



James Gilroy Traill, Edinburgh Northern, 3 caps, cap number 126

James Gilroy Traill was born at 38 Kenmure Street, Glasgow to John Traill, an architect, and his wife Agnes (nee Gilroy).

In the 1911 Census James was in London, at 16 Gloucester Square visiting the Annan family (his aunt and cousins). By 1921, James was living at 4 Warrender Park Crescent in Edinburgh along with his parents and siblings Thomas, Agnes and Margaret.

The first hockey mention for James was as the keeper for Edinburgh Northern in October 1922. He seems to have quickly established himself as their first choice keeper and represented Edinburgh in December 1923. He was reserve for the final international trial in January 1924 behind Sinclair of Nomads and Frank Morris of Inverleith.

James was the first choice Scotland keeper for the 1925 international season, being picked ahead of Frank Morris who went on to win 14 caps over the next six seasons. In the 1925 series, Scotland beat Wales 1-0 in Aberdeen. They then lost 4-2 to England in a game played at Muirton Park, Perth. Traill was described as "brilliant and stamped himself as a keeper of first class". In the final international of the season, Scotland travelled to Dublin where they lost 5-2.

On 26th October 1926 James sailed on board the SS Athenia to Canada to start a new life as a mining engineer. On 27th August 1930 he married Nancy Fraser in Renfrew Ontario. The couple had two boys John born in Texas in 1931 and Fraser born in Canada in 1933.

In January 1942 the family sailed from Montreal on the SS Lady Hawkins. James was taking up a new position with the Aluminium Company of Canada in British Guiana. On the 19th January 1942 the Lady Hawkins was off the coast of Cape Hatteras when she was hit by two torpedoes fired by U-66. The ship sank within 30 minutes. Three of the six lifeboats had been damaged so only three could be launched and only one of the three made it to safety. Only 71 of the 330 passengers and crew survived the sinking of the Lady Hawkins. James, Nancy, John and Fraser were not among the survivors.

Sources:

Scotland's People

British Newspaper Archive

Ancestry

Scottish Hockey Records

Commonwealth War Graves Commission