

# **Act of Remembrance takes place in the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle**

**Earlier this morning, Monday 01 July 2024, an Act of Remembrance took place in the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle to commemorate the 454 men of The Royal Scots who were killed at Contalmaison in Northern France, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme 1916, 108 years ago today.**

At the exact same time today, a service was held at the memorial cairn in Contalmaison, France, by a party from McCrae's Battalion Trust, accompanied by The Royal Scots Association's Standard Party and a piper.

Colonel George McCrae raised the 16th Battalion of The Royal Scots (16 RS), which became known as McCrae's Battalion, in Edinburgh in November 1914. Many rallied to the call, enlisting to fight for King and Country, including players and supporters of Heart of Midlothian FC (the first players to sign up from all UK football clubs) as well as a number from Hibernian FC and many other Scottish football clubs.

The 15th Edinburgh Battalion of The Royal Scots, also raised

in Edinburgh, by the Lord Provost, fought gallantly alongside McCrae's Battalion at Contalmaison.

Elaine Hutton, granddaughter of Private Herbert Nisbet, who was brought up in Hillside Crescent in Edinburgh and served in 16 RS on 01 July 1916 at Contalmaison, and survived the War, attended the service.





Elaine Hutton said: "It was so important to be at the Scottish

National War Memorial to remember my grandfather Herbert who served as a private soldier in McCrae's Battalion on the First Day of The Somme 108 years ago today, along with my great uncle Cecil, who was killed on that day. We admire their courage and extreme loyalty."

Private Herbert Nisbet's brother Cecil, who had enlisted into 16 RS on 28th November 1914, was killed at Contalmaison on 01 July. Herbert's four brothers all served in The Royal Scots; three of them were killed in WW1.

At the end of the Remembrance Service wreaths were laid by representatives of The Royal Scots, Heart of Midlothian FC, Hibernian FC and McCrae's Battalion Trust.

Scottish National War Memorial Chief Executive Susan Flintoff said: "So many families in Scotland were touched in some way by the Great War and it is very fitting that The Royal Scots were remembering those in their famous Regiment who gave their lives fighting for freedom on the Western Front on the 1st of July 1916".

Brigadier George Lowder, President of The Royal Scots Regimental Association commented: "We must never forget those young men of The Royal Scots who died on The First Day of the Somme and in the months that followed".