

Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945

Anderson James.

Born in St. Andrews. Son of Charles and Isabella Anderson (nee McGregor), of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Sergeant, Air Bomber, 1562994, 37 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 07/07/1944. Age 21. In July 1944, 37 Squadron was based at Tortorella in Italy, and shared the airfield with the United States Army Air Force. Sergeant Anderson was one of the crew of Wellington MF241 that took part in an operation to attack the Luftwaffe airfield at Feuersbrunn, west of Vienna. The aircraft crashed, killing the crew. They are buried in Klagenfurt War Cemetery, Austria, Collective Grave 8.C.11-15. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: FATHER, IN THY KEEPING WE LEAVE OUR DEAR ONE SLEEPING. Sergeant Anderson is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-45, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Anderson John Frederick.

Born 17/03/1914, at 33 Northland Drive, Scotstoun, Glasgow. Son of George Mason Anderson (Master Mariner), and Zulma Thirese Charlotte Anderson (nee Reyniers). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Died 02/12/1943. Age 29. John Frederick Anderson served in the Merchant Navy, and was the Third Officer on the *Fort Athabaska* when the ship was waiting to be unloaded in the southern Italian port of Bari. On the night of December 2nd 1943, German aircraft attacked Bari, and a number of ships were bombed in the overcrowded harbour. One of them, the U.S. Liberty Ship *John Harvey*, blew up. The authorities ashore were unaware that the *John Harvey* was carrying a secret cargo of bombs filled with mustard gas. The gas was released into the atmosphere and caused many casualties among both the merchant navy and military personnel, and the civilian population of the town. One of the eighteen ships that sank at Bari was the *Fort Athabaska*. Among those who died was Third Officer John Anderson. His body was not found for burial, and he is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-45, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Balsillie David Black.

Born 04/11/1911 at 7 Melbourne Place, St. Andrews. Son of Andrew and Betsy Balsillie (nee Black), of St. Andrews. Husband of Catherine Balsillie (nee Sinclair), of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Sergeant, 2752720, Black Watch, attached 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders. Died 21/06/1943. Age 31. In June 1943 in the Chin Hills of northern Burma, a patrol of 12 men of the 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, accompanied by a company of the 4/5th Mahratta Light Infantry, took part in an attack on a Japanese garrison of some 80 men. During the fighting two of the Seaforths were killed, Sergeant Balsillie and Private Fielding. They are buried in Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar (Burma), Joint Grave 16.F.9-10. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: RESTING WHERE NO SHADOWS FALL, IN PERFECT PEACE HE AWAITS US ALL. Sergeant Balsillie is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-45, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-45, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Bell David Westwood.

Born 07/01/1903 at 106 Market Street, St. Andrews. Son of George Bell (Coachman) and Margaret Ann Bell (nee Methven). Husband of Bessie Lyall Bell, of Leven, Fife. Lieutenant, 185655, Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Died at sea 10/05/1942. Age 39. Lieutenant Bell is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt, Column 83. He is also commemorated on the

Madras College War Memorial 1939-45, on the Parish of Scoonie War Memorial, Leven, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Black Ronald Thomas.

Born in Glasgow. Son of Robert and Jessie Brodie Black, of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Mess Room Boy, S. S. *Sourabaya* (Jersey), Merchant Navy. Died 27/10/1942. Age 15. On the night of the 27th October 1942, the German submarine U-436 fired four torpedoes at Convoy HX-212 sailing from New York to Liverpool. The third torpedo hit the *Sourabaya* which sank. Of those on board, 81 were picked up by other ships, while 77 died including Mess Boy Ronald Black. He was last seen in a waterlogged lifeboat that drifted away in the darkness during an attempted rescue by a Royal Navy corvette. He is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, Panel 99. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National Memorial Roll of Honour.

Brown Leslie Muir.

Born in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, in 1914. Son of the late Robert and Jessie Brown (nee Muir), of "Levendene", Kennedy Gardens, St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Second Lieutenant, 225869, General List, attached 1st (Perak) Battalion, Federated Malay States Volunteer Force. Died 22/07/1942. Age 28. Leslie Muir Brown was working as a planter on the Jawi Estate of the Penang Rubber Estates Company Ltd., when the Japanese invaded Malaya in December 1941. He was also serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st (Perak) Battalion of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force, and received training in the use of explosives at 101 Special Training School, Singapore. The school was run by Freddie Spencer-Chapman, and had as one of its main objectives the organization of parties to stay behind in areas that the Japanese might overrun. Leslie Brown became a member of a "stay behind party" that operated in Japanese held Malaya after the fall of Singapore in February 1942. He died in Seremban on the 22nd July 1942 having contracted malaria and dysentery. It is not certain whether he was still operating undercover, or had become a prisoner of the Japanese. Second Lieutenant Brown was originally buried in St Mary's Churchyard Seremban, before being re-buried after the war in Taiping War Cemetery, Malaysia, Grave 1.E.3. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: EVER REMEMBERED WITH LOVE AND PRIDE. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Caldwell James Clelland.

