



“FLOWERS OF THE FOREST” GROUP AT THE FIRST REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, MARCH 2015

PERTH ACADEMY AND MILITARY SERVICE ACT.



A. Main, R. Bruce, C. Hood, K. Stuart, J. Chalmers, J. Carruthers,
D. Low, H. Leyden, J. Wishart, E. Adamson, E. Gyle, J. Stewart, J. Graham, A. G. Thomson,
W. Soutar, J. Stirling.

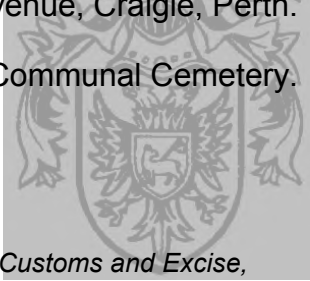




Ernest Woods GYLE

Second Lieutenant, 7th Black Watch,
Attached 1st Black Watch.
Killed in action, 18th October 1918.
Son of John and Mary Ann Gyle of
10, Queen's Avenue, Craigie, Perth.

Buried in Wassigny Communal Cemetery.



De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour

"Ernest Woods Gyle was the son of John Gyle, 10 Queen's Avenue, Perth, Officer Customs and Excise, and his wife Mary (daughter of James Burnside of Belfast), and was born in Lees, Oldham, on 18th February 1898.

"He was educated at Perth Academy where he held the Junior Championship of the School Sports for two years and was captain of the school XV in 1916.

"Ernest was a medical Student at Edinburgh University in 1916 and enlisted in the Black Watch in July of that year. He went to the Cadet Battalion at Pirbright in November 1917, received a commission in March 1918, and served with the Expeditionary Force in France from the following August.

"He was killed in action at Wassigny on the 18th October of the same year and was buried there. His Colonel wrote: 'We were engaged in the capture of Wassigny. He was gallantly leading his platoon when he was shot through the heart by a machine-gun bullet. I cannot tell you how sorry I am to lose such a splendid officer' and his batman 'He was dear to all of us He died with a smile on his face'.

"Testimonies from civilian friends, brother officers and men of his platoon show that he was a general favourite wherever he went and gained the respect and esteem of all who knew him. Both at school and in the army he was not only a keen athlete, being on the Physical Training Staff at Pirbright during his commission, but spent a good deal of his time in sketching and photography."

At the time of his death Ernest Gyle was 20 years of age and unmarried.

Ernest Gyle is also commemorated on the Perth West Church War Memorial.



HIS DUTY DONE

WASSIGNY COMMUNAL CEMETERY





Charles HOOD

S/19786, Private, 1/7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Killed in action, 13th October 1918. Son of Charles and Grace Hood of Bridgton Home Farm, by Forfar.

Buried in Auberchicourt British Cemetery. Grave Reference: II. C. 18.

Charles Hood was born in Kettins by Coupar Angus, on 11th April 1898. In 1901 the Hood family were living at Nether Ballunie Farm House, Kettins. Father, Charles (43); mother Grace (57); and son, Charles (3). Also living at this address was Janet Duncan (15) who may have been employed on the farm or as a domestic servant.

Charles Hood was a student in arts at Saint Andrews University from Martinmas 1916 to Candlemas 1917.

He was a corporal in the Wiltshire Regiment and then transferred to 1/7th Battalion, Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders).

Extract from the Battalion History of the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

"Just beyond the village of Iwuy, north of Cambrai, lay a small village called Lieu-St. Amand. It was strongly fortified by machine-guns hidden on the roofs of the houses. The village was sited at the foot of a hill, the crest of which had to be crossed by the attackers, in order to take it. On 12th October, 2 companies tried to storm the village but were driven back. The next morning, 13th October, the remaining 2 companies made the same attempt. On the ridge 2 officers and 16 men were killed and 96 men wounded. The survivors reached a point 100 yards from the village and had to remain there all day before being able to withdraw after dark."

While there is no definitive record of how and when Charles Hood lost his life, it is likely that he was one of the men who died during this action. He was 20 years of age.

Charles Hood is also commemorated on the Kettins Parish War Memorial and the Kinnettles, Forfar, Parish War Memorial.



AUBERCHICOURT BRITISH CEMETERY





Herrick Peter Gladstone LEYDEN

Flight Lieutenant, Royal Air Force.
Killed in action, 13th August 1918.

Son of Patrick Peter and
Margaret Florence Gladstone Leyden of
"Beechwood", 9 Pitcullen Terrace, Perth.

Buried in Perreuse Chateau Franco
British National Cemetery.
Grave Reference: I. C. 25.

Herrick Leyden was born in Pontardawe, Wales on 24th March 1898. He enlisted in Perth on 16th January 1917 with the 3rd Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) Regimental No. S/18816, and went to Nigg for basic training from 18th January 1917 until 7th March 1917. He then went to Denham Camp in Buckinghamshire. He was gazetted as a Probationary Temp. Second Lieutenant on 5th July 1917 with the Royal Air Force.

Herrick Leyden was killed whilst flying a de Havilland DH9 aircraft (D7229) of 104 Squadron. The aircraft's Observer, Sergeant A. L. Windridge, was also killed.

Another DH9 aircraft (D2881) was seen to receive a direct hit by Anti-aircraft fire, folded up, and fell on to 2nd Lt. Leyden's aircraft.

The crew of the second aircraft were 2nd. Lt. F. H. Beaufort and 2nd. Lt. H. O. Bryant.

SOUTH WALES WEEKLY POST, Saturday September 7th 1918

"THE DAILY TOLL. Swansea Flying Officer's Fate."

"The number of Swansea Grammar School 'Old Boys' who have made the supreme sacrifice in serving their country increases, and the latest name to be sorrowfully but proudly added to the golden list is that of the son of a former Swansea resident - Mr P. P. Leyden, late surveyor of Customs and Excise at Swansea, who left the town for Perth in 1915. Lieut. H. P. Gladstone-Leyden belonged to the Independent Arm of the Royal Air Force and was killed whilst engaged in a bombing raid over Germany on the 13th August. The bereaved father has received a letter - from Major J. C. Quinnell, the O.C. of the squadron - in which Lieut. Leyden is referred to as 'a most excellent officer who did splendid work and would have made a name for himself in the Royal Air Force. Please accept on behalf of his fellow-officers with the squadron my deepest sympathy in your loss.' Lieut. Leyden's only brother, R. W. Gladst. Leyden is now a cadet in the R.A.F."



*MY SOUL HATH HOPED
IN THE LORD*

Herrick Leyden is also commemorated on the St. John the Baptist R.C. Church, Perth, War Memorial.

PERREUSE CHATEAU FRANCO BRITISH NATIONAL CEMETERY

