

# THE LAST POST

It being the full story of the Lancaster Military Heritage Group  
War Memorial Project:

With a pictorial journey around the local War Memorials  
With the Presentation of the Books of Honour  
The D Day and VE 2005 Celebrations  
The involvement of local Primary School Children  
Commonwealth War Graves in our area

Together with

## REVEILLE

a Data Disc containing  
The contents of the 26 Books of Honour  
The thirty essays written by relatives  
Other Associated Material  
(Sold Separately)

*The Book cover was designed and produced by the pupils from Scotforth St Pauls Primary School, Lancaster working with their artist in residence Carolyn Walker. It was the backdrop to the school's contribution to the "Field of Crosses" project described in Chapter 7 of this book. The whole now forms a permanent Garden of Remembrance in the school playground. The theme of the artwork is: "Remembrance (the poppies), Faith (the Cross) and Hope (the sunlight)".*

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## **DEDICATION**

We have been asked who this book is for

It is for the 2700 men and 6 women commemorated on our War Memorials

It is for their families, their relatives, their friends

It is for the Lancaster and Morecambe Community

## FOREWORDS

"It is hard to express in words how proud and privileged I was to present a book of honour. A wonderful tribute to a lot of brave men and women and a father I never knew."

"Thanks to the information you found about my fathers military service, to my children, he is not just a name any more; he had a life, he had a history. They want to know more and will visit his grave and the place where he fought".

"I don't know if this is any use to you but it is a lovely feeling writing about these things".

"I never knew my cousin who was killed in action on the Somme on 9th August 1916, but during the simple but moving ceremony on 8th May 2005, I felt that our lives had touched briefly and a bond had at last been established

"Without this book the men and women who were lost through war may be forgotten – now they will not!"

"The soldier named on the cross we had died on the same date as when we looked at it - we were very sad that day " Child taking part in the Acorn Project – The Field of Crosses.

"Wasn't it wonderful when the Mayor turned and spoke to the lads on the memorial"

"My grandchildren couldn't stop talking about it on the way home".

"As a family we cannot thank you enough for the way you have honoured my husbands father and all his comrades who gave their lives for a better world. The day was a credit to Lancaster ".

"Thank you for the lovely day I had out on Sunday, I'm sorry I can't write but I can't hold a pen, but I just wanted to say a great big thank you". An elderly lady by telephone.

"When the firing party fired their shots I burst into tears".

From relatives and friends:

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Forewords	iv
Introduction	1
Chapter 1            General	2
Chapter 2            Lancaster	11
Chapter 3            Morecambe and Heysham	57
Chapter 4            The Northern Parishes	73
Chapter 5            The Eastern Parishes	94
Chapter 6            The Southern Parishes	105
Chapter 7            The War Memorial Project	116
The Origins	116
The Research	116
The Books of Honour	118
The Presentations	118
VE 2005 “A Community Remembers”	121
Schools Participation	126
Epilogue	134
Acknowledgements	135
Annex A      Searching for Information	136
Annex B      Relatives Essays – Content	138
Annex C      Book of Honour Foreword	140
Annex D      Data Disc Content	141
Annex E      British War Effort 1914-1918	142
Annex E      British War Effort 1939-1945	143
Annex G      Further Reading and References	144
Index	146
Colour Plates (Centre of the Book)	CP1-CP8



**Memorial Window Carnforth Congregational Church**

## INTRODUCTION

*" God and the soldier we alike adore,  
In time of danger, not before  
The danger passed and all things righted  
God is forgotten , the soldier slighted."*  
Anon

The Lancaster Military Heritage Group was founded in 1999 by a group who were concerned that the historic links between the area of Lancaster and Morecambe and the Armed Forces were diluting as various defence reductions took place. Conscious from the outset of the debt the armed services owe to the local communities, who provide their sons daughters and support in times of conflict, a War Memorial Project was set up so as to say "Thank you" to the local population. Over a 3 year period the biographies of nearly three thousand local people who are commemorated on local war memorials were researched, compiled and bound into Books of Honour. These were then presented to various organisations on appropriate occasions.

The Project has been a fascinating and emotive journey, uncovering detail of the lives of those who died in conflict. The local community responded with stories of their relatives and friends and loaned their memorabilia to help with the biographies thus ensuring that this information is recorded for posterity as the living collective knowledge of the community fades. This gives added significance to the immortal words: "Their names will live for evermore".

This Book records the activities undertaken during the project, including the activities of school children and of the final presentation of sixteen Books of Honour to the Mayor of Lancaster on 8 May 2005, the Sixtieth Anniversary of VE Day.

One of the most significant visible records of service are our War memorials which commemorate, by name, those who died in, or as a result of, war. However even some of these are disappearing, or are not readily available to the public. Much material was uncovered during the project and the main part of this book is an illustrative survey of all the War Memorials in the Lancaster and Morecambe area.

There is currently intense interest in family history, enlivened by the accessibility of records on the Internet and the activities of various societies. The depth and availability of service records is an important aspect of family history. At the same time there is renewed interest in "Remembrance", particularly as the 60th Anniversaries of the end of the Second World War take place, possibly the last of the National Commemorations as those who actually went to war are no longer with us. It is hoped that this book will provide an interesting overview of this topic as well as providing some sign posts for those interested in family, art, social or military history. Perhaps the book may complement the study of such topics in schools. A suggested reading list is included to aid further research.

However the dominant reason for the Project, and this book, is to say thank you to the men and women who took part, particularly those who gave their lives and to the relatives and the community who supported them.

## CHAPTER ONE - GENERAL

*'You don't make a tombstone for the sake of giving pleasure but in order to put up a record of names and dates. If incidentally it does please you, so much the better - nay, more, it will be in some sort, a proof that the work has been done properly.'*

*Eric Gill, Autobiography, 1940*

**To take a book** out of the library on War Memorials may be seen as somewhat specialised; to buy one indicates a real desire for more information, to write one seems to be a fairly oblique occupation! War Memorials are a part of every day life. We all pass one at least once a week; on Sundays maybe fixedly stare at one in the form of a Roll of Honour or stained glass window. They have become well known, but largely ignored parts of church and street furniture. Yet they are a part of our heritage, the very fabric of our being, commemorating as they do the death in conflict of so many defending what was most dear to them. After the Great War the overwhelming desire was to record the names of those who had not survived in every community, be it city, town, village, school or business. Every year, at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month everything stopped; the buses, the cars and the people; the Nation was silent. It was the custom for men to raise their hats when passing the Cenotaph in London. Gradually, as we rightly began to abhor war and all it stood for, the annual commemoration began to be questioned. Were we just glorifying war and being triumphalistic? Why all the pomp and ceremony every November? It didn't seem to be stopping the wars! Certainly the younger generation, with little or no memory of the war or its effects, have scant knowledge of what these memorials stand for. This, combined with the everyday commonplace nature of "street furniture", served to dilute the impact of Remembrance Day and its associated activities.

Thankfully over the last decade this trend is being reversed. The generations of those "who would never talk about the war" have been succeeded by a new desire to talk about, and remember, the history of the two wars, particularly of those who took part and of the many who never returned. This book is being compiled in the middle of the Sixtieth Anniversaries of the end of the Second World War and public interest is high. Given the information now available on the Internet and the considerable research into family history, there is a revived interest in war memorials and what they are all

about. For example a one off sample of the Internet with the keywords WAR MEMORIALS produced 530 web sites from Google and 152 books for sale on Amazon!

**Who put them up**, why and where did the money come from? What about their condition now - who looks after them? What can we do? This chapter is meant to serve as a "primer", an introduction to a topic now known as "Memorialisation". It is a vast and much studied subject which ranges from topics such as "The Socio-economic consequences of the Great War" through to the records of the last letters of a dead soldier to a loved one. So what follows is meant for those who wish for a gentle scene setter along with a few sign posts; hopefully it will stimulate more in depth research about the local men and women who died in conflict and are remembered in their home towns and villages. It is appropriate to start with history, how it all began and why. The very significant effects of the two world wars, particularly those of the Great War, stimulated a universal desire for local and permanent war memorials. This is followed by a brief survey of today's national activity which is aimed at preserving the country's stock of memorials along with a desire to make the associated information about them more easily available to the public. A few of the more common questions will be addressed and mention is made of the current National activity to erect new memorials.

**How did it happen?** The War Memorials Handbook tells of the practice of communities during the First World War of "making lists" of those who had gone off to war; these were later complemented by the news of casualties, wounds and awards of distinction. The lists became "revered objects", often sited at conspicuous points and decorated with flowers. These later became dedicated "shrines" as more and more men were killed, and began to assume greater significance. From this activity grew a desire for more permanent and tangible memorials. A story perhaps very redolent of the current practice to leave flowers at the location of tragic accidents on our streets and roads.

**In the beginnings.** But there is more to it than that. Doctor Alan Borg, a former Director of the Imperial War Museum in London, in his book "War Memorials", charts a clear path of how they have been developed from "Antiquity to the Present". Starting with the Egyptian practice of God Blocks, a simple and recognisable symbolic construction with which to honour their gods.



The most evident example of this is the Cenotaph in London, G1.



G1

These developed into more slender obelisks, originally hewn from one block of stone and often inscribed with the stories of the feats of, or about, the people being venerated. Cleopatra's Needle G2, on the Thames embankment is our best known



G2

national example and Lancaster's Crimea Memorial another. Such symbols gradually developed into marking power, military supremacy and victory.

It became the practice to erect memorial columns topped with effigies of a nation's rulers and commanders. Later these became embellished with sculpted pictorial narratives - groups of figures telling tales of people and their accomplishments. In early times these memorials were almost all based upon triumphalism, recording great victories of the country, of the tribe, race or their leader. One of the most famous is the Trajan column, G3, in the centre of Rome. The column consists of 19 blocks of marble with a helicoidal band of figures spiralling up it, documenting the Dacian War of The Emperor Trajan, recording his victories in the first century.



G3

The Monument to Queen Victoria in Lancaster's Dalton Square, G4, is our own example, whilst another, is the startlingly beautiful and moving war memorial in Port Sunlight erected to commemorate the deaths of 600 of the 4000 work force of the Lever Brothers factory in the First World War. Not too far from Lancaster this memorial is well worth the trip. A variation on sculpted narrative was the use of national emblems - the figure of Victory being universal whilst that of St George was the favourite at home.



G4

Borg goes on to highlight the depiction of Heroes on memorials, particularly in relation to state propaganda, a theme continued until the 1900's. Up to that time rank and file soldiers were of no consequence nor given any real regard; mostly mercenary the "brutal and licentious soldiery" were not worthy of commemoration. Most war memorials commemorated senior and high born Generals or Public leaders; that of the Duke of York, a 124 foot high column erected in 1833 was paid for by docking one day's pay from every soldier in the army at that time! The Cardwell reforms of the British Army resulted in regiments recruiting from the local communities and strong associations with counties developed; soldiers were now the sons of local families and their death on the battlefield assumed much more importance - the ordinary soldier became the focus of attention.

Although war memorials were erected for the Crimea, it was not until the Boer War of 1899-1902, when many of the men were volunteers, that War Memorials began to become commonplace. A number of local Boer War Memorials are featured in this Book and that in the Museum in Market Square Lancaster is an excellent example. The aftermath of the Great War saw a proliferation of war memorials stimulated by the work of The Imperial War Graves Commission headed by Sir Fabian Ware with his four principal architects Edwin Lutyens, Herbert Baker, Reginald Blomfield and Charles Holden. Borg emphasises the conservatism of the memorial makers and the many local committees after the first world war when traditional forms of memorial were selected, "The time not being one for experimental art". An exhibition was held at the Royal Academy in London in 1919 when a large variety of suggested

monuments and memorials were exhibited. (See Glasson Dock Chapter 6). A suggested form of inscriptions for war memorials was made available at The Victoria and Albert Museum in 1919 (V & A Publication No 133 1919).

Lutyens favoured the "God Block" or Great War Stone as a symbol it being "non denominational" and of course he was the architect of the Cenotaph in London. Baker favoured a cross and this was developed by Blomfield into "The Cross of Sacrifice", a long shafted cross with a bronze sword applied, sitting upon a base with the inscription (suggested by Kipling) "Their name liveth for evermore (Ecclesiasticus)". This is one of the most familiar forms of war memorial we see today (see G5 below); it is the "standard" Village Cross, that of Lancaster Cemetery being a good example.

**The Imperial War Graves Commission** Sir Fabian Ware, the first Head of the Commission, and his architects, were responsible for the majority of the battlefield memorials in France and Flanders. A prime consideration was to commemorate the thousands of soldiers who fell in battle without a known grave; Thiepval G5, (Battle of the Somme 72,000 names) and The Menin Gate (Ypres 54,000 names) are two of the most prominent. Soldiers were normally buried near to where they had died, the locations mostly being Field Dressing



G5

Stations, and the familiar wooden cross was used to mark graves. Later the bodies were reburied in central British War Cemeteries, which are now sensitively cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and local people in the area. Because of the huge numbers and the difficulty of transporting bodies home it was sensibly decided that there would be no exceptions; all the men were buried with their comrades - a policy of no repatriation.

It was also decided that the headstone would be a standard one, G6, no embellishments were allowed other than an inscription at the bottom; thus there was no differentiation between ranks or station - all the men were treated as equals.



G6

Philip Longworth, in his book "The Unending Vigil", the history of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, traces the "Forging of Principles" in a very clear second chapter. The Commission at that time faced a formidable task the like of which had never been before met. Prior to embarking upon the construction of the War Grave cemeteries in France and Flanders, it was necessary to establish working principles; that of "equality" in all its forms, whether of rank or station, rich or poor, religion or race was the most important and far reaching. They were confronted with a considerable amount of disagreement from some influential and powerful personalities of the day but, without rancour, won through without discarding the important principles initially established. That such a far reaching and sensitive policy was developed so long ago is a testament to the judgement of those concerned and would be deemed right and proper in today's inclusive society. The quiet and dignified war cemeteries, where our war dead lie all together are a lasting testament to the initial and continuing sensitive discharge of their duties by the Commission.

**The need for a memorial.** Because of this non-repatriation policy, the public at home sought for a focal point so as to provide a lasting memory for

their local heroes. Committees were set up and money collected in greater and greater amounts. The Carnforth Town collection was recorded in a booklet, a facsimile of which is shown in the data disc. It shows the street by street nature of the collections where no amount was too small. One page is shown at G7.

Collectors: Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Walker and Mr. Barnard.		£ s. d.
White Drive and Dances	.....	38 4 1
Jumble Sale	.....	10 13 0
Walker, Mr. and Mrs. P. O.	.....	10 13 0
Barnard, Mr. and Mrs.	.....	5 5 0
Colley, Mr. and Mrs.	.....	5 0 0

G7

H.U.K. Football Club	.....	0 10 0
Shaw, Mr. and Mrs.	.....	0 10 0
Attenborough, Mrs.	.....	0 10 0
Hutton, Miss	.....	0 10 0
Donation Cornforth Brass Band	.....	0 10 0
Carried forward.....		£114 10 1

G7

It was local government agencies, city, town and Parish Councils committees who decided upon the nature of the memorial using the more traditional monumental architecture of the day. Local architects and craftsmen, eminent in their craft, were called upon to design, manufacture and put the memorials in place. Locally notable names are those of the architects Austin and Paley, Thomas Mawson and Pearsons who together with stone masons and the stained glass manufacturers, Shrigley and Hunt et al produced many of the memorials we see around us today.



G8

Nationally there are estimated to be 65,000 War Memorials. Local organisations, Churches, Clubs, Commercial Organisations (The Post Office, The Co-op etc.) produced many indoor memorials. These were in various forms the majority being Rolls Of Honour, metal plaques, stained glass windows, organ screens and Books of Honour. The names to be commemorated were decided by the local committees, mainly from information passed to them by the relatives. An example of this is in Lancaster where relatives were invited to complete a form, G8, which they submitted to The Town Hall.

**Our own local memorials.** Full details and photographs of nearly 200 local war memorials which have been located so far are included in this book. Three of the most significant are the Garden of Remembrance and War Memorial next to the Town Hall where one thousand four hundred men and one woman are commemorated, the Westfield Memorial Village which capitalises on the imaginative idea to construct an estate to house returning disabled soldiers and the beautiful and peaceful Memorial Chapel of the local regiment, The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. It is where those of the Regiment ( and its successor The King's Own Royal Border Regiment) who have died in conflict are remembered with due honour. The unbelievable statistics of the Great War, when some three quarters of a million men perished are mirrored by those of the Regiment whose ten fighting battalions lost 6,575 men. It is impossible to even guess what that meant to the local population and of course "They never talked about it"!