Born 17/05/1915 at 2 Rowan Villa, St. Mary's Street, St. Andrews. Son of John Clelland Caldwell (Teacher) and Margaret Caldwell (nee Bell). At the time of his death, his parents lived at 5 Greenside Place, St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews, and at the University of St. Andrews (M.A. 1936). Sergeant, 1116910, 51 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 30/09/1942. Age 27. In September 1942, 51 Squadron was based at R. A. F. Chivenor in Devon. Sergeant Caldwell was killed when Whitley Z9465 failed to return from an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay. He is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Panel 79. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the University of St. Andrews Roll of Honour 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Christie Frederick.

Born 08/07/1914 at "Rosyth", Largo Road St. Andrews. Son of Thomas Christie (Draper) and Jessie Christie (nee Mitchell). Married 21/04/1942 to Joan Lancaster in Whitby, Yorkshire.

Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Sergeant, 7892604, 2nd Battalion, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, Royal Armoured Corps. Died 26/06/1944. Age 29. The 11th Armoured Division was used for the first time in the Normandy Campaign during *Operation Epsom*. This was a major attack on the German held positions west of the town of Caen, and the Division was given the task of crossing the Orne and Odon rivers. The attack began on the 26th June, and some of the fiercest fighting occurred near the village of Cheux. The 2nd Battalion, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, lost 17 men on that day, including Sergeant Christie. He is buried in Bayeux War Cemetery, France, Grave XVI.D.21. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: DEEPLY LOVED AND SADLY MISSED. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Coulthard Donald.

He may be MacDonald Coulthard, born 13/07/1916 at 83 Magdalen Yard Road, Dundee. Son of Maxwell MacDonald Coulthard (Grocery Manager) and Caroline Chatty Smith Coulthard (nee Cole), married 23/11/1915 in St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews, where he was known as Donald Coulthard. His family emigrated to South Africa, and during the Second World War he served in the Rhodesian African Rifles. Sergeant Coulthard died on 30/04/1941, after being injured while playing rugby. He is buried in Harare Pioneer Cemetery, Zimbabwe, European War Graves Plot, Grave 28. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945.

Crichton Alexander Martin.

Alexander Martin Crichton, born 14/02/1914 in St. Andrews was a British resident in the Philippines when the Japanese invaded the country in December 1941. He enlisted in the United States Army, and was commissioned as a Lieutenant, Service Number O-2007431. By April 1942 the combined American-Filipino army had been defeated, and Alexander Crichton became a prisoner-of-war. He was held in the P.O.W. camp at Davao on the island of Mindanao. On the 7th September 1944, Lieutenant Crichton was one of the 750 prisoners-of-war being transported to Japan in the holds of the Japanese freighter *Shinyo Maru*. The *Shinyo Maru* was close to the coast of Mindanao when she was struck by two torpedoes from the American submarine USS *Paddle*. Most of the prisoners were killed by the explosions, or drowned as water poured into the holds. Those who managed to escape from below were machine-gunned by the Japanese guards as they tried to get onto the deck and into the sea. Only 82 of the prisoners-of-war reached the shore alive. Local Filipinos helped the survivors, and after remaining in hiding they were picked up by the American submarine USS *Narwhal* on the 27th October. Among the men who died in the sinking of the *Shinyo Maru* was First Lieutenant Alexander Crichton. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, and is commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing in the American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Philippines. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945.

Drysdale Thomas Andrew Hillock.

Born in St. Andrews in 1920. Son of Andrew and Margaret Drysdale (nee Gardener), of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Sergeant, Pilot, 999577, 107 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 30/06/1941. Age 21. On the 30th June 1941, seven Blenheim aircraft of 107 Squadron took off from R.A.F. Great Massingham in Norfolk to attack the seaplane base on the German island of Sylt. During the operation, Blenheim R3801, piloted by Sergeant Drysdale, was shot down and crashed into the sea. The crew of three were killed, and were initially buried in Westerland Cemetery, before being re-buried in the Kiel War Cemetery, Germany. Sergeant Drysdale is buried in Grave 3.G.6. The personal inscription on

his headstone reads: HE LIVES IN OUR HEARTS FOR EVER. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour. In 2012, students from Madras College visited his grave in Kiel.

Gordon Ramsay.

Born in Guardbridge. Son of David Gordon and Margaret Gordon (nee Ramsay), of Guardbridge. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Sergeant, 993200, Number 16 Operational Unit (O. T. U.), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 22/10/1941. Age 21. Sergeant Gordon was one of the crew of Hampden P5318 that took off from R. A. F. Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire on the night of the 22nd October 1941. The aircraft, which was on a training flight, crashed into high ground near the village of Bloxham, a few miles from its base. The crew of three were killed. Sergeant Gordon is buried in Leuchars Cemetery, Section Q, Grave 6M. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: THE LOVE THAT MAKES UNDAUNTED THE FINAL SACRIFICE. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Grogan Ronald Dick.

