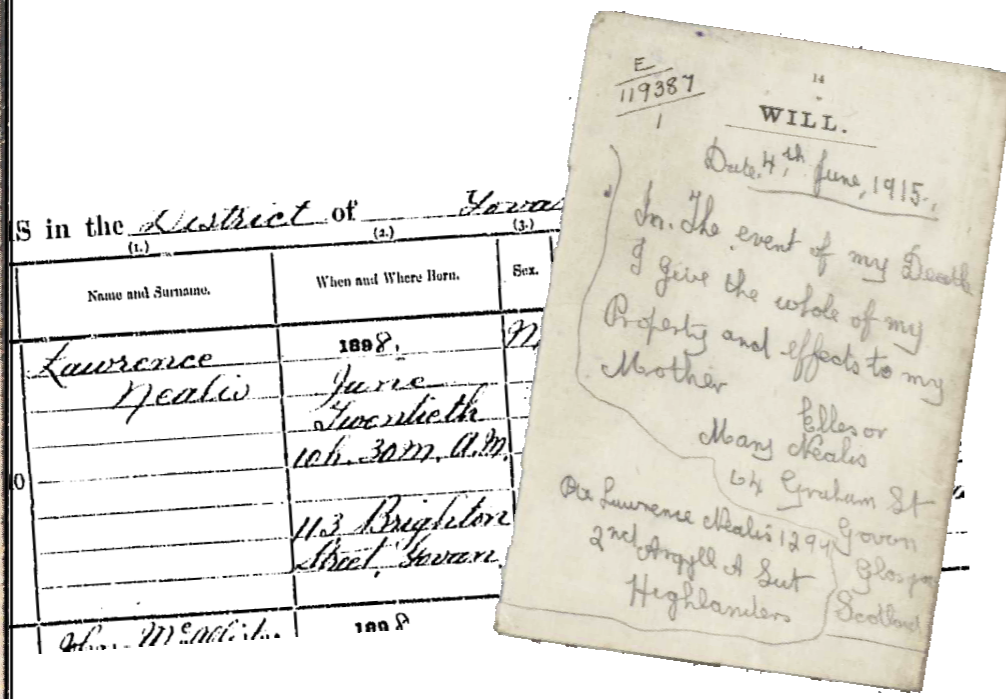


Never Forget.....



Lawrence Nealis



Private Lawrence Nealis was born on the 20th June 1898 at 113 Brighton Street, Govan, after the death of his father (also named Lawrence) in 1913 he enlisted with 3rd Royal Scots Fusiliers (Special Reserves) at Glasgow, when enlisting Lawrence lied about his age giving an age of 18 when he had only just turned 15. Three month later in December 1913 and still only aged 15 Lawrence enlisted with the Regular Army at Ayr joining the 2nd Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

In December 1914 the 2nd Bat. of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were attached to the 6th Division reinforcing the hard-pressed British Expeditionary Forces on the Western Front when 16 year old Lawrence was wounded in the hand.

On the 25th June 1915 Lawrence had been out getting water bottles filled, when he was shot in the head by a sniper and instantly killed. The Evening Times in July 1915 reported that Lawrence "was only 20 years of age" when he was killed, in reality Lawrence had only turned 17 five days before his death.

Lawrence was survived by his mother Mary Nealis (m.s McDowell) of 64 Graham Street, Govan, sister Mary Green of 14 Alma Street, Govan and bother James Joseph who also served in the war with the Connaught Rangers.

Private Lawrence Nealis was posthumously awarded the British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1914 Star with Mons Clasp and is buried at Ration Farm Military Cemetery, La Chapelle-D'Armentieres, France.



Peter Fisken was born in Liverpool on 14th May 1867. Peter's Glasgow born father returned to Glasgow with his family when Peter was a young child and the family settled in Govan.

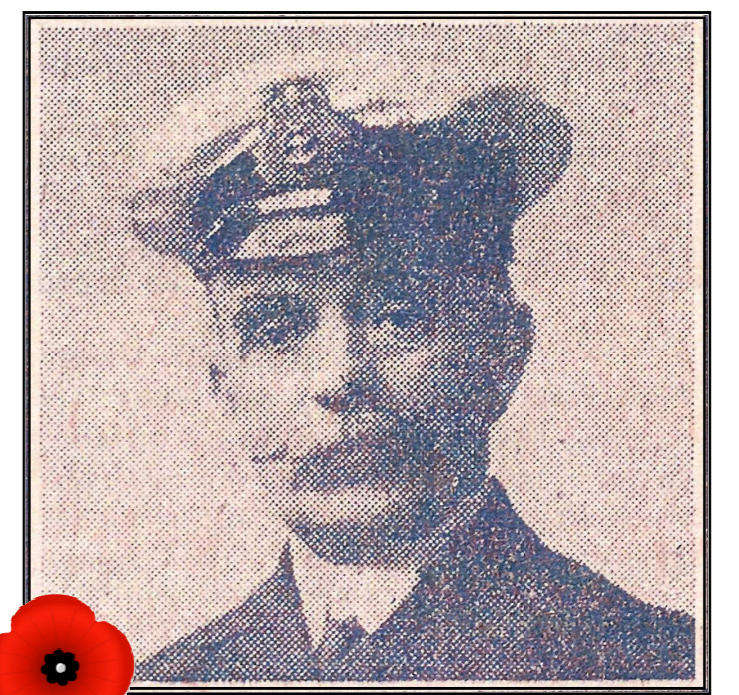
Peter joined the Royal Naval Reserves as a Warrant Engineer in 1905 and was involved in quelling the Singapore Mutiny at the start of the war.

