

# STONEHOUSE HERITAGE GROUP

NEWSLETTER July 28th 1914 ww1.

September 3rd 1947 ww2.

Issue 24

This Newsletter therefore takes you back in time to the war years

## The home guard Railway Section.

Places marked with ? are unknown to the group. Can you Identify them, please contact the group.

info@stonehouseheritage.co.uk

Or Robert Freel on 07964010256.



Back row from left; ?, ?, ?, James Brown (Sidehead Road), ?, Harry Biggar (Glenmark), Walter Biggar (Glenmark), ?, ?, ?

2nd Back row from left; ?, ?, ?, Robert Watson (Larkhall), ?, ?, ?, ?

Middle row from left; ?, ?, ?, ?, John Smith (Hill Road), William Bryce (Lawrie Street), ?, ?, James McPake (New Street), ?, ?, ?

2nd Front row from left; John Crow (Larkhall), Robert Anderson (Cam'nethan Street), ?, ?, ?, George Brooks (Sidehead Road), Robert Whitelaw (Cam'nethan Street), William Frame (St. Ninian's Place), ?, ?

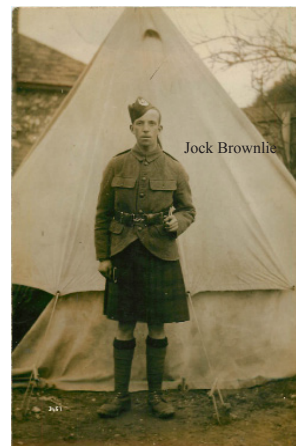
Front row from left; ?, Susan (Bunty) Brooks (Sidehead Road), Elizabeth (Betty Crawford of Sidehead Road) Brown (Green Street), Marjory (Mrs Dunn of Caledonian Avenue) Johnstone (Sidehead Road), Martha (Meta) Smith (Hill Road), Helen Thomson (Hill Road), Maise? Wilson (Green Street), ?, ?

## Who is this soldier

This is a photo handed into the group with no information can you help to name him



Rank Corpl  
Royal tank reg/Rac 7Th  
Kia 3.1.41 age 25in Eygpt



Enlisted 08/09/1914  
served in Gordon Highlanders  
9th Bn



Enlisted 24/5/1915  
Joined at the age of 14  
years old. Served as a Gun-  
ner in ww2 in Army.

**Over** the course of the next year we intend to include a small piece on some of the personnel named on the war memorial. Here are some pictures of enlistees, casualties and personnel that we need to identify.

## CENTENARY

As the centenary of the first world wars draws near the group are reminding everyone that we still seek information on enlistees, casualties and survivors of first world war, as well as the second. We are also interested in any information on anyone connected from Stonehouse who fought in any conflict. Contact info@stonehouseheritage.co.uk or robert freel. 07964010256 or Jim Monie. with information.

## Missing from War Memorial

Another serviceman missing from the Stonehouse War memorial has been drawn to our attention. Edward Clark son of Patrick and Mary Ann Clark of Stonehouse.

**Edward** Served on HMS Mourne (K261) and whilst the casualty records indicate that Patrick and Mary Ann stayed in Coventry they originated from Stonehouse and Edward was born in Stonehouse.

War records indicate that On 15 June 1944 HMS Mourne (Captained by Lt.Cdr. *Raymond Spurr* Holland, RD, RNR) from the 5th Escort Group was hit and sunk by a Gnat from U-767 in the English Channel in position 49°35'N, 05°30'W. there were 111 casualties.

Uboat U767 was captained by ([Walter Dankleff](#)).

Thanks to Molly Casey (Nee Clark) who brought this to our attention.

**Are** there any others missing from the memorial Stone. Please contact the heritage group if you are aware of anyone who was born in Stonehouse, killed in Action and missing from the war memorial.



HMS Mourne

## War Memorial Personnel

**John Reid**, Born in Stonehouse served as a sergeant with the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders 1st/5 BN, is recorded as being buried in Hollybrook Memorial Cemetery Southampton. John who came from Stonehouse was wounded in France and was being shipped back from Le Harve to Britain on the hospital ship Warilda when it was torpedoed by German Uboat UC49 captained by Hans Kukenthal. Information on the SS Warilda is as follows

**SS WARILDA was built by Wm Beardmore & Company Dalmuir, Yard No 505**

**Propulsion:** steam 16 knots

**Launched:** Tuesday, 05/12/1911

**Built:** 1912

**Ship Type:** Passenger Vessel

**Ship's Role:** East-West Australian coastal trade

**Tonnage:** 7713 grt. Length :412.2 feet. Breadth:56.7 feet.

**Owner History:** Adelaide Steamship Company, Port Adelaide

**Status:** Torpedoed & Sunk - 03/08/1918

**Remarks:** In 1915 she became a troopship and in 1916 a hospital ship for the Admiralty for duties between Southampton and Le-Harve.

