

1915

- Jan 7 **The family McIntosh** - The B. A. carried a note about the 4 McIntosh sons of 107 Main Street (part of the 'Barracks' pronounced locally as the 'Berrecks' - now a grassy area) who were all in the forces. In the same edition the family got word that one son, Pte. James McIntosh 6th Battalion Gordon Highlanders had been killed in action. He was the first Buckie man to lose his life. Prior to the war he worked as a farm servant at the Smerack in the Enzie.
- ** **The Christmas Day truce** - On page 6 column 3 of the *Banffshire Advertiser*, the local paper, henceforth referred to as the B. A. one may read part of a letter sent to his father John Calder, Shoemaker, Cluny Terrace, from his son then a soldier serving abroad. He told of the cease-fire that had taken place at Christmas 1914 when both sides had the opportunity to bury their dead and padres on both sides said the 23 psalm. Gifts were exchanged by both sides with the Germans being very generous seeming to have plenty of cigarettes etc. No shooting took place on Christmas Day and the day after.
- Jan 14 **Findochty Methodist Kirk** - The contractors engaged to build the Methodist Church in Findochty were as follows - Mason - A. Milne and Son, Carpenter - A. Murray, Plumber - John Barclay and Son (all three from Buckie) Slater - A. Mitchell, Cullen, Plasterer - W. McKenzie, Cullen Painter and Glazier, G. Wilson, Findochty.
- Jan 21 **Winter Sales** - The following draper firms were holding their annual winter clearance sales, - James Mackay, Robert Grant, Edward Hillocks, The Little Wonder, C. I. Shearer, John Sandison, John Green, John S. Munro, Leith Esson, George Robertson, Cullen and Charles Bonnyman Portgordon.
- An invitation to become a short-time soldier** - A form was carried by the B. A. that people could fill in and send off. This was directed at men who were willing to enlist for the war only. There was free postage.
- ** **First bombing raid ever** - The first airship raid by a Zeppelin on Great Britain took place over East Anglia on Tuesday night when the 'plane flew over Cromar, Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn and Hunstanton. Four bombs were dropped at Yarmouth where two people were killed, seven bombs fell on Kings Lynn where a further two people were killed and three being seriously injured.
- ZaP! -got you** - A zeppelin was shot down by a warship over the sea off Hunstanton.
- Italian earthquake > loss of life** - *A massive earthquake in Italy led to the deaths of 30,000 people. The epicentre was about 66 miles inland from Rome where an area suffered extensive damage and many medieval buildings were destroyed.*
- Cullen harbour**- A sketch diagram on page 8 showed how Cullen Harbour was to look after the extensions had been completed.
- Soldier poet** - A poem is found on page 8 column 2 written by Pte. F. Devine, of 'D' Coy (Buckie) Gordon Highlanders.
- Jan 28 **In praise of the Navy** - A poem is found on page 2 column 6 titled The British Navy by Robert Watt, Aberdeen.
- Be like our Red Indian friends** - John S. Simpson, boot and Shoemaker, 17 West Church Street (a son of the Simpson of Bank Street) had a huge notice in the B. A. advertising Moccasin boots and shoes.
- *** **First wounded soldiers arrive at Portessie** - A party of 20 wounded and convalescent soldiers arrived at Portessie where they were to be put under the care of the VAD in the Rathven Parish Church Hall which had been converted into a beautiful temporary hospital.
- Feb 4 **Lawson brothers in the picture** Page 5 shows a photograph of three Lawson brothers whose home was at Colonsay Place. One of them William, at least, survived the war, to carry on a shoemaker's business on Land Street for a long time after.
- A new drifter** - A drifter was launched from the yard of George Smith Jun. Baron Street, to the order of John Murray, 1 West Street. It was named Helen Ann - BCK 206. This was the first boat to be launched from a local yard since the beginning of the war.
- Feb 11 **Findochty to become a burgh** - At a meeting in Findochty agreement was reached, unanimously, that steps would be set in motion towards Findochty becoming a burgh.

Another photograph of servicemen - A photograph showed two Buckie men both in the RNR. One was Crawford Lawson of Admiralty Street and his brother in law, George May, 5 Gordonsburgh.

Improvements to streets - Work was to take place to improve different streets throughout Buckie and Portessie including Cuthbert's Brae. Where was this? (I know now. It led from the north end of Baron Street up to the Seatown and called after Cuthbert the shoemaker.)

One of them - The new roadway on West Cathcart Street was now completed apart from being rolled.

For sale - The property, Benreay of Seaview Place was for sale. There were writing chambers attached. (This was occupied for a long time by Anton, Solicitor and much later became the surgery for the Group Doctor's practice.)

It wis geen a grand name some wid say - The drifter, Braes of Enzie was launched this week from the yard of William Geddes, Portgordon for William Bain, 11 Gordon Street.

John Milton, Councillor, as a soldier - The B. A. carried an extract from a letter written by Signaller John Milton, son of Mr Milton, Carter, Yardie, meantime on service in France to his brother Willie. In the letter he praised his mother for a box she had sent and how well this had been wrapped up. The contents were very well received. He spoke of the conditions in the trenches where they were ankle deep in water and mud. They couldn't change their clothes and spent much time killing the beasties on their shirts with the light from a candle. *It was very cold but he said that he had worked out a way of putting out his cigarette by shaking the drip off his nose saving him from taking his hands from his pockets.* (John Milton returned home at the end of the war to become a town councillor. The street Milton Drive is called after him.)

A rural souter - John Paterson, Shoemaker, West Cottage, Glasterim, Portgordon died.

Jobs for the boys or - Navvies and General Labourers were required at the Rosyth Naval Base. Minimum wages of 7 ½ per hour were being offered with steady work for two years. Excellent and cheap accommodation was available in a hut village on site where there was also a mission, cinematograph and entertainment hall, provision store and canteen.

Another drifter takes to the water - The Jeannie McIntosh – BCK 209 was launched this week from McIntosh's yard.