Born 12/03/ 1913 at 119 Alexander Street, Dundee. Son of Charles Henry Grogan (Grocer's Vansman) and Isabella Grogan (nee Dick). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Private 2762044, 1st Battalion, Black Watch. Died 01/08/1943. Age 30. The 1st Battalion Black Watch was one of the units of the 51st Highland Division that took part in the invasion of Sicily. Private Grogan died while his battalion was involved in the Battle for the Sferro Hills on the 31st July and 1st August 1943. He is buried in the Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Grave IV.G.29. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: A LIGHT IS FROM OUR HOUSEHOLD GONE: HE DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the Leuchars War Memorial, and on the City of Dundee Roll of Honour.

Hannay Richard Mills.

Born 1921 in the registration district of Leuchars. Son of John and Elizabeth Hannay (nee Bruce), of Guardbridge. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Private, 2701924, Scots Guards. Died 14/05/1944. Age 22. Buried Cassino War Cemetery, Italy, Grave III. K.7. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: YEARS GO BY, MEMORIES STAY AS NEAR AND DEAR AS YESTERDAY. Private Hannay is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the Leuchars War Memorial, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Hunter Angus Hall.

Born in St. Andrews. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hunter. Stepson of Christina Hunter, of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Ordinary Telegraphist, P/JX 578134, H. M. S. *Victory*, Royal Navy. Died 28/06/1944. Age 19. Ordinary Telegraphist Hunter died in St. Mary's Hospital Portsmouth after injuring himself in a fall from a lorry. He is buried in Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, Hampshire, Grave F.2.12. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: MAY THE SUNSHINE HE MISSED ON LIFE'S HIGHWAY BE FOUND IN GOD'S HAVEN OF REST. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Jack David Guthrie.

Born 1918 in the registration district of Logie, Fife. Son of Peter Christie Jack and Mary Young Jack (nee Young), of Greigston, Cupar. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Served as a

Territorial in the Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, and was also a member of the Home Guard. 3rd Radio Officer, M.V. *Atheltemplar*, Merchant Navy. Died 01/03/1941. Age 23. On the 1st March 1941, the oil tanker *Atheltemplar* was in the 26-ship Convoy EN 79 that departed from Methil bound for the Atlantic convoy marshalling area at Loch Ewe on the west coast of Scotland. With darkness falling, the convoy was attacked off the Aberdeenshire coast by German bombers. The *Atheltemplar* was struck on the navigation bridge by two bombs, and a fire swept through the vessel forcing the crew to abandon ship. Among the 12 men who died was 3rd Radio Officer David Guthrie Jack. His charred remains, along with those of three other officers, were buried in a war grave beside St. Andrews House in Edinburgh. He is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, and on a family memorial in Tayport Cemetery.

Lamond Robert Niven.

Born 27/04/1920 in St. Andrews. Son of William Lamond and Mary Young Ross Lamond (nee Ross), of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Sergeant, 998733, 209 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 08/09/1942. Age 22. In September 1942, 209 Squadron was operating from bases in the Comoro Islands in the Mozambique Channel of the Indian Ocean. Their Catalina aircraft provided maritime reconnaissance and convoy escort cover, in addition to searching for hostile submarines and surface ships. Sergeant Lamond died when Catalina VA713 crashed on take-off, killing all on board. He is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt, Column 261. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Lawrence John.

Born 18/06/1914 at the Schoolhouse, Cameron, Fife. Son of Robert Lawrence (Schoolmaster) and Ellen Margaret Lawrence (nee Philp). Husband of Joan Lawrence, of Thrapston, Northamptonshire. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Lieutenant, 245388, Royal Armoured Corps. Died 24/06/1945. Age 31. Lieutenant Lawrence died after fracturing his skull in an accident. He is buried in Padua War Cemetery, Italy, Grave III. A.2. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING WE WILL REMEMBER HIM. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Lenahan John Desmond.

Born 1920 in Ferry-Port-On-Craig (Tayport), Fife. Son of John Martin Lenahan and Sarah Edith Lenahan (nee Dent). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. At the time of his death, his parents were living in Hayes, Kent.