Torpedoed and sunk by UC49 in the English channel with the loss of 123 lives.



## The Great War

When First World War came in 1914 the people of Stonehouse rallied together in supporting the armed services overseas and those in need at home. Stonehouse, like most towns and villages, was to suffer great losses of men who gave their lives in the defence of freedom. In the summer of 1994, when the old jail house was being redeveloped the original enlistment register was found, for those enlisting during the First World War including the regiments they served under. This information linked with research from copies of the Hamilton Advertiser of the time, is currently held by the Heritage Group. The documentation gives an accurate and sometimes disturbing insight into incidents and casualties experienced during both world wars.

## War Correspondent

The following extracts are a collection of articles taken from the Hamilton Advertiser during the Great war and the Second World War which provide a record of how Stonehouse was affected by the conflict and suffering of loss.

## **April 1915 At the Front**

The rumours of agitations and strikes in the engineering and coal industries have reached the ears of our gallant lads "Somewhere in France" and appear to be causing them some concern.

A private in the Seaforths writing to a local gentleman says "There must be no strike just now. Tell your men to play the game and so that our Navy and also the workers engaged in the manufacture of munitions get plenty of coal.

If you can get an increase without striking I wish you luck. If there had been no war it would have been different.

I am working here day and night for 1s 4d and I'm not grumbling but we expect those at home enjoying good wages and comfort to keep up their end."

## **October 1916**

### **With the Troops in France.**

Last Friday evening the Rev J Christian Brown M.V. delivered an interesting lecture on his experiences with the YMCA Camp at the front. The lecture was illustrated by the views thrown on the walls by a powerful lantern which was attended to by Mr John Millar, in a satisfactory manner. Beginning with the journey across the Channel the pictures showed a submarine torpedo boat destroyer and aeroplane escorts. He also gave some information of the size of our big guns in operation also views of the clearing stations and the hospital wards. The views of the graves of our brave lads had a pathetic interest of their own. The lecture was well attended and greatly appreciated.

## **December 1916 War Savings**

### **War Savings**

A public meeting to promote War Savings Association was held in the Lesser Public Hall on Monday evening. Mr A Anderson inspector, presided over a small but representative audience. The speaker was Mr William Reid, Glasgow, who explained in detail the advantages derived from War Savings Associations which could be formed by trade unions, colliery employees, friendly societies, churches, schools, etc. A few questions were asked and answered and in order

to bring the matter before the miners Mr Reid promised to come back and address them either at the pit bank or other meeting place as might be arranged.

## **Food Rationing**

Food Rationing took place in the village during the

end of the First World War from around June 1918.

This of course was common during the 1940's.

The Womens Voluntary Service was responsible for organising food and aiding domestic problems.

During the evacuation of the cities in the Second World War the W.V.S. along with the Red Cross and hospital staff, assisted the mass reception of evacuees to the village.

Unlike the war before, German bombers were a constant threat and so the ARP was formed, organised by

Dr. Murray.

John Johnston was the local warden who made sure that there was a total blackout whenever the threat was present. He was aided by Special Constables Willie Millar and Jack McKinnon, Working 12 hour shifts, policing the village.

Although no bombs are recorded as falling on the village, it has been noted that a farmer near Goslington saw bombs dropped close at hand, presumably to lessen the load the German aircraft en route home, after bombing the Clyde. These craters are said to still be in evidence today.

## **In 1941**

An Army Cadet Force was established, with the objective of training youths for military service after school.

The Local Defence Volunteers were also formed to prevent the threat of invasion should it occur.

The L.D.V. later became known as the Home Guard.

During the war Canadians were billeted at Stonehouse Hospital for some time, and Americans are said to have been stationed at Cot Castle.

## **Victory Celebration November 1918**

On receipt of the news that the Armistice had been signed, steps were immediately taken to celebrate the great event. Flags and bunting were displayed in great profusion, work was stopped, schools were closed, the church bells clanged merrily and the streets were filled with excited joyous crowds.

An impromptu pipe band was formed of soldiers and civilians who paraded the streets followed by cheering crowds. In the evening a huge bonfire was lit at the Cross and the silver band played a patriotic programme.