Feb 25 **Much appreciation** - The B. A. printed a thank you letter sent by a representative of the wounded Gordon Highlanders meantime recuperating in the VAD hospital in Portessie. Among those names for thanks was Dr Duguid and Mrs Symington, wife of the Rathven minister.

A poem is found on page 4 column 5 titled 'Promoted' Lines on Death of a Soldier.

The tale of a Cullen soldier in rhyme - A second poem is titled 'Davidson of the Gunners' and tells of the exploits of a Cullen soldier, Lt. F. H. N. Davidson. This is found on page 5 column 6

A launch took place from Thomson's slip. This was the Recruit built for Messrs Clark and Murray of Portessie.

Mar 4 **More photographs** are to be found in this edition some showing serving men with others of those who had given of their lives. These are found on page 5.

New tenant at Upper Dallachy - John McPherson had taken over the lease of the farm of Upper Dallachy previously tenanted by John Geddes who had moved to Essie farm to stay with his son.

'The Nelson Free' the title of a poem found on page 6 column 4. A local lad then serving at Blandford in Dorset sent this home. The bandmaster there had written the poem.

Mar 11 **Should we try to buy the Cluny Park** - Buckie Town Council were discussing the possibility of acquiring the Public Park from the Cluny Estates. A lot of money had been spent on it by the ratepayers in the town and they shouldn't like this to be lost if the estate was to re-claim the land.

Portknockie's youngest in uniform - Page 5 carries a picture of Portknockie's youngest soldier, Bugler Ira Slater aged 15 son of Alex Slater, 'Mash'. He was stationed at Bedford.

- Mar 18 **The five Smith brothers** - This copy of the B. A. carried a photograph of the five Smith brothers from Colonsay Place who were all serving with the forces.
- Why you should join up** - A poem is found on page 6 column 5 titled 'To the Shirker' - A Last Appeal by O. S. and copied from the magazine Punch.
- Mar 25 **The National Relief Fund** for the SSFA had reached the sum of £493.17. 3
- Two Buckie soldiers were killed on the same day**, Sergeant Robert Swanson and Pte Geddes Milton both formerly of the Yardie.
- A description of the conditions** - There were a great many extracts of letters sent home by soldiers serving at the Front which give a first hand account of what conditions were like.
- The Deskford Roll of Honour** listed all those serving who had a connection with the churches in the area.
- The question is asked** - A poem is found on page 4 column 5 titled 'What Have You Done For Britain'? By Anon
- "A cold, tired and hungry wee boy from Buckie"** - A Portknockie nurse writing from a hospital in Lincoln told of one patient in her care being Private Edward Curran whose mother lived on Low Street. Pte Curran had been badly wounded at Neuve Chapelle where Geddes Milton and other local soldiers lost their lives. She told how he had suffered a bad wound to his arm and had lain in a trench for two days until he was recovered with only water to drink. She described Pte Curran as a wee boy from Buckie who had arrived along with others from France cold, tired and hungry, wearing only ragged clothes.
- List makes for sad reading** - Page 5 gave lists of those men from Buckie, Findochty, Cullen, Portknockie, Portsoy and Keith who up till then had been killed or wounded since the war had started.
- Apr 1 **The Club, Tobacconist, 19 West Church Street** (owner Miss I. L McKenzie) had the following advert -
BRAVO GORDONS
We send this message to the Heroic Gordons who are distinguishing themselves in France and showing the world the QUALITY of Scotsmen
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes all in dainty boxes suitable to be sent to our brave boys at the Front -
REMEMBER TOMMY.
- New minister** - The Baptist were to hold an Induction Service to welcome their new minister in place of Rev Gibson, Rev W. J. Batters, from Glasgow.
- New column** - The B. A. had introduced a new column called '**Portknockie Sidelights**' written by Bow Fiddle. One item spoke of Lance Corporal Joseph Addison who was meantime home on furlough from France suffering from frost bitten feet. He was progressing favourably. (This gave an indication the temperatures the men had to suffer not to mention all others.)
- In praise of the Gordons** - Two poems are to be found on page 2 column 6. One is titled 'To The Gordon Highlanders who Fell at Neuve Chapelle on March 1915 by L. D. Cullen
The second titled '6th Gordons at Neuve Chapelle written by Buckie Loons at Bedford
- A further poem in the same vein** was written by Robert Watt, Aberdeen and titled - 'Gallant Gordons' (A Plea for the 6th Battalion)
- From the Falkland Isles a story in rhyme** - - Two poems are found on page 5 titled 'The Falkland Islands Tars'. Stokers on board HMS KENT wrote these. Several Buckie men were among the crew of the Kent, which was hunting German cruisers in the South Atlantic.
- Patients at Portessie to increase** - The number of beds in the VAD Hospital in Portessie was to be increased to 26. A list of the names of the soldier patients and their regiments was given. The names of people who had donated all kinds of goods was also given.
- Apr 8 **Wounded in France** - A Buckie soldier, Pte Robert Cowie, 10 Cathedral Street was reported badly wounded in France. He was only 17 years old and had never been home since leaving for Keith back in August.

A sketch on the new Post Office - The B. A. carried a sketch of the new Post Office on East Church Street with a description of the building and also the ancillary building to be erected to the rear. The architects were George Sutherland and Clement George of 12 East Church Street.

The slaughter at Neuve Chapelle - This edition again carried extracts of letters sent home from the Front. The battle of Neuve Chapelle was described by one as the 'Gates of Hell' where the dead and dying lay strewn all around. The British troops, among them being many from the local company of the Gordon Highlanders, were being shelled at the rate of 120 shells per minute.

Photographs showed a number of local soldiers who had lost their lives in this battle many looking only young loonies, as they were, many only being 17 years of age.

Apr 15 **The first Findochty soldier to be killed in action** was Pte. George Smith 153 Findochty. He lost his life with the 6th Gordons at Neuve Chapelle.