Pilot Officer Lenahan joined the Royal Air Force on a short service commission in August 1938, his first posting being to 263 Squadron. On the 1st June 1940 he was posted to 607 Squadron at RAF Usworth in County Durham, and as the Battle of Britain intensified, the Squadron was transferred to RAF Tangmere in Sussex, from where its Hawker Hurricane fighters defended London and other targets in Southern England. At about 5 pm on Monday 9th September, a force of over 300 German aircraft crossed the south coast of England. They were on course to fly up the Thames estuary to bomb London for the second successive night. Twenty-four squadrons of the Royal Air Force were ordered to intercept the raid. At 5:30 pm, Hurricanes of 607 Squadron made their first contact with the Luftwaffe over Mayfield in Kent. Squadron Leader James Vick was leading the patrol of twelve aircraft at 17,000 feet, and reported that he could see between 60 and 70 German bombers flying north in several formations. As the squadron turned to attack the bombers, a force of between 40 and 50 Messerschmitt Bf109 fighters dived at them from

19,000 feet. Blue Section was ordered to attack the bombers from underneath with Green Section carrying out a rearguard action, whilst Red and Yellow Sections were to attack the fighters. During the ensuing dogfights Pilot Officer Lenahan's Hurricane P3117 was shot down, and crashed at Cranbrook in Kent. He was aged 20.

(Information courtesy of Edward McManus, The Battle of Britain London Monument www.bbm.org)

Pilot Officer Lenahan, 41302, 607 Squadron, Royal Air Force, is buried in Cranbrook Cemetery, Kent, Section O. Grave 58. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: ALWAYS LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY MOTHER, DAPHNE AND TONY ALSO HIS MOTHER SARAH EDITH 26TH JUNE 1979 AGE 87. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the Tayport War Memorial, on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour, on the Battle of Britain Monument London, and on the National Monument To The Few Capel-le-Ferne.

Lorimer Alexander McPhee Dorward.

Born 22/07/1909 at Ellenwille Lodge, Camphill, Broughty Ferry. Son of George Dorward Lorimer (Yarn Bleacher) and Margaret Lorimer (nee McPhee). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Gunner, 14357530, 141st (The Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 09/07/1943. Age 33. On the 9th July 1943, ten German aircraft crossed the Sussex coast at Hastings and headed for London. At 5.05 pm the air raid sirens sounded in East Grinstead, where 184 people were watching a film in the Whitehall Cinema. A warning appeared on the screen that an air raid was taking place, but few of the audience left the cinema. At 5.10 pm one of the German aircraft circled the town twice before dropping its bombs. One bomb hit the Whitehall Cinema causing the roof to collapse, and other bombs landed on several shops in the High Street and London Road. As a result, 108 people were killed and 235 were seriously injured. It was the largest loss of life during any air raid in Sussex. Among those who died was Gunner Alexander Lorimer. He is buried in Boarhills Churchyard, Fife, Grave 37. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the City of Dundee Roll of Honour 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial.

Lorimer Douglas Gordon

Born 30/09/1918 at Kenly Green Lodge, Kingsbarns. Son of George Dorward Lorimer (Gardener) and Margaret Lorimer (nee McPhee). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Private 2758992, 7th (Fife) Battalion, Black Watch. Died 23-24/10/1942. Age 24. On the 23rd October 1942, over 800 guns began firing at the German positions along the entire 40 mile front at El Alamein in Egypt. After twenty minutes of heavy general bombardment, the guns switched to precision targets in support of the advancing infantry units, which included the 7th Battalion Black Watch. Among the battalion's casualties was Private Douglas Gordon Lorimer. He is buried in the El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt, Grave IX.A.1A. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: UNITE US IN THE SACRED LOVE OF KNOWLEDGE, TRUTH AND THEE; LET HILLS AND VALLEYS SHOUT THE SONGS OF LIBERTY. He is not commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-45, although his War Service Card is held in the Madras College Archives. He is however commemorated on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Low James Hay Robertson.

Born 10/06/1915 at 11 College Street, St. Andrews. Son of James and Jessie Low (nee Mackey or Laing). Educated at Madras College. Lance Corporal, 555557, 2nd Battalion, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, Royal Armoured Corps. Died 26/06/1944. Age 29. The 11th Armoured Division was used for the first time in the Normandy Campaign during *Operation Epsom*. This was a

major attack on the German held positions west of the town of Caen, and the Division was given the task of crossing the Orne and Odon rivers. The attack began on the 26th June, and some of the fiercest fighting occurred near the village of Cheux. The 2nd Battalion, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, lost 17 men on that day, including Lance Corporal Low. He is buried in St. Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, France, Grave X.D.5. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial 1939-1945.

McCabe Lewis William Jenkins.

Born 1921 in the registration district of Kelty. Son of John Donaldson McCabe and Helen Victoria McCabe (nee Jenkins). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews, and at the University of St. Andrews (Harkness Scholar 1940. Home address: 61 Centre Street, Kelty, Fife). Sergeant, 998690, 148 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 14/09/1941. Age 20. On the 14th September 1941, Sergeant McCabe was a member of the crew of Wellington Z8724 that was on an operation from the airfield at Fuka on the Egyptian coast to Benghazi in Libya. During take off the Wellington hit a dispersal pen and crashed 600 yards from the airfield, killing all on board. Sergeant McCabe is buried in El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt, Grave XXIX.E.14. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: IN LIFE ONE OF THE FINEST IN DEATH ONE OF THE BRAVE. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the University of St. Andrews Roll of Honour 1939-1945, on the Kelty War Memorial, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

McLean John.

