

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial



“Lest we forget . . .”

First Edition 2013
Updated April 2014

St Ninian's Church War Memorial

Introduction

This is an attempt to set down basic facts about our War Memorial, and to record as many details as are available about the names of those carved on it, to commemorate the sacrifice they made for their country in both World War I and World War 2.

The Kirk Session and Deacons' Court records refer only briefly to the Memorial, but they record enough to give us an idea of the thinking that went into it.

World War I

On 1st April 1917, in the third year of the war, the Kirk Session heard an offer from "Mr Montgomery" asking them to accept a brass reading desk in memory of the late Lt King, a former member of the Choir, who had met his death by flying. The Kirk Session declined the offer with thanks, saying that it was premature. The matter of a memorial to those who had fallen would have to be considered "at the conclusion of the war."

The wording is significant. The minute does not say "when victory has been achieved" or "when the war has been won." In April 1917 the outcome of the war was still highly uncertain. U-boats were on the point of bringing victory to the Germans by sinking so many food ships that there was a real possibility of Britain being starved into surrender. It was not until the convoy system had been successfully introduced later in the year, and the United States had entered the war on the side of the Allies, that the tide was turned.

In the following year, a statistical report in the minutes records that around 130-140 members of the congregation had been mobilised – this from a congregation numbering 529 on 31st December 1918. Clearly, a large number of our members had been called up, and this would be reflected in countless congregations over the whole of the UK, largely owing to compulsory conscription which was introduced in March 1916.

On 29 Jan 1919, only a few weeks after the Armistice of 11th November 1918, the Deacons' Court minutes record that "Mr Ralph" had already made enquiries as to prices for various designs of memorials. For a very fine class of memorial windows it would cost about £300 for the two [*today's value £13,100**]; for windows of lesser quality about £170 to £200; and for mural tablets suitable for each side of the pulpit with oak beaded frames, about £70 each.

On 7th May 1919, a Congregational Meeting (minuted in the Kirk Session's record volume) was held in the Church Hall to consider the form which the Memorial should take. Mr James Dey intimated that the amount contributed to date was £114 [*today's value £4,981**], and that after giving the matter full consideration the Court was of the opinion that the Memorial should be in the form of a Decorative Oak Mural Tablet with the names of the fallen inscribed thereon, and that it should be placed in the Church between the apse and the organ. The meeting adopted this proposal.

One wonders whether alternative locations for the tablet were considered. Many churches have their war memorials rather tucked away in transepts or separate chapels. These options must have been at least considered, but the majority opinion was clearly in favour of placing the memorial squarely in front of the body of the Kirk, where people seated there could not avoid being confronted with it every time they attended a Service. The intention must have been that the congregation should not be allowed to forget the supreme sacrifice made by their fellow members: it would confront them at every Service, as it still does today.

The location of the memorial was one thing: the order of placing the names on it was quite another. A revealing

*Source: *thisismoney* website

minute in the Deacons' Court minute book for 11 June 1919 records the decision taken on this highly contentious matter. Should Officers appear above and before Other Ranks? Or should the names be listed in alphabetical order, regardless of rank? It took a vote to decide that the names should be recorded alphabetically – one can only imagine how heated that discussion must have been. Was this an early sign of the rigid social structure which existed before World War I being phased out? If so, our predecessors were in the vanguard of this movement.

A vote was also necessary to decide that regimental details should be put in "if the Artist could find room for them". As it happened, the craftsman was able to do this, albeit with some difficulty.

Full details of the names recorded on the World War I Memorial are listed immediately after the Kirk Session minute dated 1st December 1920. Just how the original list was compiled we are unlikely ever to know, as no documentary evidence on the matter appears to have survived. Suffice it to say that the list accords with the names which appear on the memorial, even to the extent that two adjacent names on the memorial are out of alphabetical order. This was pointed out to me many years ago by the late Duncan Cameron, Session Clerk: Ebenezer King appears above John Kilgour. I had not noticed this, and wonder how many people have noticed it without having had it drawn to their attention. At least we can say that the craftsman who engraved the names faithfully followed the list supplied to him without alteration. Maybe he didn't notice the discrepancy either? Now we can say that this minor error has been rectified nearly 100 years later, in the following list.

Finally, the Kirk Session minutes record that the War Memorial should be dedicated at the Remembrance Day Service on the 2nd Sunday of November [9th November 1919]. We have no information as to which firm of craftsmen carried out the work.

World War 2

World War 2 officially came to an end with the celebration of VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day) on 15th August 1945. But it was not until 8th June 1948, almost 3 years later, that the Kirk Session minuted the following: "The Moderator submitted a plan prepared by the architect, showing the proposed design of the panel to be added to the present War Memorial in respect of the war 1939-1945. The Session approved in principle of the design."

The architect referred to above was William Dey who also designed and oversaw the considerable refurbishment to the Church interior 5 years later, in 1953, which remains largely unaltered today, 60 years on, apart from redecoration and updated lighting.

A feature of the modest additional World War 2 tablet incorporated at the foot of the older tablet is the great skill with which the addition was made. Even a close examination can scarcely detect the join, and the whole Memorial looks as if it had been constructed at the same time – a considerable tribute to the craftsmen who carried out the work. An entry in the congregational Year Book for 1948 reveals that the cost of the World War 2 tablet was £125 [*today's value* £3,847*]. It is not known which firm designed and installed it. It is just possible that Whytock and Reid may have been responsible for both parts of the Memorial as they did so much work on church furnishings in many congregations over many years.