Apr 22 **A meeting of the Scottish Rural Workers Association**, Enzie Branch took place in the school at Clochan with William Barron, Broadley, presiding. At that moment there were 126 men and 40 women members in the branch. The finances were in a good state after £61 8 had been paid out in sick and maternity grants. The following were appointed officials for the forthcoming year – Wm. Barron, chairman, N. F. Nichol, Schoolhouse, Secretary/ treasurer. Committee members - John Paterson, Preshome, Robert Innes, Oran, John McQueen, Station Cottages, Enzie, Alex Scott, Hawthorne Cottage, James Stronach, Clochan, Alex Gray, Broadley, James Munro, Auchenthalrig, James Chapman Ryerigs, Aultmore, Robert Neish, Clochan.

David T Samson was factor of the Seafield Estates at this time.

Relations of George I. McIntosh VC - The local paper carried a photograph of the grandsons of Alex McIntosh, carpenter, 80 Portessie who were then all serving with the forces. There were two soldiers and a sailor, sons of Mrs McIntosh, 107 Main Street

Seaman George McIntosh who was a cycle mechanic pre-war, Gunner Alex McIntosh who was previously an insurance agent, and Pte. John McIntosh who was a farm servant. Another son James was the first Buckie Territorial soldier to be killed.

The other two grandsons were the sons of Alex McIntosh, 24 Seaview Road. Pte George McIntosh who prior to the war was nipper at the Buckie Harbour extension work. He was later to be awarded the V.C. for outstanding bravery in the field. His brother was Pte Alex McIntosh who was previously a stoker on a drifter. He was wounded at Neuve Chapelle.

There was also a photograph of Pte Charles Gordon of the 6th Gordons of Union Terrace who was a barman before answering the call.

A poem is found on page 5 titled 'A Call To Arms'

Postman could remember the stage coach - The death took place at his home in Drybridge of former postman and shopkeeper Mr John Wilson who before the railway came used to collect mail off the Earl of Fife mail coach at the Inchgower Inn twice per day. After the coast railway came through he called at Buckie once per day before doing his rounds.

Apr 29 **Notice read** – Wanted girls and boys to peel telegraph poles at Tullochmoss, Tynet – 8 hours per day. Apply on Saturday between 1 and 3 o'clock to Burnett, Burnside, Inchgower.

Photographs of serving soldiers - In this copy there are pictures of Buckie, Oran and Deskford soldiers. Among them being – Pte. George Benzie Cluny Cottages, West Street and Pte. George Hay, Oran. Both were serving with the 6th Gordons and were both wounded at Neuve Chapelle.

Just one of thousands - Lance Corporal McKenzie, who was brought up by Mrs McCurrach at Muir of Holmie lost his life at Neuve Chapelle.

In another group of Buckie servicemen is a photograph of John Cant, 23 Sutherland Street, who was serving with the Royal Naval Brigade. He was a mason with A. Milne and Son, pre war.

Piper Geddes Milton was killed at NeuveChapelle. A letter to his mother sent by Lance Sergeant Gordon of 'B' company 6th Gordons and High Street, Buckie told in graphic fashion how her son had died. It made for sad reading and would question if it was necessary to give all the details. Sergeant Gordon said that she could be proud of her son and that it was God's will that he was taken and that God would comfort her.

May 6 **Biggin still going on** - The contractors engaged to build a house on South Row, Fochabers for W. T. Melvin, Schoolhouse, Cranloch were as follows – Mason – W. Legge and Son; Carpenter – J. Slorach; Slater – A. Henderson; Plasterer – R. Logie these were all from Fochabers. Plumber – James Ross, Elgin and Painter – C. Ross, Fochabers.

Rathven well represented – Eighty percent of all eligible men in Rathven were then serving with the forces. A photograph in this edition, on page 5 shows pictures of each one.

More photographs of men in uniform - Another picture shows some Portknockie and Buckie lads on the same page. A Mair and Munro from Portknockie and two Watsons brothers from Buckie.

A recruitment march - The 3/6 Gordons held a recruiting march that took them through Buckie on Saturday that attracted no less than 56 recruits.

Thistle player and photographer - In a group photograph of Buckie Gordon Highlanders one of those in the picture is Lance Sergeant Clark, former photographer and Buckie Thistle football player.

Struan changes hands - The house now known as Struan on Cluny Square was sold by the trustees of the late Dr Simpson to Mr William Robertson, Chemist, Buckpool.

L. T. McGarth, Ironmonger was appointed recruiting agent for Buckie for the third 6th Gordons. Free railway passes and information could be had from his shop.

May 13 **The ocean liner Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine** only 15 miles off the coast of Queenstown, Ireland when enroute from New York to Liverpool. The headlines spoke of a barbaric tragedy and appalling loss of life especially among children. There were 1,142 passengers on board with 764 of them being saved. Although the crew acted in a professional manner an eyewitness and one of those who was saved said how the, “last survivors to get into the boats fought like cats.”

The five sons of Mrs and Mrs Raffan, New Cemetery Lodge, were all in the forces. David, George, Robert, William and Alexander the youngest at 17 who had only recently joined his brothers. (Councillor Mrs Milne, Harbour Street was a sister. The street in Buckie known as Raffan Road was called after her.)

A photograph in this edition showed Buckie lads who were serving with the navy at the Dardanelles. Allan Thain, John Geddes, William Jappy and Alex Cowie.

Balfour Downie M.A. joined the 6th Gordons

Portessie men in the Forces - A long list of Portessie men who were all serving their country in one way or another .

Died of wounds - The death took place through wounds of Enzie soldier, Piper William McIvor, late of Hillfolds, Drybridge, who was serving with the 3rd Infantry Brigade, Canadian Forces. He was buried in St Ninian's Cemetery with full military honours. A picture of Piper McIvor was shown in the following week's local paper.

May 20 **Better for custom ?** - William Wright and Co. Licensed Grocers, 39 West Church Street were to move nearer Cluny Square into the shop at 33 West Church Street.

A picture of the magnificent Cunard liner Lusitania.

Local men in the Gordons - There was another photograph in this edition of Findochty and Buckie men serving with the Gordon Highlanders.

Also a picture of Cullen men serving on HMS Mastiff.