**National Memorials.** After the Great War, although National Committees were formed, the greater part of the national stock of war memorials in their various forms came under control of local committees often by way of somewhat ad hoc arrangements. Land and materials was freely given but little thought as to their ownership or how they were to be maintained. Many were formally handed over to local councils ( to maintain and preserve "for ever"), and many parish councils have since accepted responsibility for their upkeep. In 1923 The Government of the Day established a Local Government Act which passed the responsibility for the maintenance of War Memorials to local authorities stating that they had responsibility (but not a duty ) to repair and maintain war memorials.

In the late eighties there was much concern about the conservation of the Nation's War Memorials, Dr Borg , on 5 March 1988, wrote to the Times pointing out "an urgent national requirement for an inventory of war memorials". As a result the **National Inventory of War Memorials (NIWM)** project was established at The Imperial War Museum. The project is building a data base containing full details of all the memorials in the land. All conflicts are included and although the bulk of the archive consists of those from the First and Second World wars, information on earlier and later conflicts up to the present day are included. In his book Dr Borg made comment of the "treasure trove" of important social and historical information in local newspapers and records all awaiting access. The NIWM gains much of its

information from volunteers throughout the country, so this great store of material is rapidly being uncovered. Eventually the data base will hold information on an estimated 65,000 memorials. NIWM are shortly (2005) to load their data base onto the Internet thus providing a powerful research tool whilst at the same time stimulating remembrance and commemoration of the war dead. (See Note 1 at the end of this chapter). Currently the NIWM holds details of 90 memorials in and around the Lancaster and Morecambe area. To date 110 further examples have been located and details will be sent to the NIWM. A full list of the memorials in our locality together with the names commemorated is included on the data disc.

**The War Memorials Trust** (previously The Friends of War Memorials) is an important national organisation, with the aims of monitoring the condition of memorials, working with appropriate authorities to ensure preservation, to educate and inform the general public , to inspire young people to cherish their war memorials and also to recruit regional volunteers and encourage support groups

Both of these organisations have extensive and user friendly web sites (see further reading). Answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQs) are given. Here are a few of the most common queries:

**The Definition of a War Memorial** (Used by the UK National Inventory of War Memorials, and endorsed by War Memorials Trust)

*"a physical object created or installed to commemorate those who died as a result of a conflict (excluding individual graves); the purpose of a memorial being defined as to reunite those who were separated by a conflict, who left their homes, colleagues and friends to serve in a war, many of whose bodies were never recovered or who were buried overseas".*

(Many people refer to their local outside memorial in the Town as the "Cenotaph". The dictionary definition being - A sepulchral monument to a person whose body is buried elsewhere)

**What form do War Memorials take?** War Memorials are found in a variety of forms and styles. Many are familiar in the shape of statues or crosses in the churchyard or town centre; plaques, carved or framed Rolls of Honour or Books of Remembrance.

Others are rarer including Altars, Stained Glass Windows, Pulpits, Bells, Village Halls, public buildings such as Sports Pavilions and even a Bus Stop.

**How can I add or correct a name on a War Memorial?** The *War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act of 1923 and subsequent amendments* allow for the correction of errors in a War Memorial's inscription and additions to make a War Memorial serve for conflicts subsequent to that for which it was erected. The provisions of the *War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act* would therefore enable a local Council to add or correct names on any memorial within its area whether it owns the memorial or not.

You should contact the custodian of the War Memorial onto which you want to add a name (or correct an existent name). If in doubt try the parish council or the local authority.

**Are there any rules on adding names to War Memorials?** There are no definitive "rules" on adding names (or on the creation of new memorials). This is why some war memorials include those who died of wounds or disease (during or after a war) as well as those killed in action, or include civilian alongside service casualties. (Indeed it was common for a soldier to be commemorated on more than one memorial; one officer from Lancaster Royal Grammar School is commemorated on four)

These two organisations have extensive reference lists and provide a number of publications. Chief amongst these are *The War Memorials Handbook* (currently £4.99), *War Memorials - A Code of Practice for Custodians* (which can be downloaded from the Internet) and their web sites provide numerous useful links. They will also give clear advice on all aspects concerning war memorials including refurbishment, availability of grants and how to commission a new memorial.

**New National Memorials in London.** There has been significant national activity of late and three important new memorials have been erected.

**The Women of World War Two** were honoured when, on 9 July 2005, Her Majesty the Queen unveiled a remarkable monument, G9, close to the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, in recognition of the crucial contribution made by more than seven million women to Victory in Europe and Victory over Japan 60 years ago. The Patron was Baroness Betty Boothroyd and the cost well over £1.5M.



G9

The stark 22ft high bronze monument by John Mills depicts seventeen sets of women's clothing hung on pegs, just as if they had been left there by women as they returned home when the job was done. Women were mobilised to work on the land or in essential war production, half a million served in the Forces whilst a similar number carried out vital civil defence work and were intimately involved in emergency services. Victory would have been impossible without such selfless service.



G10

**A memorial, CP1 and G10, to the part played by animals**, was unveiled by the Princess Royal on 24 November 2004. The memorial, which cost £1.5 M, is situated at Brook Gate, Park Lane, on the edge of London's Hyde Park and was designed by leading English sculptor, David Backhouse.

As its name suggests, it depicts the many animals that have been used by troops in wartime: horses, mules, dogs, elephants, camels, pigeons and canaries. None are forgotten, not even the lowly glow worm, for these tiny creatures were used by soldiers in the trenches during the First World War, to help them read their maps in the gloom. The design is in Portland stone with different animals depicted in bas relief on a broken wall through which struggle two bronze mules, heavily laden; beyond, a bronze horse and dog look to the future.



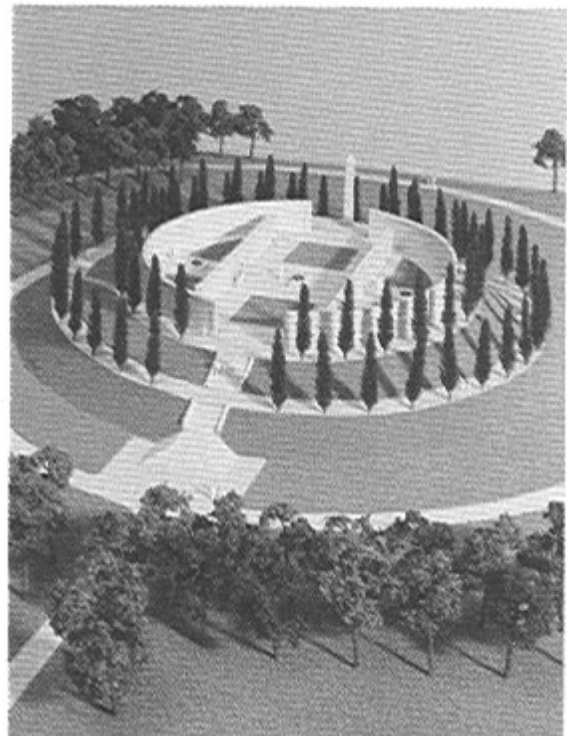
G11

A memorial on the Thames Embankment in London, CP2 and G11, to the heroism of those involved in the  **Battle of Britain**  was unveiled by Prince Charles on 18 September 2005. The memorial is of detailed narrative form and features three-dimensional scenes of Battle of Britain pilots being scrambled to intercept enemy aircraft, the aftermath of German Bombing raids and activities in munition factories. It is cast in bronze, was designed by Paul Day, cost over £2.5M and altogether weighs more than 30 tons. Mr Day said "I've tried to put across, in a simple snapshot, something of what the people then were going through; the determination, the courage, the fear, the pounding hearts and the bursting blood vessels."

**The National Memorial Arboretum** The Secretary of State for Defence announced, on 18 March 2002, that an Armed Forces Memorial to service personnel killed since World War Two, was to be sited at the National Arboretum near Lichfield in Staffordshire. It is intended that the names of those commemorated will be engraved on the memorial and Rolls of Honour be kept by The Royal Navy in the Church of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, by The Army in The Royal Hospital Chelsea and by The Royal Air Force in The Church of St Clement Danes. The design of the memorial is shown in G12 and

construction work began in 2005. The Armed Service Memorial will commemorate members of the UK Armed Forces (Regular and Reserve) killed on duty or by terrorist action since the Second World War. A memorial to those killed in conflict will also be placed in the South Cloister of Westminster Abbey. Members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the Merchant Navy who have died while in support of the Armed Forces will be included. It is a sobering thought that there are more than 47 medal earning theatres where United Kingdom Armed Forces have served in the last 60 years in conflict zones and on humanitarian, peacekeeping and monitoring operations.

Trustees of the Armed Forces Memorial trust have been appointed to take this project forward and they will take on the ownership of the memorial and will be responsible for its funding and construction. Funds will be raised by public subscription. Further information can be obtained from the web site shown in Annex E. Much of the foregoing is taken from the Armed Forces Memorial Appeal leaflet which we hope to include loose leaf in this book. We are grateful to be able to use this information.



G12

This is a very important national project that will also provide a platform to help educate our younger generations about the value of our armed forces.



Many other memorials have been erected in The National Memorial Arboretum, one in particular being a memorial to those shot at dawn, G13. This stark uncompromising “sculpture” needs no words; May they rest in peace.

Regiments and organizations and private individuals are planting trees in the Arboretum. Plaques can be added as desired and some of those relevant are shown below.



Habbaniya



King's Own



RNLI



A Relative

A visit to The National Arboretum is a must for anyone with even a passing interest in the topic of remembrance – or even if they are simply passing for it is a much better way of breaking a journey to turn off the motorways and spend some time in

quiet wonder at what is happening at the Arboretum. One example is that of the memorial for The Royal National Lifeboat Institution. A “willow” slipway is growing which leads over the sand to the oncoming tide of spreading ground cover plants.

**Note 1.** The material for this book has been amassed over the last three years mainly from local sources, and does indeed echo Dr Borg's point about “local treasure troves”. As this book was finally being prepared for the printers at the end of 2005, Channel 4 Television ran a series of programmes “Not Forgotten” presented by Ian Hislop. It received universal acclaim. In addition to this programme Channel 4 have funded a web site to fulfil the intentions of the National Inventory of War Memorials (NIWM) to upload their data base onto the internet. The web site address is [channel4.com/lostgeneration](http://channel4.com/lostgeneration). It is a formidable resource ranging from an online interrogative system to locate details of relatives and war memorials, through many other facilities: for schools, art and poetry in war together with a system to enter ones own material onto the data base. It is certainly one of the first sites which should be looked at.

It is interesting to compare our own and the TV material. The first programme concentrated on the why and wherefore of War Memorials as we have tried to do. Many heartrending stories of what lies behind the names were told and likewise we have tried to do this both with the biographies in each of the Books of Honour and also in the essays written by relatives. Ian Hislop told the story of the “Motor Cycling Nurse”, and the five “Soul” brothers who were all killed in the First World War and some associated emotive aspects were revealed. Our own local equivalents are Clementina Addison from Caton and that of the four Butterworth brothers all of whom perished as a result of the Great War. A Lancaster Guardian report of 12 August, 1916 contained the following:

*“The Father of six soldiers Mr James Butterworth, died from debility, caused by having three sons killed and two severely wounded in the war, in the opinion of Dr Aitken.”*

William died in 1916, Hugh and Christopher in 1915 and John in 1917.



G13 Shot at Dawn

Clearly War Memorials touch our hearts and lives in so many ways. It is hoped that this survey of our own local memorials will help to ensure that they remain so and that the men and women commemorated thereon will indeed be remembered  
**"For Evermore".**



## CHAPTER 2 – LANCASTER

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn; At the going down of the sun, and in the morning; We will remember them.*

*Laurence Binyon*

### **The War Memorial and Garden of Remembrance. Town Hall Lancaster (NIWM No:3307) Map Ref SD 479615**

A meeting in Ashton Hall in December 1918 decided upon a Civic Memorial to the fallen. In September 1921 a Committee was established and an appeal made to the public for subscriptions towards the cost of the erection of the memorial. A total of £2,230 was raised to cover the cost of the memorial and associated expenses. £1,894 was spent and the balance of £336 was transferred to the Corporation for the continued repair and upkeep including the addition of names. (See Note 1).

The War Memorial and Garden of Remembrance, CP3, and L1, was designed by T H Mawson & Sons. It is on the east side of the Town Hall. The design is

reminiscent of the Belgian Memorial to Britain on the Thames Embankment in London; it is 36 feet long and stands on a low flagged platform. The stone background is divided into a central portion rising to a height of 16 feet, with wings 11 feet 6 inches high on either side. There are five panels on each wing, each five feet long, on which the names of



L1 1006 men are inscribed. In the centre stands the bronze figure of Peace with outstretched wings and uplifted hands in the attitude of benediction. The figure is on a low pedestal, clear of the Longridge stone background, but the wings are against it. The Bromsgrove School of Art designed the bronze figure and the panels were furnished by Morton of Cheltenham.

The dedication ceremony took place on the 3rd of December 1924 with the Mayor of Lancaster, Alderman George Jackson, presiding and 300 subscribers at the ceremony joined over 900 relatives of the dead. The general public were admitted to the ground around the Fire Station. Every vantage point was taken - Robert Street and Lower Nelson Street being crowded, the windows of the Town Hall were also filled. The bands of the 1st and 5th Battalions of the King's Own Royal Regiment under Captain Morge provided the music on either side of the Garden. The War Memorial Committee handed the Memorial over as follows:

*"The seal was placed on the Town's Memorial by a document conveying it to the Corporation to be maintained hereafter by them in the following terms:*

*"An agreement made the 3rd Day of December 1924 between the Committee of the Lancaster War Memorial (hereafter called the committee) of the one part, and the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Lancaster (hereinafter called the Corporation) of the other part. Whereas the Committee have by way of public subscription erected on ground of the Corporation situate on the East side of the Town Hall Lancaster aforesaid, a memorial to the men of Lancaster who fell in the Great War and whereas it is expedient that provision should be made for the maintenance repair and protection of the said memorial it is now hereby agreed as follows:*

- (1) The Committee hereby transfer the said Memorial to the Corporation to vest in the Corporation and their assigns **for ever.***
- (2) The Corporation hereby accept the said memorial and in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by the War Memorials (Local Authority Powers Act 1923) to maintain repair and protect the said memorial **for ever***  
*In witness whereof the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the Committee have **hereunto** set their hands and the Corporation hereunto cause their common seal to be affixed the day and year before written.*

*Signed by:*

*George Jackson (Chairman) and John Robert Nuttall (Honorary Secretary) on behalf of the Committee in the Presence of G Albert Wilson assistant Hon. Secretary, Lancaster."*

***{Sadly this important Civic Document can no longer be found in the Town Hall or the Museum. Should anyone know of the whereabouts please inform the Ceremonial Officer at the Town Hall}***

## Chapter 2 Lancaster

A firing party in the charge of Sergeant Clarkson flanked the left of the memorial and Privates Tabbron, Pennell, Smith and King of the Regimental Depot kept silent watch with arms reversed. An address was given by the Rev J W Mountford, Superintendent of the Wesleyan Circuit, who was a chaplain in the war. The Mayor hoped that Lancastrians would never forget their duty, he trusted that the Corporation (who had on the same day received ownership of the Memorial) would always see that the Memorial was carefully tended, and when spring came each year make the garden beautiful.

L2

Forms were used in 1924 to invite the relatives of the fallen soldiers to a Civic Reception and also to inscribe the names on the Memorial. A facsimile of the form used is at L2 and an illustration, L3, of the sensitive way of bracketing brothers together - this of the four Butterworth Brothers. In WW1 the dead sons of the Lancaster District included one set of four brothers, six sets of three and fifty sets of two; in WW2 there were six sets of two brothers.



L3

Service men from one hundred and twenty three different services and regiments are commemorated on this memorial, a total of 1340. Nearly 300 of those

who died in the First World War have no known grave. Included are men from the following regiments and services:

King's Own Royal Regiment (426), Royal Regiment of Artillery (117); Royal Navy (81), Royal Air Force (66), Lancashire Fusiliers (40), Royal Engineers (34), The Border Regiment (33), The Seaforth Highlanders (32), The King's Liverpool Regiment (28), The Manchester Regiment (24), The Loyal Northern Lancashire Regiment (22) The King's Shropshire Light Infantry (21), The Royal Army Service Corps (20), The Royal Fusiliers (20) The Royal Army Medical Corps (18), The East Lancashire Regiment (16), Canada (25), Australia (6), South Africa (3), New Zealand (2) and The Merchant Navy (1).



L4

Following the Second World War the memorial was extended and a table of stone erected in front of the Angel of Peace upon which, in the centre, is a bronze of the Arms of the City, L4, set in a long bronze panel upon which are recorded the names of a further 300 Lancastrians who died. Later a further 25 additional names have been added from WW1 and WW2, two names from the Korean War and one from the Falklands Campaign.