Mention must be made of an omission from the memorial's list of our men who lost their lives in World War 2. The name of Sub-Lieutenant William James Douglas Pettigrew, Fleet Air Arm, who died on 28th September 1944, has not been included. The omission only came to light when an entry was found in the Quarterly for January 1945 recording his loss, on active service. We will probably never know why his name was omitted. It can scarcely have been an oversight. Perhaps his grieving parents asked that he should not be included? At least we can say that Douglas's name does appear on the Corstorphine community War Memorial in Kirk Loan; and of course he has been given an honoured place in the list that follows.

The Kirk Session minutes record that the dedication of the World War 2 Memorial tablet would take place at the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 7th November 1948.

*Source: *this is money* website

Research into the War Memorial names

In February 2013 our War Memorial was refurbished by the cleaning and polishing of the oak tablet and the resurfacing of the names with gold leaf, to general satisfaction with the result. It seemed appropriate to follow that up with an attempt to discover as much as possible about those whose names appear on it, so that we might find it easier to relate to them. The pages that follow allocate one page to every name with as much basic detail about Corstorphine addresses, families, dates of death and places of memorial as it has been possible to ascertain. Photographs have proved especially difficult to trace, and many are lacking.

The research has been mainly carried out on the internet, using three principal sources: the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; the Scottish National War Memorial; and *scotlandspeople*. Our Church Quarterly which survives from 1935 onwards was invaluable for additional information about World War 2 names; and Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and Censuses, have been equally useful in establishing addresses and family relationships. Notes of sources are appended at the foot of each entry. As this record has been recorded digitally it will be possible to add additional information as it comes to light. Photographs of those deceased of whom we have been unable to trace images would be especially welcome.

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to the few members of the congregation who were able to supply personal information about deceased relatives on the memorial. I am also grateful to David Craig and Valerie Thomson for their assistance with the research; and to Kevin Aitchison and the Corstorphine Trust for photographs and guidance as to the location of local grave or memorial stones of some of the deceased. I take full responsibility for the information given in each entry, and would appreciate it if errors of fact were brought to my or the Session Clerk's attention so that they may be corrected.

*The tumult and the shouting dies –
The captains and the kings depart -
Still stands Thine ancient Sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget – lest we forget!*

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

Andrew Broom
September 2013

NOTE

For ease of consultation, the names of the deceased in the following pages have been arranged in alphabetical order of surname, irrespective of whether they served in World War I or World War 2.

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“ALEXANDER ALLAN CANADIANS”

302533 Gunner Alexander Allan

8th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery

died 26 November 1917

Age 24

Son of William and Sarah Allan, Manse Road, Corstorphine

Grave/Memorial: Vlamertinghe New Military cemetery, Belgium

Alexander was born at “Ormiston Terrace”, Corstorphine on 15th November 1892. Father: William Allan, saddler; Mother: Sarah m.s. Hackett. They had been married in Corstorphine on 8th August 1879. William Allan had a saddler's shop in Corstorphine at 11 Ormiston Terrace.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Birth register, Corstorphine, 1892
- Family information from a member of the congregation.
- Corstorphine Trust (re the address of the saddler's shop)

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“HERBERT E AMOS DG”

15123 Private Herbert Ewart Amos

5th Dragoon Guards

died 10th April 1917

Age 21

Son of George Ewart Amos and Agnes Isabella Amos,
1 Belgrave Terrace, Corstorphine

Killed in action – Served in France and Flanders

Grave/Memorial: Arras Memorial, Bay 1, France

Herbert was born at 26 Caledonian Place, Gorgie, on 18th September 1895. His Father's occupation is given as “stereotyper”.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth Register, St George District, Edinburgh, 1895

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

“J GOWANS BRASH RE”

1940296 Officer Cadet James Gowans Brash

Driver, Royal Engineers

Died 19 May 1941

Age 34

Son of the late James Gowans Brash and the late Elizabeth Brash,
6 Barony Terrace, Corstorphine

Grave/Memorial: Old Ground, Kirkliston Cemetery

James was born on 8 January 1907 at Hallyards, Kirkliston, to James Gowans Brash, Farmer, and Elizabeth m.s. Sharpe. They had been married in Dumfries in April 1904.

James's Death Certificate records that he died at the Albert Hotel, Dunbar, on 19th May 1941. Cause of Death is given as "Gunshot wound of the head". It also states that he was married to Elizabeth Terrace Paton.

His death is simply recorded without comment in the St Ninian's Quarterly, issue dated July 1941. His name is also recorded in the Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth registers, Kirkliston 1907
- Death registers, Dunbar, 1941
- *Findmypast* website (for Army Roll of Honour 1939-1945)

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

“ERIC BUGLASS RAF”

146326 Pilot Officer Eric Alexander Buglass

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died 29th July 1943

Age 22

Son of Alexander and Mabel Alice Buglass, 19 St Ninian's Drive,
Corstorphine. Husband of Muriel Hilda Buglass.