A picture showed 'Buckie Fisher Lads In Khaki' Alex Cowie, 71 Seatown, Alex Reid, Great Western Road, George Jappy, 4 Mid Street and James Reid, 49 Seatown.

Twenty fisher girls employed in the Queens Workroom for Women at Buckie volunteered for service in Dundee.

May 27 **Graduates of Aberdeen University** - A photograph in this week's edition showed 3 Gordon Highlanders all graduates of Aberdeen University and former pupils of Buckie Secondary School. Pte. Jack Gow. M.A.

2nd son of D. Gow, former Fishmonger on High Street; Pte. Alex Sutherland whose folk had the Shoe Shop at 21 West Church Street and Pte. Marshall Merson, M.A. 5th son of George Merson, Fishcurer, Marine Place.

A picture showed the four brother Stronach of Moss-side Drybridge who were all serving with the forces.

**** **The biggest train disaster ever** on British railways took place near Gretna on the English/Scottish border with 200 soldiers being killed and 300 injured.

June 3 **The Cluny Dairy** had had a front-page advert for some years now were still doing so. This week they were advertising a variety of new season tinned fruit at 1/- per LB tin. Also for sale they had various kinds of meats, all the Libby Brand. Mutton at 9d per LB and roast beef at 1/6 for a 2lb tin.

Farm hands were hard to get - In the for sale and wanted columns one could read that a Third Horseman was wanted by Winchester at Loanhead, a Second Horseman by Mackay at Mains of Tannachy, a Second Cattleman by Hector at Mill of Buckie and a Foreman, single, by Gordon at Glasterim.

On page 8 one can read J. M. Bullock's report on the Banffshire Volunteers - 'The Story of the Patriotic Spirit of the Duke of Gordon's tenants. The Enzie March etc. March 22 1797.

Findochty to be a Burgh - A petition was presented to Sheriff P. Campbell Lorimer K.C. by Alexander Sutherland J.P. fisherman and signed by 70 others to have the village of Findochty created a burgh under the burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1842 and 1903. The boundaries of the proposed new burgh were drawn up.

The Sheriff was to attend a second meeting to hear any objections.

The Innes brothers from Cullen - The pictures of page 5 this week show four Innes brothers from Cullen who were all in the Navy involved on minesweeping duties.

Buckie Town Councillor, James Murray was commissioned Sub Lieutenant in the RNVR. He was serving in the Mediterranean.

London receives a bomb blitz - A zeppelin raid on London when 90 bombs were dropped led to three people losing their lives.

Mony German spies were bonny - The German lady spy Eva, who came ashore off the mouth of the Gollachy Burn in September 1940 has always been described as beautiful. In 1915 an article in the Banffshire advertiser read as follows, " Long before the war it was known that Germany employed hundreds of feminine spies- beautiful Society women in many cases". The report goes on to give a number of examples of which proof was given. For example plans of Gibraltar fell into enemy hands being made from rough sketches drawn by a young German girl who had spent some time on the rock while on holiday a number of years before.

June 10 **He had the house built** - The house known as Sunnyside on West Cathcart Street, for long the home of Mr Frank Anderson, former police inspector in Buckie, was owned by George Smith, Junior, Shipbuilder.

The Globe Stores, Buckie and Cullen were advertising Baxter's Raspberry in Rhubarb jam at 8 pence ha'penny a jar, returned.

A man and his wife in Teignmouth, Devon, had 8 sons, 2 sons in law, 6 nephews, one brother and one brother in law, all told 18 male members of their extended family serving with the Forces of the Crown.

*** **There were the usual photographs on page 5 this week.** The picture showed the Territorials marching off to war on High Street. Three of those shown in the picture had already paid the full price - Sergeant Swanson, Piper Geddes Milton and Pte Young who died of wounds at Bedford.

More pictures on the same page show Findochty and Portknockie men. Two Findochty brothers - Ritchie and George Anderson and John Pant. The Portknockie men were John Willox and Alex Farquhar, Hillhead Cemetery.

The third picture shows Buckie and Cullen men - Two brothers, Sinclair James G. and George and another James Sinclair also George Geddes from the Seatown. James Macrae, Shirrals Farm, and William Duff, both Cullen.

A note read - The inhabitants of the Fochabers' district are all busy with their gardens. The weather has been variable lately but fruit, flowers and vegetables, are making good progress. It is interesting to note that Messrs George Baxter and Sons preserve makers have recently planted another large field of strawberries. Fruit growing on an extensive scale is a new industry in the district but the suitable climate ensures success.

The Lyons of Bridgend - The B.. A. carried part of a letter written by Francis Lyon 9 Bridgend to his mother telling of being beside the Portknockie soldier, Edwin Slater when he was killed. He never answered when Lyon had asked him for a match to find that he had been killed by a shot to the head. Lyon also mentioned that his brother John was wounded and was on his way back to Britain.

June 17 **Sorry bit I've shut up shop** - George McKenzie gave notice that he was closing his shop until further notice because of the 'famine price of beef'.

The usual photographs of those serving with the forces are found on page 5. Picture 1 is described as Buckie and District Roll of Honour; picture 2 Banffshire Sailor Lads and picture 3 Cullen and Buckie soldiers and sailors.

June 24 **Page 5 shows a photograph of local men who had lost their lives up to that date** - Sergeant Swanson, Yardie, Private George Taylor, Findochty, Private James McIntosh, Gibbs Lane. (His mother lived at 107 Main Street.) and Pte. George Clark, 156 Portessie.

A poem is found on page 5 written by W. J. Rumbles, Cullen titled - Kitchener's Boys at Ripon (A Soldier's Letter, poem to the Old Folks at Home.)

July 1 **There were more pictures on page five of this issue.** They show in one lads from Buckie and Findochty with picture 2 showing the same from Buckie and Portgordon.

July 8 **The picture on page five shows Buckie and district soldiers and sailors.**

Despite the war some Sunday School bairns enjoyed their picnics. Portessie Methodist Church went to Urquhart by train. Those of the Parish Church went to Drybridge. The West Church Sunday School went to Rannas with the Good Templars taking the train to Drybridge.

