# A Walk Around Campsie Cemetery Commonwealth Graves

Produced by Campsie Local History Group

The maps, credit EDC, on the following pages will hopefully help you find your way to the 15 Commonwealth Graves to be found in Campsie Cemetery.

These are the men who are buried here. Their stories are listed by the war they died in.

			Campsie Main Cemetery	East Extension
First Name	Surname	War	Grave Ref.	Grave
Thomas	Convery	1	395	
John	Mooney	1	407	
William	Britton	1	426	
William	Hamilton	1	503	
Peter	McGechian	1	641	
Denis	McKeiffrey	1	644	
Peter	Quinn	1	694	
William	Kincaid	1	702	
Hugh	Dinning	2	847	
Matthew	Gray	1	986	
Gerd	Hansmann	2		13
James	Finlay	2		41
James	Summers	2		438
William Dickson	King	2		475
Thomas Samuel	Connell	2		504

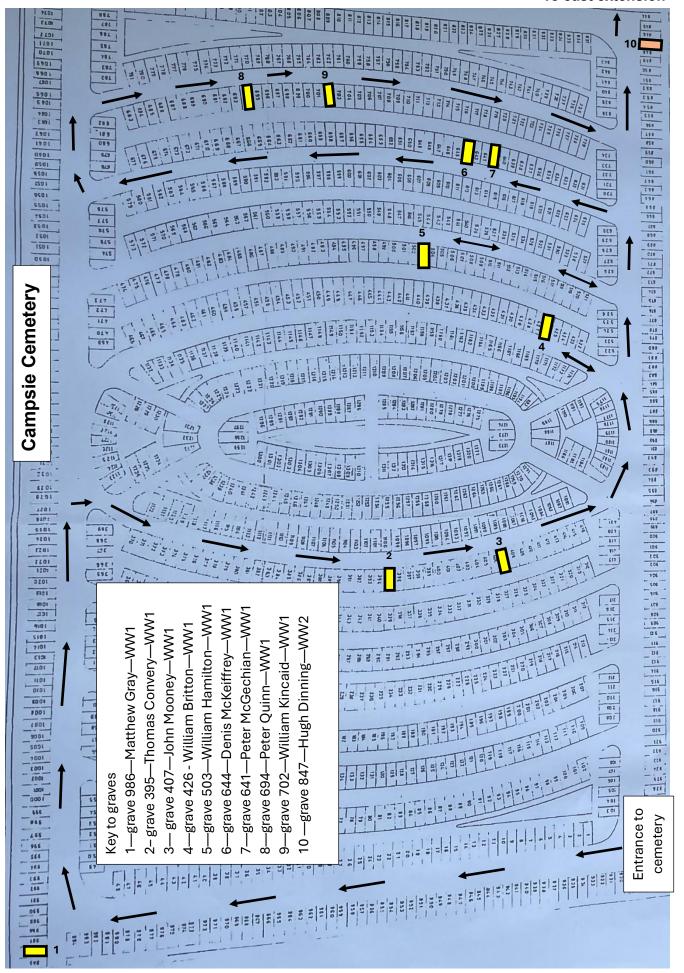
All of the WW1 casualties are buried in the Main Campsie Cemetery.