Grave/Memorial: Piershill Cemetery, Edinburgh, Sec. J. Grave 1077

Eric died in the registration district of North Walsham, Norfolk, on 29th July 1943

The following is noted from the St Ninian's Quarterly issue dated October 1943:

“Another home in our congregation has been darkened by the sorrow of war, and we send our heartfelt sympathy to Mr and Mrs Buglass, 19 St Ninian's Drive, whose son, Pilot Officer Eric Buglass, RAF, has been killed on active service. They have our prayers for their comfort in so great a loss.”

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Photo: George Heriot's School website per *findmypast.co.uk*
- Death register, North Walsham, Norfolk, 1943, quarter July-Aug-Sep Vol 4B p35
- St Ninian's Quarterly, October 1943

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

“ANDREW CHALMERS MN”

Captain (Master) Andrew Chalmers, Merchant Navy

Captain of the Motor Tanker *Edwy R Brown* (London)

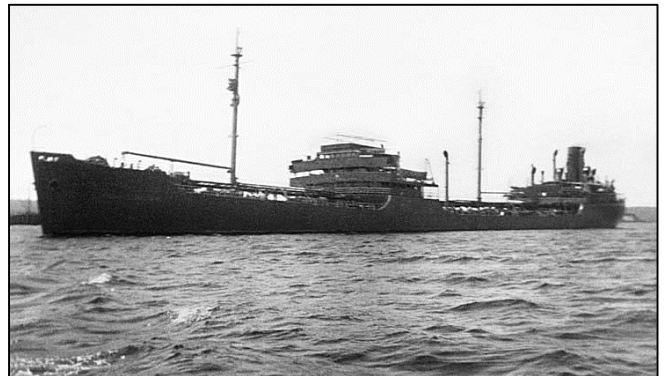
Died 18th February 1941

Age 56

Son of William and Elizabeth Chalmers; husband of Marion Chalmers,
26 Forrester Road, Corstorphine

Grave/Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial

Captain Chalmers' ship, the Motor Tanker *Edwy R Brown*, was a straggler in a convoy from Aruba via Bermuda to Liverpool in February 1941. She was torpedoed by a U-Boat in bad weather south east of Iceland, and was left burning and in a sinking condition. There were no survivors from the crew of 50. Captain Chalmers went down with his ship.



The following is noted from the St Ninian's Quarterly issue dated July 1942:

“On Service: Reported missing at sea in March 1941, now officially “presumed dead”,
Captain Andrew Chalmers, 26 Forrester Road.”

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Photo and details of the sinking of the *Edwy R Brown*: <http://uboot.net/allies/merchants/767.html>
- St Ninian's Quarterly, July 1942

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“Sidney Cormack MC RFA”

2nd Lieutenant Sidney Cormack MC
D Battery, 15th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

died 19th November 1918

Age 28

Son of John Cormack, Druggist, and the late Barbara Cormack m.s.
Slater, Mossgiel, (31) Clermiston Road, Corstorphine



Grave/Memorial: St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

Sidney was born on 11th August 1890 at a house in Manse Road (*Houses were not given street numbers until much later*). His parents had been married in Kirkwall, Orkney, on 5th June 1885. The Cormack chemist's shop was a well-known fixture on the north side of St John's Road. Note that Sidney's death took place 8 days after the Armistice of 11th November 1918, i.e., when the war was officially over.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- The National Archives, Kew, ref WO372/5/28102
- Birth registers, Corstorphine, 1890
- Corstorphine Trust (Photograph)
- Cormack Family tombstone, Corstorphine Old Parish Churchyard

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“DAVID T DICK RFA”

143730 Lance-Bombardier David Telfer Dick

“Y” 37th T M Battery, Royal Field Artillery

died 1st June 1918

Age 24

Son of the late James Dick, Dairyman, and Isabella Christina Dick m.s. Smeall,
Medwyn Bank, Gylemuir Road

Killed in action – Served in France and Flanders

Grave/memorial: Bienvillers Military Cemetery, XXI. A. 8., Pas de Calais, France

David was born on 19th February 1894 at Gladstone Place, Corstorphine.
His parents had been married in Corstorphine on 12th June 1884.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth register, Corstorphine, 1894

World War 1

“JOHN DUNLOP RS”

2304 Private John Dunlop

6th Battalion, Royal Scots

died 25th January 1915

Aged 53

Grave/memorial: Corstorphine Parish Churchyard

John was born at 31 North Bridge, Edinburgh, on 6th March 1861, son of James Dunlop, Wine and Spirit Merchant, and Helen Dunlop, m.s.Buchanan. John, a commercial clerk, married Alison Grieve at 225 Leith Walk on 19th January 1888. His death certificate in 1915 gives his civilian trade as Ironmonger, and he died at the family home in Manse Road. Cause of death: Chronic bronchitis.

His advanced age for military service, and his date of death, suggest that he had volunteered for service, before conscription came in. He did not serve overseas, but was employed on coastal defence duties in Scotland with the 6th Territorial Force.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth register, St Giles, Edinburgh, 1861
- Marriage Register, South Leith, 1888
- Death register, Corstorphine, 1915
- History of the Royal Scots
- Memorial stone in Corstorphine Old Parish Churchyard

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“ROBERT N FLETCHER KOSB”

40044 Private Robert Neish Fletcher
6th Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers
formerly Royal Scots, Service No 30855

died 3rd May 1917

Age 33

Son of the late James and Elizabeth Fletcher of Janefield, Corstorphine.

