

# Peter Johnstone

**Born 30th of December 1887. Died 16th of May 1917.**



Probably the best known Celt to have fallen in the Great War is centre-half and utility man, Peter Johnstone signed for Celtic on the 9th of January 1908. Johnstone made his debut in April the following year, the first appearance of 233 for the Club. During this period Johnstone won four League Championships, two Scottish Cup Winners medals and also represented the Scottish League. Johnstone, a miner signed from Glenraig Celtic, was an idol of the Celtic faithful and was a deserved recipient of such accolade when he lifted his first Scottish Cup medal after the final with Clyde in 1912. In the same year he added another gong to his collection when Celtic met and beat Clyde in the Charity Cup final in an amazing tie that Celtic won by seven corners to nil.

*A loyal servant you have been  
Long may you wear the hoops of green  
Your well-kent face of old be seen. On our Paradise  
No warmer Celt heart than thine  
Long may your star ascendant shine  
Full sure when Celtic made you sign  
They booked a prize.*

John Conway 1913.

Johnstone was part of the infamous side who contested for the 'missing' Ferencvaros Cup in Budapest against Burnley in 1914. The game ended in a draw and it was reluctantly agreed that a return would be played in Burnley. Celtic won and the trophy never materialised but compensation was afforded to Johnstone and his team mates when they secured the Double in 1914. Johnstone volunteered to go to war firstly to the 14th Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1916 and latterly the 6th Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders. Whilst eager to defend his country Johnstone was also always willing to assist the Celts and during his army training he travelled overnight from England to help his team mates oust Rangers from the Glasgow Cup on the 23rd of September 1916.

To the absolute shock of the Celtic faithful, Johnstone lost his life during the Battle of Arras which was fought on the 15-16th of May 1917. A Celtic Legend, Johnstone's death was a huge loss to Celtic Football Club. A dedication to his memory is inscribed on Bay 8 of the Arras Memorial in the Fauborg d'Amiens Cemetery.

Over the next few years many stories surrounding the circumstances of Peter's death circulated but the truth is we will never know for certain exactly how he died.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2015 the Peter Johnstone Memorial Garden was officially open by Fife Provost, Jim Leishman and Lisbon Lion, John Clark. Several hundred people attended the event in Peter's boyhood home, Glenraig.



## Honours

**Played 223 times for Celtic.**

**League winners 1909-10, 1913-14, 1914-15, 1915-16.**

**Scottish Cup winners 1912, 1914.**