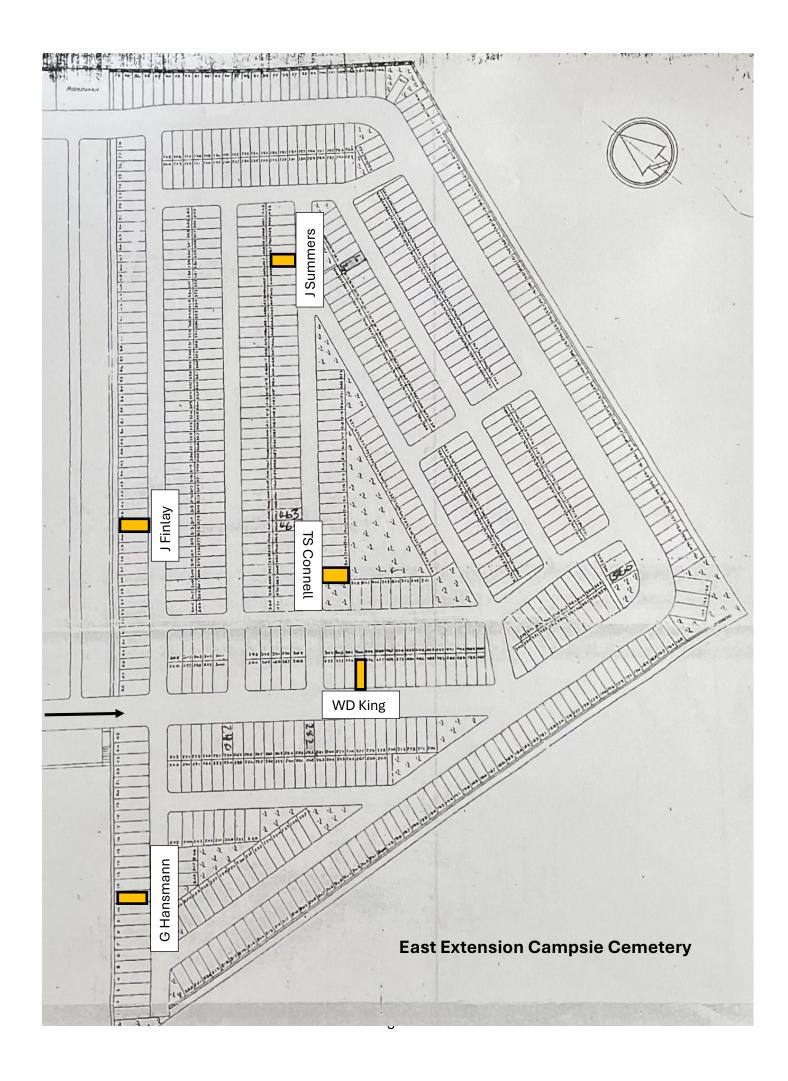
All of the WW2 casualties, except for Hugh Dinning, are buried in the East Extension Cemetery.

#### Please stay on the paths and do not lean on any gravestones

In Campsie Cemetery we have used arrows to indicate a recommended route around all the commonwealth graves.









# (1) Matthew Gray Service number: TR1/10477

Matthew was born, illegitimate, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1899 at 10 Eaglesham Street, Govan, Glasgow. His parents were Matthew Gray, seed merchant, and Catherine Chalmers. His parents rectified the situation by marrying on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1900 in Blythswood, Glasgow. There is an RCE attached to his birth record confirming this.

They moved into Bute Villa, Milton of Campsie following their marriage and a daughter, Janet, was born there in 1902.

On leaving school, Matthew followed his father into the seed business.

He was called up and enlisted in the Gordon Highlanders on the  $2^{nd}$  of July 1917 aged 18 and one month. He was described as being only 5' 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall and a seedsman. He was posted into the  $40^{th}$  Training Reserve Battalion as a private. While he was certified medically fit for active service on enlistment, concerns were obviously raised later.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1918 we find him in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Folkstone West Cliff Canadian Eye and Ear Hospital having his hearing tested. A slight hearing defect was detected which had not been caused by service. He was certified as being fit for overseas duty.

By the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 1918 he was found not likely to ever be fit for active service, no reason for this was given, – he was posted to the training reserve battalion (Home Defence)

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 1918 he was transferred back to the 40<sup>th</sup> training reserve battalion then into the 52<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion.

He became ill with flu at the beginning of November 1918 and was admitted to the military hospital. When his condition worsened, he was transferred to Colchester General Hospital.

He died in the General Hospital, Colchester on the  $22^{nd}$  of November 1918 of flu & pneumonia. He was 19 years old.

He was brought home and buried in Campsie Cemetery Grave 986.

Matthew is buried with his father, Matthew, mother, Catherine and three of his aunts, Jane, Mary and Sarah.



#### (2) Thomas Convery

Service number: S/5846

Thomas Convery was born on the 27th of September 1887 in Main Street, Lennoxtown.

His parents were James Convery, a shoemaker, and Mary Ward They had married in 1867 in Neilston, Glasgow.

They had seven children: Mary, Catherine, Michael, Sophia, Agnes, James & Thomas

Thomas played football for the Minerva team before signing up and he worked as a coal miner.

He signed up at Stirling with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders soon after war started. He was posted into the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion as a private.

He spent the first few months of his service in barracks in the United Kingdom. He was initially moved from Stirling to Codford St Mary and then onto Bristol in November 1914. This would have formed part of his initial training.

His next posting was to Sutton Veny, Wiltshire in April 1915 in preparation of being deployed into active service overseas.