Killed in action – Served in France and Flanders

Grave/Memorial: Arras Memorial, Bay 6, France

Robert was born on 21 September 1883 at 6 Argyll Street, Leith, to James Fletcher (Engine Fitter, Journeyman) and Elizabeth m.s. Neish. His birth certificate records that James and Elizabeth had been married on 18th April 1870 at South Leith.

At the time of Robert's death on active service his widowed Mother was living at Janefield Cottages, now demolished. The cottages were situated near the west corner of the present junction of Ladywell Road with the south end of Featherhall Avenue.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth register, North Leith, 1883

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“JAMES S S FRASER CAMERONS”

S/40762 Private James Simmy Sharp Fraser

B Company, 5th Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders
formerly Lovat Scouts, Service No 6188

Died 26th September 1918

Age 21

Son of the late John Fraser and of his wife, Elizabeth Riddoch Fraser
Braco Brae, (24) St Ninian's Road
Corstorphine

Killed in action near Ypres

Grave/Memorial: Gwalia Cemetery, II. G. 19., Belgium
Also remembered on Fraser Family Tombstone,
Corstorphine Old Parish Kirkyard

James Simmy Sharp Fraser was born on 6th February 1897 at 8 Ardmillan Place, Edinburgh, to John Fraser, Mason, and Elizabeth m.s. Riddoch. The birth certificate records that they had been married at the Grange on 30th July 1892.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth register, St George, Edinburgh, 1897

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“JOHN A HENRY MC RS”

Captain John Allan Henry MC

11th Battalion, Royal Scots

died 14th July 1916

Age 19

Brother of Miss Annie A Henry of 7 Templeland Road, Corstorphine

Killed at Longueval-Martinpuich: “. . . patrol sent out and immediately killed by snipers.”

Medals: Military Cross (MC), Victory Medal, British War Medal, 1915 Star

Grave/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 6D and 7D, France

John Allan Henry was born on 15th August 1896 at 21 Cathcart Place, Gorgie, to John William Henry, Cabinet Maker, and Annie m.s. Allan. The birth certificate records that they had been married at Edinburgh on 17th June 1892.

The date and place of John's death, and the fact that he is remembered on the Thiepval memorial, all show that he was one of the many thousands of young men slaughtered during the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. On the first day alone, the Allies suffered 58,000 casualties, dead and wounded.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- National Archives, Kew: WO372/9/149150
- Birth register, St George, Edinburgh
- Royal Scots, 11th Battalion Reports

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“JOHN KILGOUR SR”

15754 Private John Louttit Kilgour

9th Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

died 25th September 1915

Age 36

Husband of Alice Kilgour

8 Victor Park Terrace, Corstorphine

Died in France

Grave/memorial: Loos Memorial, Panel 57 to 59, Pas de Calais, France

John Louttit Kilgour was born at Kennoway, Fife, in 1879 to John Kilgour, Master Draper, and Elizabeth Laurie Kilgour m.s. Bethune. In 1906 young John, by then a mercantile clerk, married Alice Janet McDavid m.s. Primrose in the registration district of Canongate, Edinburgh. In 1910 our Kirk Session records show that Mr and Mrs John L Kilgour of 8 Victor Park Terrace joined our church “by profession of Faith”. In the 1911 census for 8 Victor Park Terrace, John is described as a Housepainter.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth register, Kennoway, 1879
- Marriage register, Canongate 1906
- Census, Corstorphine, 1911
- Corstorphine UF Church Session Records

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“EBENEZER KING MC RAF”

2nd Lieutenant Ebenezer King MC

Royal Flying Corps

Secondary Regiment: King's Own Scottish Borderers

died 17th March 1917

Age 24

Son of Ebenezer and Catherine King, of “Roseau”, Anwoth Villas,
Meadowhouse Road, Corstorphine



Grave/memorial: Lincoln (Newport) Cemetery, C. D Red. 9, Lincolnshire

Anwoth Villas at the west end of Meadowhouse Road on the north side were demolished in the 1970s and replaced by modern flats. “Roseau” would have been about no 12.

*The following is recorded in Corstorphine United Free Church (later St Ninian's)
Kirk Session Minute Book, 1 April 1917*

“An offer made by Mr Montgomery asking the Session to accept a brass reading desk in memory of the late Lt King, a former member of the Choir, who had met his death by flying. The Kirk Session declined the offer with thanks, saying that the offer was premature. The matter of a memorial to those who had fallen would have to be considered at the conclusion of the war.”

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Kirk Session Minute Book now preserved in the National Records of Scotland, ref CH3/514/2
- Boroughmuir School Roll of Honour (photo)

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

“ROBERT LAUDER RAF”

78531 Flying Officer Robert George Lauder

73 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Son of George Thomson Lauder and the late Mrs Isabella Hall Lauder m.s. Black
17 Hillview Road, Corstorphine

Date of death: 15th July 1941

Age 22

Grave/Memorial: Alamein Memorial, Egypt



The following is noted from the St Ninian's Quarterly, issue dated April 1942:

“Flying Officer Robert George Lauder, son of Mr George Lauder, 17 Hillview Road, missing July 1941, now presumed killed in action in the Middle East.”

