Thank you.

It's good of you to come, visit before you go.

I wouldn't go anywhere without seeing you first, grandpa.
Besides,

You promised me another story!

Is that right?

Yeah!
I do have a story I wanted to tell you.

Hah! Knew it!

It actually happened very close to where I grew up.

Although I was only a wee boy back then.
So, what kind of story is this?

A true one

Some of it is true, anyway.
When the war came, they all volunteered to join up.

We'll be home by Christmas, they say!

None of them wanted to miss it.

I don't think any of them thought that they'd no come back.
THE MEMORIAL
WAS TO
REMEMBER
THEM

Come on
now, Ma.

THEY'D
DONE
THEIR
GRIEVING
BY THEN
NOT EVERYBODY WAS HAPPY ABOUT IT THOUGH.

Have you heard folk complaining?

They want that deserter's name included.

Who is it again?
Ach what was his name... Paul?

Peter!

Oh yes, of course.

What a shame.

That's not right.

You can't have that!
WHAT WOULD THE WORLD BECOME

IF COWARDS

AND DESERTERS
Move it, Peter!

Comin’, comin’.

I’m comin’
Ah, mmmm

You're right, of course.
Of course none of those on the committee have actually been in there.

Heck, most who had, didnae want to remember.
Not everyone was willing to forget, though.

Especially not those two.
Louie!

Louie, have you heard?

Johnny?
What is it?
They don’t want to put his name on!

What?!

I’m tellin’ you!

They say he’s not fit to be remembered

That he’s a traitor; a disgrace!
No! Peter?
He shouldn’t have even been there!

Oi, Peter! Move it!

REMEMBER THE BIRDS?
Comin’, I’m comin’

Look, look!

What should we do with them?

Smash them!

Eat them?
No, stop it! Leave them!

Birds, birds are special!

Watch them swooping and swirling as one

Like they all know what’s happening to each other
They are the ones who aren’t fit!

Johnny, we can’t just let this happen.

No.

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
And so they did.

It's said that they stole explosives from a nearby quarry.

And threatened to blow up the memorial into the Tay.

If something wasn't done in the matter.
I bet the committee didn’t like that very much.

Folk didn’t care, not by then.

THEY GATHERED
THE WHOLE TOWN
AT BLYTH HALL
What a shameful thing...

For the public to decide themselves

That poor lad doesn’t deserve this!

Aye!

What really happened over there?
If you leave that boy's name out

You can take my twa laddies names off, an' all!

None of you are fit to judge this!
He fought at Neuve-Chapelle!

And Festurbert!

And Loos...

That was a dark day for our boys.

The lad’s name should be on the memorial!
The committee should either comply or resign!

Who's in favour?

That decides it then.
So, what happened?

The committee resigned.
Oh.

I'm glad.
Take care of yourself over there, okay?

Of course!

Always do!
HONOUR THOSE WHO HAVE Fought

THE COWARD,
THE BRAVE,
THE HURT
Don’t forget to call your mother on your way!

I won’t, I won’t!

I promise!

FOR THEY ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOU,
At 5:47am on the 18 September 1916 Private Peter Black was executed for desertion. He was one of some 200,000 men who were court-martialled during the war. One of 20,000 convicted of an offence that carried the death penalty. One of 3,000 that received it and one of only 346 where it was carried out. Ninety years later in 2006 Private Black was one of 306 who were finally pardoned and are now commemorated by the Shot at Dawn Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

At a time where the stigma of being labelled a coward greatly affected the families and could disrupt communities, Black was commemorated not just once but twice. In 1920 his name was engraved onto the memorial at the Schoolhouse in Flisk. A few years later the debate over whether his name should be engraved on the Newport-on-Tay memorial led to several heated public meetings and an alleged threat to blow the monument up into the Tay if his name wasn’t included. His contribution and his place on the memorial was championed by his friends and other veterans who returned. The community rallied and supported to defend one of their own for what he and many like him gave up when they volunteered in August 1914.