It winna be sae big - Because of a cut back in funding the extension to the Findochty Harbour was to be modified.

July 15 **A poem is found on page 3** titled 'Gallant Gordons' (By Wounded Tommies, Aberdeen.)

The VAD Hospital in Cullen - On page 5 one will find two photographs showing local soldiers and sailors also a picture of wounded soldiers at the V.A.D. Hospital in Cullen.

**** **Keith soldier awarded the VC** - On page 6 there is a good photograph and report of the Keith V.C. Corporal John Ripley. He was a native of Keith although he moved to Dundee later and served his time as a slater. He won the award while serving with the 1st Black Watch. He joined Kitchener's army at the age of 48. The photograph was first printed in the Daily Record and Daily Mail.

July 22 **Page 5 carried a picture of Buckie and District Roll of Honour.**

July 29 **In this edition is found an article titled – “Gey” Gordons in Time of War – It talks about Court Martials in the 92nd in 1813 and 1815 Some soldiers received a total of 275 lashes during a six month period and only escaped a further 300 by offering to serve abroad. For being drunk on duty carried a penalty of 200 lashes.**

Peter Fair - There was a large attendance of young and old, much larger than was to be expected in the circumstances. The weather was good apart from a couple of light showers this, it was felt had had an effect on the crowd.

Business as usual was done in the morning, with horse dealing and harvest hands being employed. Experienced men were being offered from £8-£10 or if engaged by the week- £1.15 - £2. Less experienced - £7-£8 with youths - £4-36. Because of so many horses being commandeered by the army horses were scarce and subsequently dear. First class animals changed hands for between £75 and £82, second class animals, £20-£30 with poor specimens up to £10.

In the afternoon, the writer said, people flocked from all points of the compass.

On the railway 4932 tickets were sold at Buckie for Rathven, this being only 400 down on the previous year.

A detachment of 70 men of the 3/6 Gordons were present from Keith under Lieutenant and Adjutant Moodie, while there were also recruiting officers on the ground from Aberdeen. The pipe band of the Gordons paraded through the market discoursing martial airs and a few recruits were obtained.

There were the usual amusements in the shape of swings, shooting galleries, variety shows hobbyhorses etc. A great attraction for youngsters was a stud of donkeys on which they could get a ride for a humble penny.

Peter Cormack had forward his dancing board, which as usual was well patronised.

The sweets and toy stalls, as usual did good business while the various refreshment tents also did well.

Those who had tents were – John Hendry (Fin.), J. Lindsay, Victoria Hotel, Portknockie, Rathven Parish Church, P. Smith, Buckpool, R. Taylor, Union Bar, Buckpool, A. Urquhart, Harbour Bar, Mrs Wilson, Buckpool, J. Gorton, Harbour Bar, Portgordon, John Stewart, Seafield Arms, Keith, Mrs Davidson, Commercial Hotel, Keith, D. Davidson, Commercial Hotel, Fordyce, McIntosh, Forgue, Mrs Milne, Buckie, Miss Innes, Buckie, The Co-op, Buckie, A. T. Milton, Buckie, R. Watson, Globe Stores, Buckie, Donald Grant, Grocer, Buckie, Galloway's, Buckie.

Page four carries a report on the improvements that were being made to all the local harbours along our coast.

Page five has its usual photographs of soldiers and sailors. One person shown is Driver Porteous Hector, eldest son of Mrs Hector, Mill of Buckie who was goalkeeper for Buckie Thistle prior to the war.

Lyceum entrance upgraded - A flashy new entrance had been constructed at the entrance to the Lyceum Cinema on East Church Street.

*** **The Salvation Army held their annual picnic at Drybridge.** They went there by train. They were likely to have been the last picnic group to travel there by train since the line closed the next week and there was no mention of any others.

A hoeing match took place at Berrybauds. The first three in the adult male class were – James Ritchie, A. Johnston and D. Allan. In the boy's class Alex Shand, Pathhead came first followed by R. Packman, Forklandstrype, R. Barclay and Essil Dyker.

Aug 5 **Billiards for the Templars** - Contractors were invited to tender for the construction of a billiard room to be built at the Good Templar's Hall on West Church Street.

Robertson, Baker, St Peter's Terrace was advertising for an apprentice baker,

*** **On Thursday morning people of Buckie and district got a rude shock when they learned that the branch of the Highland Railway between Buckie and Keith was to be closed on 7th inst. until further notice. (It never again was opened for passenger traffic.)**

Some of the headings in the paper were – Serious blow to the district

Effect of the war strain

Buckie people surprised

Protest by Buckie Town Council

More pictures of local soldiers and sailors are to be found on page 5.

A new group - A branch of the League of Honour for the Women and Girls of the Empire was set up in Buckie.

A hoeing match took place at the farm of Braes of Enzie, farmer Mr Thomson.

First and medal winner was – Edward Stuart, Hilton, 2 William Watson, Braes, 3 John Grieve, Leitcheston.

Boys, fist and medal winner – Alex Shand, Pathhead, 2 James Geddes.

They'd had enough - During the month of June a report said that during the month of June 2 thousand German deserters crossed into Holland.

Aug 12 **A subjective assessment didn't go down well** - A man got a month in jail for saying anyone who put on an army coat was daft.

A list of the local dead - On page five of this edition the names of local men who had been either killed or had died of wounds were given. They were – Pte. Munro, Auchenthalrig; Pte James Smith, St Peters Terrace, Buckie, Seaman James Gardiner, Cullen, Lance Corporal, George Gardiner, Cullen and Pte James Ingram, Land Street, Buckie.

Another picture showed a number of seamen.

The three masted cargo boat, Natalla, came in with a cargo of coal from Sunderland . This was the first time she had been in Buckie for some considerable time. She had to lie offshore for three days until there was sufficient depth of water.

Bronco Bill's circus put on two performances in the Commercial Park during the week.