The George Heriot's School Roll of Honour records that Robert obtained his wings in January 1940, and saw active service in Britain, Egypt, Palestine, Syria and the Western Desert. He was shot down while on ship patrol.

Sources

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- St Ninian's Quarterly, April 1942
- Edinburgh St Giles Marriage Register, 1911
- Edinburgh Haymarket Deaths Register, 1939
- *Find-my-past* website for Robert's birth in Dartford, Kent, 1919
- George Heriot's School Roll of Honour (incl photo)

World War 1

“David H MacLeish RS”

351394 Private David Hardie McLeish

9th Battalion, Royal Scots

Husband of Clara McLeish, Gladstone Place, Corstorphine

died 15th April 1917

Age 32



Grave/Memorial: Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France

David Hardie McLeish was born on 10 December 1884 at Millburn Cottages, Ratho, to Alexander McLeish, Mole Catcher, and Helen m.s. Dunbar, his wife. David, Housepainter (Journeyman) married Clara Brett, domestic servant, in Corstorphine on 1st June 1910. They appear in the 1911 Census (Corstorphine) as residing at Gladstone Place, High Street, he aged 25 and she aged 23.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth register, Ratho, 1884
- Marriage Register, Corstorphine, 1910
- Census, Corstorphine, 1911
- National Archives, Kew: WO372/13/43557
- History of the Royal Scots
- McLeish Family tombstone, Corstorphine Old Parish Churchyard, where David's middle name is spelt "Hardy"
- Corstorphine Trust (for photo)

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

"IAN MAITLAND DFC RAF"

81408 Flight Lieutenant (W.Op/Air Gnr) Ian Maitland DFC

408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

60 Saughton Gardens, Corstorphine

Died 28th August 1942

Age 37

Son of John and Barbara Maitland, of Appin, Argyllshire

Grave/Memorial: Boussu-lez-Walcourt Communal Cemetery, vault in north-west corner,
Hainaut, Belgium



Ian was an air-gunner in a Hampden bomber which was shot down over Belgium after a raid on Saarbrücken, Germany, in 1942. He did not survive. The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) was awarded to Ian "for an act or acts of valour, courage or devotion to duty whilst flying in active operations against the enemy."

The following is extracted from St Ninian's Kirk Session Minutes, 9th March 1943:

"The Moderator stated that it was with much regret that they had heard that one of our Deacons, Flight Lieutenant Ian Maitland DFC, previously reported missing, had now been presumed killed in action. The Moderator spoke in feeling terms of his fine character and worth as a man, and expressed our great sorrow at his death and our pride that he died in the service of his country. Mr Latimer also spoke of his own personal sorrow and of the fine spirit shown by Mr Maitland in choosing such a post of danger when he might have had an easier and a safer one."

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- St Ninian's Kirk Session Minutes, 9th March 1943
- St Ninian's Deacons' Court Minutes, 6th Dec 1938 (for Ian's Corstorphine address)
- *oldappin.com* website (for information and photo)
- *forces-war-records* website (for DFC citation)

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

“IAN MILLER RNVR”

Cadet Charles Ian Miller

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

formerly of 12 St John's Terrace, Corstorphine

Died 1st July 1942

Age 29

Ian was born at 65 Harrison Road, Edinburgh, on 1st January 1913 to Charles Archibald Miller and Sarah Phillips Miller née Brass. They had married in Glasgow in 1909.



The following is noted from the St Ninian's Quarterly, issue dated October 1940:

Marriage: 28th August 1940: "At the Methodist Church, Cork, Charles Ian Miller, elder son of Mr and Mrs C A Miller, 12 St John's Terrace, Corstorphine, to Myrtle Spottiswoode, Blackrock, County Cork."

The following is noted from St Ninian's Quarterly, issue dated Jan 1943:

"It was with very great sorrow that we heard the news that Cadet Ian Miller, RNVR, had died while on active service. The son of our highly-esteemed Clerk of the Deacons' Court, he was one of the most popular young men in the congregation, and though in recent years his work had taken him away from Corstorphine, he is remembered with affection by his many friends in the Church and district. To the family circle in sorrow we extend our heartfelt sympathy, and pray that they may find comfort in the blessed promises of the gospel."

Sources:

- Mrs Joan Miller, Ian's sister-in-law, and Mr Kenneth Miller, his nephew. (information and photograph)
- St Ninian's Quarterly, Oct 1940 and Jan 1943
- St George, Edinburgh, Birth Register, 1913

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“JOHN P C MITCHELL RAF”

Lieutenant John Patrick Cameron Mitchell

16th Squadron, Royal Flying Corps.
Secondary Regiment: 4th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry

died 21st April 1917

Age 19

Son of John Campbell Mitchell and Mary Agnes Mitchell, of
“Duncree”, (26) Clermiston Road, Corstorphine



Grave/Memorial: Bruay Communal Cemetery Extension, F.21, Pas de
Calais, France

John Patrick Cameron Mitchell was born at 64 Polwarth Gardens, Edinburgh, on 24th June 1897, to John Mitchell, Drawing Master, and Mary Agnes Mitchell, his wife. They had been married in Cupar in July 1896.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Corstorphine Trust, List of Corstorphine house names, with current addresses
- Birth registers, Newington, 1897
- *forces-war-records* website
- Photo: *www.findagrave.com*