**Note 1. Adding a name to The Memorial.** Should anyone wish to add a name to the memorial, from any conflict, please contact The Ceremonial and Members' Officer Lancaster City Council at the Town Hall.

## Alexandra Barracks Habbaniya Roll of Honour (NIWM No: 42376)

Map Ref SD 483626

This fine Roll of Honour, L5, was, it is believed, originally in the RAF Habbaniya Club in Preston; when that closed it was moved to the ante room of the Sergeants Mess of The King's Own in Phoenix Street Lancaster. When that location was closed it then went to Alexandra Barracks where, because of its size, it was deemed unsuitable for a Mess, so was placed on the wall of the corridor to the CO's office. The Habbaniya action was significant because:

- It was thought to be our only victory in 1941
- The strategic value of denying oil to the Germans
- A successful combined Army/RAF Operation.



L5

What follows is a short essay about this action by an officer who took part in the Iraq campaign in 1941, and subsequently commanded the King's Own in Lancaster. It is very topical at the time of writing for in October 2005 The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, the successor to the King's Own, were deployed to Iraq.

### Lancastrians Left Behind In Iraq May/June 1941.

The British are no strangers to Iraq. In the First World War it was called Mesopotamia when prolonged fighting against the Ottoman Empire involved a bitter struggle between the British and Turkish Armies, along the banks of the rivers Tigris and Euphrates, to capture Baghdad. In 1921, Iraq was established as an independent country with British security rights for the passage of its forces to the Persian Gulf, the Middle East and India. These rights were safeguarded by treaty and the establishment of a small RAF station at Shaiba, near Basra, and a main base at Habbaniya on the river

Euphrates, near Baghdad. During World War 2 the Germans inspired a rebellion, led by Raschid Ali, the Head of State, designed to drive the British out of Iraq, close the vital lines of communication and gain access to the vast oilfields and refineries to the north and south. The British garrison at Habbaniya was No 4 Flying Training School together with a squadron of RAF armoured cars backed up by the British Iraq Levies. At the start of the insurrection in April 1941 Habbaniya was surrounded and put under siege by the Iraqi army.

Under emergency conditions, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of The King's Own Royal Regiment was flown in to the area in a scratch collection of aircraft from Karachi in India to relieve the RAF Garrison and re-open the lines of communication. After a short period of fighting, under siege conditions, the Iraqi forces were subjected to aerial bombardment and strafing by the RAF aircraft and ground action by the King's Own and so withdrew. This then led to the King's Own, with improvised supporting troops, some again lifted by air, fighting to seize the strategic bridge at Fellujah over the river Euphrates, the sole route between Palestine and Baghdad. In this action the King's Own Group undertook a three-stage pincer movement aimed at capturing the bridge over the Euphrates. One company of the King's Own was airlifted to a position north of the river to attack the bridge defenders from the north. The objective was achieved by the 20th of May. The result of this gallant and little known 1941 operation was the subjugation of the Raschid Ali insurrection by the early summer of 1941. When the King's Own were flown from Karachi to Habbaniya this was the first time our forces used air transport.

The operation was fought in May, one of the hottest months in Iraq. The King's Own was equipped to Indian Army scales of equipment and had no motor transport (having been flown in); they had problems with food and water, only visual communications and were without mortars or field artillery until the end. The call on our servicemen was extreme. On the other hand the Iraqi forces were equipped with the latest British equipment!

This successful operation had a major strategic result, thwarting the German aim in the region to cut lines of communication and limiting their oil supplies; it remains an action of historical importance. It was also an early example of inter-service co-operation and the Army and RAF got on well together. It is fitting that they are remembered together on the Roll of Honour in Alexandra

## Chapter 2 Lancaster

Barracks. At the time, the victory received little recognition and unfortunately no King's Own war diaries were kept, but in the dark days of 1941 the result was a welcome boost for allied morale.

There were many casualties, both killed and wounded; 29 King's Own lost their lives and 36 RAF, mostly aircrew, were killed by anti-aircraft fire and in aerial combat with the Iraqi Air Force and the German Luftwaffe. The 65 Servicemen killed are buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Habbaniya Cemetery. It was ransacked by the Iraqis during the end of the Saddam Regime and reported to be in a sorry state in 2003 by the US Marine Corps now occupying Habbaniya. The US Marines have shown much interest in the 1941 British operations and have tried to rehabilitate the cemetery in a small way. The sole remaining standing headstone is that of Major Freke-Evans, then Second in Command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the King's Own.

### **Artillery Drill Hall Lancaster. (NIWM No: None)**

Location: Priory Church Map Ref SD 476620

The Drill Hall in Dallas Road was demolished some time after the war to make way for housing. Picture L6 shows activity there during the Second World War. It is believed that the tablet had been moved, when the Dallas Street Drill Hall was demolished, to the Drill Hall on Bridge Road Morecambe (The Royal Artillery shared this with The King's Own). This Drill Hall was then handed over to the Salvation Army and no one could remember the Memorial being left there.



L6

However, after some considerable research the Brass tablet, L7, minus its embellished decorated oak surround was "found" safe and secure in the Priory Church. Without doubt it is resting in "An Honoured Place".

The Lancaster Guardian of 2 July 1921, and the Lancaster Observer of 1 July 1921 reported the unveiling

### ***The Lancaster Battery of the West Lancashire Royal Field Artillery (The old 10th Lancashire RFA, B/276 Brigade) Lancaster Artillery – War Memorial Tablet Unveiled***



L7

On Sunday 26th June 1921 a Memorial Tablet, in remembrance of 46 members of the old 10th Battery who had died while serving in the Great War, was unveiled in their Drill Hall on Dallas Road, Lancaster. Over the years many local men had served in the battery and one of the oldest surviving, Daniel Smith, who had joined it in 1870, was later to give the vote of thanks to the guest of honour, Brigadier General T. E. Topping, who performed the unveiling. It must have been a particularly moving moment for Mr Smith, as his own two sons, who both fell in action whilst serving with the battery, were amongst those listed on the memorial. In his speech General Topping praised the performance of the battery on the battlefield, but he also mourned the sorrow of war, observing that a month ago he had been in France at the unveiling of the divisional memorial at Givenchy, 'It stood amidst our dead, which lay all around, indeed they lay all the way from the Channel to the Somme'. The Memorial itself, which had been designed by a member of the Battery - Trumpeter-Signalman Jackson, was described in detail in the local papers:

*The Tablet is a fine example of bronze work and has been executed by a well known London firm. It is enclosed in an oak frame, and at the top is a mounted field gun, with medallions of Lancaster roses, there are mounted guns at each corner, and at each side of the names are representations of Lancaster roses. The lettering sets forth that it is*

*erected by surviving members of the Battery in memory of their comrades who laid down their lives in the Great War*

According to the local papers the whole ceremony was an impressive one, being carried out with full military honours and attracting a large audience. It began with a rousing rendering of the hymn 'Fight the Good Fight', and ended with a firing party firing three volleys to the accompaniment of rolling drums, followed by the 'Last Post'. 'It was', noted the Lancaster Observer, 'a striking and stirring episode, that was deeply impressive'. A moving speech was made by Lt Colonel Wilson, the Commanding Officer of the battery, who said it was now seven years since he and the men under him had marched out to war, so full of hope that early August morning in 1914'. He then went on to make an impassioned appeal on behalf of the men who had returned from the Front; 'They came back, after receiving only 1s.2d per day, to find those people whom they had left at home rolling in money'. He appealed to employers of labour, if they had a job and could get ex servicemen to do it, for God's sake give him a chance, and let the man who has been having a fat time since 1914 wait a bit, for the ex-servicemen had been having an uncommonly thin time. These sentiments were met by cries of "Hear Hear" from the audience. A final point of interest is that one of those who died, Lt Frederick Walbaum, aged 36, had apparently come all the way from Chile to fight for his ancestral country in its hour of need. He was the son of Adolphous Walbaum of Valparaiso, Chile.

Note: Sadly the Lancaster Battery is no more nor is its home, the large brick pillared Drill Hall, which was demolished some years ago to make way for housing.

### **The Borough Club (Dalton Square, Lancaster) (NIWM No: None)**

Map Ref: SD 482614

The Borough Club was founded in the immediate aftermath of WWI in order to provide for the needs of the ex-servicemen of the borough of Lancaster. Shortly after it opened its doors its members decided that a memorial must be provided to, in the words of a local newspaper, honour their comrades in the Great World War who have "made some corner of a foreign field forever England". After due discussion one was commissioned and on Armistice Day itself, November 11th 1920, a framed Roll of Honour bearing the names of 821 Lancastrians was

unveiled with all due ceremony by Brigadier General Hibbert. Painted on a canvas 8ft by 5ft it must have left a deep impression on all who saw it.

The Roll itself is fully described in the *Lancaster Guardian* on 13 November 1920. It was the work of a visiting artist, Commander J. Leach, a naval officer who had served in the Dover patrol during the war, and who, while visiting Lancaster, had 'kindly offered to provide a memorial to the fallen heroes of the town which would be worthy of the club'.

*The central figure in the design is that of "Peace", on a pedestal, the steps up to which bear the memorable years, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918. A nurse, typical of Nurse Edith Cavell, stands with a laurel wreath, "To the Glorious Dead". On the right there is a representative soldier; and on the left a sailor. The former is in full equipment as if leaving the trenches, while the sailor is on the look out for submarines, his ship being amongst others in battle line in the Straits of Dover, the cliffs of which are in the background. Above the figure of Peace, with the Latin word "Pax", there is a large wrist watch set for 4 am, on which is inscribed the ominous words, "with the dawn, when the barrage lifts, be ready to go over the top". The red rose of Lancaster is worked into the head of the design, which has purple curtains at each side of the panels bearing the names of the heroes. Surmounting either panel are the words, "Their deeds are told". The names have been painted on by Mr W Bindloss, a member of the club, who undertook an arduous task and made it a labour of love.*

Not surprisingly, given the nature of the memorial and the number of fallen recorded upon it, its unveiling was an impressive ceremony watched by an estimated 3,000 people gathered in Dalton Square. The principal people involved in the ceremony stood on the balcony of the club, including Brigadier General Hibbert and Mr G. Yeoman (the Club Secretary), and below the balcony were assembled more notables including the Mayor and Corporation in their robes of office. A note of pathos was added to the scene by, 'the presence of six crippled soldiers on chairs sat in front of the Club'. In his speech, General Hibbert referred to the thousands of serving men whose final resting place would never be known - and that it was in part to console their loved ones that the body of an Unknown Warrior had that very day been buried in Westminster Abbey.

*Taken from a Lancaster Guardian Report of 13 November 1920.*

Note: The Borough Club ceased to exist around the turn of the century and was converted into a "Theme Pub" – "The Blob". It is now for sale again (2005)!

### **Bowerham Congregational Church (NIWM Nil).** Map Ref SD484605



L8

This lovely little Church is home to a beautifully presented Roll of Honour, L8, for the Great War, commemorating 47 men who served and the 8 who did not return. The list emphasises not only the large number who men who went to war from such a small catchment area, but also that the Church was a centre of the community. The recurrence of names Brownbill seven times, Thompson four times and Such four times indicates perhaps relatives. No further details, such as the unveiling ceremony, have been obtained.

### **BOWERHAM JUNIOR SCHOOL (NIWM No. None)**

Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1. Map Ref SD 483605

Location in school library



L9

This beautiful roll of honour, shown at CP4 was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, Lord Shuttleworth on July 8<sup>th</sup> 1919. One of the two panels listing heroes in the world war is at L9. The boys of the school formed a guard of honour when Lord

Shuttleworth and his wife arrived together with the Mayor and Mayoress of Lancaster. There were many proud parents there amongst them including Mr. Ellis Williams, the father of six and giver of three brave lads! The artist responsible for several noble rolls of honour, Mr. Robert H. Calvert, was an honoured guest. The brass plaque under the centre panel contains the inscription:

*This Memorial Was Given By Scholars, Past And Present, Teachers Past And Present, And Friends Of The School, To Shew Their Grateful Appreciation Of The Efforts Made By The Scholars In The Great War June 1919. G.Rymer Roberts, F.R.G.S. Headmaster*

The 578 old pupils of the school who served were mostly volunteers, 300 having enlisted by October 1914. The first thought was a memorial for the fallen (88 gave their lives) but so many boys had suffered hardships that it was decided to have a complete



roll and this was subscribed to by over 1,000 friends of the school. The oak frame of the memorial is the work of Messrs. James Hatch and Sons of Lancaster. Mr. R. H. Calvert designed it in the form of a Greek temple containing five panels.

L10

The centre panel, L10, represents the world emerging from dark storm clouds into the perfect day. Standing in triumph upon the world is a figure of Liberty holding aloft the light of civilisation. At her feet sit Justice and Truth, the foundations of all true liberty.

The other panels show: on the left Hope is seen touching Grief on the shoulder, bidding her look up to a brighter future and on the right, Britannia armed, directing Fame's attention to the names inscribed on the roll.

*These descriptions were taken from the report in the Lancaster Guardian dated 12 July 1919.*

2Lt James Leach VC, The Manchester Regiment, is named on this memorial. He was born in Bowerham Barracks Lancaster, just across the road from the

school, and was the son of a regular soldier. World War One was only a few weeks old in 1914 when, at Festubert, France, his steel helmet and uniform were riddled with bullets by three German snipers before he managed to capture them. He went on to capture two trenches full of German troops and lived to tell the tale. He died aged 66 in 1958.

*Source: Lancs Evening Post Oct 7 1982 - North West VCs*

### The Roman Catholic Cathedral Lancaster (NIWM No: None) Map Ref: SD 487613

There are no permanent War Memorials in the Cathedral. However there is a Book of Honour on display which contains the names of all Lancaster Roman Catholics who have died in conflict. It was prepared by Norman Gardner in 1994 with much love and affection and placed in The Coulston Chapel where it can be inspected; a page is turned regularly.



L11

There is a card manuscript, L11, to those who died in World War I which hung in the side porch of the Cathedral until its reordering, whereupon it was stored in the Office in Cathedral House. No one knows for certain who produced the memorial but it is thought to have been a teacher at the Cathedral School on learning of the death of a former pupil. It consists of a large rectangular piece of card 21 ins wide by 29 ins long. There is a double lined border within which there is at the top, a pen and ink sketch (7in by 10in) of a dying soldier and an image of Christ on the Cross. Above this is the phrase, *In Charity* and below this are the words: - *Pray for the repose of the souls of:* Then follow 91 names in three columns with the name, rank (grade), and date of

death. Recently, a copy was made of these names; it is again produced on card.

The list is not in alphabetical or date order and does not indicate those who died. It is not currently on display.



L12

### The Central Lancaster High School (NIWM No; None) Map Ref SD486616

This school now contains a First World War memorial, L12, to an individual. How it came to be in its current honoured position is an interesting story truly reflecting the thoughts and feelings of the time which have recently, in 2005, been re emphasized by the school. 2 Lt Richard Irving of "D" Coy. 1st/5th Bn., King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt.) died on the 2nd August 1916 during the battle of the Somme, aged 29.

#### *The Lancaster Guardian of 12 August, 1916 carried this report:*

Sergeant Richard Irving and Corporal T. S. Blakeley, of the 5th King's Own, have been given commissions in the battalion. These two Old Lancastrians (LRGS Old Boys) enlisted soon after the outbreak of war, went out to the fighting line in February of last year, and were wounded in the second battle of Ypres. They are still serving in the field. Sergeant Irving is one of a large number of schoolmasters who donned khaki, and the first from Lancaster to receive a commission for services in the field. When he enlisted he was on the staff of Greaves Council school and the Municipal Technical School. A keen athlete, he was one of the three scholastic members of the John O'Gaunt Rowing Club, the two others being H. Chapman and W. Pinch, all of whom did



much to restore the prestige of the Lune as the home of rowing. He was an efficient member of the Vale Of Lune Football Club scrum.

*The School magazine, The Lancastrian, in June 1916 had this to say:*

Lieut. Irving, K.O.R.L.R., L13, has, also given up his life in the defence of his country. Irving joined the 5th King's Own "Pals" Company, of which he speedily became an efficient and popular member. He was given a commission for services in the field, and was the first Lancaster teacher to be so honoured.



