. Robert Hamilton M.G.C., and Pte. Mungo Robertson, Tank Corps were home on leave this week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Wounded** – “Mrs Drysdale, High Street, Falkland, has received information from her son, Pte. Tom Drysdale, Gordon Highlanders, who was reported missing, that he is wounded and a prisoner of war in Germany.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Voluntary Workers Association** – “The Voluntary Workers Association gratefully acknowledge receipt of thirty walking-sticks and one crutch which have been forwarded to headquarters for distribution to various hospitals.”

### **5<sup>th</sup> October 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Stoker Alex Galloway, R.N., has been home on leave.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Holidays** – “The School Board have fixed the potato holidays from 4<sup>th</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> October.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Burgh Assessments** – “The Burgh Assessments for this year have been fixed at 1s 4d per £1 on owners, and 2s 3d per £1 on occupiers. The parish assessments have also been fixed at 1s per £1 on occupiers, and 10d per £1 on owners, an increase of 1 ¾ d per £1 on owners and 2 ½ d per £1 on occupiers.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Articles Forwarded** – “For the session 1917-1918, Falkland Parish Church Women’s Guild and Voluntary Worker’s Association have sent off the following articles: -

338 mufflers, 158 mitts, 469 socks, 94 bedsocks, 68 operation stockings, 110 helmets, 25 bomb bags, 30 walking sticks and 1 crutch.”

## **12<sup>th</sup> October 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Mr James Wotherspoon, *Black Watch*; Cpl. James Peggie, *R.F.A.*; and Pte. Peter Robertson have been home on leave this week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Service** – “The Rev. Mr Falconer, secretary to the *National Bible Society*, preached on behalf of the Society in the *Established Church* on Sunday afternoon.”

## **19<sup>th</sup> October 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Private Harry Lee, *Gordon Highlanders*, is at present home on leave.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Killed** – “Sec.-Lieut. Wm. Allan Wood, *Dorset Regiment* (killed), was 19 years of age, and was the son of Mrs Alexander John Wood, *Bournemouth*, and grandson of the late Major Wood, *Black Watch*, and factor, *Falkland Palace, Fife*.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Services** – “The Rev. J.K. Russell, B.D., of the *Established Church*, having gone as a chaplain to His Majesty’s Forces, the Rev. J.P. Batchelor, of the *United Free Church*, conducted the first of the joint services in the *Established Church* on Sunday forenoon.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **A Touching Incident** – “An incident that will touch the heart of Fife folks is reported from France. During recent fighting the Germans shelled the little building in the cemetery at Bethune, where the body of Col. Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart, M.P., reposed. The wall was shattered, and it was thought well to bury the leaden shell containing the remains. Amongst those present at this ceremony was Pte. James Birrell, long an employee of Lord Ninian at *Falkland Palace*, who, along with Pte. Alexander Lawson, the chauffeur, enlisted in the *Motor Transport, A.S.C.* Before the casket was lowered into the grave, Private Birrell affixed to it a little sprig of white heather that had come out from the old hills at home.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Well-known Farmer Charged**: “A well-known Lomond Vale farmer was charged on Tuesday, at Cupar Sheriff Court, with having taken into his employment two boys under fourteen years of age who had not been exempted from the obligation to attend school. Three previous convictions were recorded. Objections to the relevancy of the complaint submitted by Mr J.L. Anderson, were repelled by Sheriff Armour-Hannay, and accused pleaded guilty. On his behalf Mr Anderson stated that he had a considerable area of potatoes under cultivation, about 15 acres of which were the early variety. As he found himself in difficulties regarding labour, and the School Board did not assist him in any way, he had no recourse but to employ the lads. He was reaping his fifty-third and last crop this year. The procurator-fiscal said accused had defied the School Board. If he had waited a day or two he would have got the children when the potato holidays commenced. Sheriff Armour-Hannay said he thought it was an unfortunate case. Accused was a well-known farmer with, apparently, a long honourable career. In regard to the complaint, he should be very unwilling to say anything by way of criticism. It certainly seemed extremely unfortunate that a farmer like the accused and the School Board should be at cross purposes. He thought he was justified, in the whole circumstances, in dismissing accused from the Bar with an admonition. On similar lines was the charge brought against another farmer from the same district. In this case it was stated that the children (six in number) were sent off the farm whenever the School Board lodged a complaint. Sheriff Armour-Hannay dismissed accused with an admonition.”

