

paving stone will be laid in Turnbull's honour at Glasgow's People's Palace. A third Cathra club members - Hugh F McKenzie - was also killed while serving with the 17th Battalion on that fateful day.

McFadzean, meanwhile, was an enthusiastic young player at the Collegians club in Belfast, which was founded as the Old Boys club of the Methodist College Belfast although he attended the Trade Preparatory School in Belfast. Collegians merged with NIFC in 1999 to become Belfast Harlequins.

A strapping 6ft and 13st-plus, McFadzean was considered to have a bright rugby future and on joining the Ulster Rifles his strength, like that of Turnbull, was put to use as a bomber, carrying and using the grenades on the front line. His VC came at 6.30am in the trenches just before hostilities began and the citation for his act of bravery requires no further comment.

"While in a concentration trench and opening a box of bombs for distribution prior to an attack, the box slipped down into the trench, which was crowded with men, and two of the safety pins fell out. Private McFadzean, instantly realising the danger to his comrades, with heroic courage threw himself on the top of the bombs.

"The bombs exploded blowing him to pieces, but only one other man was injured. He well knew his danger, being himself a bomber, but without a moment's hesitation he gave his life for his comrades."



The Battle of the Somme in numbers

- 1,732,873: Shells fired in preliminary Allied bombardment
- 465,000: German soldiers injured
- 419,654: British and Commonwealth soldiers injured
- 204,253: French soldiers injured
- 164,055: German soldiers killed
- 146,431: British and Allied soldiers killed
- 50,736: French soldiers killed
- 19,240: British soldiers killed on the first day of battle
- 141: Days duration of battle
- 51: Victoria Crosses awarded
- 30: Percentage of unexploded shells in British bombardment
- 24: Tanks used by the Allies at the Battle of Flers
- 9: Victoria Crosses awarded on for bravery on the first day
- 6: Miles - total Allied gain in 141 days

Heroic courage: Private William McFadzean

Rugby Internationals killed at the Battle of the Somme

July 1 - November 18 1916

- 1: July 1 - Rowland Fraser (Scotland):** Cambridge University backrow forward, Captain in the Rifle Brigade, killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme
- 2: July 7 - Edward John Richard 'Dick' Thomas (Wales):** Versatile Mountain Ash back, Company Sgt Major with 38th (Welsh) Infantry. Died at Mametz Wood
- 3: July 9 - Robert Lawrence Pillman (England):** Blackheath flanker. Scratch golfer. Died of wounds received during a night raid at Armentieres
- 4: July 11 - John Lewis Williams (Wales):** Cardiff wing, 17 tries in 17 Tests for Wales. Capt in the 38th (Welsh) Infantry. Died at Mametz Wood
- 5: July 14 - David Watts (Wales):** Maesteg lock and stewart of Wales pack in 1914 Championship. Served with King's Shropshire Light Infantry, died at Bezentine Ridge
- 6: July 15 - Tobias Mortimer 'Toby' Moll (South Africa):** Transvaal forward capped against 1910 Lions. Killed at Bazentine-le-petit serving in Leicestershire Rgt
- 7: July 18 - Eric 'Puss' Milroy (Scotland):** Watsonians scrum-half, toured with 1910 Lions. Killed near Longueval serving as a Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion Black Watch
- 8: Aug 9 - John Abbott King (England):** Diminutive Yorkshire No 8 and captain. Served for Kings Liverpool Regiment. Killed at Guillemont
- 9: Aug 9 - Andrew Noel Slocock (England):** Former England captain serving with the Liverpool Scottish. Killed at Guillemont in the same attack as King
- 10: Sept 3 - Horace Wyndham Thomas (Wales):** Bridgend fly-half and Cambridge choral scholar. KIA at Guillemont serving with the Rifle Brigade
- 11: Sept 18 - The Rev Rupert Edward Inglis (England):** Joined up aged 51 to show solidarity with his parishoner. Died Ginchy recovering wounded soldiers from no mans land
- 12: Sept 19 - Frank Wilson (New Zealand):** Second Lieutenant Auckland Regiment of NZEF. Died of wounds received in action on September 17
- 13: Sept 21 - Stanley 'Bobby' Black (New Zealand):** Otago back capped in Australia in 1914. Killed in action serving for the Canterbury Regiment.
- 14: Nov 4 - Private Herbert Jones (Australia):** Aussie wing KIA by shellfire at Flers when serving with the 30th Battalion AIF
- 15: Nov 13 - Alfred Frederick Maynard (England):** Cambridge University hooker. Survived Gallipoli but killed at Beaumont Hamel in the Battle of Ancre

the Somme Test XV

ed to lieutenant in the 10th Battalion of the Queen's Own where he was effectively the bombing officer, one of the most perilous jobs of all. Pillman was shot by a sniper returning from a night operation laying bombs on July 9 in the Armentieres area and died a few hours later.