L13

He left Lancaster with the battalion for training at Didcot on September 8th, 1914, and went to the front in the February following. In April, 1915, he was wounded at the second battle of Ypres. A keen athlete, he was one of the best forwards of the Vale of Lune Rugby Union F.C., and played in several county trial matches; he did a great deal to restore the prestige of the Lune as a centre of rowing. Letters received from the commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel F. W. Anderson, Capt. Deed, Capt. Harriss, and Lieut. R. W. W. Holmes, expressed sympathy with Mrs. Irving and her family, and appreciation of Lieut. Irving as an officer. Lieut.-Colonel Anderson wrote: "You will by now have heard the sad news of your son's death, who was killed in action leading his platoon on a working parade. He was a good and capable officer, and his death is a sad thing for all of us. He was buried at Carnoy, in the old British lines. Several of his brother officers were able to be there. As his commanding officer, I very much regret losing such a leader, so well beloved by his men. You have my sincerest sympathy as well as the sympathy of his brother officers." Capt. Deed wrote most appreciatively of Lieut. Irving, stating that he had known him from the time he was a boy at the School, and he had admired his character ever since.

*The Lancaster Guardian date 22 December, 1917:*

### Memorial Unveiled at Greaves School

An impressive ceremony was held at the Greaves Council School on Wednesday afternoon when a

tablet was unveiled in memory of the late Lieut Richard Irving, 5th King's Own, who was an assistant master in the School before the War, and whose mother resides in Prospect Street Lancaster. The memorial consists of a copper tablet bearing the lion crest of the KO and the following inscription:-

*The King's Own. In loving memory of Second Lieutenant Richard Irving, 5th K.O.R.L.R., aged 29 years, killed 2nd August 1916 in France. Not once, nor twice in our rough island history story, The path of Duty was the way to glory. Erected by his colleagues and the scholars of this department.*

Above the tablet was an enlarged photo. It is framed in black Irish oak, the frame being the work of Mr Radesdale manual training instructor. Lieut Irving was thoroughly painstaking in all his work and a really loyal colleague, having the faculty of getting into close personal contact with the children. Had he survived the war, promotion would have come quickly. In everything he taught the children to play the game. The quotation on the bottom of the memorial was most appropriate (applause).

Ald J E Ogleshorpe referred to Lieut Irving as a faithful servant of the Lancaster Education Authority and a loyal teacher, who made his name amongst the scholars and his colleagues and gave every promise of a successful future. He remembered Lieut Irving and others interviewing him in August 1914 on the eve of joining the Pals, when he commended their patriotism and promised their interests would be looked after. Some had been killed, some wounded, several had been commissioned, many promoted and in every case had done their duty (Applause).

Coun. H Gooch, formerly Headmaster of the National School, said Lieut Irving served his country well. He hoped the memorial would be a reminder to the children of the Greaves School that one of their teachers fell nobly in the Great War. The nobility of the teachers who had fallen in the War was beyond dispute. Others had endured great hardship without complaint. His own son had told him that Lieut Irving was one of the best officers in the Battalion and they all regretted very much that he was killed. The Mayor read a letter from a Colonel of the King's Own Battalion paying tribute "to the wonderful spirit and endurance of the sturdy, imperturbable Lancashire men" and thought the sentiments particularly applied to the late Lieut Irving. These men were suffering hardships cheerfully for their sakes, and those at home must



do all they could to bring the war to a successful conclusion. (Applause)

Fast forward to 2004; whilst researching the Book of Honour it was discovered that The old Greaves School was a block of flats! Enquiries were made of the developers who informed us that there was no "War Memorial" in the Building now and they had no knowledge of it being removed by any of the builders. During the preparations for VE 2005 (Chapter7). The Lancaster Guardian carried this story - a week later the Head of History from the Central High School rang to say that not only was the Tablet safe in his school, it was used actively in lessons about the First World War.

The story has a very happy conclusion, for on the 29th September 2005 the Tablet commemorating Richard Irving was unveiled by the Mayor of Lancaster Councillor, Joyce Taylor and a pupil Oliver Barker , pictured at CP44, before the whole school, with many of the local community attending including members of the King's Own Association, Richard's Regiment. The Normandy Band of the King's Division played during the ceremony. The children rightly took pride of place and narrated a short history of Richard. It is very fitting that this memorial is now "Home Again" since The Central Lancaster High School was formed from Greaves School. Councillor Gooch would be well pleased that his remarks made in 1917 that: *"the memorial would be a reminder to the children"* have been well and truly borne out by the pupils of this school.

### Christchurch (NIWM No: 42375

Wyresdale Rd Lancaster Map Ref SD487614

The following account is taken from a report in the Lancaster Guardian dated January 17<sup>th</sup> 1920. The war memorial is in the form of a magnificent Gothic cross, L14, erected in honour of the parishioners of Christ Church, Lancaster who fell in the great war (names not listed). It was dedicated by the Archdeacon of Lancaster on December 17<sup>th</sup> 1919 and is reported to have cost about £400. The site of the cross is 20ft. due west of the baptistry, and it has been beautifully designed by Messrs. Austin and Paley, architects, in harmony with the architecture of the church.

The total height from the path is 20ft. and the cross which is made of Derbyshire stone, stands on a solid octagonal base placed partly on a sloping bank and with three steps above the level of the path.

The inscription on the base reads as follows:-

*"In lasting memory of glorious deeds and noble endurance"*

The cross is set on a solid square base about six feet high, with four square buttresses at the angles, terminating with carved pinnacles.



L14

On the east and west sides are richly sculptured panels with carved canopied finials. The subject of the west panel is 'The Crucifixion', with figures of St. John and Mary carved in deep relief, symbolical of man's greatest sacrifices. On the eastern side the subject is the dedication of the infant Samuel to the Lord, CP5, symbolical of the dedication and of the mother's sacrifice. Surmounting this base is an upper base, carrying the shaft with tracery panels.

The shaft, about 9ft. high, is beautifully tapered, terminating with a foliated capital, out of which rises the cross of artistic design, with carved foliated terminals. The whole idea has been to combine strength with delicacy of outline and that has been accomplished with a marked degree of success.

The sculpture and carving has been splendidly executed by Mr. F.F. Birch and Mr. E.G.H. Leader, two local sculptors, and the contract for the masonry was creditably carried out by Mr. A.O. Thoms, Wheatfield Street, Lancaster. The inscription on one side of the cross reads:- "A.D.M.G. In honour of all parishioners of Christ Church who gave their lives for King and country in the world's war, 1914 – 1919" and on the opposite side:- *"I am the resurrection and the life."* Curiously there are no names on this memorial. In the Lancaster Guardian of 31 March 1917 reported the unveiling of a Roll of Honour at the Christchurch School. This has not been found and the school moved to new premises some years ago.



L15

Inside the church is a memorial L15, to **Joseph William Cockroft. (NIWM No: None)**, a Private in the Civil Service Rifles. who died on 17/07/16. The memorial, designed by Messrs Paley and Austin and placed near the family pew at Christ Church is described in the LRGS Magazine March 1917 (OL News).

"A bronze tablet, with an engraved border of oak and laurel, at the top of which is a decorated cross, supported on each side with the Regimental badge, the Prince of Wales's feathers, has been placed in Christ Church, in commemoration of the late Joseph William Cockroft, who was killed while on sentry duty in France less than a year ago. The tablet bears the following inscription :-

*"To the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Joseph William. Cockroft, 2/5th Batt. The London Regiment Civil Service Rifles, son of the late William Hoyle and Elizabeth R. Cockroft, of East Villa, Lancaster; born October 15th, 1877; killed in action July 17th, 1916, in France. Erected by his brother."*

### Co-operative Society (NIWM No 42361 and 42362)

5 George Street, Map Ref SD479615



L16

From the Lancaster Guardian report 20 November 1920.... "A fitting tribute was paid by the Co-operators of Lancaster and District on Tuesday night to the men who went from their various shops in Lancaster, Morecambe, and district to fight for freedom in the great war. They numbered 78 and five of them made the supreme sacrifice.

Messrs. Waring and Gillow were entrusted with the provision of a beautiful memorial, L16, the design being in the form of an oak wall tablet with an arched pedimental cornice, enriched with carving and supported by pilasters having curved Ionic capitals. The inscription at the head of the roll is

*"Lancaster and District Co-operative Society Ltd, Memorial Roll in Honour of those who served in H M Forces during the Great War 1914-1918"*

The names of 73 men who returned have been arranged in four columns, those of the five fallen being grouped together under a carved tablet inscribed "In Memoriam". The Co-operative emblem, the Bee-hive, has been carved in relief, and occupies a central position under the arched pediment, whilst at the base of the memorial is carved "Their Names Live for Ever" The oak was specially selected and has a beautiful silver tone, the ornamentation and lettering being richly gilded.

The roll of honour was unveiled when a social gathering was held in the Lesser Co-operative Hall, Lancaster. It was attended by the heroes who had returned from the war and their wives, etc., together with the relatives of the deceased men.

Members of the General and Education Committees, members of the Women's Guild and the employees were invited, about 250 being present.

The proceedings began with a supper which was excellently served, and a concert of a most entertaining character was provided by the "Merry Mannikins" which was greatly appreciated. Miss Elsie Graham played the accompaniments. After speeches and the unveiling of the memorial by Mr. Jas. Ball, the hymn "O God our Help in Ages Past" was sung and concluded the ceremonial. The memorial will be fixed in the general offices located in the Co-operative store in Church Street Lancaster.

Following the Second World War, a similar tribute, also by Waring and Gillows was erected bearing the names of one hundred and thirty-two members of staff who served and survived and nine who died. On the closure of the store, both memorials were housed temporarily in the Maritime Museum but following a meeting of the local Co-operative Society members, they were moved in 1998 to their present location. An example of the beautiful carving incorporating the "Beehive" emblem of the Co-operative Society is shown in L17.



L17

### Crimean War Memorial (NIWM No:42348)

Lancaster Cemetery Map Ref SD493618

In Lancaster Cemetery there stands a striking memorial, L18, to local men who lost their lives in the Russian War, 1854-56. Although it is close to one of the city's best known landmarks and tourist attractions, the Ashton Memorial in Williamson Park, its existence is not well known. It takes the form of a large limestone obelisk standing on a square podium occupying an elevated site overlooking the city, and must have been very prominent when it was erected, whereas it is now partly obscured by trees.

The Memorial was Dedicated at a public ceremony on Thursday 8th November 1860. A detailed report



L18

of the proceedings was published in The Lancaster Guardian of 10th November 1860. The report is one of intense civic pride as the Memorial was dedicated by the Mayor of Lancaster in what was described as "one of the most imposing demonstrations witnessed in the old county town". There was pride in that "we are not aware that any other town has remembered its sons and blazoned the deeds of its humbler citizens". There was some anger that the memorial, first proposed in 1857, when a Ball to raise funds had been held, had taken so long to come to fruition. The monument, an obelisk, was designed by Mr Paley and executed by Mr C Baynes. Stone came free from a "fine bed of limestone" on the estate of Mr E G Hornby of Dalton Hall. The total height is 35 feet, the 25 foot obelisk standing on a 13 foot square base. The Guardian report details the grand parade "in which every class of civilians and every branch of the naval and military service were represented (included a large contingent of boys from the Grammar School and the National Boys School)." Interestingly a recruiting party of the 6th of Foot (The Royal Warwickshire Regiment) marched in the procession. The cost of the memorial was said to be of the order of £150. The Mayor, in his speech of dedication, mentioned the question of soldiers facing the enemy "What will they say of us at Home?"

He continued "the names and deeds of our heroic townsmen are still fresh in our recollection". On behalf of the Town, he placed the memorial in "the careful charge of those fellow townsmen who had the management of the Cemetery". The base of the obelisk bears the word CRIMEA on its westerly face and the faces of the podium are inscribed as follows:

*To The Imperishable Memory of The Brave Soldiers and Sailors, Natives of Lancaster and the Neighbourhood, Who fell in the RUSSIAN WAR AD MDCCCLIV -V -VI This Monument Erected By Public Subscription is dedicated.*



L19

As can be seen at L19, parts of the inscription are now weather-worn and indistinct, but the men's names are mainly legible. The doubtful parts have been confirmed by reference to Cross Fleury's *Time-Honoured Lancaster* (1891). It is intriguing to note that three of the 19 men named were of the 4th Regiment of Foot (The King's Own) which, 25 years later, was to have its permanent Headquarters and Depot established in Lancaster and become The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment).

The names of those commemorated are shown in the data disc. The Services, Regiments and numbers of men represented are:

HMS Valiant, Royal Artillery, Grenadier Guards (4), Scots Fusilier Guards, 1st Foot (The Royal Regiment) (2) 4th Foot (The King's Own) (3), 21st Foot (North British Fusiliers), 23rd Foot (Royal Welsh Fusiliers), 44th Foot (East Essex), 49th Foot (Princess Charlotte of Wales's or Hertfordshire Regiment), 55th Foot (The Westmoreland Regiment), 72nd Foot (Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders), The Land Transport Corps

Source: *The Orders and Medals Research Society Winter 1992 pp 288-289* By kind permission of the Author Norman Rowlinson of Lancaster

### Waring and Gillow (NIWM No: 51424)

Location in Lancaster Town Hall Map Ref SD481617  
Access during normal business hours.

The memorial is a fitting tribute to the skills and craftsmanship of the men who worked for Messrs Waring & Gillow, the highly regarded furniture makers. Carved in dark oak, it measures 62 inches by 77 inches with gold lettering. Picture CP9 shows the Memorial in its original place at the top of the grand staircase in the Waring and Gillows showroom, and a later one at L20.



L20

From a Lancaster Guardian report on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 1922:

"A moving tribute was paid to the memory of the employees of Messrs Waring & Gillow who fell in the Great War on Friday when Sir Samuel J Waring Bart., unveiled an oak roll of honour, on the grand staircase in the showrooms of the firm in North Road, Lancaster.



L21

men who had served and returned, some of them invalided for life. The carving at the head of the centre panel comprises the two palms of victory, and a laurel wreath under which is the inscription:

The memorial was beautifully designed by Mr W Eccles (head of the Lancaster factory studio) in the Georgian style and has been exquisitely executed in carved oak. The staircase, L21, was lined by

### *Employees of the Lancaster Branch of Messrs. Waring and Gillow, who nobly responded to the call of duty during the Great War 1914–18.*

There are two side panels containing the names of those who served, about 150 altogether, a centre panel being reserved for the names of the twenty who fell.

The centre panel contains a sheathed sword emblematical of the victory won and that the men have gained a crown of life, while at the base in gilded raised letters is inscribed "Their names live for ever". The whole is flanked by fluted pilasters surmounted by composite capitals, the nut and tongue style of carving being introduced into the border.

Mr C. E. Hughes, manager of the Lancaster works, presided in the absence of Mr. Fred Waring through indisposition. To illustrate the importance these unveilings had, the report goes on to detail members of the official party which included Brigadier General Hibbert, the Mayor of Lancaster, the Town Clerk, the Vicar of St. John's Church, many town councillors and managers from other Waring and Gillow establishments in the North West. It was explained that Mr Fred Waring was a brother of Sir Samuel and because of his technical knowledge, he had been more closely associated with the employees than the other directors. He had taken a deep interest in the efforts to honour the brave men who had gone from the Lancaster works.

In his speech, Sir Samuel recalled the early days of the Great War when he visited the works to ask for volunteers to fight for the cause of freedom. "Fifty men responded immediately to the call and the total number who eventually joined the services was well over 50 per cent of the male employees at the outbreak of war, many of those who enlisted being over military age. More than twenty were severely wounded. Four were decorated for conspicuous gallantry and twenty made the supreme sacrifice". The memorial had been erected to pass on to future generations of children the message of self-sacrifice which the men had shown in the country's hour of need. He praised the spirit of tenacity, unselfishness and comradeship which had maintained them in their great struggles, and questioned whether, in the light of the current industrial and social unrest, the tremendous sacrifice incurred in the war was all to no purpose.

The lesson of comradeship he regarded as the great message of the dead to the living. He hoped the spirit of that message would enter into each one of them and that in approaching the social and industrial troubles they would show the same spirit of comradeship which all classes showed in face of common trials in the war. In war, success was obtained through the unity and tenacious effort of all ranks. He would like to see that same unity and effort in solving industrial problems on the part of capital, management and labour. Each had its vital function to perform and the failure of any one to act the part means injury to all.

The National Anthem followed the unveiling and short speeches by Brig. General Hibbert and Mr T.H. Mawson were made.

Following the Second World War the memorial was adapted to include the names of eleven employees who died in service within the inscription: *Their Names Live For Ever*. In 1997, the firm ceased trading in Lancaster and the premises were sold. In 2001, following approval to turn the old Gillow building into a night club, the owner deemed it inappropriate for the memorial to remain on the grand staircase and removed it for safe keeping pending a decision on its resiting. After considerable public debate, it was decided that the Town Hall would provide a safe and accessible location and the memorial can be found on the landing at the top of the main staircase.