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“JOHN S MORRISON DCM RE”

28086 Company Sergeant Major John Stewart Morrison DCM

1st Signal Company, Royal Engineers

Died 26th September 1915

Age 23

Eldest son of Donald and Jessie Morrison, “Kenora”, Gordon Road, Corstorphine
(brother of Angus, killed in World War 2. *See facing page*)

Citation for Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM): 28086 Corporal J S Morrison (Motor Cyclist). “For conspicuous gallantry at Langemark, 23rd-25th October [1914], in voluntarily carrying messages under heavy rifle and shell fire, and again at Gheluvelt, on 31st October, when he voluntarily repaired the telephone line after others had failed owing to the heavy fire.”



Grave/Memorial: Chocques Military Cemetery, I. E. 2, Pas de Calais, France

John Stewart Morrison was born on 12th May 1892 at 1 Caledonian Road, Gorgie, to Donald Morrison, Mercantile Clerk, and Jessie m.s. Stewart, his wife. They had been married the previous year.

The following is noted from Corstorphine United Free Church (now St Ninian's) Kirk Session Minutes:

[] October 1915 “The Moderator [Mr Beith] referred in feeling terms to the grievous loss sustained by Mr [Donald] Morrison [an Elder] on the death of his son while on service on the front in France. He expressed in the name of the Session their deep sympathy with Mr Morrison in his bereavement while at the same time assuring him that the gallantry and unselfishness shown by Sergt Major Morrison in the circumstances of his death caused a feeling of pride in all connected with the Church.”

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- Birth register, St George, Edinburgh, 1892
- St Ninian's Church Kirk Session Records, National Records of Scotland, ref CH3/514/2
- London Gazette, 16 Jan 1915
- Morrison Family tombstone, Corstorphine Old Parish Churchyard

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

“ANGUS MORRISON CAMERONS”

190253 Second Lieutenant Angus Stewart Morrison

2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

Died 5th December 1941

Age 30

Youngest son of Donald and Jessie Stewart Morrison, “Kenora”, Gordon Road, Corstorphine
(brother of John, killed in World War 1. *See facing page*)

Grave/Memorial: Knightsbridge War Cemetery, 3.h.19., Acroma, Libya

Uniquely in our congregation, Donald and Jessie Morrison had the misfortune to lose two sons in the two world wars: John, their eldest, in World War 1, and Angus, their youngest, in World War 2. The brothers were separated by 19 years, John having been born in 1892 and Angus in 1911.

The 1911 Census for Corstorphine shows the family, living at “Kenora”, Gordon Road, as having five sons and three daughters. John's age is given as 18, and Angus's as “under 1 month”. That is accurate. Angus was born on 29th March 1911, and the Census schedule would be compiled only a week or two later in April.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth register, Corstorphine 1911
- Census, Corstorphine, 1911
- Morrison tombstone, Corstorphine Old Parish Churchyard

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“ALEXANDER W NORVAL RS”

53193 Private Alexander William Norval

13th Battalion, Royal Scots

Son of William and Elizabeth Norval,
8 St John's Road, Corstorphine
Formerly Territorial Reserve Battalion, Service No 28796

died 6th October 1918

Age 19

Grave/Memorial: St Mary's A.D.S. Cemetery, Haisnes, XIV. F. 2. Pas de Calais, France

Alexander was born at Laurieston, Falkirk, on 7th November 1898 to William Norval, Master Grocer, and Elizabeth m.s. Shaw. By the time he had joined the army, his parents were living at Burnbrae, Dollar, which explains why the army recorded his parents' address there. There is no mention of the family in the Corstorphine census for 1911. However, our Kirk Session minutes show that Mr and Mrs William Norval and three daughters, residing at 8 St John's Road, all joined our Church “by certificate” on 26 January 1918. Alexander by this time would be serving with the Royal Scots. He was to meet his death only a few months after his parents and sisters joined our congregation.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth Register, Falkirk, 1898
- Kirk Session minutes, 26 Jan 1918 (ref CH3/514/1)
- History of the Royal Scots

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“GEORGE PATERSON GORDONS”

S/9145 Private George Henderson Paterson

8th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders

Died 14th November 1915

Aged 29

Son of George Paterson, Master Builder, and the late Mrs Janet Henderson Paterson, “Ardnasheim”,
Templeland Road, Corstorphine

Grave/Memorial: Railways Dugouts Burial Ground I. F. 19. Ieper, Belgium

The 1911 Census shows that the Paterson family, with son George aged 24, then resided at “Ferryknowe”, [180] St John's Road, Corstorphine. His Father is named George Paterson, aged 60, and his Step-Mother, Agnes, aged 56. (George's Mother had died at Torryburn in 1896.)