He was deployed to France as part of British Expeditionary Force and landed in Boulogne on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1915. He was then redeployed to Salonika, Greece in November 1915 and saw significant action, particularly in the Salonika Campaign (Macedonian Front). He spent most of 1916 and 1917 in Macedonia. The Macedonian Front was a secondary theatre of war fought by the allied troops to aid Serbia against the combined forces of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria.

Towards the end of 1917 Thomas contracted tuberculosis and was shipped home and hospitalised.

He was discharged from the army as medically unfit on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1918. The army did accept that he had contracted the disease while on active service and awarded him a pension.

He died of tuberculosis on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 1921 at his sister Agnes' home in Main Street, Lennoxtown. He was 33 years old.

He was buried in Campsie Cemetery Grave 395.

Thomas is buried with his father James, his sister Sophia and his brother James.



# (3) John Mooney Service number: 65472

John was born in 1893 in Muckcroft Buildings, Lennoxtown. His parents were Richard Mooney, a fireman in the calico works, and Mary Kenney. They had married in 1884 in Campsie.

They had eight children: Ellen, Sarah, Mary, John, Bridget, Thomas, Lavinia and Richard.

When war broke out, John was already a member of the territorial 7<sup>th</sup> Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and he was mobilised almost immediately, along with the rest of his regiment, to Bedford in preparation for deployment to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force.

A medical before they embarked for France determined that John was not physically fit for active duty overseas. When his regiment embarked overseas John was transferred into the Home Defence Battalion of the York and Lancashire Regiment of the Prince of Wales Volunteer Force.

Being retained on home turf meant that John got regular home leave. He seems to have made it home every six months.

In May 1918, John became seriously ill and was admitted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Western General Hospital in Manchester. His parents were sent for and they rushed to Manchester and stayed by his side until he started to improve.

A week later he suffered a relapse and by the time his mother reached his side she was too late.

John died of pneumonia on the 4th of June 1918 aged 25.

He was brought home for burial and his funeral was a large one with emblematic flowers from his regiment and a wreath from the hospital staff.

He was buried in Campsie Cemetery Grave 407.



### (4) William Britton Service number: 51149

William was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 1888 in Quarry Lane, Lennoxtown.

His parents were Henry Britton, a printwork machine engraver, and Agnes Allan. They had married on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1886 in Greenock.

They had five children: James (1887), William (1888), Harry (1890), Mary (1893) & Archie (1896)

His mother, Agnes, died in 1899 aged 39 when William was 11. Unlike many men in that situation, his father, Henry, kept his family together and raised them himself.

When William left school, he became an apprentice joiner.

He joined the regular army in 1908, aged 20. There is a bit of confusion in his records, he may have changed his mind or the army may have changed it for him. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1908 he enlisted in the Royal Engineers as a sapper but by the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 1908 he was transferred to the Royal Horse Artillery with a note to ensure that his short time with the engineers would transfer over onto his length of service.

He served with the Northern Battery Royal Horse artillery as a gunner and was posted to India where he served until the outbreak of war.

His father, Henry, died in 1910 aged 49. William was 22 and stationed in India.

William became part of the British Expeditionary Force in France on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 1914 and then the Mediterranean Force in Gallipoli from the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1915 where he received a gunshot wound in the back on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1915. He recovered from this and was posted back to duty.

In April 1917 he was back in hospital with suspected pleurisy but unfortunately tuberculosis was diagnosed.

He was given a medical discharge from the army on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1917. He was initially sent to hospital in Bristol but was then transferred to Glasgow as his condition worsened.

William died of tuberculosis in Knightswood Hospital in Glasgow, aged 27 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1917.

He was buried in Campsie Cemetery Grave 426.



#### (5) William Hamilton

Service number: 4862

William Hamilton was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1895 in the Gorbals, Glasgow. His parents were Joseph Hamilton, a featherwork gatekeeper, and Mary Ann Anderson. Joseph had been born in Lennoxtown in 1861. They had married on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 1889 in Dennistoun, Glasgow

Their children proved difficult to trace but on the 1901 census the children listed were, James, Martha, William, Jeannie and Harry.

On leaving school, William joined the Royal Navy and, on the completion of his tour of duty, he ended up in Australia where he worked as a blacksmith.

He reenlisted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1915 at Enogerra, Queensland, Australia.

His attestation form lists him as being 19 years and 11 months old, working as a blacksmith and the fact that he had previously been in the Royal Navy. William had obviously had enough of the navy as he enlisted into the Australian Engineers. He was posted into the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion as a driver.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 1915 he was transferred from the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Signal Company. This was his call to active duty. He served in Heliopolis, Malta, Egypt Giza, Abasia and Tel-El-Kabir.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1916 he embarked from Alexandria on SS Briton for overseas but ended up in hospital in England instead.