### **Lancaster Golf Club. (NIWM None:)**

Map Ref SD464572

The Lancaster Guardian dated 2 February, 1918 page 8 had this report: Proposed memorial to soldier-golfers. The Captain said that 120 had joined the forces and 17 had been killed in action. A tablet would be erected in the Clubhouse to their memory, and would state that the extension was done as a memorial. The Golf Club at that time was near to the present Lansil Social Club and if any memorial was put up it did not survive the move to the current club location. The memorial cannot be located or any other reference to it. so it is assumed that the proposal was not implemented.

### Greaves Road Methodist Map Ref SD480600

**Lancaster Methodist Church** ( Rev Hedley Cousin 32717). The main church is on Greaves Road Lancaster and contains six memorials; three of its own and three from other churches. The Church is well worth a visit, as is their web site: [lancastermethodistchurch.org.uk](http://lancastermethodistchurch.org.uk). The latter gives the history of Methodism/Weleyanism in Lancaster. It records that John Wesley passed through Lancaster on his journey North on May 11th 1759 and although there is no record of him preaching in the town, he encouraged the formation of a Methodist society. In 1794 an upper room at the corner of Wood Street and Damside was furnished as a preaching place and services were held there for eleven years. Land was then purchased at the corner of Sulyard Street and Fryer Street for a chapel, with a further plot in Fryer Street for a Preacher's House. At the start of the twentieth century, Wesleyan Methodism in Lancaster was strong; the population of the town was expanding to the south and also north of the river.



L22

The members of Wesley Methodist Church at Sulyard Street (the "mother" church of Lancaster Methodism) decided that it was time to establish new societies in these areas. Lancaster Methodist Church was formed in the year 2000 when a number of Methodist churches in Lancaster came together to form a single Methodist society. The premises belonging to Greaves Methodist Church in the South of the city and Wesley Methodist Church in the city centre were retained and are used for services and other activities, the former being

renovated in 2003 and the latter being refurbished during 2004. The main use now of Sulyard Street is for a day care centre run by Lancashire County Council. The mission chapels on the Marsh estate and at Westham Street were closed at that time.

**The Great War Memorial Window. (NIWM No: 51423)** This, L22, is above the main altar and is a very fine and most certainly a significant memorial to those who died. Headed with the words "Hope" and "Charity" It was made by Barraclough and Sanders of Lancaster in 1921. An account of the Diamond Jubilee of the Church (1969) records that the window was installed in April 1923 when Mrs Smith and Mrs Myerscough were very active members of the Church. Also mentioned is the that the large Church Hall and Vestries were "*completely covered with mattresses to accommodate evacuee children until billets could be found for them*".

At the bottom of each light is a "Quarter Light" upon which are the following inscriptions:



L23



L24

*L23 - Given by the Congregation to the Glory of God and in grateful remembrance. L24 - Given to the Glory of God by Mabel Smith in loving memory of her husband Reginald Smith killed at Fleurbair 28 March 1917 aged 28. L25- Given to the Glory of God by A and AM Myerscough in loving memory of their son John Myerscough killed Battle of Arras 28th April 1917 aged 22 years. L26 - Given by Ex Service men to the Glory of God and in memory of Fallen Comrades."*



L25



L26

### World War One Plaque, Sulyard Street Methodist Church (NIWM No. None)

The plaque, CP6, is in repousse (ornamental metal work hammered into relief from the reverse side). It is some 3ft by 2ft with allegorical figures to the right and left of the inscribed names. It looks as new as the day it was made.

The inscriptions read:

*These, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them and endured hardship, faced danger and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self sacrifice. The darkness is passing away and the true light already shines - John 2 Verse 8*

22 names are commemorated on the plaque. The Church underwent major alteration during the period 1965-7; the large church closed and a small meeting room and Sunday school rooms created from the church hall. The plaque had been stored in the church cellars since 1967 and was erected in the Greaves Church in 2004.



L27

### Greaves Church World War One and Two.

L27, for World War One records 41 names with three of the soldiers killed highlighted. L28 - Greaves World War Two. All of the twenty four men named appear to have survived. It was made by Mr Fred Bowker, an active and loyal church member.

**Moor Lane was the Moor Lane Primitive Methodist Church.** The Lancaster Guardian reported that a Brass Tablet, L29, mounted on oak,

was unveiled in May 1920 by Mr Charles Butler (a senior trustee). Mr W Collins presided and The Rev J Hall gave an address in which he stressed the sacrifices the men returning from the war had made and that they should be given special consideration. The anthem "Crossing the Bar" was sung by the choir. There appears an anomaly in the names.



L29

The Guardian includes H Hunter but not John Sturzaker. Herbert Hunter was a Second Lieutenant in the 1st/4th Bn., King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt.); he died on Friday, 26/04/1918 age 33 and was the son of Edward and Jane Hunter, of Lancaster and husband of S. E. Hunter, of the Athenaeum Hotel, Lancaster. John Robert Sturzaker a Private in the 1st/5th Bn. The King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regt died on Saturday, 24/08/1918 age: 29. He was the husband of M. B. Sturzaker, of 5 Newsham Place, Bowerham, Lancaster. Since both men died in the Great War perhaps it is better to record their names here and do them the honour they deserve. This Church closed in 1965 and purchased by Lancaster City Council, is now used by The Duke's Theatre. The Brass Memorial plaque went to Greaves and was erected on the wall in 1965.. The majority of the parishioners moved to Greaves and the Tablet went with them. Mrs Annie Ellis lovingly polished this memorial until her ninetieth year.

**The Marsh Roll of Honour, L30,** came from the Marsh Church which was sold in 2002 and is now the Steiner Nursery centre. It was "Rescued" by Eddie Potter and secured in the Greaves Church. The Roll of Honour Board was stored in the cellar for some years and was in poor condition. It was moved to Greaves in 2004 and has been lovingly restored by SP Signs of Lancaster. A total 56 men from the Marsh Church joined the armed forces during the First World War, of whom nine were never to return. A Roll of Honour was



L28



commissioned, and this is now, nearly 100 years later, displayed in the Scotforth Road Church.



L30

## Lancaster Cemetery (NIWM No:42350)

Map Ref SD493618

Quernmore Road Lancaster

*This account was compiled from reports in the Lancaster Guardian dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> June 1925*

afternoon, 20<sup>th</sup>.May 1925 by the Mayor of Lancaster (Ald. G. Jackson) in the presence of the members of the Town Council, public officials and representative townspeople.

No names are inscribed on the "Cross of Sacrifice" now occupying the principal site in the cemetery on the hill, but it stands in recognition of the valour of the heroes of the war who are buried in the three cemeteries (Lancaster, Scotforth and Skerton). The place of honour assigned to the cross is in the centre of the main pathway leading to the respective chapels. The road was widened on either side, under the direction of Mr. E. Hill (Borough Engineer) to give room for vehicles to pass. The memorial consists of a two-tier octagonal base 16ft. across, on concrete foundations, and the cross which rises 20ft. in height is in Darley-dale stone. The shaft is 14ft. from the socket, and tapers from 2ft. to 9in. at the pinnacle. There is a sword glaive containing a bronze sword 3ft. 6in. long. The cross was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield R.A. and the contractors were Messrs. J. and H. Pattinson of Manchester, Mr R.L. Dilworth of Lancaster fixing it for the firm.



L31

**Cross of Sacrifice** L31. The new memorial erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission in Lancaster Cemetery was unveiled on Wednesday



L32

Around three sides of the octagonal base is the inscription, L32,: **To the honoured memory of one hundred and thirty five sailors and soldiers who gave their lives for their Country in the Great War 1914-1918 of whom one hundred and one lie buried in this cemetery, twenty one in Scotforth Cemetery and thirteen in Skerton Cemetery all in the Borough of Lancaster. Their Name Liveth for Evermore.**

## The Ceremony

The cheerless weather affected the attendance, but the Mayor, wearing his robes and chain of office, was accompanied by about 20 members of the Town Council. They formed a procession, marshalled by



Chief Constable Harris at the Cemetery gates, which passed along the walk and halted in front of the memorial.

A guard of honour with reversed arms was posted at each corner of the base of the cross, which was draped with a Union Jack. Behind stood the Band of the 5<sup>th</sup> King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) and a firing party. Capt. R. H. Welch represented Colonel Bois (Commander of the Depot). The religious part of the ceremony was conducted by the Vicar of Lancaster (the Rev. J. Bardsley), accompanied by the Rev. H. Robinson and the Rev. J. T. Taylor (President of the Free Church Council).

### One of Many Crosses

Mr. E.M. Longsdon (representing The Imperial War Graves Commission), in asking the Mayor to unveil the Cross of Sacrifice, said the cross was identical with those erected by the Commissioners in France, Italy, Macedonia, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Egypt and East Africa. Wherever there was a war cemetery a similar memorial to the dead was erected, except in places where conditions prevented it.

The Imperial War Graves Commission was composed of members elected by every Government in the British Empire, and they contributed to the cost in proportion to the number of soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice. The crosses were erected not by the English Government alone. It was an Imperial matter. Headstones would soon be erected on the war graves in the cemetery to take the place of the temporary wooden crosses. The Cross of Sacrifice, and headstones, had become universal marks of the graves of soldiers and sailors who laid down their lives for their King and the Empire. The Mayor, before unveiling the cross, expressed thanks to Mr. Longsdon for his presence, and said he was delighted to hear that similar monuments were being erected. He believed several hundred would be erected in different cemeteries to the gallant men who died through the war. The memorial was for 135 men who laid down their lives in the war but died at home and were buried in the three cemeteries. Their names were all perpetuated in "The Garden of Remembrance" but the charming monument would be a great credit to the people of Lancaster, and an honour to the gallant fallen.

### The Unveiling

After the unveiling the Vicar of Lancaster offered appropriate dedicatory prayers. Three farewell volleys were fired by the soldiers, each round being followed by a line of the hymn "Abide with Me". A bugler sounded the "Last Post", the notes of which re-echoed from the tall trees, and then there was a

minute's silence – except for the music of the birds overhead.

Ald. Riley (Chairman of the Cemeteries Committee) at the request of the Mayor, reverently placed a beautiful wreath of red and white flowers at the foot of the cross. It was inscribed: "In remembrance from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Lancaster".

The Mayor accepted the cross, and said it would be revered and kept in a proper condition for all time. Mr. Longsdon said the Commissioners appreciated very much the kindness of the Corporation in regard to the provision of the site for the memorial.

Records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission show that over twenty casualties from the 1939-45 war are also commemorated in this cemetery.



L33

### Lansil (NIWM None:)

Caton Road Lancaster Map Ref SD486633

The Lancaster Guardian and Observer of 25 February 1946 carried a report of the unveiling of the Roll of Honour, L33, which is flanked by two engraved brass vases to carry floral tributes, commemorating the men from the Lansil Works who had lost their lives in the Second World War. Extracts from the report are below and clearly indicate the strength of feeling at that time.

The picture L34, is of those officiating at the ceremony.



L34

The firm of Lansil had been founded in Lancaster in 1928 as a manufacturer of artificial silk – one of the new man-made fibres for which there was a growing demand in the inter-war years. By 1931 it was already employing 1,600 people, and it continued to prosper as an independent local firm until the 1960's, when it passed into the hands firstly of a Canadian firm – Monsanto, then of Courtaulds who closed the plant down in 1980. All that is left of the original firm is its still active Golf and Social Club on the Caton Road (Lansil was the only firm in Lancaster to provide a golf course for its employees). When the Second World War ended Lansil was still a thriving concern employing well over a thousand local people, and it was felt that a fitting memorial should be provided to those fellow workers who had made 'The Supreme Sacrifice'. Initially it was decided that this should take the practical form of endowing a 'memorial bed' in the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, and a collection for this purpose was begun. On December 19<sup>th</sup> 1947 a formal ceremony took place at which the bed was dedicated, and the Managing Director of Lansil, Sir Norman Seddon-Brown presented the Infirmary with a cheque for £750 together with a memorial plaque, L35, to place over it.



L35

But this still left a surplus in the collection fund and it was decided to spend this on a formal Roll of Honour - to be designed and made by the craftsmen of Waring and Gillows.

This new memorial, listing all the 41 employees of Lansil who had fallen in WW11, was later unveiled in a moving ceremony held in the firm's Social Club on February 17<sup>th</sup> 1949. The clubhouse was filled with relatives of the deceased as well as fellow employees. Amongst them were Mr & Mrs J Herman of Green Street, Lancaster, who in October 1948 had become the first English parents to be granted a pass to enter occupied Germany in order to visit the grave of their son, Fusilier Frederick Herman, who was only eighteen when he died in action. The unveiling was performed by a Director of the firm, G. H. Wakefield, who said of those on the Roll of Honour that, 'I knew each and every one of them and I can sincerely and honestly say they represented the cream of our staff'. The proceedings ended with F. Mee of the Lansil Works Band playing the 'Last Post' on a muted trumpet. An interesting feature of the Lansil ceremony was the leading role played by the local branch of the service charity Toc H. Their padre, the Rev. R. W. Hurst, led the prayers and hymns; the local secretary, J. E. Collinge (whose son, John, was amongst those named on the Roll) read Lawrence Binyon's poem, *For the Fallen*; and his seven year old grandson, Derek Collinge, placed a floral tribute beneath the Roll of Honour. But above all the whole service had been designed to centre around the traditional Toc H 'Ceremony of Light', during which, according to the Lancaster Guardian, 'Women dabbed handkerchiefs to their eyes and the sounds of muffled sobbing pervaded the Lansil Works clubroom, as lights were slowly extinguished, leaving only the tiny flame of the Toc H lamp still burning, and everyone stood for a moment in silence'. \*

\*Historical note: Toc H, was founded by an Australian army padre, 'Tubby' Clayton, in 1915. Its name derives from the Talbot House, Poperinghe; shortened to the signallers code "Toc H". Deeply concerned about the stress suffered by those fighting on the Western Front, he acquired a large house in Belgium, and opened it as a refuge for men on leave. It quickly became, in the words of one writer, *A haven for all ranks where they had baths, ate meals, played games and rested between visits to the front and all of the horrors that were there.* A Christian foundation, Toc H soon acquired a symbol in the shape of the unusual lamp "The Lamp of Maintenance", L36, (picture of the Toc H memorial at the National Arboretum) which gave out a small

but constant light and was used in its religious ceremonies. The Cross of Flanders used on the lamp is symbolic of the origins of Toc H.



L36

Indeed its fame led to the saying 'as dim as a Toc H lamp' being applied to the slow witted in the inter-war years. It is of interest to note that John Collinge's sister, Mrs Connie Noble, presented The Book of Honour at the United Reform in the rededication Service in November 2004.

### Lancaster Royal Grammar School LRGS (NIWM No:42346)

East Road Lancaster LA1 3EF Map Ref SD487614

Location: in school Memorial Library



L37

The Old Boys of Lancaster Royal Grammar School, the Old Lancastrians, were responsible for raising funds after both world wars to commemorate the former pupils who died in the conflicts. A Memorial Fund for the 75 members of the School who were killed in the First World War was begun in 1917 and continued for some years; more than £1,600 was

collected. In March 1922, a memorial plaque, L37 was installed in the then existing school building and the funds also purchased four acres of land from a local estate to provide playing fields for the school in acknowledgement of the part that the athletic fields of England had played in the Great War: These playing fields are still known as the Memorial Field.

At the dedication ceremony on Wednesday 5 March 1922, the Headmaster, the Rev J.H. Shackleton Bailey, read out the names of the 75 who had died and led prayers for "those who gave up their lives at the call of King and Country and for their example of devotion and courage." Buglers from the Bowerham Barracks sounded the "Last Post" and the OTC gave the salute. The memorial, which had been made by J Wippell & Co Ltd of Exeter, takes the form of a bronze plaque. It was unveiled by Old Lancastrian, Lieut. Col. C.M. Bateman, D.S.O. who spoke of the honour he felt in being asked to do so. He recalled his school days with happy memories of comradeship and fellowship and handed over the memorial to the Mayor of Lancaster as the representative of the Governors. In accepting the memorial the Mayor spoke of his sadness at the losses sustained but said they were softened by pride in the deeds they had done. "They had done their duty nobly and in the spirit of sacrifice that others might live."



