

# PORTSOY PEOPLE IN OTHER SERVICES



HMS Falmouth

Stuart Duncan, of Schoolhendry Street, served at the Battle of Jutland (May 1916) on board HMS Falmouth. Britain's fleet was felt to be vastly superior and Germany did not risk another sea battle after this, the only significant maritime battle of the war. HMS Falmouth was sunk in August 1916.



Britain and its Allies produced four times more planes than Germany during the war and, by 1918, they were said to "own the skies"

Field Marshall Douglas Haig, British Commander on the Western Front, was a former cavalryman with his roots in 19th Century warfare. So he had to come to terms with a very different style of combat in WWI (the last cavalry charge was at Mons in 1914) including the use of tanks, poison gas and aircraft with machine guns. Also, 280 tons of bombs had been dropped from the air on Britain, killing 1413 people, most of them civilians.



## CATHERINE MAVOR'S STORY

Surname (Block letters): MAVOR

Christian name: Catherine

Date & Place of birth: Around 1873, Portsoy

Education: Trained in the City Hospital, Aberdeen, from November 1901 to October 1904

Occupation: Nurse

Enlistment date: Applied to serve in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve in May, 1917

Rank: Staff nurse

Date of death: 1935, Scotland

Awards: The Royal Red Cross

## Summary of service in WWI

Catherine arrived at Brocklesby Park Military Hospital, Grimsby, to take up a post as staff nurse on 28th August 1917. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross (pictured) for her service there. In April 1919 she joined the Army Transport Hospital Ship St Andrew. The ship was equipped to take 180 casualties each trip, transporting them across the Channel from France. Catherine worked on board until being demobilised on 6th June.

After the war: by February 1921 she was employed as a nurse by the Forfarshire Education Authority. She and her brother Alexander died only a fortnight apart, in 1935.



## Not all of Portsoy's recruits joined the Army

Around 85 men from the area served in various branches of the Navy: some in the Royal Navy, others in the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR). The majority worked on minesweepers. Several trawlers had been requisitioned from Portsoy for minesweeping; and two more of its vessels were used for boom-defence work, which provided protection against submarines for the Fleet in Scapa Flow.



The Naval Reserve at Macduff

## FREDERICK McLEAN'S STORY

Surname (Block letters): McLEAN

Christian name: Frederick

Date of birth: March 2nd 1894

Occupation: Engineer with GNSR Locomotive Works, Inverurie

Name and address of next of kin: Mr. William McLean (Head Master of Portsoy School), Seaview House, Portsoy

Enlistment date: January 1915

Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Regiment or Corps: 2nd Battalion of the London Scottish then 29th Squadron, the Royal Flying Corps

Date and place of death: June 14th 1917 at No. 37 Casualty Clearing Station, France

Where buried and/or commemorated: Avesnes-le-Comte Cemetery, France

Awards: British War and Victory medals

## Summary of service in WWI

Frederick McLean passed through cadet school as an officer in September 1916, at which point he joined the Royal Flying Corps. After further training, he was made a Flying Officer in April 1917.

Frederick had been on active service in France for just under a month when his plane, a Nieuport Scout, crashed on June 13th 1917. He received mortal injuries and died on the evening of June 14th 1917.

Lieutenant McLean was praised for his "resolute courage and ready daring" by his comrades. He had been engaged in several flights at great altitudes prior to his untimely death.



Photos of Frederick

Courtesy of Aileen Burnett

At the start of the war, planes were only used for reconnaissance, helped by use of wireless communication and aerial photography. This provided vital information about enemy lines and movements. By 1915 aircraft were being fitted with machine guns to increase their attacking capability. From August 1917, this more aggressive role for aircraft was recognised and at this point the Royal Air Force was formed, from the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service combined.



A ward on the hospital ship St. Andrew

Courtesy of Imperial War Museum Q7996