

EVERTON REMEMBERS ITS FALLEN OF 1917



Donald Sloan was born in 1883 in Rankinston in Ayrshire but made his name playing in goal for Belfast Distillery. He was signed by Everton for £250 just before the first FA Cup win in 1906. He made six first-team appearances over two seasons

before joining Liverpool in 1908. He served in the 8th Black Watch, arriving in France in October 1915. The battalion held the line at Ypres and was heavily involved in the Battle of the Somme. Donald was killed on New Year's Day 1917 near Arras when a German trench mortar hit his dugout. He is buried in the cemetery next to the Arras Memorial to the Missing, and was one of four brothers killed in WW1.



James Roy was born in Edinburgh in 1889 and signed for Everton from Scottish amateurs Broxburn in December 1913 for £60. James played left-half for the reserves as they won the

Central League in 1914 and was unlucky not to make the first team during the Championship season of 1914/15. James served with the 5th Scottish Rifles, fighting on the Somme in late 1916. He died on 24 April 1917 during the battle of Arras; he has no known grave and is remembered on the Arras Memorial with his brother, Robert, who was killed in March 1918.



Wilf Toman was a Bishop Auckland-born centre-forward signed from Burnley in 1898/99 for a record £100. He had two spells at Everton but his career was cut short by injury and he went to sea as a purser on the Australia route, while living on Cherry Lane near

Goodison Park. Wilf went to France with the 2nd Liverpool Scottish in February 1917 and was killed on 2 May 1917 near Bois Grenier. The main Eurostar Line from London to Lille and Paris passes right next to the spot. He is buried in Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension.



James Brannick was born in Manchester in 1889. He was a stocky inside-forward signed for £75 from Atherton in November 1912. He scored in his first two appearances, yet played only one more game before being sold to St Mirren in 1914. James served with the 11th Lancashire

Fusiliers and was killed on 10 August 1917 near Westhoek, during the third battle of Ypres, better known as Passchendaele. His name is on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres and he also lost a brother in 1915.

We shall remember them.

Peter Jones



By Peter Jones [Everton Heritage Society]