L38

At the end of the decade, the school was enlarged with a new building on the opposite side of East Road. The new building included the Memorial Library which is entered through imposing oak doors over which is the following inscription, L38, in bronze:

*This Library perpetuates the memory of former members of the School whose lives were sacrificed in the service of their King and Country during the Great War 1914-1918. Let all who enter it pay them the tribute of silence.*



L39

A dedication ceremony was held on Monday March 3rd 1930. It was performed by another Old Lancastrian, the Right Rev. C .E. Curzon MA, Bishop of Stepney. The service was attended by relatives of those who had died, contributors to the fund, Old Lancastrians, Governors, and representatives of the masters and boys. The Last Post was again sounded by buglers from the Bowerham Barracks and the Bishop lit the Lamp of Remembrance. In his address he said he had been moved during the reading of the names because many of the men had been at school with him and many memories of his school days 35 years ago had been recalled. He continued "It is my duty to say something about them, yet all the deepest things cannot be spoken. Nothing we can say in their honour would suffice, for we would not dare to praise them. Their honour is secure for all time and we can only thank them. By common consent, the post-war generation has agreed that in the presence of these men, silence is the only fitting emotion

The library, L39, measures about 36ft square with the walls panelled to a height of ten feet in light oak. The panelling is ornamented with carved scrolls, and a border of fruit and leaves in deep relief. Above this is a plaster - moulded frieze, which, like the ceiling, is in imitation of the Tudor period. Eight oak book cases, two solid oak tables, chairs and a carpet completed the furnishing but these have all

now been removed to a more modern library in the school. In the south window there are stained glass panels depicting the arms of the school and the county.

In the centre of the east wall is the shrine, CP8, which contained the Lamp of Remembrance situated on a marble plinth, and behind, a bronze plaque with the inscription:

### **DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI**

The Lamp has been removed for safety reasons and the inscription on the plaque now includes the dates for both world wars. On the opposite wall are the two brass plaques for both wars with the following inscriptions:

*To the Glory of God and in Honoured memory of the Old Lancastrians who gave their lives for King and Country in the Great War 1914-191. (75 names follow) The Names of these also shall Live for Evermore 1939-1945. (114 names follow)*

Some 600 Old Lancastrians served during the First World War and of the 52 for whom details are known, 32 held commissions and 15 served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion ('Pals') of the local regiment, the Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. There was a predominance of the Army over the other two services and heavy casualties were sustained on the Western Front. Twenty-nine decorations for gallantry were won.



L40

The Second World War sadly called for another Memorial Fund for the 114 past scholars who were then killed. The Fund commenced in 1948 and ran for some years in the hope of providing a bigger library on the Bay View Site. About £4,650 was raised. A Memorial Service was held at Christchurch on 6 July 1946 and the Dedication of the Memorial Plaque, L40, on 10 May 1952.

Since the prospect of building a new block, which would include the proposed library, depended on Government approval for the purpose of a grant-in-aid, and that approval was likely to be deferred for some time, attention was turned to the provision of much-needed additional changing accommodation on the Memorial Field. A new pavilion was erected at a cost of £4,127 and presented to the School on Founders' Day 1964. The remainder of the Fund was used to provide a Lectern and Bible (£145), to help the Boat Club (£50), to improve the Rifle Range (£100) and to pay part of the cost of tennis courts (£210). A cine projector was given in 1948 (£50).

More than 1000 OLs saw active service 1939-45. An obvious difference from the first world war record is the predominance of RAF entries with 25 aircrew casualties. The local regiment no longer features so prominently, reflecting the greater mobility in the population. An impressive number of awards for gallantry were made.

**Sources:** A history of the School by A L Murray. Quincentenary Commemorative Volume 1469-1969 Edited by J L Spencer and School Magazines.

### Moor Hospital (NIWM No: 51422)

Oakland NHS Unit Ashton Road Lancaster Map Ref SD487608



L41

**The Moor Hospital Lancaster.** A Second World War Memorial plaque, L41, was situated in the magnificent entrance hall below the tower of the main building of this Victorian hospital which specialised in Mental Health. There was a special unveiling ceremony in about 1950 together with a buffet-wine reception for those named upon it who could be present. We are grateful to Mr E Tyson of

Morecambe for this information; now 80 years old, he is named upon the memorial and attended the reception.

**Lancaster Moor Hospital** (Opened 1816 - closed 2000) The Lancaster Moor Hospital was one of the biggest mental hospitals in the North West. Opened in 1816 as the 'County Lunatic Asylum' it stood high above the town on Lancaster Moor (hence the name it took when it came under the auspices of the new National Health Service in 1948). From the beginning it was housed in impressive buildings, indeed one contemporary journal was of the opinion it was '*the most magnificent edifice, the Castle excluded, of which Lancaster has to boast*'. By 1824 it had 280 patients; a century later, according to the 1911 Census, it had 2,327 (as well as 268 staff to look after them); by 1940 it contained within its walls a staggering 3,048 inmates. Yet today nothing remains of this vast institution except the 'Ladies Villa' (now Ridge Lea Hospital); and next to it lies the enormous 'New Annexe', built in sandstone in the Victorian Gothic style, which once housed nearly 900 patients. Now it stands empty, with its miles of silent corridors and deserted wards, like the ghost of a bygone era. \*

It was, however, still a thriving institution when, on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 1949, a Roll of Honour in memory of employees who had served in the Second World War was unveiled at the hospital by Brigadier L. F. Kenyon. The tablet measures 61 cm high x 91 cm wide, and is of bronzed metal mounted on an oak frame. Lancashire Roses are situated in each corner with the dates 1939 and 1945 within laurel wreathes at the top of the tablet. The tablet is marked "GP Kershaw and Co, Stockport". Made of wood and it bears the names of all 112 members of staff, beautifully engraved in gold lettering, and including 3 doctors and 46 male nurses who had served in the War. Six had been killed in action, these being marked with a gold star. Eight of the men had obtained commissions, of whom one, Lt Colonel H. B. Craigie, had been mentioned in dispatches. Others who had distinguished themselves in action were Private J Glover, R.A.M.C., who had won the British Empire Medal for 'gallant and distinguished service at sea' in 1942, and Private H. B. Pattinson, who had won the Military Medal for bravery while serving in Burma.

There was a large attendance at the unveiling ceremony, which was presided over by Alderman W Garnett, the Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee.

He recalled how, soon after the outbreak of war, it was decided to organise the provision of 'parcels of comforts' for those serving, and a total of £1,118 had been raised for this purpose. When hostilities ceased £127 still remained and it was the suggestion of the Chief Male Nurse, Mr James Baird, that this surplus be used to honour their serving colleagues in the form of a Roll of Honour. (Sadly, Mr Baird himself was to die only five days after the unveiling ceremony)

\*Information from: Peter Williamson, *From Confinement to Community: the Story of the Lancaster County Lunatic Asylum* (1999). The Memorial has been moved to a new National Health Service Unit at Oaklands, situated in Lancaster opposite the old Royal Albert Hospital.

**The City Museum (NIWM None)** Market Square Lancaster Map Ref SD480617

**South African Memorial for the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment recording those Officers and Men who served in the 'Boer War' 1899-1902.**

In January 1900 the Volunteer Battalion of the King's Own was asked to form an Active Service Company to be attached to the 2nd Battalion King's Own which was serving at the front in South Africa. Volunteers poured in and eventually 104 men were selected: 50 from Lancaster, 32 from Barrow in Furness, 9 from Ulverston, 6 from Hawkshead and Kirkby Ireleth, 4 from Dalton, and 3 from Millom. On 10th February 1900 the men assembled in Lancaster; the 50 Lancaster men were accommodated at Bowerham Barracks, while the remaining 54 slept in the drill hall in Phoenix Street. A long table was placed down the middle for breakfast and tea and dinners were provided at Bowerham Barracks where they spent the day training.

On 16th March the Active Service Company left Lancaster, and embarked in S.S. Tagus. Lancaster gave them a great send-off; cheering crowds went with them to the station and the Volunteer band played 'Soldiers of the Queen'. On the 17th March the Volunteer Active Service Company joined the 2nd Battalion at Elandslaagte.

The Volunteer Company had only been called up for one year - and thus a waiting company of volunteers was organised in Lancaster. At this time



L42

the establishment of the volunteers was expanded and two battalions were formed in the place of one, the first with its headquarters at Ulverston and the second at Lancaster. The 2nd Volunteer Active Service Company arrived in May 1901 to relieve the 1st.Bn. The Volunteers were sent home as soon as the war ended on 31st May 1902 when peace was signed at Pretoria. The Active Service Company left for England in June 1902. It had suffered no casualties in action and no deaths from disease, only eight men having been invalided home during the whole of its year abroad.

The Roll, L42, lists the officers and men of No. 1 and No. 2 Active Service Companies who served in South Africa as complete companies attached to the regular battalion, and also No. 3 Active Service Company on which information is scarce, but possibly provided drafts of men in support of those companies in South Africa.

**Oddfellows (Duchess of Lancaster Lodge) (NIWM None:)**

Location was Brock Street Map Ref SD479616

This memorial cannot be found. The Lancaster Guardian of 20 September 1922 had this report:

Among the numerous societies in Lancaster which suffered the loss of many members during the Great War was The Independent Order of Oddfellows (Manchester Unity). From the "Duchess of Lancaster" Lodge over 200 joined the forces and eighteen were killed. To perpetuate the memory the lodge has executed a memorial tablet the unveiling and dedication of which took place in the Friends Hall on Tuesday night.

There was a crowded assembly. P Prov G M G Clarkson presided and was supported by Brother G Wilkins (Liverpool). Deputy Grand Master of the Order (who unveiled the tablet) The Rev F W Griffiths, PG and the Vicar of St Pauls Church (who performed the dedication ceremony), N G H Baldwin.. An oak leaf border surrounds the tablet. The inscription is as follows *Duchess of Lancaster Lodge IUOO MD. To the memory of eighteen Brothers of this Lodge who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War 1914-1918.*

D M Bratherton, W Clapham, H Dobson, T Dobson., J M Fawcett, W R Graham, F Hayton, J Harrison, W Masters, E V Monks, J W Park, R F Posthlewthwaite, J E S Posthlewthwaite, R Riley, W J Smallshaw, J Simpson, E Trim, J Woodhouse.

*Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

The memorial will hang in the future in the Lodge Room at Cromwell Buildings, the Headquarters of the Duchess of Lancaster Lodge.

**The Ceremony** commenced with the hymn "O God Our help in ages past". P Prov Clarkson said that out of a membership of 343, 104 answered the call of King and Country and 18 made the supreme sacrifice. At the time of enlistment these men were taking an active part in the work of the lodge and gave promise of being useful members of the district. The Honours gained by the men were the DCM, the MSM and the OBE. He believed there was a better solution to international strife than resorting to brutal use of arms. Their thanks were due to the secretary for the execution of such a beautiful tablet. Bro Wilkins said that he looked upon it as a great honour when he was asked to unveil the memorial. When war was joined their brethren rushed to join the colours. They did not seek war nor did they want to enter war; they simply went as sons. The Rev W Griffiths, before dedicating the memorial said it was a pleasure to take part in that solemn service. They all felt, and especially some, a note of sadness in it. At the same time he thought that there ought not to be any note of distress as it would have been the last thing that the brothers named on the memorial would have desired. Those men, like themselves, led commonplace lives. There was nothing romantic; they simply went about the daily round of common tasks. Yet these men left home surrendered everything and showed marvellous courage. Those was a feeling of pride at home mingled with sorrow. He urged them to live with

the same spirit in which these men died, the spirit of self sacrifice and unselfishness. They now lay in narrow graves somewhere in far flung battle lines but he was sure they were standing on their feet in the presence of God.

After the dedication two minutes silence was observed followed by the sounding of the last post. The Guard of Honour was formed by PPGM E Bell and GM W Riley.

An impressive ceremony concluded with the singing of Abide with Me and the National Anthem. A collection was taken in aid of the Orphans Gift Fund.

### **Oddfellows (Lincoln Lodge) Fenton Street (NNIWM No: None)**

Again sadly this Roll of Honour for the Second World War, cannot be traced.

The Lancaster Guardian of 21 November 1947, p.4, col. 7 reported : On the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1947 the Loyal Earl of Lincoln Lodge of the 'Oddfellows', Lancaster's largest friendly society\*, unveiled a Roll of Honour in memory of their 'brothers' who had died in the recent conflict. The ceremony, at which many relatives were present, took place in the Lodge Room of the Friends Hall on Fenton Street (now a mosque). Brother Charles Clark, who had served in the Forces, presided, and noted amongst other things that a generous member, who wished to remain anonymous, had donated the entire cost of the memorial. The unveiling was performed by Brother Robert Parker who had himself served in the Army from 1940 to 1945. He said all the members named on the Roll were personally known to him. In particular he wished to pay tribute to Brother A Barnes, a fellow officer of the Lodge for many years, who had been shot down over Hanover in October 1943. He also drew the attention of those present to the fact that the Oddfellows 'Orphan Gift Fund', raised by voluntary donations to assist the orphans of brothers who had died in both World Wars had raised, since its beginning in 1919, over quarter of a million pounds for this purpose. The unveiling was followed by a minutes silence. Brother Parker then read out the names of all the deceased, and concluded the ceremony with a reading of Lawrence Binyon's poem, 'To the Fallen'.

The memorial itself had been designed by Mr D Bettany, a student at the Art College, who had



himself been a prisoner of war for four years. Following the formal ceremony, Brothers R. D. Thompson and A. Robinson gave an account of their recent visit to the War Graves in France and Belgium, and reassured relatives present that their loved ones graves were very well looked after. All the relatives were then given a copy of the Roll of Honour, as well as light refreshments prepared by Mrs Martin.

\* The local Oddfellows appear to have had at least three local 'Lodges', the King William 1V, the Duchess of Manchester, and the Earl of Lincoln.

### Phoenix Street Working Mens Club (NIWMNo: None)

Phoenix St Lancaster Map Ref SD480619



L43

This fine metal Roll of Honour, L43, burnished with black lacquer, hangs in full view in the snooker room of the Club. The inscription reads:

*In honoured memory of the members of this club who during the World War 1939-1945 served in His Majesties Forces, met and defeated the enemy on sea land and in the air, and by their sacrifices and devotion to duty, preserved our freedom and upheld the cause of true justice and Christian chivalry. Sacrificed their lives ( Seven names follow). Ye that hoe on mid England's pastures green, remember them and think what might have been. ( 115 names served and returned).*

It is understood the moving hand in erecting this memorial to Club members was a Mr Simpson whose son did not return. One interesting fact is that we believe that Lancaster was the birthplace of the working men's club movement, started by the Reverend Henry Solly, the Minister of the local Unitarian Church. The idea was to provide places

where working men could meet to relax after their labours and indulge in "rational recreations" such as drinking tea, reading newspapers and playing billiards.

### Post Office Lancaster and Morecambe District (NIWM No: 42369)

Market Street, Lancaster, LA1 Map Ref SD473616

Located in porch entrance in Fenton Street

The memorial, L44, takes the form of an oak plaque with gilded lettering and coloured decoration. It is in a good state of preservation. The plaque bears the names of eight men who died in WWI and two in WWII.

*The following account is taken from reports which appeared in the Lancaster Guardian on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December 1922.*

**Post Office Roll of Honour.** Though the new Lancaster Post Office at the corner of Market Street and Fenton Road had not been formally handed over by the contractors, an interesting ceremony was held there on Wednesday afternoon when the Postal Staffs of Lancaster Morecambe and District Offices met to do honour to their colleagues who served in the Great War.



L44

An oak memorial was unveiled. It had been beautifully executed by Messrs Hatch. There are four Lancashire Roses, one at each corner, and the Royal Coat of Arms in heraldic colours surmounts the text.



Several members of staff received honours, one DCM, three military Medals, one Kahem Medal for Valour, one Meritorious Service Medal, one Mentioned in Despatches; one OBE, and a lady clerk was commended by the Postmaster General for devotion to duty and promptness in which she grasped the needs of the situation on the occasion of the White Lund explosion. No fewer than 87 of the staff served, 51 from Lancaster, 14 from Morecambe and 22 from sub offices in the District.

### **Lancaster St Mary (The Priory) Priory (NIWM No: Various)**

Church Address: Castle Hill, OS MapRef: SD 478620

**Lancaster Priory.** This beautiful and ancient church stands proudly on the hill next to Lancaster Castle. It is the home for numerous war memorials, chief of which is The Regimental Chapel of The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) - Lancaster's very own Regiment. Amalgamated later with the Border Regiment to form The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, cuts sadly continue and the Regiment is shortly to be amalgamated with other regiments in The North West. It is very right and fitting that this glorious Regimental Chapel stands to honour the many men who have fought and died with this great regiment, the 4th of Foot. This book cannot hope to do justice to the Regimental Chapel. Its full history was recorded by Cowper in 1946 in a forty one page booklet which is now out of print. The Regimental Chapel Committee have kindly agreed that a facsimile be included in the Data Disc. The Chapel contains many memorials, both to those who died in conflict and to those who have served with the Regiment, the latest one being put in place in 2005. In addition it houses one of the largest collections of laid up Regimental Colours in the Country. Twenty five of these are recorded by The National Inventory of War Memorials. Thus here we show a short history taken from the Cowper publication, along with a photograph of the casket which holds the In Memorial Books, pages of which are turned regularly. Outside of the Chapel in the main part of the church, are 5 other war memorials and the Flag of HMS Lancaster flown during the Great War.