Born in St. Andrews. Son of John McLean and Agnes McLean, of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Sergeant, 523836, 37 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Died 01/06/1940. Age 24. Sergeant McLean was the pilot of Wellington P9288 that took off from R.A.F. Feltwell in Norfolk at 01:00 hours on the 1st June 1940. At that time the British Expeditionary Force was being evacuated from Dunkirk, and the Wellington's target was a German position at Nieupoort (Nieuwpoort) on the Belgium coast. The aircraft failed to return, and no trace of it was found. Sergeant McLean is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Panel 17. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-45, on the Dunino War Memorial, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

McPetrie David Duncan.

Born 1913 in Keith. Son of James Duncan McPetrie, headmaster of Madras College (1923 - 1941), and Elizabeth McPetrie. Husband of Clotilde McPetrie (nee Hain), of Ipswich, Suffolk. Educated at Madras College, and at the University of St. Andrews (Dental Student, 1934-38). Squadron Leader, 39548, 269 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Died 06/03/1944. Age 31. In March 1944, 269 Squadron was based at R. A. F. Davidstow Moor in Cornwall, and a detachment was posted to Lagens Airfield on Terceira in the Azores. Six Lockheed Hudsons were due to fly to Lagens via Gibraltar, but the aircraft piloted by Squadron Leader McPetrie became unserviceable, and had to depart on its own after the others had already left. The five Hudsons arrived safely at Gibraltar, and after a stopover they continued to Lagens. The Hudson, FK 791, of Squadron Leader McPetrie failed to arrive at Gibraltar, and it was later established that following engine failure the aircraft crashed near Ermida in Portugal. Only Warrant Officer Potwalka managed to escape by parachute before the crash, while the bodies of the other three crew members were found with the wreckage. They are buried in Oporto (St. James) British Churchyard, Portugal, Plot 1. Collective Grave 567. The personal inscription on Squadron Leader McPetrie's headstone reads: GREATLY LOVED BY HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN REMEMBERING HIM, WE WILL BE BRAVE & STRONG. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, on the University of St.

Andrews Roll of Honour 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour. In 2024 a memorial to the crew of Hudson FK791 was erected in Ermida.

Mitchell John Morgan.

Born in Aberdeen. Son of John and Mary Mitchell (nee Morgan), of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, where he was known as Ian Mitchell. Sergeant, Pilot, 1060947, 94 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 11/02/1942. Age 21. Sergeant Mitchell died when his Kittyhawk AK676 crashed near Landing Ground 110 at Sidi Barani in Egypt. He is buried in Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt, Grave 7.F.6. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: ON EAGLES' WINGS THEY MOUNT, THEY SOAR, THEIR WINGS ARE FAITH AND LOVE. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial.

Mitchell Robert McGregor.

Born 14/10/1913 at 50 East Hamilton Street, Greenock. Son of Robert Mitchell (Drapery Traveller) and Jane Burgess Mitchell (nee McGregor). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Jane Mitchell died in 1925 in St. Andrews, and Robert Mitchell married Annabella Duncan in 1926 in Dundee. On 16/10/1937, Robert McGregor Mitchell, aged 24, of 42 South Street, St. Andrews, (Journalist), married Janet Salton Brown (Domestic Cook) in Methilhill, Wemyss. Leading Aircraftman, 1123808, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 05/02/1945. Age 31. Robert Mitchell died at Stracathro Hospital, Angus, following a spinal injury while playing football. He is buried in St. Andrews Western Cemetery, Section G. Grave 468. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the City of Dundee Roll of Honour 1939-1945.

Morrison Kenneth Percival.

Born 10/12/1916 in Back Lebanon, Cupar. Son of John Morrison (Chief Boatswain, Royal Navy) and Isabella Morrison (nee Roberstson). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews, and at the University of St. Andrews (M.B., Ch.B., 1940. Home address: 22 Hazel Drive, Dundee). In 1941 he married Mary Pratt Clark in Lochee, Dundee. Captain, 225747, Royal Army Medical Corps. Died 14/08/1943. Age 26. Captain Morrison died on active service in West Africa. He is buried in Yaba Cemetery, Nigeria, Plot 4. Row E. Grave 3. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the University of St. Andrews Roll of Honour 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Niven James.

Born in Fife. Son of David Pearson and Jessie Niven (nee Robertson), of Crail, Fife. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Extra-mural Cadet, Senior Training Corps, University of St. Andrews. Lieutenant, 316644, 7th Battalion, Black Watch. Died 25/03/1945. Age 27. The 7th Battalion, Black Watch, was the first British unit to cross the River Rhine on the 23rd March 1945. Two days later it was given the task of seizing the bridge at Empel. Lieutenant Niven was one of 12 men of the battalion who died during the operation that prevented the Germans from demolishing the bridge. He is buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany, Grave 60.D.18. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: LOVED AND REMEMBERED ALWAYS. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, on the University of St. Andrews Roll of Honour 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Rae James Wood.