Aug 19 **Scott's business sold** - Mr J. R. Henderson, Elgin was giving notice that he had acquired the business of George Scott, Monumental Mason, Baron Street, who was meantime on active war service.

The Royal Naval Division - Page five in this edition was devoted to a comprehensive report on the Royal Naval Division to which many of the Moray Firth volunteers were and attached. On picture heading read 'From Buckie to Crystal Palace'.

Aug 26 **Book to be published** - A notice in the B. A. said how there was to be published shortly Volume I of a booklet titled **Buckie and District and The Great European War (Honour to Whom Honour)**

***** **The book, with 130 pages, was to contain photographs of local and district soldiers and sailors.**

The book to be beautifully bound in khaki cloth boards with gilt title and priced 2/6.

Musical tuition had re-started with a number of people offering their services. Those with adverts were – Miss King, Fern Cottage, Mrs McHardy, 38 West Church Street, Mr Barritt and Mr J. D. Emslie.

Belgian Home in Glasgow - A photograph on page five shows the Buckie Belgian Home in Glasgow which was maintained by the burgh and in which a number of Belgian refugees were accommodated.

The house was at 27 Cumberland Street, off George Street and consisted of a basement with kitchen and maid's room, washhouse etc. On the first floor there was a large front room, fairly large back room and a small back room and pantry. Half way up the stair there was a small dark bathroom. On the 2nd floor there was a large front room, fair sized front room and two fair sized back rooms .

More photographs - There was a further photograph of sailors and soldiers from the local area.

A case of smallpox - A child of 15 months in Buckie, contacted smallpox and was removed to the hospital on the Buckpool beach.

Fa wis't said corn and cod didna mix? - The death took place at Groalpan, Glen of Newmill of 70 year old Mr Stewart who besides working his land there went occasionally to sea on a herring boat.

Sept 2 **The B. A. carried an extract of a letter sent by a soldier at the front home to the minister at Tong near Stornoway. The caption read 'Highland soldiers in the Trenches'** (A most interesting read.)

On page 5 a picture shows the five sons and two grandsons of Peter Geddes, 11 High Street, Portgordon who were all serving with the armed forces. The two grandsons were George and Peter Thain, Garden Lane.

A second picture on the same page is of two Cormack brothers from Portgordon, Smiths, Clark and Flett from Portessie and Thain of 36 Seatown.

Sept 9 **Shop to reopen** - Charlotte Harler was to reopen the shop at 11 Main Street, formerly occupied by her deceased father, as a China and Stoneware Merchant.

The pictures on page five this week showed, among others, pictures of two Scott brothers from Drybridge and 2 brother Forbes, sons of the burgh foreman.

The bottom picture showed three Thain brothers of 140 East End Findochty and William Cowie, 30 Yardie.

Promoted - Sergeants James B. Paterson and Balfour Downie were both promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. They were both graduates of Aberdeen University and members of the teaching profession.

Opening date new Palace - The new Picture Palace being built on West Church Street was to open on Monday 4 October 1915.

Sept 16 **Page five carried photographs of local sailor and soldier lads** from Cullen Findochty, Portknockie and Buckie.

The second photograph showed the six sons of Mr and Mrs Russell, Towie Croft, Cullen who were meantime all in the services.

Sept 23 **Page 5 had another two photographs of local lads in the RND at the Dardanelles.**

Girl's Patriotic Club - Lady Gordon Cathcart was president of the Girls' Patriotic Club, which had been formed in Buckie as a branch of the League of Honour. The girls were being drilled by Sergeants Philip and McKay in the Drill Hall.

Sept 30 **Butcher shops to be re-opened** - George McKenzie was to re-open the butcher's shops at 1 St Peter's Place, Buckpool also those at Gordon Street and also Low Street. He had taken over the shop on Gordon Street that had been ran for some time by his brother, Allan.

I just canny keep tee - John Sandison, Draper and Hosier on East Church Street was giving notice that owing to pressure of work in the knitting department and also the high price of wool he had found it necessary to cease, until further notice, the refooting of stockings and socks.

The Club Billiard Room at Bridgend was up and running with a new table. Notice was given that members might be enrolled at any time. Games of 100 up members 4d non-members 6d. J. Bowie and Co. proprietors.

The death took place of Keir Hardie, Labour politician and Leader of the Party in the House of Commons. He was 59 and died at his home in Glasgow.

His views onywe - Following a letter that had been written to the press advocating that the required assistant sanitary inspector for a temporary post with Buckie Town Council a columnist in the Banffshire Advertiser had this to say, being slightly sarcastic one might have thought -

There is nothing like having every man to his trade - A hen for instance can't lay dust any more than a watering cart (there was a lot of hoo-ha about this in the council some time back) can lay an egg. No boy can spin a web like a spider, but a spider can't spin a top like a boy. A dentist can't draw a picture any better than an artist can draw a tooth. Anyone can pick a quarrel but it requires a certain amount of skill to pick a lock. Some men are handy with their hands and some with their feet.

On page five one found a photograph of the five sons of Mr Wm. Paterson, Tailor, 3 Seaview Road who were all then in uniform. Their names were - William, James, John, Robert and George.

The Commanding Officer of the 6th Gordons, Col. J. E. McQueen was killed in action. The following week the B.A. carried a photograph of this officer.

A poem is found on page five titled - 'The Man Who Stayed At Home' (written by 'one of the boys at the front' who before the war was a working lad in London.

Rathven School bairns do their bit - The pupils of Rathven School sent tobacco and cigarettes to the value of £3..8 to men serving soldiers and on page five a selection of thank you letters from the soldiers is printed.

A lunar rainbow was seen over Buckie. This was described as a rare event.

Promotion - Sergeant Walter Imlah and Corporal Wm. D. McNaughton were both promoted Second Lieutenants in the 3/6 Gordons.

Oct 7 **Highland Clearance of a modern kind** - A letter writer told of how the Duke of Sutherland was to evict an 85-year-old crofter who had three sons in the armed forces.