**The Regimental Chapel** On 7th August, 1903, the foundation stone of the chapel, was laid and one year later the completed chapel was dedicated to the memory of the officers and men of all battalions who had died in the war in South Africa. A brass, by Shrigley & Hunt, Lancaster, recording the event was placed on the north wall which reads:

*This chapel was erected to the glory of God. and in memory of the officers, N.C.O.s and men of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) who fell in the South African Campaign 1899-1902.*

In 1908, the oak arcading with spaces for brass dado tablets on the north and west walls was put up in accordance with the design of Messrs. Austin & Paley. To commemorate the sacrifice of officers and men who gave their lives the First World War, 1914-18, it was decided to place a suitable memorial in the chapel to take the form of a stained glass window with a roll of honour in a carved oak shrine beneath. Brasses (by A. & N.C.S.L., London) recording the action taken were placed on the west wall which reads:

*The west window was unveiled on the 6th January, 1921, by General Sir Archibald Hunter, Colonel of the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) and was dedicated by the Right Revd. A. G. Rawstrone, D.D. Bishop of Whalley.*

A shrine containing the roll of honour was unveiled by Field Marshal The Right Honourable the Earl Haig, on the 27th November, 1924. During the war the regiment consisted of 16 battalions, 11 of which served at the front, with three employed on home service. The total number of those who fell during the war was 6515 officers and men.

During the Second World War the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) consisted of eight battalions, seven were employed against the enemy; 10th Battalion amalgamated with the 5th Battalion after the latter became the 107th Regiment R.A.C. (King's Own). The total number of those who fell during this war was 859 officers and other ranks. It was decided that their memorial should take a form which would be of particular benefit to ex-servicemen - the building of additional cottages in Westfield War Memorial Village, Lancaster, together with a record of their names in a Roll of Honour to be placed in the chapel. It was felt essential that the two Rolls of Honour should be kept together, and since the oak shrine did not allow of this, a gun-metal. and oak casket, CP7, on a stone plinth, was designed for their reception to be placed at the east end of the chapel.

**The 10th Lancashire Battery RFA B/276** See the entry for this memorial on page 14.

### St John's Ambulance Brigade Lancaster Division (NIWM No: None)

This brass plaque, L45, 30 by 24 inches in size, has a Greek key pattern interwoven with leaves around the sides and the St John's Ambulance Brigade Badge at the top. It commemorates five members who died in the First World War, including a lady, the 6th lady to be found on our local war memorials. The inscription reads:

*St John's Ambulance Brigade. Lancaster Division. Sacred to the memory of the members of this division who fell on active service in the Great War 1914-1918:*

*W E Thornton; I Murray; C E Stilling; J W Park; Muriel B Ogilvy*

*"Pro Ultimate Hominun"*



L45

**Leonard Redmayne (NIWM No: None)** A fine alabaster, L46, 4 feet by 3 feet adorned with a cavalry officers sword and scabbard covered by a laurel wreath. The inscription reads:



L46

*Sacred to the memory of Leonard Redmayne Lieutenant H M 14th Light Dragoons Eldest son of the late William Trasure Redmayne Esq of Burro and Hazelrigge, who was killed in action with the rebels at Mundesore East Indies, on the 23rd November 1857, aged 23 years. He fell gallantly charging with the squadron under command Lieut Leith. A large body of the enemy who were threatening the rear of the Force under Brigadier Stuart's command which was engaged hotly to the front.*

*"Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?" "It is well"*

*2 Kings Chapter iv Verse 14*

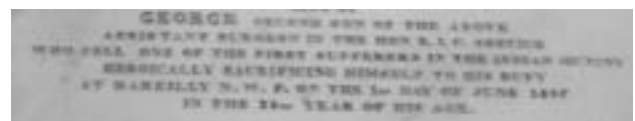


L47

**2nd Lieut Maurice Sharpe. (NIWM No: None)** This brass plaque, L47, is 30 by 18 inches and is on the stairs leading to the gallery. It is signed by the maker Abbott & Co Lancaster, with the Royal Flying Corps Badge at the top, with the initial letters RFC. The inscription reads:

*In Memory of Maurice Sharpe 2nd Lieutenant Royal Flying Corps. Beloved son of Alfred and Rosamond Sharpe. Killed in action at the front October 28th 1916, having previously served throughout the Cameroons Campaign.*

**George Hansbrow (NIWM No: None).** This 4 foot square alabaster memorial, L48, commemorates the memory of his father James Hansbrow, who was the Governor of Lancaster Castle. Also commemorated is his second son and the inscription reads:



L48

*George second son of the above, Assistant Surgeon in the Hon E L C Service, who fell, one of the first sufferers in the Indian Mutiny, heroically sacrificing*

*himself to his duty at Bareilly N.W.P. on the 1st day of June 1857 in the 35th year of his age.*

**Flag of HMS Lancaster. (NIWM No: None).** A small brass plaque, L49, records: This flag, L50, was flown by HMS Lancaster during the Great War 1914-1918 and is presented by The Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty.



L49



L50

### **Ripley St Thomas School (NIWM No:42344)**

Ashton Road Lancaster Map Ref SD476607

Ripley St Thomas School has two First World War Memorials. The Ripley Hospital Memorial is in the School Chapel and the National School Memorial is situated on the main stair case in the School.

#### **Origins of the National School**

In 1816 it was decided to unite the Charity School for Boys (established in 1770) with the National Society. By public subscription and with the help of Matthew Pyper of Whitehaven, (one of Lancaster's leading education benefactors) who endowed it with £2,000, the school was opened on Green Ayre (Parliament St.) in 1817. In 1850 the little N. W. Railway (which became part of the Midland Railway) bought the Green Ayre site and in January 1851 a new Boys school was opened on St. Leonardgate. In the early 1950's the Boys National School moved onto the Ashton Road site and remained there until the creation of the new Ripley St Thomas school in 1966.

#### **Origins of Ripley St. Thomas School**

The school was created by the merger of St. Thomas's Girls School and Ripley Boy's School in 1966. The building was originally Ripley Hospital, an endowed school for 300 orphans (boys and girls) founded by Mrs. Julia Ripley in memory of her

husband Thomas Ripley, a native of Lancaster and a merchant of Liverpool. Ripley Hospital was opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1864.

In 1939 the Hospital was taken over by the military and the pupils evacuated to Capernwray Hall for the duration of the war. The Government then requisitioned the Ripley buildings for three years and established an Emergency Teachers' Training College. After this there was less call for the large institutional type of orphanage and the decreasing number of entrants did not justify the large sums of money needed to maintain Ripley Hospital in its old form. ("The Opening of Ripley Hospital, Lancaster" by Linda Moorhouse)



L51

#### **Ripley War Memorial (NIWM No:42344)**

From a report in the Lancaster Guardian. 7<sup>th</sup>. November 1925.....

"The War Memorial, L51, in the Church of Ripley Hospital, was dedicated on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1925 which happened to be the anniversary of the birthday of the foundress (Mrs. Julia Ripley) The ceremony was performed by the Lord Bishop of Manchester (Dr. Temple); 130 old scholars gathered in the Church which had been beautifully decorated under the direction of the head gardener.

The memorial takes the form of a tablet of coinage bronze. It has an ornamental border of oak leaves emblematic of strength of character, the corners having the rose of Lancaster. At the top is the crown of Victory and the Palms. The border is deeply engraved, and the dedicatory inscription and thirty three names are deeply incised filled in with cream ceramic enamel, a permanent process which gives the appearance of old ivory inlay. The tablet is mounted on an oak base. The work was carried out by Messrs. Abbott and Co. (Lancaster) Ltd.

The Bishop of Manchester gave a moving address and the Principal, the Rev. H. H. Edwards conducted the service. The memorial was unveiled by the Bishop with these words:- *In the Faith of Jesus Christ, we dedicate this Memorial, to the Glory of God and in memory of those who from this school gave their lives in the Great War, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

The hymns chosen were "O God our help in ages past", "O Valiant Hearts" and "For all the Saints" which were sweetly sung by the boy and girl scholars of the Hospital.

At the close of the service wreaths were placed on behalf of the present scholars and the old scholars of Lancaster and Liverpool."

### **National School War Memorial (NIWM No: 42321)**

Very soon after the cessation of hostilities, steps were taken to commemorate those who served and died in the Great War.

**From an advertising leaflet:** "All Old Boys and Friends of the School are invited to attend a meeting to be held at the Boys' School on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup>. September (1919) at 7.30 pm. to consider and arrange for a Record of the War Services of Old Boys. All who have served are requested to make certain that the Headmaster is supplied, for the Roll of Honour, with correct particulars of their War Service."

**The invitation:** "The Managers and "Roll of Honour" Committee cordially invite you to be present at the unveiling on Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1920 at 7.30 pm. By Gen. Sir Archibald Hunter, M.P, of a memorial, erected in the school, to the old boys and teachers who enlisted in defence of their Country during the Great War. The Superintendent: W.G. Welch Esq, J.P., will preside."

"The design of the Roll of Honour is an original conception by Mr. Herbert Teasdale, Esq., A.R.C.A., Manchester, (son of Mr. T. Teasdale, Sunnycote, Scotforth), an "Old Nashy" boy who went on to the Art School at the Storey Institute. The design is of a purely decorative character executed in tempera enriched with gold and silver, the dominating feature being a Winged Figure symbolising Victory with Peace and Glory. Bold ornament links up the figure and is carried round the edge of the panel, meeting at the centre of the base with the Red Rose of Lancaster. The panel contains the names of 1,061

old boys and teachers, who answered the call, of whom 155 made the great sacrifice. The roll, illustrated at L52, is 9ft. x 5ft. and is in a massive carved oak frame which is the work of Messrs. Waring & Gillow, Lancaster, executed from the design, Georgian in style, of W. Eccles Esq., another old boy. The Borough Arms are at the head, a laurel wreath is at the base, with the motto "For God, for King, and Country." The memorial is fixed on the wall to the right of the Pyper Endowment tablet, several old boys lending a hand in this work. The Boy's School had shown itself prominent during the war and the Roll of Honour was subscribed to by old scholars and friends of the schools. It contains the largest number of names from any school in the town and practically all these received their education under Mr Gooch, the late Headmaster (1885-1913).



L52

The Roll of Honour of Old Boys contains almost 1,100 names from almost every branch of the Services, ranks from Lieutenant-Colonel downwards are included; 71 regiments are represented and 10 Colonial regiments, the men serving on every front, others in the Navy and Air Force."

Note: The Lancaster Guardian of 12 December 1947, looking back 25 years, reported that 12 old boys had become Mayors of Lancaster and no other local school could beat this record.

# **Royal Lancaster Infirmary (NIWM No:42370 and 42374)**

Ashton Road, Lancaster Map Ref SD478613

Location in Medical Unit 1 (Old Hospital)



L53

There are memorials to two individuals on the ground floor of the Old Hospital but no others have been located. Firstly immediately on the left in the corridor there is a stained glass window with a cast brass tablet L53, (NIWM No: 42370), beside it with the following inscription:

*To The Memory of Spencer Edward Barrow ARIBA Lieut 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. Hon Treasurer of this Royal Infirmary who died aged 42 on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 1915 from wounds received in action This window is erected by his Mother, Brothers, Sisters and Brother in Law.*



L54

A little further along the corridor but also on the left is a bronze tablet, tablet L54, (NIWM No: 42374), framed with laurel leaves and including a relief portrait. It bears the following inscription:

*Frank Miller Bingham M.R.C.S L.R.C.P. Capt 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment . Killed in Action in Flanders May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1915. In recognition of his life amongst them, and his gallant death, this Tablet was erected by the Medical Profession of Lancaster and District. He gave his life for his Country.*

# **John O'Gaunt Rowing Club (NIWM No: None)**

Halton Road Map Ref: SD 480624

A striking framed Roll of Honour, CP10, is hung in the Boathouse. Framed in dark oak with a glass covering, it is a list of all those who served together with photographs framed with Laurel Wreaths of those who did not return. This club features very prominently in the obituaries of the First World War. It is still in existence.

*This report is taken from the Lancaster Guardian dated 9 July 1921.*



L55

On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July amidst the peace of a glorious summer evening, the members of the John o' Gaunt Rowing Club, unveiled their roll of honour to their comrades who served in the great war, 1914-1918. Across the placid river from the boathouse, L55, were the great factories which supplied munitions to the men on the various fronts. Now smokeless chimneys told of the battles ended, and Lancaster, which sent forth so many sons to fight against the foreign foe, was looking her best, bedecked in foliage, unscreened by smoke, and glistening in the rays of the setting sun.

The Roll of Honour is the "labour of love" of one of the members who did his bit in the war,

Mr. E. A. Stanley, an oarsman artist, doubtless inspired by hallowed thoughts of those with whom he sculled on Halton Water, but who went West in the conflict for liberty in which they pulled such a patriotic stroke. A feature is that the photos of ten members who fell are a border to a roll on which 83 names are scrolled. Into the design are worked the arms of the John o' Gaunt Club, and the emblems of fame and justice which support the arms. In illuminated letters the inscription reads:-

### **John o' Gaunt Rowing Club, Lancaster. Members who served in the Great War, 1914-1918**

The photos of the fallen are encircled by the laurel wreath of victory, and there is a gilded miniature leaf design linking all the photos together, whilst the names of the serving members fill the centre panel. The whole is framed in solid and panelled oak (the work of Messrs. Price) the cost being defrayed by Ald. G. Jackson.

There was a large attendance at the ceremonial, over which Mr. Fred Hill (Capt.) presided. Many relatives of serving members were present. Music was discoursed by the Borough Band and they opened the proceedings with the National Anthem and the hymn "Lead, Kindly Light." The memorial was temporarily hung on the balcony draped with purple and black, the Union Jack being at half-mast.

The Chairman said it was felt Ald. Jackson was the right man to unveil the memorial as he had been Boat Captain during the war, and had the welfare of the club at heart, and welcomed the lads who returned. Out of 176 members 83 had served, which showed the calibre and mettle of the club. Rev. J. L. Gamble (Yealand), formerly a member of the John o' Gaunt, offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the bravery of the men who had fallen, and the courage of those who had been privileged to return. The hymn, "O God our Help in Ages Past," was feelingly sung, after which a squad of men from the King's Own Regt. under Sgt. Hill fired farewell volleys which reverberated across the river.

### **Royal Albert Hospital NIWM No. 3305**

Ashton Road, Lancaster, Map Ref SD478606

The striking building, one mile south of Lancaster on the A588, was designed by EG Paley as a 500-patient asylum (re-named 'institution' in 1901, then 'hospital' in 1948) to serve the seven northern counties of England. Construction began in 1868

and with later additions, it accommodated up to 800 patients. It was funded by public subscription and donations, such as the £5,000 from Sir Titus Salt which financed the tower. The NHS took it over in 1948. It was an important part of Lancaster life, with generations of local people employed there for over a century, some of whose recollections are in *The Royal Albert: Chronicle of an Era*, selected by Joe Alston 1992, Centre for North West Regional Studies.

Three memorials were known to have adorned the beautiful entrance hall, two Rolls of Honour for the Great War and for World War II and a plaque commemorating one individual who served in the Boer War. That for World War Two sadly cannot be traced.