On the following days, a high victory demonstration was organised by the Discharged Soldiers and Sailors Federation. The procession paraded the principal streets accompanied by the silver and pipe bands and terminated at the Cross where an enthusiastic meeting was held under the chairmanship of Mr A. McIntosh, F.E.I.S.. Speeches extolling the great achievements of the Army and Navy were delivered by Mr A. Anderson M.A. and Mr A. Haddow, M.A.

## AN ARTICLE FROM THE LOCAL PRESS

DATE 1960/70s

### **NO-ONE CARES ABOUT FORGOTTEN VILLAGE**

News Media over the last few months have been concentrating their attention on the development of Stonehouse New Town, but Mrs Agnes Swinton has a more burning question to put to the officials in charge..... what about Stonehouse now?.

Mrs Swinton, aged 74 of 14 Lockhart Street, Stonehouse, is complaining about the lack of facilities for the residents of Stonehouse in particular the senior citizens.

Stonehouse has over 500 pensioners living in and around the town and at the moment they do not even have a hairdresser's to go to. Every month two men come all the way from Motherwell to set up their chairs in the pensioners hut in Violet Crescent to cut their hair.

### Unsuitable

Unlike their counterparts in neighbouring Larkhall, the Old Age Pensioners Association of Stonehouse cannot meet as often as they would like, nor offer their members the facilities of a community centre.

The main halls in the town are unsuitable for their meetings and so far the council have made no moves to build a community centre, despite having built one in Harleeshill, Larkhall – after Mrs Swinton applied to them – and now moves have been made to open a similar centre in Strathaven.

Mrs Swinton who is treasurer of the Pensioners Association said “ I applied three years ago for a community centre after meeting a gentleman from Welfare, who said that it was an excellent idea. I have been writing to them ever since.

Every time a new hall is put up somewhere else by the council, I see red. We pay exactly the same rates as Larkhall so I don't see why we shouldn't have our own hall in Stonehouse. The people of Stonehouse moved into Larkhall during the depression to help the people there and we have been helping them ever since I wrote a letter to the council on November 30th, continued Mrs Swinton. “On Saturday I received their reply saying that now they have completed the centre in Larkhall they would look into the case for Stonehouse.” She went on to say; “Not only do we lack new halls but the ones we have just now are totally inadequate. Take the Public Hall for instance – the roof fell in recently, the stage curtains are in tatters and don't even come down to the bottom of the stage. Surely it would not cost the council all that much, even to replace the curtains. It may not seem all that important but it just shows you how the people of Stonehouse are always considered second best.”

The council came along to the Welfare Hall and completely renovated the kitchen. It really looks lovely now, apart from one thing; they put the old stove back in.

It seems ludicrous that the council should spend all that money and not replace the stove.

On average about 200 people use the hall at a time yet the stove can only heat about 30 pies in the oven. It means that by the time the last person is fed, the first is hungry again said Mrs Swinton.

**(Note from the ed how things don't change. )**

### Community Council

meets on the 3rd Monday of Each Month

The following dates cover the next six months.

Meetings are open to the public and issues can be raised on the night.

Monday 18th November 2013

Monday 16th December 2013

Monday 20th January 2014

Monday 17th February 2014

Monday 17th March 2014

Meetings are held in the new Integrated Community Facility on Udston Mill Road Stonehouse

Starting at 7.30pm. (Members meeting at 7.00pm)

The Community Council have a website and facebook page. The website can be found at

[www.community.council.org.uk/stonehousecommunitycouncil](http://www.community.council.org.uk/stonehousecommunitycouncil)

### Local Midwife

Local member John Rogers is seeking information on his grandmother, local midwife Agnes Rogers. Were you one of the hundreds of children brought into the world by Johns grandmother, did you know her, have any stories to tell. Then contact John Rogers on [jrog72@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jrog72@tiscali.co.uk) or contact Jim Monie or any of our members.

### Events

**The group will be holding another slideshow around Feb.,2014. The theme has still to be decided.**

**The group meet at the Lifestyle Facility on Udston Mill Road on the first Monday of the month. 7.30pm and third Saturday of the Month Meetings are open to all members of the public.**

You can view our selection of Photographs on our Website [info@stonehouseheritage.co.uk](mailto:info@stonehouseheritage.co.uk)

Robert Freel. Chairman.

Email: [robfreel@btinternet.com](mailto:robfreel@btinternet.com)

[www.stonehouseheritage.co.uk](http://www.stonehouseheritage.co.uk)