Born 24/04/1914 at Peveril Place, Lochore. Son of Robert Rae (Journeyman Plumber) and Helen Rae (nee Wood). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Flying Officer, 42885, 120 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Died 10/12/1941. Age 27. Flying Officer Rae was one of the crew of Liberator OH-F (AM926) that took off from R.A.F. Dyce near Aberdeen on the 10th December 1941. The aircraft was on a flight to its base at Nutts Corner in Northern Ireland when it crashed, at about 18:30 hours, on Tarmangie Hill near Alva in Clackmannanshire. The crew of five were killed. Pilot Officer Rae is buried in St. Andrews Western Cemetery, Section E. Grave 25D. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945.

Rennie James Campbell M.C.

Born 28/08/1922 in Leuchars. Son of John Rennie (Railway Signalman) and Isabella Mitchell Rennie (nee Loudon). Educated at Leuchars School and at Madras College, St. Andrews (1934-1939). James left school to become an apprentice in the Commercial Bank of Scotland, at the same time joining the University of St. Andrews Senior Training Corps as an Extra Mural Cadet. After being called up in 1942 he was commissioned into the Black Watch as Second Lieutenant, 247041, and in December of that year he was posted first to Egypt and then to Palestine for training in desert warfare. In March 1943 he joined the 7th Battalion, Black Watch in Tunisia, and in the following month he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. On the 10th July 1943, British and American forces landed in Sicily. The 7th Battalion, Black Watch, part of the 51st Highland Division, was one of the first units on shore. For most of July the Battalion met little resistance as it advanced, but on the night of the 31st July it took part in an attack on the Mizza Zoonello ridge in the Sferro Hills. During the fighting, all of the officers in "C" Company except James Rennie were killed, wounded, or captured. James took command and re-grouped the platoons before leading a patrol, which after heavy hand-to-hand fighting made contact with the other leading company. He was then able to give Battalion H.Q. a report of the situation on the ridge, and in the Battalion's subsequent attack, the Germans were forced to abandon the position. For "*outstanding coolness and courage under the most difficult and confused conditions*", Lieutenant James Rennie was awarded the Military Cross. In February 1944, James had his first home leave since 1942. In addition to seeing his family, he was invited by the directors of the Commercial Bank to a lunch in Edinburgh. There then followed a period of intensive training as the 51st Highland Division prepared for the Allied invasion of Normandy. The 7th Battalion, Black Watch landed in France on the 10th June 1944 and spent the first week behind the lines at Anguerny. On the 18th June the Battalion took up front-line positions on a ridge called the Bois de Bavent, in the small bridgehead to the east of the Orne Canal. In this wooded country the advanced posts in slit-trenches were not far from the enemy, and artillery and mortar fire caused casualties every day. During a 21-day period, the 7th Battalion, Black Watch lost 2 officers and 80 other ranks killed, and 4 officers and 28 other ranks wounded. On the 23rd June, James Rennie was promoted to the rank of acting Captain, and became the second-in-command of the company that was then holding the most forward position. On the following day the company was under heavy attack until late in the evening, when desperately needed ammunition was delivered by a Bren Gun carrier. After supervising the distribution of the ammunition, James Rennie was sent by Major David Russell to Battalion H.Q. so that he could report on the situation. He travelled back in the carrier with the most seriously wounded, who were being evacuated to the Casualty Clearing Station. As he was leaving the Command Post after making his report, an artillery shell exploded on the nearby track killing him instantly. Captain James Rennie is buried in Ranville War Cemetery, France, Grave IIIF.24. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-45, on the Leuchars War Memorial, on the Commercial Bank of Scotland

Roll of Honour, on the University of St. Andrews Roll of Honour 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

(Courtesy of Archie Rennie, the brother of James Campbell Rennie)

Scott Robert Buist.

His parents, Robert Scott (Grocer) and Isabella Morrison Millar Buist (Domestic Servant) were married on 8/12/1910 at Moonzie Cottar Houses in the Parish of Moonzie. Both of them lived in Cupar at the time. In the 1911 Census, they are living at 8 Crossgate, Cupar. Robert Buist Scott was born circa 1915. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. He married Margaret Ford Douglas on 30/01/1941 at the Church of Christ, Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh. Both of them lived in Dunfermline at the time. Sergeant, 995063, 83 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 01/09/1941. Age 26. Sergeant Scott was one of the crew of Hampden AE187 (OL-L) that took off from R.A.F. Scampton, Lincolnshire, at 20:15 hours on the 31st August 1941. The aircraft was on an operation to Cologne in Germany, and was shot down and crashed at Deurne in the Netherlands. The crew of four were killed and are buried in Eindhoven (Woensel) General Cemetery, Netherlands, Plot JJ. Collective Grave 33-34. The personal inscription on Sergeant Scott's headstone reads: AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING I SHALL REMEMBER YOU. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945.

