

FORGET ME NOT

MARGARET GERTRUDE BINNIE (NEE BYTHEWAY) CATHERINE HAWORTH'S GRANDMOTHER (NIECE TO NELLIE BYTHEWAY)



My maternal grandmother was always known as Daisy, and she was born in Glasgow to Percy and Louise Bytheway. She was their first child of four. Ernie who was born next and was her adored little brother, sadly died in infancy. She was their only daughter and the apple of her daddy's eye.

Daisy was a very confident, energetic, sociable person and a dedicated Christian. She loved to be on committees, organised many events and did charitable deeds for the less well off as well as heading up the YMCA for very many years in Kilmarnock.

Her mother Louise had been a small time actress and Daisy inherited her love of drama, poetry and performance from her.

She attended Hamilton Academy and trained there to become a gym mistress and worked as such at Neilson School in Paisley for four years prior to her marriage to the love of her life, my Grandfather William James Binnie a Banker from Ayrshire.

They settled into their family home in Kilmarnock and had three children; my late Mother, Margaret Jane Louise; my late Uncle, James Percy Kennedy and my Aunt Eleanor who lives in Canada.

Grandma was always highly entertaining and loved being surrounded by children and in fact any group of people she could organise and create some activity for, be it playing cards, hiking up and down the nearest glen, or going for a freezing dip in the sea!

Her stories of her days 'berry-picking' were legend and this war work was clearly a highlight in her young life. She loved the fun and companionship of the other girls and being occupied outdoors in such a healthy pursuit at the same time as making a valuable contribution to the

war effort. It is clear from some of the photos I have come across, that this highly spirited group and the freedom they enjoyed, clearly made for a very happy time. She also talked about the thrill of learning how to drive Tramcars and drove them on the Ettrick Bay route at Rothsey.

Grandma had three younger brothers, twins Willa and Percy, and Jack. I have not come across any information relating to any significant part they played, if any, in war work during this time, but they were some years younger than her. I am sure that as she did not have any close relatives on the 'front' itself, that this allowed her and many other young girls like her to just enjoy the excitement, liberation and opportunities of a world which was turning upside down and would never be the same again.



BERRY PICKING TEACHERS
400 LEAVE GLASGOW TO-DAY.
About 200 lady-teachers and junior students from Glasgow and the West of Scotland left Buchanan Street Station at 8.15 this morning for Auchterarder, where they are to be engaged in any suitable harvest work on the fruit farms in that neighbourhood. Meantime they are to be engaged at berry-picking. They will be paid at the usual rate of halfpenny per lb. of fruit plucked. Another party of about an equal number left at 12.10 for the same place. The ladies volunteered at the end of June to undertake any kind of harvest work. A considerable crowd gathered at the station to witness the departure.