## **26<sup>th</sup> October 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Pte. Walter Peggie, R.S.F.; Sergt. Mungo Robertson, Tank Corps, and Driver Wm. Flower, M.G.C., are home on leave this week.”

## **2<sup>nd</sup> November 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Inspection** – “The Local Company of Volunteers were inspected by the Captain on Sunday afternoon.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Wounded** – “Lieut. Sinclair Sutherland, K.O.S.B.; Sapper Robert Walker, R.E.; and Private James Scott, Black Watch (late of Leslie), have been wounded.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Sapper Eben. Allan, R.E.; Driver James Birrell, M.T.; Lance-Corpl. Wm. Dryburgh, and Private David Lister, Gordon Highlanders, have been home on leave.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Rev. John Ewing** – “The Rev. John Ewing, of London, who is working with the Y.M.C.A. in France, gave a short and interesting account in the U.F. Church Hall on Sunday evening of his experiences.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Special Leave** – “Lance-Corpl. William Anderson, A. and S.H., son of Mrs Wm. Anderson, Brunton Street, Falkland, is at present on three weeks’ special leave. He made a noble sacrifice by offering one pint of blood to save the life of another wounded soldier.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Address** – “Mr Baxter, of the Scottish Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers and Sailors and their dependants, gave an interesting address in the Town Hall on Friday evening. Provost Jackson presided. It was decided to form a branch of the Federation for the parish, and some 80 names were handed in as members.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Macdonald** – “At Western Infirmary, Glasgow, suddenly, on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, Isabel Reekie, wife of Alex. Macdonald, 54 Kelvindale Street, Glasgow, and fourth daughter of the late Michael Reekie, farmer, Falkland.”

## **9<sup>th</sup> November 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Influenza** – “The school has been closed again from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of November owing to the prevalence of influenza in the district.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Communion** – “The communion of the United Churches was dispensed in the Parish Church on Sunday forenoon, the Rev. J.P. Batchelor, officiating.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **On Leave** – “Pte. Tom Grant, A.S.C., and A.M. Alex. Herd, R.F.C., are home on leave. Pte. George Myles, Black Watch, who was wounded some time ago, is also home on leave.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Funeral and Deposit Society** – “The annual general meeting of the members of the Funeral and Deposit Society was held in the Town Hall on Saturday evening. A statement of the transactions for the past year was submitted which showed there had been 11 deaths of members of the Society. The expenses would be met by a levy of 2s 6d from full and 1s 3d from half members.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Peggie** – “At South Street West, Falkland, on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst., Mary Peggie, daughter of Walter Peggie.”

## **16<sup>th</sup> November 1918**

Article from *The Fife News*: **THE WAR ENDED – Armistice Signed:**

**Abdication and Flight of Kaiser** – “The armistice was signed at 5 o’clock on Monday morning and hostilities ceased on all fronts at 11 o’clock that forenoon. Military recruiting has been stopped, all calling-up notices cancelled and all military Tribunals suspended. The armistice terms include the evacuation of Belgium, Alsace and Lorraine, Luxemburg and the Rhine lands; immediate repatriation, without repatriation of Germans, of Allied and United States prisoners, abandonment of Bucharest and Brest-Litvotsk treaties, the surrender of all submarines and of many thousands of guns besides the disarmament of many battleships, cruisers and destroyers.

The Kaiser signed the letter of abdication on Saturday morning in the presence of the Crown Prince and General Hindenburg at Headquarters. The Kaiser, who was deeply moved, had resisted all attempts to make him abdicate, until he got news of the revolutionary events in the Empire. An urgent message from Scheidemann was handed to him, which he read with a shiver, and then he signed, saying “May it be for the good of Germany”. The Crown Prince signed a renunciation shortly afterwards.