Maesteg's David Watts was a member of the 'Terrible Eight', the Welsh pack which earned a reputation in 1914 for its uncompromising play, particularly in a notably fierce game against Scotland.

He joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and rose to the rank of corporal before being killed in fierce fighting at Bezentine Ridge. The following day burly Transvaal forward Toby Moll, who had been capped for South Africa against the 1910 Lions, was killed at nearby Bazentine-le-Petit fighting with the Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

Another killed in July, at Delville Wood, was former Scotland scrum-half Eric 'Puss' Milroy who toured with the Lions in that 1910 series. Milroy was a lieutenant in the Black Watch and, like scores of thousands of soldiers involved in battle, there were no remains to bury, no closure for loved ones. For years his mother would leave a light on in the front room of the family house to guide her

son home, a gesture many other grieving families replicated. Just in case.

The small village of Guillemont witnessed some of the most savage fighting of all and on August 9 two England internationals and firm friends - John King and Noel Slocock - were killed in the same attack. King was a diminutive and flinty Yorkshire farmer and regular at hooker for England - 12 internationals in three seasons - who joined up immediately with the Yorkshire Hussars, reportedly leaving his three sisters to get the crop in.

Frustrated at a lack of action, he used his friendship with the well-connected Slocombe to engineer a transfer to the London Scottish Regiment and then the Liverpool (Scottish) Regiment and it was while fighting with the Scottish that he was killed in action.

Slocombe, who had captained England in 1908 as a 21-year-old, was 29 when he died leading his men in attack. He had returned from the USA to volunteer for military service after his job as a cotton trader had seen him set up home in Savannah, Georgia.

Early in his rugby career, in 1906, he had been involved in a classic mix-up when, after impressing playing for the

North in their prestigious match against the South, he was confidently tipped to make his England debut against the touring Springboks. That indeed was the intention of the selectors who nonetheless managed to send their invitation, by mistake, to Arnold Alcock, a medical student at Guys and a player of much more modest ability. Alcock duly made his one and only England appearance.

The battle continued apace in September, the death toll remorseless. The fight for Guillemont was still raging and on September 3 it claimed Wales fly-half Horace Thomas, a choral scholar and Cambridge Blue. Thomas had become something of a cause celebre in 1912 when he was picked for Wales to play against the Springboks. The policy at the time was that no Welsh player outside of the Principality be allowed to play

"The sporting cream of Britain and the Commonwealth were killed, mutilated or scarred mentally"

unless they were a member at London Welsh. Which Thomas wasn't.

He was a talent, though, and after the selectors had watched him inspire Cambridge to their first win over Oxford in seven years, the WRU went against their own edict and picked him anyway. A sort of early Gatland's Law. In the Test itself he had appeared to win the game with a late dropped goal but the referee signalled otherwise.

The remarkable Rev Rupert Inglis was an Army chaplain and an England rugby international of 30 years standing when he found himself at the Somme. At the age of 51 he had volunteered, feeling it was morally unacceptable for him to preach from the pulpit asking young men in his Basingstoke parish to step forward unless he was willing to do likewise.

Once on the Western Front, his duties extended way beyond the spiritual well-being of his regiment. Much of the time Inglis volunteered for stretcher parties and when the wounded had been retrieved he acted as a surgeon's assistant in the primitive field hospitals.

Inglis met his end near Ginchy on September 18 recovering wounded colleagues from no-man's land. As with Fraser on the opening day, he had sur-

vived an initial wound and was being dressed when a second shell exploded nearby and killed him outright.

The following day saw All Blacks wing Frank Wilson lose his battle for life after being severely injured during fighting on September 17 and then on September 21 a second New Zealander was lost when Stanley "Bobby" Black was killed serving with the Canterbury Regiment.

Another Antipodean made the ultimate sacrifice as the battle finally drew to a close in November when Herbert Jones was killed at Flers where, for the first time, the Allied troops unveiled their new secret weapon - the tank. They had shipped 50 over to France but only 24 were in working order and with a top speed of 3kph they were of limited use though they had a certain shock value.

Jones was meant to be going on leave the following day.

The final Test player to be killed at the Somme was Alfred Maynard, a Naval man, who was killed at Beaumont Hamel on November 13. Maynard, England's hooker in the 1914 Five Nations, had survived all the rigours of the Gallipoli campaign but his luck ran out when Naval detachments were drafted onto the Western Front to help the war on land.