



**ERIC NEWTON**, Aberdeen University and Carlton, 5 caps, cap number 54

Eric Newton was born on 28th February 1889 in the Punjab where his father Isaac Newton was a Captain in the Indian Medical Service. He was educated at Mackie Academy, Stonehaven and went to Aberdeen University in 1907 to study medicine. At university Eric was a multi talented sportsman winning a Blue in hockey, cricket and tennis.

In the 1907-08 season Eric was a member of the University hockey team that only lost one game, he was also selected for Aberdeenshire and then North District that season. Having made an impression at club and district level as a free scoring inside right, he was offered a place in the Scotland Olympic team of 1908 but because of his studies, he was unable to travel. The Aberdeen Press and Journal of 27th January 1909 noted that he was “at home at almost any position on the pitch” and “his eye is as keen as a hawk, his judgement is sound and his resourcefulness seems to know no bounds”.

Eric gained his first cap in the match against Wales in Wrexham on 13th February 1909, he was the 54th man to be capped by Scottish Hockey. The Scots won 3-2 with Eric at inside right and L. A. McKenzie at centre forward. Newton gained five caps in total, the last being on the 7th March 1914 when he played left back against Ireland. The match was played at Sydney Parade, Dublin and although the Scots lost 4-2, it was viewed as an improvement over the previous year’s 6-0 drubbing. However Eric was dropped for the England game with C.R.C. Moon of Edinburgh University taking his place.

Eric graduated in 1915. After a brief period as an assistant to Dr A.E. Jones of Prestwick, he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and was commissioned on 1st August 1915. By 25th September 1915 he was in Egypt.

Eric joined the 129th (Duke of Connaughts Own) Baluchi battalion in January 1917 as the Regimental Medical Officer. On 5th August 1917 the battalion made a reconnaissance in force against an enemy position at the hamlet of Nanyati near Matandawalla in modern day Tanzania. The Indian troops were repulsed and in a counter attack, the battalion HQ and regimental aid post were overrun. Eric was originally posted as missing, but his body was later found. He was initially buried at Matandawalla, then reburied in grave 4. C. 8 at Kilwa Kivinje. Eventually post war his body was re interred at Dar es Salaam War Cemetery.

Sources:

Scotland's People

British Newspaper Archive

Ancestry

Scottish Hockey Records

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Long Long Trail website

The 4/10th Baluchi Regiment in the Great War by W.S. Thatcher

The Forgotten Front by Ross Anderson