

## Colin HARDING



**Born:** 1891, Kettering, Northamptonshire  
**Occupation:** Shoemaker  
**Enlisted:** Glasgow: 20th August 1914 (Volunteer)  
**Unit:** 12th & 5/6th Royal Scots Regt.  
**Rank/number:** Private: No.12168  
**Death:** Died, 28th October 1918  
**Detail:** Colin died of Spanish Flu whilst recovering from injuries a few weeks before the peace. Private Harding was wounded three times during a long hard war. He spent more than a month in hospital in France after his last injury and the pandemic sweeping the world was more than his battered body could cope with. He was one of the 10,621 who died of the disease in Ireland that year.

**Age at death:** 27

**Military info:** Colin enlisted in the Royal Scots, the British Army's oldest infantry regiment, 16 days after war broke out. Following training he was posted to the 12th battalion in France on 11th May 1915. The 12th RS was in the 27th Brigade, 9th (Scottish) Division, a unit that earned a fearsome fighting reputation. Colin's first battle was at Loos, fought from 5th September to 18th October. It was the BEF's biggest 'show' to date. It failed partly due to shortage of artillery ammunition. Colin, wounded in the arm, was one of 61,000 British casualties. He returned to the 12th battalion on 5th June 1916 as it prepared for the Somme. On 13th July Colin was wounded in the right leg during a failed attack at Longueval. He returned to action in 1917 with 5/6th Royal Scots and spent most of it in a quiet sector. On 21st of March 1918 the Germans launched a huge offensive, but on 8th August the Allies hit back at Amiens. On the 10th Colin was hit in the knee by aircraft fire at Le Quesnoy. After hospital he was sent to rest at Mullinger, Ireland. On 28th October, two weeks before peace, he died of Spanish Flu.

**Grave/memorial:** Colin is buried at Ballyglass Cemetery, Ireland. He is also commemorated at St Petroc's Church, Padstow and on the Padstow War Memorial.

**Family info:** Father: Sydney Harding, born Marlborough, Wiltshire in 1848. Mother: Elizabeth (maiden name unknown), born Ireland in 1852. Colin's grandfather and brother made boots and his parents were teachers. In 1901 Colin was with his widowed mother, a teacher at Luddesdown School, Kent. Colin later stayed with his uncle Frederick Harding, headmaster of Padstow School. In 1905 he failed a pupil teacher exam. In 1914 he was a shoemaker in Glasgow.



This information was researched by Peter Smith, who is currently writing a book about Padstow's part in the Great War. Anyone wishing to correct errors or supply additional information can write to him at 24 Mallard Drive, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5PW. Also phone 01825 762226 or email smithpeter24@gmail.com

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