

LEST WE FORGET – THE LIFE OF DONALD SLOAN

By Tony Wainwright

Donald Sloan was born on 31 July 1883 in Rankinston, Ayrshire. His parents had 12 children, nine of whom survived to adulthood. Donald was their sixth child.

A goalkeeper, he played for Ayr before being signed by Belfast Distillery, where he played from 1903 to 1906. While with them, Sloan represented the League of Ireland in a fixture against the English League at Manchester City's Hyde Road ground. Two Everton directors were present and were sufficiently impressed that an initial offer to sign him was made but rejected. However, a further offer of £250 was accepted and Sloan duly signed for Everton in April 1906, three days after the Club's first ever FA Cup final victory, a 1-0 win over Newcastle United at Crystal Palace.

Sloan's Senior Team opportunities were limited by the form of Billy Scott, who was the regular keeper at the time, and he made only six appearances for the Blues, two in 1906/07 and a further four in 1907/08, before joining Liverpool for a fee of £300 in 1908.

He made six appearances for the Reds before returning to Distillery as player-manager, where he won the Irish Cup in 1909. He later returned to Scotland and played for Bathgate and East Stirlingshire. After he ended his football career, Sloan was employed as a miner.

When the First World War was declared in August 1914, Sloan enlisted in Glasgow and joined the 8th Battalion of the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), becoming Private S/9311. He arrived in France on 2 October 1915. Donald was



■ Donald Sloan



killed in action, aged 33, on New Year's Day 1917 by heavy mortar fire which killed four other men and he now rests in the cemetery at Faubourg D'Amiens in Arras.



Sloan was, incredibly sadly, the fourth son that the family had lost in the Great War, as three of his brothers had already made the supreme sacrifice. His brother, Robert, who had emigrated to Canada, was killed with the 10th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry in 1915 and William, who served with the 2nd Tunnelling Company of the Canadian Engineers, was killed in action in June 1916. Three months later, Thomas died whilst serving with the 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards.

Donald Sloan is one of the men featured in *The Fallen of the Everton FC* booklet, available online at efcheritagesociety.com.

The Everton FC Heritage Society, with support from Everton Football Club, organises a Remembrance event which is held each year close to the Dixie Dean statue. Please follow our social media accounts for details.

