

Freuchie/Dunshalt First World War Casualties.

Year 1916

(As researched by Jack Burgess, notes by Marietta Crichton Stuart)

5th February 1916

Extract from *The Fife News*: ***Killed at the Persian Gulf*** – “Information has been received by Mrs Anderson, Bruces Cottages, Freuchie, that her son, Private John Anderson, 1st Batt. Seaforth Highlanders, has been killed in action at the Persian Gulf on 7th January. Private Anderson enlisted in the Scots Greys shortly after the outbreak of war. Afterwards he was transferred to the Seaforth Highlanders. Prior to enlistment, he was employed as a ploughman with Mr Strang, Pitillock Farm, Freuchie. Private Anderson was 22 years of age, and his wife resides at York. Mrs Anderson has other two sons serving their country, Driver James Anderson, Army Service Corps, France, and Lance-Corporal Alexander Anderson, 1st Trench Mortar Battery, France. The latter has been twice wounded.”

S/10458 Private John Anderson, 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, killed on 7 January 1916, aged 22, commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq, panel 37 and 64. The CWGC says Husband of Annie Elizabeth Anderson of 52, 7th Avenue, Tang Hall, Heworth, York. He is not commemorated on any of the Heworth War Memorials, but is commemorated in the St Cuthbert's Church War Memorial, Peasholme Green and is listed in the York Roll of Honour as Private William John Anderson. Formerly 10724 5th Res Cav. On the Freuchie war memorial he is listed as “Wm J Anderson Seaforths”

26th February 1916

Extract from *The Fife News*: ***Killed in Action*** – “Another addition has to be made to the list of those who have laid down their lives for King and country – that of Private William McNaughton, 2nd Batt. K.O.S.B. The sad news came to hand from the Infantry Record Office to his relatives that no further news having been received, the Army council have been regretfully constrained to conclude that he is dead, and that

his death took place on the 5th May 1915, the same date that he was reported missing. Private McNaughton, who was 22 years of age, was a splendid type of a soldier, and was a prominent football player, having played for a few Clubs in the district. He was also a good billiard player. Pte. McNaughton was of a bright, cheery and most likeable disposition, and the intimation of his death occasioned deep regret among his many friends. Private McNaughton was a keen Territorial, and had been connected with the 7th Black Watch (T.F.) for a few years. He enlisted shortly after the outbreak of war in the Scots Greys, latterly being transferred to the K.O.S.B. Prior to enlistment he was employed as a lapper with Messrs W. Lumsden & Son, Eden Valley Works, Freuchie.”

18441 Private William McNaughton, 2nd Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers, killed 15 May 1915, buried in St Julien Dressing Station Cemetery, near Ieper, Belgium. No details of his family are given on his CWGC entry and there is no family inscription on the headstone. The initial grave registration record lists an Unknown British Soldier of the KOSB, this is then amended to Private W McNaughton. This may indicate a late identification of the body. Born Abernethy, Perthshire.

12th August 1916

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Killed in Action** – “Mrs Duncan, Balgove, St Andrews, has been informed that her husband, Lance-Corporal James Duncan, Black Watch, was killed in action on 16th July. He enlisted in April 1915, and had been in France since September. He was previously employed as a ploughman on Priestfield. Deceased was the eldest son of Mr Thomas Duncan, New Farm, Freuchie.”

S/8598 Lance Corporal James Duncan, 8th Battalion, Black Watch, killed 16 July 1916. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 10A. There is no family information on his CWGC entry. Born Markinch, enlisted Cupar, he went to France on 5 October 1915. The family formerly lived in Dunino and Easter Kincapple, St Andrews. He is commemorated on the Battle of Somme Roll of Honour for the 8th Battalion, Black Watch. He is not listed on the Freuchie War Memorial.

9th December 1916

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Loss of a Second Son** – “Information has been received by James T. Brown, Millfield Cottage, Freuchie, that his son, Private Peter Brown, Royal Scots, was killed in action on 13th November. Prior to enlisting, Private Brown was an apprentice plumber in Edinburgh. Twenty seven years of age, he came from India with his regiment when war broke out, and had been wounded twice. This is the second son Mr Brown has lost in the service of King and country.”

The Freuchie war memorial lists both Peter Brown of the Royal Scots and Robert Brown of the Royal Scots Fusiliers.

10320 Private Peter Hume Brown, 2nd Battalion, Royal Scots, killed 13 November 1916 aged 26. Born Edinburgh, resided Freuchie, enlisted Edinburgh, landed in France on 19 December 1914.

9460 Lance Corporal Robert Brown, 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, killed 11 November 1914 aged 25. Born Newington, Edinburgh, enlisted Edinburgh