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth Register, Torryburn, Fife, 1886
- Death Register, Torryburn 1896 (for George's Mother's death, aged 46)
- Corstorphine Census, 1911

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

For reasons unknown, the following name is not recorded on our War Memorial. It does however appear on the Corstorphine village War Memorial in Kirk Loan

Sub-Lieutenant William James Douglas Pettigrew

Fleet Air Arm,
RNVR, 842 Squadron, HMS Fencer

Died 28 September 1944

Age 21

Elder son of Mr William Pettigrew and Mrs Agnes Helen Hampton Pettigrew née Douglas, 10 Maybank Villas, Corstorphine. Douglas was born on 21st December 1922 at 4 Merchiston Grove, Edinburgh.

Grave/Memorial: Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Bay 5 Panel 6



From the St Ninian's Quarterly, Jan 1945: "Once again we mourn the loss, on Active Service, of another of our fine young men, Sub-Lieut. Douglas Pettigrew, F.A.A., of 10 Maybank Villas, and we join in sympathy with his sorrowing home."

The George Heriot's School Roll of Honour notes that Douglas attended the school between 1933 and 1939, and was a fine swimmer. On leaving school he was employed by the National Bank of Scotland. In April 1942 he volunteered for the Fleet Air Arm, trained in Canada; posted to an aircraft carrier [HMS Fencer] as Torpedo Bomber Reconnaissance Pilot, in which service he met his death.

On 28 September 1944 HMS Trumpeter and Fencer left Scapa Flow for three days of anti-U-boat patrols in the North Sea, operating in especially bad weather. Douglas and two of his colleagues lost their lives on that date.

Sources:

- Scottish National War Memorial
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- St Ninian's Quarterly, Jan 1945
- Birth register, Dalry and Gorgie, 1923
- George Heriot's School Roll of Honour (incl photo)
- www.historyofwar.org/articles/weapons_HMS_Trumpeter.html

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

“ALEXANDER ROBERTSON RN”

C/JX 318173 Ordinary Seaman Alexander McGill Robertson
Royal Navy

died 23 October 1942

Age 18

Alexander was born at 1 Orchardfield Avenue on 12 November 1923 to John Anderson Robertson and Catherine Willmot Robertson neé McGill. They had married in Edinburgh in 1907.

Grave/Memorial: Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 58, 1

Alexander was a crew member of the Light Cruiser HMS *Phoebe* which was attacked and badly damaged by two torpedoes from a U-boat on 23 October 1942, as a result of which he and about 40 of his comrades received fatal injuries. HMS *Phoebe* was able to limp to harbour for repairs before returning to active service in 1943. She survived the war.



HMS *Phoebe*

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- www.uboa.net/allies/merchants/2287html
- Corstorphine Birth Register, 1923
- Edinburgh, Canongate, Marriage Register, 1907

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

“JAMES ROBERTSON RN”

Surgeon Lieutenant James Robertson

Royal Navy

Died 1st January 1943

Age 30



Son of James and Rosa Maud Robertson, 35 Corstorphine Bank Drive, Corstorphine; husband of Matilda Mary Robertson, Normandy, Surrey

Grave/Memorial: Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 73, Column 1

James served on HMS *Fidelity*, Special Service Vessel, which was torpedoed off the Azores on 30th December 1942. All 325 of her crew were lost.

The following is noted from the St Ninian's Quarterly, issue dated October 1943:

“News has been received that Surgeon-Lieut James Robertson RN, of 35 Corstorphine Bank Drive, must now be presumed lost at sea. He had been reported missing in January, and during the months of anxious waiting our prayers and thoughts have been with the family circle, and now we join them in mourning a young man of fine character and a brave doctor faithful unto death.”

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- St Ninian's Quarterly, October 1943
- George Heriot's School Roll of Honour (photo)

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

“T DURHAM ROBERTSON RAF”

119880 Flying Officer (Pilot) Thomas Durham Robertson,
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died 16th January 1943

Age 27

Son of Thomas and Mary Louise Robertson,
76 Belgrave Road, Corstorphine



Grave/Memorial: Edinburgh (Corstorphine Hill) Cemetery, Sec. F. Grave 88

Thomas was born at Struan, Liberton Road, Liberton, Edinburgh, on 28th January 1916. Father: Thomas Robertson, Insurance Clerk. Mother: Mary Louise m.s. Mitchell

The following is noted from the St Ninian's Quarterly, May 1943:

“We heard of the death of Flying Officer Durham Robertson, RAF, with great sorrow, and thus we mourn another of our fine young men whose attractive personality endeared him to his many friends.”

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth register, 1916
- St Ninian's Quarterly, May 1943
- Information from Mrs Joan Miller, 2012

World War 1

“GEORGE S SHADE CAMERONS”

6519 Private George Smith Shade

1st Battalion, Cameron Highlanders
formerly of High Street, Corstorphine

Died: 11 November 1914

Age: 28

Killed in action – Served in France and Flanders

Grave/Memorial: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Panel 38 and 40, Belgium

George Smith Shade was born in High Street, Corstorphine, on 22nd May 1886. His Mother was Joan Shade, Domestic Servant. The Father's name is not registered. Joan herself registered his birth, and signed the register. She did not give her age but we know from her birth certificate that she was 20, having been born in 1866 in Corstorphine to John Shade and his wife Janet Gray.