Simpson Ronald Marshall.

Born 30/12/1916 in Dundee. Son of John Simpson and Helen Simpson (nee Fraser). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews, before becoming a baker and confectioner. He was serving as an Aircraftsman in the Royal Air Force when he married Agnes Morris Salmond on 01/10/1940 at the Parish Church, Methil. His home address at the time was 41 Woodburn Terrace, St. Andrews. Pilot Officer, Navigator, 182404, 102 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 25/07/1944. Age 27. Pilot Officer Simpson was one of the crew of Halifax LL552 (DY-X), that took off from R.A.F. Pocklington, Lincolnshire, at 21:30 hours on the 24th July 1944. The aircraft was on an operation to Stuttgart in Germany, and crashed at Piencourt, north-west of Bernay in France. Pilot Officer Simpson is buried in a Collective Grave in Piencourt Churchyard, France. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945.

Small John

Born 24/03/1911, at Kilmany Farmhouse, Scoonie, Fife. Son of Robert Small (Farmer) and Jessie Small (nee Wilson). Husband of Kathleen Olive Small (nee Parker) whom he married in the registration district of Lincoln in Oct-Dec 1941. Her address at the time of his death was Weymouth, Dorset. Educated at Bell-Baxter School, Cupar, Fife and then at Madras College, St. Andrews, Fife. He entered Madras on 04/09/1922 at the age of 11, and left in June 1927 at the age of 16. Flight Lieutenant, 80149, 266 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 15/08/1943. Age 32. In August 1943, 266 Squadron was equipped with the Hawker Typhoon, operating from RAF Exeter, and providing fighter cover for daylight bombing raids on targets in occupied France. On the 15th of that month Flight Lieutenant Small was the pilot of Typhoon DN296 that took part in a "circus" operation designed to bring German fighters into combat over Brittany. During a dog-fight his aircraft was shot down by a Focke-Wulf Fw 190 fighter, and he was killed. He is buried in Le Folgoet Communal Cemetery, Brittany, France. Flight Lieutenant Small is not commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945. He is however commemorated on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour, and on the Weymouth War Memorial, Dorset.

Snodgrass David Nigel.

Born 13/06/1920 in East Kilbride Also known as David Revel Snodgrass. Son of Neil Smith Snodgrass and Annie Louise Snodgrass (nee Dick). At the time of his death, He and his parents were living at 13 Norwood, Newport-on-Tay. Educated at Dundee High School, and at Madras College, St. Andrews. After leaving school he became a junior reporter on the *Sunday Mail*, and at the outbreak of war he trained as a Merchant Navy Radio Officer. In July 1940 he was on his first voyage, serving on board the Liverpool registered *Davisian*. On the 10th July 1940, the *Davisian* was en route from Cardiff to the West Indies with a cargo of coal and chemicals, when she was sighted near Bermuda by the German Auxiliary Cruiser *Widder*. The *Widder*, disguised as the Swedish merchant ship *Narvik*, opened fire causing some casualties and bringing down the *Davisian's* wireless aerial. The crew of the *Davisian* were forced to lower the lifeboats and abandon ship. The survivors were picked up by the *Widder*, and 25 of them including David Snodgrass, were ordered to get back into one of the damaged lifeboats, and to set sail for the West Indies. For six days they continued on a south-westerly course, and with very little food and water left, made landfall on the island of Santo Domingo (The Dominican Republic), after 600 miles in an open boat. David Snodgrass returned to his job as a reporter, and an account of his experiences at sea was published in the *Sunday Mail* on the 27th October 1940. He died of natural causes in Edinburgh War Hospital, (Bangour Hospital), Broxburn, on the 4th June 1941, and his body was cremated at Dundee Crematorium. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Material 1939-1945, and on the Newport-on-Tay War Memorial.

Suttie Walter Robert Duncan.

Born 21/11/1914 in Lucklawhill, Leuchars. Son of George Suttie (Assistant Manager in a Jute Mill) and Margaret Suttie (nee Duncan). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Driver, T/127913, 3 Corps Petrol Park, Royal Army Service Corps. Died between 30/05/1940 and 02/06/1940. Age 25. Driver Suttie is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial, France, Column 139. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the Leuchars War Memorial, on the City of Dundee Roll of Honour, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Sword Robert.

Born 27/08/1915 in Leuchars Village. Son of Robert Aberdeen Sword (Piper, 4th Battalion Black Watch) and May Sword (nee Cormie). Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Pilot Officer, 49281, Number 10 Operational Training Unit, Royal Air Force. Died 17/12/1942. Age 27. On the 17th December 1942, Pilot Officer Sword was one of the crew of Whitley EB363 that took from R.A.F. St. Eval in Cornwall at 07.25 hours on an anti-submarine patrol. The aircraft failed to return. The bodies of three of the crew were found and buried in France, while Pilot Officer Sword and the two other crew-members are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Panel 71. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the Leuchars War Memorial, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Thom James Myles D.F.M.