In 1915 Peter joined the armoured cruiser HMS Hampshire. On the 5th June 1916 the HMS Hampshire was carrying Lord Kitchener, the Minister of War to Russia for a series of negotiations aimed at ensuring that the Russian forces would stay in the war.

Just as the ship left Scapa Flow it sailed into stormy weather and hit a mine laid by the German U-75. The ship went down between Marwick Head and the brough of Birsay, Field Marshall Kitchener, his staff, and 643 of the crew of 655 were drowned or died of exposure including Peter Fisken.

Peter was single and living with his parents James and Mary Fisken at 36 Stanley Street (now Luss Road), Govan. Peter was also survived by twin sister Janet and other siblings Polly, Catherine, Robert James and Anna.

Peter Fisken was posthumously awarded the British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1914-15 Star and is buried at Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Orkney.



Peter Fisken



John McDonald

On the 25th September 1915 the 5th Battalion Cameron Highlanders (*Lochiel's Camerons*) were attached the 9th (Scottish) Division.

It was start of "The Big Push", the first day of "The Battle of Loos", the largest British offensive mounted in 1915 and the first time the British had used poison gas.

The 5th Battalion waited as gas released by the British drifted behind them and hung over the trenches then at 6.40am Lochiel's Camerons went "over the top" into "No Man's Land", their objective was to capture enemy positions 1300 yards in front of the British lines.

As the 5th Battalion moved across "No Man's Land" line after line of the men were mown down by German machine-gun positions still the men bravely pressed on and succeeded in their objectives, however the Camerons suffered horrendous losses, of the 800 men and 20 officers who went "over the top", only 2 officers and 70 men were left.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron of Lochiel who commanded the 5th Battalion that day said "To me, it was at once the saddest and the proudest day of my life. I do not suppose any Commanding Officer ever, in the annals of the British Army, had better or braver men to serve under him."

Private John McDonald aged 25 from Govan was one those brave men mown down that day. John a Dock Labourer at Glasgow Harbour enlisted with 5th Battalion Cameron Highlanders in 1914. He was survived by his father Donald McDonald, 49 Govan Road, Govan.

Private John McDonald was posthumously awarded the British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1914-15 Star and is remembered on Panel 119 to 124 of the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos-en-Gohelle, France.



Mrs McNeill and Mr McNeill

Some Govan parents sacrificed more than one son in the war, parents like Neil McNeil and Mary McNeill (m.s. Maclean) who lived at 200 Brighton Street, with 4 sons and a son-in-law serving at the Western Front the anxiety must have almost been intolerable for Neil and Mary.

Their oldest son Private Archibald McNeill had worked with the shipping agents Donaldson & Co. Ltd. at Plantation Quay and enlisted with the Gordon Highlanders at the start of the war.

Another son Private Alex McNeill enlisted with 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry in August 1914 and was employed at Fairfield Shipbuilding Yard beforehand.

Their daughter Sarah's husband Private Hamilton McDiarmid a dock labourer was serving with 5th Battalion Cameron Highlanders (Lochiel's Camerons). Archibald, Alex and Hamilton were among the "lucky" one to come home.



Archibald McNeill

Alex McNeill

H. McDiarmid

Unfortunately two of Neil and Mary's sons never came home from the Western Front:



Donald McNeill

Neil McNeill

Private Donald McNeill of 2nd Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) was employed at Plantation Quay, as a reservist he was called up at the outbreak of war, he saw action at "The Battle of Neuve Chapelle" and "The Battle of Aubers" before being killed on the 15th March 1916.

Private Donald McNeill was posthumously awarded the British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1914 Star and is buried at Sully-sur-la-Lys Cemetery, France.

Private Neil McNeill was born in Govan in 1891, at the outbreak of war he enlisted with the 16th (Service) Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry, often known as the Glasgow Boys Brigade Battalion with many recruits coming from the Boys Brigade. Neil was killed on the first day of "The Battle of Albert" on 1st July 1916, this battle was the opening phase and the very first day of "The Battle of the Somme".

Private Neil McNeill was posthumously awarded the British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1914-15 Star and is remembered on the Thiépval Memorial, France.