

On This Day – 19th July 1940

The Story of King's Park FC

King's Park FC were the prominent pre-WW2 football team in Stirling. They were named for the designed landscape beneath the town's Castle, and were based at an old ground near Kerse Road called Forthbank. The club was formed in 1875 and won both the Stirlingshire Cup (on three occasions) and the Dewar Cup (a now-defunct tournament which saw the winners of the Aberdeenshire, Forfarshire, Perthshire and Stirlingshire Cups face off) before joining the national league set-up in the 1920s. For most of their history they wore a red and white striped kit

King's Park failed to make a huge impact of the league, spending most of their time in the second division, but two rather incredible goal-scoring feats are worth mentioning – Jim Dyet scored 8 (eight) goals on his club debut against Forfar in 1930, which remains a British record, and striker Alex Haddow scored a hat trick in 5 consecutive league games in 1932.

The club were on a wartime hiatus in 1940 when they suffered an incredible piece of bad luck – a Luftwaffe bomb (one of only two bombs dropped on Stirling throughout the war) scored a direct hit on the Forthbank terracing on the night of 19th July. The club managed to repair the ground to some extent, even managing to host a handful of friendlies in later years, but were ultimately wound up by the end of the war. Their last game was a 2-2 draw against another local side without a wartime league to play in, East Stirlingshire.

King's Park managing director and coal magnate Thomas Fergusson went on to form Stirling Albion in 1945, whose current ground Forthbank is a reference to the old, lost Kings Park terracing.

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