Born 09/07/1913 in Guardbridge. Son of Robert and Catherine Thom (nee Myles), of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Sergeant, 1368871, 49 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 06/03/1943. Age 29. On the night of the 5th/6th March 1943, 8 Lancasters of 49 Squadron based at R. A. F. Fiskerton in Lincolnshire, took part in an operation to Essen in Germany. Lancaster ED431 failed to return, and is believed to have been shot down and crashed into the sea, west of the island of Texel. The crew of seven were killed, including Sergeant Thom. He is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Panel 167. He is

also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour. On the 18th May 1943, the *London Gazette* announced that “for gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations”, Sergeant James Myles Thom had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

Thomson William Stark.

Born in St. Andrews in 1920. Son of William and Magdalene Thomson (nee Fenton), of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. First Radio Officer, M. V. *Doryssa* (London), Merchant Navy. Died 25/04/1943. Age 23. On the 25th April 1943, the oil tanker *Doryssa* was torpedoed by the Italian submarine *Leonardo da Vinci*, 250 miles south-east of Cape Agulhas, South Africa. First Radio Officer Thomson was one of the 53 on board who died during the attack. He is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, Panel 36. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Watson James Law.

Born in Fife in 1922. Son of Alex and Agnes Watson (nee Law), of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Lance Sergeant, 7890315, 2nd Battalion, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, Royal Armoured Corps. Died 18/07/1944. Age 22. On the 18th July 1944 *Operation Goodwood* began. This was part of the offensive designed to capture the German-held town of Caen and the surrounding area in Normandy. It became one of the largest tank battles that the British Army fought during the Second World War. As the 2nd Battalion, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry advanced past the village of Cagny south-east of Caen, their Sherman tanks came under heavy anti-tank fire from the east, and within a few minutes at least twelve were disabled. The Yeomanry pressed their advance south, and were then engaged by the main German gun line positioned on a ridge. 31 men of the 2nd Battalion, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, died on that day, including Lance Sergeant Watson. He is commemorated on the Bayeux Memorial, France, Panel 10, Column 2. He is also commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Watt William Wallace.

Born in Cupar in 1922. Son of James Watt and EtoLine Watt (nee McKinnon), of Cupar. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Flight Lieutenant, 155790, 101 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 101 Squadron was equipped with the Avro Lancaster, and as well as being part of the main bomber force, it operated the secret Airborne Cigar (ABC) device, designed to jam enemy radio transmissions. Some of the Lancasters also carried an extra crew-member who spoke German, and who monitored the voice transmissions of the Luftwaffe night fighter controllers. Flight Lieutenant Watt was the pilot of the ABC equipped Lancaster PA237 (SR-M) that took off from R.A.F. Ludford Magna, Lincolnshire, at 16:37 hours on the 23rd February 1945. The Lancaster was on an operation to Pforzheim in Germany when it crashed, killing the crew of seven. Flight Lieutenant Watt is buried in Durnbach War Cemetery, Germany, Grave 11.H.20. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: DEARLY LOVED SON OF JAMES AND ETOLINE WATT. CUPAR, FIFE, SCOTLAND. He is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the Cupar War Memorial, and on the Scottish National War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Wilson John Horsburgh.

Born 12/09/1915 in Dairsie. Son of David Ritchie and Mabel Mary Helen Wilson (nee Kitcher), of St. Andrews. Educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. Pilot Officer, Pilot, 175818, 207 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 05/07/1944. Age 28. Pilot Officer Horsburgh was the pilot of of Lancaster LM125, (EM-G), that took off from R. A. F. Spilsby in Lincolnshire at 23:37 hours on the 4th July 1944. The aircraft was on an operation to attack a V-1 flying bomb storage depot at St Leu d'Esserent in France, and crashed north-east of Chantilly at 01:35 hours on the 5th July. The crew of seven were killed and are buried in Creil Communal Cemetery, France, Plot 1. Joint Grave 371. The personal inscription on his headstone reads: AND HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR MANY. EVER REMEMBERED. ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND. Pilot Officer Horsburgh is commemorated on the Madras College War Memorial 1939-1945, on the St. Andrews War Memorial 1939-1945, and on the Scottish National War Memorial.

Sources of Information 1939-1945

Individuals who provided Photographs and Information about the Casualties.

David Caldwell
Evelyn Cole
Jim and Joyce Hutton
Mary Jack
Alexander Lorimer
Lindsay Matheson and The Madras Archive Group
Brenda McCabe
Ann McCreadie
Jean McCreadie
John Oliver
Dorothy Orem
Arlen Pardoe
Anne Reid
Melville Reid
Archie Rennie
Hilary Rosado
Julia Young

Madras College War Service Cards

[Not available online](#)

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Scottish National War Memorial

<https://www.snmw.org/>

The National Archives

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