

# Lest we forget



by Tony Wainwright  
EFC Heritage Society

**A**t the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month in 1918, the guns fell silent. The Great War was over. It was hoped that it was to be “the war to end all wars”. Sadly, the fact that we refer to the conflict as the First World War demonstrates that it wasn’t.

For over four years the first truly global conflict raged. The effect throughout the city of Liverpool was catastrophic. Over 13,000 local men gave their lives in the service of their country. The 1914-15 football season, which continued during the first year of the war, saw Everton finish as Champions for the second time in the club’s history but joy at this success was in short supply. At the end of the season the Football Association bowed to public pressure and, following the example set by the rugby and cricket

authorities, abandoned competitive football until the end of the war.

Everton Football Club was not immune from suffering loss. Supporters may be familiar with the memorial plaque erected in 2011 near the Dixie Dean statue which lists the names of seven players fallen in theatres of war. Subsequent research was done by the EFC Heritage Society into the effect the war had on the club and they are now able to identify a team-full of former players who gave their lives:

- James Brannick
- Frederick Collinson
- Thomas Gracie
- David Murray
- Harry Norris
- Thomas Norse
- Leigh Roose (Military Medal)
- James Roy
- Donald Sloan
- Wilfred Toman
- Richard Wynn

The global nature of the war saw two southern hemisphere clubs bearing the Everton name also affected. Our Chilean cousins in the port city of Valparaiso, inspired by our club tour of South America in 1909, suffered the grievous loss in action of two of its founder members, Frank Boundy (Military Cross) and Malcolm Fraser. The Everton club of Auckland, New Zealand, lost nine players during the war. All those connected to Everton who lost their lives truly lived up to the club motto of ‘Nothing But The Best Is Good Enough’.

As the centenary of the 1918 Armistice approaches, EFC Heritage Society will lead a commemoration of the sacrifices made, at 11am on Friday 9th November by the Park End stand.

*(Further details of the lives of the players of Everton FC, CD Everton and the Everton Club of Auckland can be found on the website of the EFC Heritage Society at: [efcheritagesociety.com](http://efcheritagesociety.com))*