He was admitted to Tidworth Hospital on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1916 with flu-like symptoms but recovered quickly and was released on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. This may have been a warning that he had picked up something more sinister in foreign climes.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July he was admitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scottish General War Hospital, Glasow (Stobhill) with Gastro Enteritis. His condition continued to deteriorate.

He died ten days later on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 1916. He was 21 years old.

His mother organised a private funeral for her son in Campsie Cemetery. Now this may seem a strange thing for a woman born and bred in Govan to do but his father had been born in Lennoxtown and the family still resided there, so she was, in many ways, taking him home.

He was buried in Campsie Cemetery Grave 503.



# (6) Denis McKeiffrey Se

Service number: S/7281

Denis was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1895 in Main Street, Lennoxtown.

His parents were Daniel McKeiffrey, coal miner, and Marion Shovlin. They had married on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1891 in Lennoxtown.

They had two children: Denis and Susan.

Denis enlisted in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and was posted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion eventually reaching the rank of Lance Corporal. He is reported to be in training from the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 1915 and posted into action on the Western Front on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 1915.

He was wounded in action on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 1916 when he was shot by a sniper. He received a gunshot wound to his spine which left him paralysed. Reports state that the bullet entered his back just below the shoulder.

He was transferred from the clearing station to hospital in London on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1916 and then to Ralston Hospital near Paisley.

He was discharged from the army on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1916 as medically unfit. He received an army pension as his paralysis was a direct consequence of being in action.

His father died on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 1916 at his home on Main Street, just two months after Denis was discharged.

Denis eventually died as a result of his wounds. The cause of death on his death certificate was given as paraplegia from gunshot wounds to spine and septicaemia.

He died on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 1918 in Renton Hospital near Paisley. He was 23.

He was buried in Campsie Cemetery Grave 644.



#### (7) Peter McGechian M.M. Service number: 275775

Peter was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 1892 at Strathblane. (The spelling of his surname at this time was McGeehin.)

His parents were Patrick McGeehin and Catherine Carroll. They had married on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1891 at Strathblane

They had two children: Peter and Mary Ellen.

Peter's father seemed to desert his family as Catherine takes the children to stay with her parents in Lennoxtown. This is a permanent move but Catherine continued to record herself as married rather than widowed on censuses, indicating that her husband was still alive.

After leaving school, Peter became a labourer in the printworks then a surfaceman on the railways. He played football for the Minerva and was a member of the local TA.

As a member of the TA he was called to active service as soon as war broke out. He served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders as a private.

He was deployed to Flanders with the British Expeditionary Force and was badly wounded during the attack on Hill 60 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1915. He was shipped home to hospital in Woolwich and returned to duty on recovery.

He was awarded the Military Medal in February 1917 for rescuing wounded men from no-man's land under shellfire on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November 1916.

He was wounded again during the Battle of Ypres in September 1917. The wound was not severe enough to require hospitalisation but he was taken out of action into a rest camp.

1918 would have seen him fighting at Arras and Lys and into the Battles of the Hindenburg Line.

At some point, late in 1918, he was returned home to hospital suffering from flu. He died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scottish General Hospital, Edinburgh on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1918, He was 25.

He was buried in Campsie Cemetery Grave 641



#### (8) Peter Quinn

Service number: 11705

Peter was born, illegitimate, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1896 in Haughhead and there is no father mentioned on his birth certificate. His mother was Ann Quinn who died when Peter was only 9 years old.

He was then adopted by his mother's sister, Bridget, and her husband Patrick McGroarty.

Peter worked as a general labourer when he left school.

He enlisted in the Royal Scots aged 17 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1914 and served as a private. (He claimed to be 19 and seemed to have got off with this).

He was posted on active duty in France on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1914. He was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1915 only to be demoted to private again on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1915 due to misconduct. Sadly, there is no mention of what that misconduct was.

He suffered a gunshot wound to his left leg on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1915. This meant 35 days in hospital, initially in Netley then a transfer to Barnfield for convalescence. Once fully recovered, he returned to active duty in France.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1916 he was shot again, this time in his right arm, He was sent to Graylingwell War Hospital, Worcester and the injury healed well.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 1916, while still convalescing in Graylingwell, John started to spit blood and was diagnosed with the early stages of tuberculosis. Medics were initially optimistic of a cure and he was transferred first to Ruchhill Hospital, Glasgow then to Milnathort Sanitorium, Kinross. Sadly, his condition worsened.