The news caused undoubted joy everywhere in Germany.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Thanksgiving Service** – “A public thanksgiving service was held in the Parish Church on Tuesday at noon at which there was

*a good attendance. The factories were closed during the forenoon to permit the workers to be present.”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Kirkin’** – *“The kirkin’ o’ the Cooncil was duly observed on Sunday. Two new Councillors have now been appointed. Messrs Peter Nicholson, butcher, and Wm. Duncan, jnr., farmer, to fill the vacancies created by the death of Councillor Drysdale and the resignation of Councillor Lister.”*

### **30<sup>th</sup> November 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Co-operative Society** – *“The Store balance sheet just issued shows that the sales for the past year exceeded £5,000. The amount of dividend allocated is fully £550 (2s 9d members and 1s 4 ½ d non-members). Messrs John Collins and Walter Peggie, who have acted as secretary and treasurer for a number of years, and to whose joint efforts much credit is due for the Store’s present position, have now retired from these offices and are succeeded by Messrs William Gullon and T.D. Hopkins. Mr James Skinner was elected chairman in place of Mr William Smith resigned.”*

### **7<sup>th</sup> December 1918**

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Collection** – *“The Treasurer of the Hostel for Blinded Soldiers, Edinburgh, has acknowledged with thanks the sum of £1 2s, which was collected by the Falkland boys on Armistice night.”*

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cupar Sheriff Court** – *“At Cupar Sheriff Court on Tuesday, Mr Geo. Barclay Duncan, auctioneer and farmer, residing at Newton of Lathrisk, and Mr Robert Ballantyne, butchery manager of Cowdenbeath Co-operative Society, residing at Comely Cottage, Springhill, Crossgates, were fined £1 and £5 respectively, the former for selling ten head of cattle fir for slaughter which had not been graded by a person authorised by the Food Controller, and the latter for buying them. Mr J.A. Anderson for the defence stated that Mr Duncan graded the cattle himself under the impression that he was a grader. The Procurator Fiscal said that Mr Duncan was only an arbiter, and in any case he would not be permitted to grade his own cattle. In regard to Mr Ballantyne, he pointed out that Thornton was the market in which he should buy; he had no right to come to Ladybank. If he required more than his supply of beef, he ought to have made application for a special permit.”*



## 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Schools** – “The schools are to be closed on Christmas Day and three days at the New Year.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Treat** – “The treat for the school children is being arranged through the usual generosity of the Hon. Mrs A. Maule Ramsay.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Prisoners Arrive Home** – “Private James Ross, Black Watch; Private David Sturrock, M.G.C., attached Seaforth Highlanders; and Private Chas. Hepburn, Black Watch, the first of our local prisoners arrived home on Friday. They met with an enthusiastic reception from the townsfolk.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Address** – “Mr P.H. Allan, Edinburgh, gave an address in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening in support of Mr Asquith’s candidature. A vote of confidence in Mr Asquith met with no opposition.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The School Board** – “The School Board received a deputation on Monday consisting of Mr Methven, Freuchie, Mr Struth, Cupar, and Mr Pringle, Secretary Teachers’ Association with regard to the Craik scheme of salaries. A Committee was appointed to go into the question and report.”

## 21<sup>st</sup> December 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Prisoners** – “Private James Cowan, Royal Scots, and Private Alex. Lawson, M.T., another two of the local repatriated prisoners, have arrived home.”

## 28<sup>th</sup> December 1918

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Prisoner** – “Pte. Jack Lister, another of our local prisoners, arrived home last week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Curling** – “Owing to the spell of hard frost, the curlers have been able to enjoy a game on the ice this week.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Christmas Treat** – “On Tuesday evening, the Hon. Mrs A. Maule Ramsay, as has been her custom for a good few years, invited the children of the public school to a Christmas treat in the Drill Hall. The children did ample justice to a good tea purveyed by Mr Strudley. An enjoyable programme including singing and recitations followed. Among those present were: -

*Provost Jackson, Mr George Gavin, Mr A. Dryburgh, Rev. Mr and Mrs Batchelor, Mr and Mrs Baillie, Mr Alexander Anderson, and others.*”