John Shade was therefore George's grandfather, and we know from the Kirk Session records in 1881 that he was the beadle in Corstorphine Free Church (now St Ninian's). This connection must explain why George Smith Shade appears on our War Memorial. Information about George has been difficult to trace because in the war records he appears mainly as George Smith. His name is given on our War memorial as George S Shade, but in the Corstorphine School Memorial to those who fell in the Great War he appears as George Shade Smith.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission (indexed under the surname “Smith”)
- Scottish National War Memorial (indexed under the surname “Smith”)
- Marriage Register, Corstorphine, 1859
- Birth registers, Corstorphine, 1866 and 1886
- Corstorphine Free Church Kirk Session minutes, 31 October 1881 (wherein John Shade, George's Grandfather, is identified as beadle)

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“WILLIAM STEEDMAN CANADIANS”

829454 Private William Steedman

8th Battalion, Canadian Infantry
(Manitoba Regiment)

died 28th April 1917

Age 29

Son of Alexander and Isabella Charlton Steedman,
8 Victor Park Terrace, Corstorphine

Grave/Memorial: Vimy Memorial (Canadian National Memorial), France

The family have provided the following note:

“Alexander Steedman [William’s Father] was an Elder at St Ninian’s and latterly the Senior Elder. William was born in Ratho [in 1888], but came to Corstorphine when the family moved there about 1904. He emigrated to Canada in 1908 and settled as a farm hand in Branden, near Winnipeg. He joined the Winnipeg Rifles in January 1916 and came to Britain with the Canadian contingent later that year. He went to France in February 1917 and was killed in action at Arras in April that year.

“His parents received letters of sympathy for having lost two sons in the war, but in fact, his younger brother David, who had been reported as killed in 1916 because of mistaken identity, had survived, although severely wounded.

“William’s death is recorded on the War Memorial in the large World War I Cemetery at Vimy Ridge.”

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- Birth register, Ratho, 1888
- The above information from Sandy Steedman, brother of Marion Wishart née Steedman. Their father, David, was the soldier wrongly reported as missing.

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“ANDREW TERRACE KOSB”

42163 Private Andrew Terrace

1st/4th Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers

Died 12th August 1918

Age 18

Son of the late Andrew and the late Charlotte Terrace, St Margaret's Villa,
Manse Road, Corstorphine

Died of wounds. Served in France and Flanders

Grave/Memorial: Ligny-St Flochel British Cemetery, Averdoingt, II. B. 6. Pas de Calais, France

Andrew was born at Augustine Cottage, 22 High Street, Corstorphine on 20th December 1900. Father, Andrew Terrace, Master Butcher. Mother Charlotte m.s. Masterton. They had been married in Leith on 27th February 1895.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Birth register, Corstorphine 1900
- Corstorphine Census, 1901
- Death register, St Giles, Edinburgh 1913 wherein the deceased Andrew Terrace Senr is described as Widower
- The National Archives, Kew, WO372/19/197613

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 1

“CHARLES THOMSON RS”

351431 Private Charles Thomson

9th Battalion, Royal Scots

died 23rd April 1917

Age 27

Killed in action – served in France and Flanders

Grave/Memorial: Arras Memorial, Bay 1 and 2, Pas de Calais, France

Son of the Rev Charles Logan Thomson, MA LLD, and Agnes I Thomson, “Ashdene”, 48 Belgrave Road, Corstorphine.



Charles's parents were married in Strathmartine Free Church, Angus, on 31 August 1887. His father's residence is given as Caledon, County Tyrone, and his mother's Dundee. He is described as “Presbyterian Minister”. His wife's father is described as a jute manufacturer.

The *findmypast* website contains an Irish source of war dead recording that Charles had been born in his father's home village of Caledon, County Tyrone. That would be about 1890.

At the time of writing, no trace has been found of a church where Dr Thomson was Minister, but the 1911 Census discloses that the family were then living in Hawick. Two daughters are recorded but there is no mention of son Charles. He would be 21 by then, and had doubtless moved away to work elsewhere. Between 1911 and 1917, the year of son Charles's death, the rest of the family had clearly moved to Corstorphine and had joined our church.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- Register of Marriages, Strathmartine, 1887
- 1911 Census
- *findmypast* website
- Memorial stone in Corstorphine Hill Cemetery

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial

World War 2

“WILLIAM WARD RAF”

1553630 Sergeant (Air Bomber) William Middleton Ward

12 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died 12th June 1943

Age 20

Son of William and Louisa Ward, 11 Orchardfield Avenue, Corstorphine

Grave/Memorial: Amsterdam New Eastern Cemetery, Plot 69, Row C. Coll. grave 20 Netherlands

The following is noted in the St Ninian's Quarterly, issue dated July 1943:

“It is with great sorrow that we have heard that another of our young men has been posted missing – from operations over Germany – Sergeant-Observer William Ward, RAF. Our thoughts are very much with his parents in these anxious times.”

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Scottish National War Memorial
- St Ninian's Quarterly, July 1943 pp2 and 4

St Ninian's Church Corstorphine War Memorial



The central motif above the War Memorial: St Michael slaying the Devil

Revelation 12: 7-9

*Then let us pray that come it may
(As come it will, for a' that)
That Sense and Worth o'er a' the earth
Shall bear the gree, an' a' that.
For a' that, an' a' that,
It's comin' yet, for a' that,
That man to man the world o'er
Shall brothers be for a' that.*

Robert Burns (1759 – 1796)



Scottish Charity Number SC016557