He was given a medical discharge from the army on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1916.

He died at home on the 21st of March 1917, aged 20.

He was buried in Campsie Cemetery Grave 694.



### (9) William Kincaid

Service number: 203063

William was born on the 21st of January 1896 in Railway Buildings, Lennoxtown

His parents were William Kincaid, a railway carter, and Mary Kennedy They had married in 1889 in Lennoxtown.

They had eight children: Wilson, Robert, William, James, John, Kate, Janet & Mary.

On leaving school, William worked with the railways and was a railway porter at Lenzie Station at the time he enlisted.

He enlisted in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1915 aged 19. He was posted as a private but was placed on reserve in the 5<sup>th</sup> Reserve battalion on Home Defence for more than a year.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1917 he was mobilised and by the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, was on his way to France.

In France he was posted into the 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and went into action.

He was captured and taken as a prisoner of war on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1918 during the Battle of St Quenton on the Somme.

He was initially posted as missing and it took 6 weeks for confirmation to come through that he was a POW.

He was transported as a prisoner to Limburg in Germany and remained in German hands until the armistice. He was reported as being repatriated by the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1918 when he was posted to Greenock.

He was then posted back into the 5<sup>th</sup> Reserve on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1919 but became ill with flu soon after.

He was transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scottish General Hospital in Edinburgh where his condition deteriorated.

He died, aged 23, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1919 of pneumonia and heart failure.

He was buried in Campsie Cemetery Grave 702.

He is buried in the plot next to his parents.



# World War 2 Graves in the Cemetery

Hugh Dinning is the only WW2 combatant to be buried in Campsie Cemetery the remainder of the WW2 Commonwealth graves are located in the East Extension of the cemetery.

### (10) Hugh Dinning

#### Service number: 947896

Hugh was born at 7, Hayfield Street, Hutchesontown, Glasgow on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1918.

His parents were William Dinning, a carter, and Annie Crawford Murchie. They had married in Pollokshields, Glasgow on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1909.

They had five children: John (1909), William (1911), Margaret (1913), Lily (1914) and Hugh (1918). They were all born around the Glasgow area.

Hugh's mother died in 1921 when Hugh was only three. His father could not cope with the children on his own so Hugh was adopted by William and Elizabeth McMeekin and went to live in Milton of Campsie.

After Hugh left school, he worked first in Girling's and then as a pulp worker in the pulp works

He enlisted in the Royal Artillery where he served as a gunner in the 127<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment.

He saw action in El Agheila, Tripoli and Sicily.

Hugh developed cancer of the thyroid and he was transported home to Glasgow.

He died, aged 25, in the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 1943.

He was buried in Campsie Cemetery against the south wall Grave 847.

He is buried in the plot next to his adoptive parents.



#### Gerd Hansmann German Luftwaffe

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1941 the Junkers JU.88A-5 registration M2+CK took off from Dinard Airport, St. Malo in France. Its mission was to bomb the docks in Glasgow.

The aircraft was brought down by a Boulton Paul Defiant, night fighter which had been scrambled from RAF Prestwick. The pilot was Squadron Leader EC Wolfe, later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for the action, and Air Gunner Sergeant A Ashcroft of 141 Squadron. At 2 am on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May the German aircraft crashed into Blairskaith Muir, southwest of Lennoxtown.

Blairskaith Muir was the site of a "starfish" decoy town. These decoys had inflammable materials which, when set alight, were designed to resemble key targets which had already been hit in the hope that enemy bombers would drop their bombs on them believing they had reached their target.

The crew of four bailed out. Radio operator, Ernst Langanki, and air gunner, Willi Müller, suffered broken bones when they landed on Balmore Golf Course and were taken as prisoners of war.

Pilot, Werner Coenen, and observer, Gerd Hansmann, were not so lucky as their parachutes failed to open in time and they were both killed on impact.

Both Werner Coenen and Gerd Hansmann were buried with military honours in Campsie Cemetery, their coffins wrapped in Nazi flags. During the service the public were kept away by a police cordon and the local priest decried the use of the swastika in a Christian service.

Werner Coenen's remains were later exhumed and reburied at Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery in Staffordshire.

Gerd Hansmann's wife took the decision to let her husband rest in peace in the beautiful setting of Campsie.