On page five there were the usual photographs of serving men -

One showed L/Cpl John Knowles who had recently been killed also another of Col. McQueen

A third showed J.K. Forbes a former teacher at Rathven of whom a book was later written by William Taylor M.A. and Peter Diack, M.A called **Student and Sniper Sergeant**. This book was in the local collection in Buckie in 2000. Forbes must have been quite an amazing character as the book tells us.

Page 6 gave a list of local men who up till this time had lost their lives - Pte. Henry Bowie, George Raffan, John Kemp, Enos Downie, Frances Lyon all of Buckie and of the 6th Gordons. Also A.B Alex Gordon R.N.D. Fochabers and Pte. Alex C. Ross., Findochty, again of the 6th Gordons. A Second Lieutenant McPherson of the 6th Gordons was mentioned.

- Oct 14 **The new Playhouse (Palace) cinema was now open.**
- Work at the Buckie Harbour was still progressing.**
- There were more pictures on page five.**
- Portknockie woman as tram conductor** - A picture in the B.A. showed Miss Maggie Monro daughter of James Monro, Harbourmaster and postman of Portknockie. She was then working as a lady conductor on the trams in Glasgow, the only conductor from the village and one of very few ladies working as such in the city.
- Weel noo that's a muckle change from biggin boats** - James Jones, Larbert Ltd who had a shipbuilding yard in Buckie got a contract for making hand grenades.
- Military funeral** - AB R. N.B. John Ritchie, Shielburn who died of diphtheria was given a military funeral.
- More fatalities** - Other local men reported killed in action were - Pte. Morris Allan 9th Gordons and James Bremner of the 6th also Lawrence Milton of Buckie but who was serving with the Canadian Forces.
- Oct 21 **Findochty and its Town Council** - A meeting of the Ratepayers in Findochty too place to discuss what steps required to be taken to set up a town council in the village. There were four nominations forward as councillors- namely Walter J. Flett, Fishcurer, George Milne, Station Agent, James Flett, Ships Chandler, James A. Mitchell, Tailor.
Mr Lowe, solicitor, acted as chairman.
- Page 5 carried as normal photographs of serving men.**
Pic. 1 showed soldiers and sailors; Pic. 2 showed the R. N.D. at Crystal Palace; Pic. 3 Northern Soldiers Prisoners of War in Germany, among them was James Jappy, Buckie.
- Thankful for small mercies** - The price of a four pound loaf was reduced from 9d to 8 pence ha'penny.
- Opening announcement** - Misses I and R Rose, formerly of Huntly had taken over the shop at 39 West Church Street where they were to sell Fancy Drapery, Millinery and do Dressmaking.
- 'Far's yer licence?'** James Gordon, motor driver, 21 High Street, failed to produce his driving licence when challenged by the policeman at Ballindalloch. He was fine 5/- at Banff.
- Progress at Buckie harbour** - The work of excavating the old inner basin of the Buckie Harbour was almost complete with the underpinning of the walls being seen to. Two steam navvies were at work on the third dock with a considerable amount of material already having been excavated. the harbour extensions were taking rapid steps to being completed.
- Major Waring, Banffshire MP** was at the Front with the 20th Div. Divisional Cavalry.
- Another black day** - The 'Fighting 6th' Territorial Regiment, during the fighting on 25 September lost 45 men, including the O. C. Colonel McQueen and other 45 men. A total of 180 men were wounded with four officers missing.
- Oct 28 **Second hand clothing of all kinds was wanted** for wounded officers and men returning home on hospital ships from the Dardanelles. These to be handed in to Mrs Shaw, Queen Street, Manse.
- China store on Main Street** - Charlotte Harler had an advert stating that she was to re-open the shop at 11 Main Street formerly occupied by her late father where she aimed to sell china etc.
- Page 5 had another photograph of local sailors and soldiers.**
- Nov 4 **A wedding of local interest** - The wedding took place of Sergeant James Power, Scottish Rifles and Margaret Hossack 'Meg' third daughter of Alex Scott 3 Duncan's Lane. Buckpool.
- A poem is found on page 3 column 2 called 'Cheer Up'.**
- On page five the three pictures showed** - a) three Donald brothers from 6 Portessie. The family originally came from Elgin. b) A photograph of Pte Lawrence Milton, who was a son of Mrs Pirie, 22 West Street.

c) Local R.N.D. lads at the Dardanelles.

The annual general meeting of the Literary and Debating Society took place. Officials appointed for the year were - President - C.W. Thomson, vice president, George Murray, secretary, Leslie Shearer, treasurer, Miss Christie, editor J. J. Moir.

Nov. 11 **The following businesses had adverts in the paper this week** - The Little Wonder; C. I. Shearer, Alex Hay, James Mackay, Leith Esson, C. Bonnyman, Portgordon, John S. Munro, John Green, all drapers. John Simpson, Bank Street, John S. Simpson, West Church Street, George Sutherland, D. E. Shoe Shop., George McKenzie, Butcher, Misses I & R. Rose, , Robert Gillan, Globe Stores Mitchell's Stores, Bridgend, Grocers G. I. Gibson, Chemist., C. Harler, China Stores
A photograph on page five shows five sons of James Allan, Carter, 6 Cathedral Street, who were serving with the armed forces. They were William, Robert, Morris, James and Alex. **Three of the sons were to lose their lives before the war ended.**

An early photograph - shows members of the 'Fighting 6th' taken at Maisley Camp, Keith, before leaving for France. Named were John Lyon, J. McLean, Henry Bowie of Buckie also John and his brother George Addison of Portknockie and Robert Bain, Cullen.

League of Honour – a meeting of the Buckie branch took place.

Nov. 18 **Another member of the aristocracy becomes a fatality** - James Oglivie Grant, 11th Earl of Seafield died of wounds sustained . he was 39 and had only succeeded to the title three years before.

Findochty's first provost was Rev J. W. McKee, U.F. Free Manse. The two Bailies appointed was Walter J. Flett and William Smith.

On page five a photograph shows three sons of Mrs J. Low, 6 Yardie. They were John, William and Robert.