Gerd is buried in the East Extension of Campsie Cemetery Grave 13.



#### Thomas Samuel Connell Service number: 1567790

Sammy, as he was known, was born at 41, Cowgate, Kirkintilloch on the 24th of June 1923.

His parents were Robert Connell, a colliery fireman, and Sarah Kilpatrick. They had married on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 1914 in Kirkintilloch.

They had 6 children: Sarah Wilson (1914), Robert (1915-1915), Marion Hill (1917), Margaret (1919), Robert (1920) and Thomas Samuel (1923).

On leaving school, Sammy worked for Barr and Stroud and was involved in various junior football teams. Prior to signing up he was a keen member of the Air Training Corps.

He enlisted in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1942 aged 19. He was assigned to 51 Squadron, Bomber Command and worked as a flight engineer, flying out of Snaith in Yorkshire and attained the rank of Sergeant.

Thomas was killed, aged 20, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1944 when the Handley Page Halifax III aircraft he was in crashed in Cowleaze Wood in the Chiltern Hills near Stokenchurch.

He was brought home to Campsie for burial.

He is buried in the East Extension of Campsie Cemetery Grave 504.

His brother, Robert, is commemorated at the foot of Sammy's gravestone

"His brother Robert was killed in Germany 26.4.1945 age 25. Beautiful memories forever."



Sammy is buried in the plot next to his parents.

#### William Dickson King

Service number: 7386409

William was born, illegitimate, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1919 at Glenmill Terrace, Campsie Glen. There is no father's name listed on his birth certificate. His mother was Jessie McAndrew King, a laundry worker living at Station Road, Lennoxtown.

Like many children born without a father, William was simply absorbed into his mother's family and was brought up by his grandparents.

His mother, Jessie, died of TB on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1940 in Camelon Hospital, Falkirk. William was 21.

William enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps with the rank of Private.

William died of tuberculosis and meningitis, aged 26, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1945 at Ochil Hills Sanatorium, Orwell, Kinross. He was 26 years old.

He was brought home to Campsie for burial.

He was buried in the East Extension of Campsie Cemetery Grave 475.

He is buried in a double plot which contains his grandfather, David, his grandmother, Annie, his mother, Jessie, his aunt, Janet and her husband Richard Bennie. Along with his CWGC gravestone he is also commemorated on the family one.





# James Finlay Service number: 2988616

James McIntosh McDonald Finlay was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 1889 at Reid Stewart's Row, Mackerton in Bothwell.

His parents were Hugh Finlay, a coal miner and Janet Simpson. They had married on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1886.

James (20), a coal miner, married Catherine Ferns (19) from Torrance in Chryston in 1910.

They moved to High Street in Kirkintilloch and stayed there for many years.

They had at least four children: Helen, Hugh, Thomas and William.

During WW1, James, as a coal miner, was exempt from service but chose to enlist in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and seems to have served throughout the conflict.

He returned to being a miner when he was demobbed.

The family moved to 30 Lennox Road, Lennoxtown at some point between 1935 and 1940.

By the outbreak of WW2, James was by then in his 50s but he chose to return to his old regiment and served, once again, as a private with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

He survived the conflict but his health was broken.

James was admitted to Erskine Hospital, Renfrew. He died there, aged 58, of chronic bronchitis, asthma and cardiac failure on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 1946. Aged 58

He was brought home to Campsie for Burial.

He was buried in the East Extension of Campsie Cemetery Grave 41.



#### James Summers

Service number: 2754004

James Summers was born on the 24th of July 1913 at 45 Carrick Street, Glasgow.

His parents were James Summers, a dock worker and Mary Anderson. They married on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 1908 in Anderston, Glasgow

They had four children: Jeannie (1909), Annie (1910), James (1913) and William (1914-1914).

James' mother, Mary, died of cardiac disease, aged 34, on the 8th of May 1920. James was only 7.

Their father, James, was not able to cope with working and raising the children on his own so they went to live with their widowed Aunt Jeanie.

James enlisted in the Black Watch and was posted to the 1st Battalion with the rank of private.

He married Ellen Park in Gairbraid Church, Maryhill on the 14th of December 1940.

James, transferred to the Pioneer Corps Took and took part in the Normandy D-Day Landings.

He survived the war and came home.

He died, aged 32, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 1945 in the Emergency Hospital, Lennoxtown.

His cause of death was given as acute lobar pneumonia and circulatory failure.

He was buried in the East Extension of Campsie Cemetery Grave 438.