In a group of sailor lads on board HMS Victorious was AB Alex Costello, 16 Harbourhead, Buckpool.

Two former employees of James Jones and Sons Buckie and Larbert who had lost their lives were - Arthur Reid and William Sinclair.

Those who gave - Each week a list was given of the gifts of all kinds that were handed in for the patients in the Portessie Red Cross Hospital.

Nov 25 **L. T. McGarth was advertising** all manner of things useful to the serving soldier and sailor .

He continued as other faltered - James Mackay was again in the business of buying up the stock of other draper firms that had gone to the wall. In this instance the two firms were from Broughty Ferry and Elgin.

Recruiting Tribunals were being set up all over the place in keeping with the plan of Lord Derby .

On page five this week are shown five Hay brothers sons of Mrs Hay 4 Seaview Road, Buckpool. George, James, William and Peter. In the same group photograph were two brothers Alex and Neil McLean from 1 Hay Street.

In a 6th Gordons Machine Gun crew were Buckie men - Andrew Knowles, George Logie, George Raffan and George McIntosh who came from Portessie.

A poem is found on page 5 titled - '192 Gordon Brigade at Scone.'

Dec 2 **On page five there is another service photograph.**

A number of officers arrived in Buckie in connection with Lord Derby's recruiting scheme. Men of a certain age were compelled to put them selves forward for attestation .

A poem by Seamus Macgaradh titled 'A Lament' is found on this page.

Dec 9 **Advert - Banffshire Advertiser Christmas Annual 24 pages and cover for 1d.**
 Short Complete Stories and Paragraphs- 32 Portraits of Local Soldiers and Sailors, Gallant Fishermen etc.
It will be appreciated in the trenches

As the issue is limited secure your copies early.

An Advert Alex Fraser (J. Gray) was advertising goods of various kinds from 65 West Church Street.

Patriots from Portknockie, Cullen and Clochan are shown on page five

Pit oot that light! It was an offence, as in the second World War to show unnecessary lights. A man on Cliff Terrace was fined 20/- for showing a light that could be seen out at sea. Another person was fine 10/- for having too bright a light on his motor van.

Dec 16 **Wonderful displays** - The Little Wonder was advertising an Xmas Bazaar and Toy Display, Shearers were advertising Wykedin Women's Coats made from Shetland Wool Tweed; Munros were advertising great reductions in Winter Millinery while Alex Hay had for sale Ladies nap coats, colour blue, brown and grey at £2.2 with sleeves and shoulders lined. Gents nap coats, special value at £2.5.6

On page five there is another photograph of soldiers and sailors. One of the soldiers shown was Sergeant David 'Davie' Davidson, Land Street a former regular soldier who had been working as a mason before the war.

The Strypie Burn in spate - Flooding took place on the Strypie Burn in Findochty with the new Town Council was to tackle Seafield Estates on the matter. (They didn't seem to have achieved much with the problem still apparent over 80 years later.)

The price o breid tae ging up again - The following bakers agreed to raise the price of bread to 9d - Charles Forbes, D.L. Fowler, John McWilliam and Sons, James Mitchell, Reid Brothers, R. Robertson and James Valentine.

Opening announcement - E. Davidson, 27 High Street, High Class Fruit, Flowers and Vegetables. Wreaths and bouquets made to order.

A chance tae let yer hair doon - There is to be a Hogmanay dance in the Good Templar Hall.

Page five again had a photograph of sailors and soldiers . Two of the soldiers shown were sons of Provost Shearer - Lt. C. Shearer MA and Pte W. F. Shearer third son who was a Medical student pre war. also shown were three Coull brothers from 129 Main Street.

**** **The first High School Magazine** - The B.A. gave notice of the first issue of Buckie Higher Grade School magazine, School Chronicle, an interesting magazine produced by several of the senior pupils of the school. **The Chronicle**, attractively got up and has been well printed on superior paper by the Banffshire Advertiser and on sale at 4d a copy.

It contains photographs of those connected with the school with a number of articles, such as, Some Humours of School Life; Buckie and Its School; A Plea For a Former Pupil's Association of Buckie Higher Grade School etc.

The youthful publishers are certainly to be congratulated on their efforts and it is to be hoped that the Chronicle will become a permanent institution of the school.

The sodgers will welcome those - Comforts of many different kinds for all kinds of groups of serving men were received at Drummur Castle and will in turn be distributed. A list of all the groups was given with the comforts that would be going there.

Gifts given for patients - The Buckie VAD Hospital at Portessie continued to receive also continued to receive a variety of gifts with the names of the subscribers being given.

Dec 23 **Findochty Town Council** - The monthly meeting of the new Findochty Town Council took place this week when the following members were present - Provost McKee, Bailie Smith and the following councillors - Messrs George Flett, James Mitchell, George Milne and William Smith.

The provost submitted a design for the burgh seal, consisting of a steam drifter with the motto 'Just and Honest' The design was approved and the clerk was instructed to procure a seal.

Mr Oglivie Dawson, Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector gave his report.

Dec 30 **Death of solicitor's clerk** - The death took place this week of John Charles Junior. Writer (clerk) with John L. McNaughton, of 75 High Street.

Christmas gifts for those on active service - A. W. Boyd, Watchmaker, East Church Street, was advertising useful gifts for serving soldiers and sailors. Pocket mirror at 1/9 and a wallet with fork, knife, spoon and tin opener at 2/6.

Page five had the usual photographs of soldiers and sailors from the local area

Men from the Deskford area - Also on this page was a list of all the men from the Deskford area who were then serving with the armed forces, under the title Deskford Roll of Honour.

There was also a picture showing some local lads in South Africa.

Name of station to be changed - Fochabers was to be changed to Fochabers and Spey Bay.

Gold medallist singer - Adam Robertson, Master Painter and well known local gold medallist singer was the choir leader of the West U.F. Church.

Number of patients at Portessie Hospital - It was reported that there were 23 soldiers in the VAD Hospital at Portessie this week. the numbers tended to go up and down.