L56

**Boer War Plaque (NIWM No: None), L56,** The following information and the photograph were kindly sent to us by Nigel Ingham of Community Service Volunteers. **The plaque itself has not yet been traced.** The inscription on the plaque reads:

*In Memory of William John Brannan who after being an inmate at this Institution became a Trooper in the 13<sup>th</sup> Hussars and died in Natal South Africa May 16<sup>th</sup> 1900 whilst in the service of his Queen and Country. This tablet is erected by the Central Committee of the Royal Albert Asylum.*

*From the 1914 Annual Report of the Central Committee (Oct 1914) (submitted by the Chairman Richard F Cavendish.*

*Occasionally a discharged patient is accepted for service in the army, showing how greatly he must have improved under the training given in the Institution. Several instances of the kind have occurred in past years, and it will be remembered that William John Brannan, who joined the 13th Hussars, died during the South African war after serving with Lord Dundonald's brigade in the relief of Ladysmith. The Committee learn with pleasure*

*that another ex-patient has enlisted at Liverpool since the commencement of the present war.'* (Lancashire Record Office LRO HRRa 1/6)

**Roll of Honour The Great War. (NIWM No. 3305).** CP12. This honours staff and patients who served in the Great War. It is 4' by 3'6", mounted in a dark quartered oak frame with a pediment top incised in Greek key pattern. Within, on a paler brown mount, is a fine coloured painting with arched top. It depicts the Roll of Honour within a square arch whose incised pediment echoes that of the frame. The pillars supporting this inner pediment are swathed with scrolls labelled Justice, Liberty, Honour, Truth, Morality and Dedication. Two soldiers presenting arms guard the pillars, an Englishman on the left and a kilted Scot on the right. The lintel of the square arch is engraved 'ROLL OF HONOUR'. The inscription then reads

### ***The Royal Albert Institution Committee***

Lieutenant Colonel the Right Hon. Richard Cavendish DC CB CMG, the King's Own Royal Regiment; Major Richard Rigg OBE, the Border Regiment; Captain James Williamson Weaton KO Regt. Lancaster; Lance Bombardier Eustace Browning, Royal Garrison Artillery. The full names and units of 38 staff and 16 ex-patients follow, among them the 5 staff and the one patient who were killed. The square arch is surmounted by an evergreen-swathed Grecian memorial urn, flanked by female figures representing Truth (the Scribe) and Justice (swords and twin scales). A further 61 staff who were ineligible for war service served as special constables and in other capacities.

The Royal Albert Hospital was sold in 1995 and much of the surrounding land developed for housing. The main building remains, now belonging to the Jamea Al-Kauther Trust who run it as a school. They are proud to house the Roll of Honour for the community.

**St Johns the Evangelist (NIWM None:)**  
North Road, Lancaster Map Ref SD478619

Open every Thursday morning but contact the Custodian 01524 64495 for details.

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH** This beautiful Church is a Grade II\* listed building now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. Built in 1755 at the height of Lancaster's Georgian prosperity, the

church served the rapidly growing population as a Chapel of Ease to Lancaster Priory. Known locally as both "t'owd church", on account of its proximity to the River Lune, and the "Corporation Church", following the practice of the Town Council to attend at Lancaster Priory on Sunday morning, and at St. John's in the afternoon. A specially designed double box pew was reserved for their use and can still be seen today. For a decade from 1863 it became the sole venue for civic services and it is therefore fitting that the church is now home to war memorials for parts of the town from which so many men went to war. It contains five war memorials; three for its own parishioners and Rolls of Honour from St Anne's Church and Bulk District



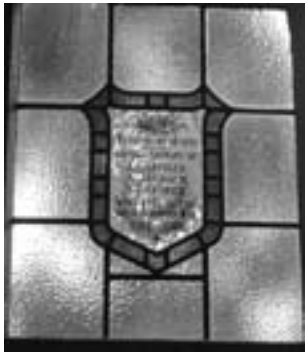
L57

**Roll of Honour (No NIRW), L57.** There are 32 names commemorated on St. John's Roll of Honour: *To the Greater Glory of God in Honoured memory of our men who served in the Great War 1914-18.* Four failed to return and their names are marked with a cross on the Roll of Honour and all are commemorated in the stained glass window, L58, in the south aisle. The memorial is some 4 ft by 3 ft with an arched canopy and Lancashire Roses carved in each corner. The oak memorial is in similar style though smaller, to those for Waring and Gillow and Lancaster & District Co-operative Society which are known to have been designed and made in the Gillow workshops in Lancaster.

**Stained Glass Window (No NIRW), L58,** Three men are commemorated in the first window:

*To the Glory of God and in loving memory of J Gardner, A Jackson, A Kirkbride – Who fell in the Great European War 1914-1918.*





L58

**Stained Glass Window (NO NIRW).** L59. In the side aisle a second stained glass light:

*To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Oscar Graham Primmer, Gunner Tank Corps, killed in action August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1917 aged 24 years, interred Abbeville Cemetery France.*



L59

**ST ANNE'S (No NIRW).** The neighbouring parish to St John's was St Anne's and the church was situated in Moor Lane, Lancaster. It was built a little later, in 1795/96, but again it was to serve a rapidly increasing population. In 1958 the parishes merged, reflecting falling numbers of parishioners, and the church closed. It was bought by Lancaster City Council in 1969 and converted into the Dukes theatre and cinema complex .

A superb brass tablet. L60, set in a polished oak frame with Lancashire Roses engraved and underneath a laurel wreath. The unveiling took place on 15 October 1921, and was performed by General Sir Archibald Hunter; the inscription follows:

*To the Glory of God and in loving memory of the following members of St Anne's Church who gave their lives for their Country in the Great War. Sixteen Names Follow And A Last Inscription Reads: Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints in Glory Everlasting.*

**BULK DISTRICT (No NIRW), L60A.** Bulk is an administrative ward of Lancaster City Council to the north and east of the city. The memorial was

originally placed in the Bulk Mission situated at the junction of Bulk Road and Ridge Lane. This Roll of Honour is of exactly the same design as that of St John's but has lost its Cross.

*Thanking God for the beloved memory of these men of Bulk District who gave their lives for their Country, for Freedom, Truth and Justice*



L60

From the Lancaster Guardian "**Brave Men of Bulk:** Worshippers flocked to the little Mission Church of Bulk on Sunday, when the Vicar of Lancaster (Rev.J.Bardsley) dedicated a solid oak memorial in memory of the 33 men of Bulk district who fell in the Great War. The memorial scheme was carried out under the direction of Councillor Parr, and the Board itself was made by Mr J Richardson.

The interesting aspect of this Roll of Honour is that it includes three of the four Butterworth Brothers, Christopher, William and Hugh , none of whom survived the Great War. A fourth brother, John also died in 1917.



L60A



**St Josephs (NIWM No: 42421 and 42423)**

Slyne Road Skerton Lancaster Map Ref SD476630

This Church contains two War Memorials, Rolls of Honour for the First World War (16 names) and one for the Second World War and other conflicts (including the Oman and Gulf Wars).. These notes are extracts from the full accounts given by Norman Gardner of Skerton who was responsible for arranging for the second memorial. The full notes are with the St Joseph's Book of Honour section in the data disc and are very well worth reading; as can be seen from the extracts they record the scenes and feelings of the time in Skerton.

**The First World War.** Throughout the history of the church, the Priest kept a record of daily events as they occurred in the Parish and the notes give a flavour of how the Parish reacted and what life was like during the war years for an active Christian community in Northern England. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, 1914, a Special Collection was held at all Masses for the Belgian Fund, as refugees from German invasion fled across the North Sea. Mass intentions and prayers, were requested for people living outside the Parish, by friends or relatives.



L61

The first of these was a James Brown, killed in action on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 1915, aged 24 years apparently not resident in the Parish. Following the deaths of several parishioners in the war, the Women's Compact held a Requiem Mass for soldiers, especially of this District on the first Sunday of Advent 1917. A Memorial Service *for all the war dead of the Parish* was eventually held on 11 November 1928, when a Memorial Tablet ,L61, at the West end of the Lady Chapel was unveiled by

Father Prescott, who includes a note to wear his medals, for he had been a military chaplain during the war, and numbered his brother among the war dead. The inscription reads:

*Of your Charity pray for the souls of (16 names follow) Soldiers of this Parish who died, bravely fighting, in the Great War 1914-1918. May They Rest in Peace.*

When this Memorial was cleaned in 1996, the soot of hundreds of votive candles was cleaned away. Nothing more is heard of concerning the memorial, except for Mass Intentions over the years, until a note on 4 November 1934: *Next Sunday Armistice Day, 2 Minutes silence prompt at 11.0 am, followed by the Mass which will be said for the soldiers and sailors of this Parish killed in the war. Cenotaph service forbidden to Catholics - mortal sin to take part in a non-Catholic service. 11 November 11.0 am Two Minutes Silence. 11.02, parade of Scouts guides and Ex-Servicemen to War memorial. Roll Call, De Profundis. Mass will follow for the dead of the Parish.*

The following year, Armistice Day, at 11.00 am on 10 November 1935, a Mass was held *for those who died in the war*, parishioners were requested to come early and not disrupt the two minutes silence. In March 1937, a Spanish refugee Priest lectured in the Ashton Hall on the plight of the Basque people during the Spanish Civil War, and parishioners were invited to attend and take their Protestant friends. On the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1937, Catholic ex-service members of the British Legion were invited to attend a service at the St Peter's Cathedral; preparations were being made for World War Two. A collection was held for Basque children, victims of the Spanish Civil War, after the two minutes silence.

In 1939, no mention was made of an Armistice Day service. On 3 September a Mass was said for *Peace or Victory*, children were urged to bring their gas masks to school, and parishioners were urged to buy blackout materials to enable social functions to continue in the Parish Hall.

In 1940 as rationing tightened owing to the submarine threat to British shipping, Lenten prayers were for, *a just and honourable peace*, and a *dispensation* was granted concerning Lenten fasting and abstinence. A special collection was taken to buy coke for church heating owing to the rising price of fuel.

On Palm Sunday 1940, ladies offering to help in St Joseph's Hall in case of air raids, were asked to meet in the Priory Hall, Lancaster, and on St George of England's Feast Day prayers for *a just and honourable peace* were offered and all the Masses during May were to be offered for that intention, as British and Allied forces retreated from Dunkirk. Father Prescott, with memories of WW1, wrote emotively of, "*our men dying in thousands*". Plans for the billeting of refugee children were afoot in June 1940 and parishioners were advised to register for Catholic children, the alternative being compulsion to harbour non-Catholic children under a Catholic roof. The military were welcomed when the Parish Hall hosted the King's Own Royal Regiment's dance band at a function on 16 October 1940.



L62

As the allies invaded Italy in 1943, prayers were asked for the safety of the Pope, and Parishioners who died at Anzio and Monte Cassino. Armistice day 1943, included a sung Requiem for *the fallen of the war*, and Midnight Mass at Christmas was poorly lit owing to strict enforcement of lighting restrictions, unfortunately the Parish raffle had to be abandoned when it failed to get police approval.

On 30 January 1944, children of the Parish requested a Mass **for sailors, soldiers and airmen**, and at the Feast of the Purification, candles could not be distributed to children owing to a shortage. On 6 February 1944 a Mass was requested for *the safety of prisoners in Japanese hands*. On 14 May a Novena to the Holy Ghost began, and parishioners were asked to *pray for guidance in the big battles to come*, probably in reference to the coming invasion of Europe (Operation Overlord). In July 1944, a wave of evacuees from Ilford, Essex, arrived to escape German V2 rockets, and parishioners were asked to give refuge to Catholic children. The year 1944 ended with the stand down parade of the Home Guard on 3 December, when they met at their Phoenix Street headquarters, and the Catholic contingent forming the rear of the parade, marched to St Peter's Cathedral, where they were addressed by Father Page CJ, and later joined the official parade outside the C of E Lancaster Parish Church.

**St. Joseph's, Skerton Remembrance Sunday 13th November 1994. Blessing of the WWII and later conflicts Memorial 1994**

**War Memorial for The Second World War and other conflicts**

The Roll of Honour, L62, unveiled on 13 November 1994, contains the Inscription:

*In Remembrance of those who died (21 names follow)*

The Form of the Memorial incorporates elements found in the Pugin Styled Church, the First World War Memorial, and the Seventh Station of the Cross flanking it. The association of the memorial with the stations of the cross reminds us that those commemorated suffered the loss of life for others as did Our Lord.

The Cross surmounts the English oak frame of the. highest quality, made by a local craftsman, Mr Tom Kelsall of Slyne. It encloses a brass panel, under a wooden arch carved with poppies, copied from those growing at Slyne. and representing sacrifice. The use of English oak and local poppies reminds us that the men who died lived in the locality. A Dove of Peace holding an Olive Branch is engraved at the head of the brass plate. The Dove is face forward with wings outstretched, to symbolize Our Lord, the Prince of Peace sacrificing Himself for us on the Cross. The Plaque was made by the craftsmen who

maintain the plaques in the Regimental Chapel at the Priory Church.

This memorial is distinctive in that it was sensibly decided to add the names of those who died in later conflicts. One parishioner **Christopher Bilewicz** fell in Aden on 30 April 1967; a memorial, L63 was erected to him in the church porch, donated by his parents and his Regiment, the King's Own Royal Border Regiment. On 7 January 1996, prayers were requested for **Mark Maxwell** who died in Sarajevo, Bosnia 24 December, 1995. In 2005, ninety years on young men from the parish continue in active service with the armed forces in many parts of the world. God grant them a safe return.



L63

### St Luke's (NIWM No:42418)

Church address: Mainway, LA1 2AX  
Skerton Lancaster Map Ref SD479625

This church contains a beautiful memorial window, CP11 commemorating Private John Woods of the King's Own. He is central to the window standing in a trench. Above him are two faces of, apparently, babies of the family who died very young. At the bottom is the King's Own Badge, L64, with an inscription below which reads:

*To the Glory of God and in Memory of John Woods  
5<sup>th</sup> Batt. The Kings Own Regiment who died in the  
Great War 1915. This window was erected by his  
parents. He volunteered and gave his all.*

The following note was produced by the Church: Alice Cornthwaite has been able to tell us more about John Woods. He was Alice's uncle. His mother, Alice's grandmother, used to bring him to church and he used to worship at St. Luke's. That side of the family was very involved in the church –

sidesmen, churchwardens. John was in the church football team. A lot of young men from this community joined up in the Great War and John was one of them. He was 18 when he died. His mother had the window put in after the war. A number of people thought that church windows should only have biblical scenes or pictures of saints and that the picture of John was not appropriate, his mother said that John was more or less a saint, "He gave his life for his country".



L64

### The Liberal Club Skerton (NIWM No: 42373)

Map Ref SD 478623

This fine building, still known as Acrelands, was occupied in 1838 by John Armstrong, magistrate, Mayor of Lancaster and owner of the Galgate Silk Mill. His widow, Hannah, was still living there in 1861. Armstrong, appropriately, was a benign and liberal-minded employer, building houses and a school for working families.

The club was founded in 1896, but no memorial had been put up for the First World War. However the Liberal Club was remarkable in installing a memorial plaque to those who served in World War II before the end of 1945. The Lancaster Guardian of 28 December 1945 reported as follows: Skerton Liberal Club is believed to be the first club to erect and unveil a memorial to members who served in

the war recently ended. Last Friday evening the ceremony of unveiling a memorial tablet in the billiard room was performed by Mr. E. Wright, President, at a gathering convened also for the purpose of distributing the Christmas games handicap prizes. The tablet had been executed by Mr. R. Brash, from material provided by the club secretary, Mr. Sharpe. The names commemorated are written in gold lettering. Mr Helme, who introduced the President, remarked that the memorial was a credit to the people responsible for presenting it to the club. Mr. Wright said it gave him great pleasure to perform the ceremony. He understood it was the first time that the club had had a memorial to serving members and he was the first president to unveil such a gift. He hoped he would be the last to do so, as none of them desired to through the difficulties of another war like those they had experienced in recent years. The idea of providing the memorial was that of the secretary and no expense had been incurred by the club because of the generosity of members. The memorial was an exceptionally fine piece of work and he was pleased to unveil it Mr. Neale proposed a vote of thanks to all concerned in the presentation and mentioned particular Mssrs. Smith, J. Townley and Brash and the secretary The proposition was carried in 'the proper Skerton style' – with acclamation!

Sadly despite the apparent record in the NIWM no trace can be found of any war memorial within this club; none of the present staff who have been there for many years can recall any memorial.

### **Saint George's Mission Church Roll of Honour (NIWM No: None)**

St Thomas Walk, Willow Lane Lancaster Map Ref: SD 464618

The original St George's Church had to be demolished. The St Thomas More Roman Catholic Church invited the parishioners to join them as much as possible so as to serve the community. Full details can be found on their excellent web site: [www.priory.lancs.ac.uk/St.George.html](http://www.priory.lancs.ac.uk/St.George.html)

A fine Roll of Honour is owned by the mission, L65, It commemorates 70 men who went away to fight in the Great War. The web site includes a full list of all 70 and notes: "The names have been listed alphabetically in order of surname. There is no apparent pattern to the order in the original document, and the initial order of Surname, Forename, Regiment; changes part way through to Forename, Surname, Regiment. The document

records all those who went to war from St. George's, including some who came back alive. The lettering on the Roll of Honour reads: *Ducit amor patriae* (The Love of the Fatherland leads them). The bottom of the Roll shows dates: **August 4th 1914 - Dominus vobiscum-** (*The Lord be with you*) - **June 28th 1919**



L65

Our own records show that eight of those named failed to return, all but one commemorated on the City Memorial in The Garden of Remembrance there are three possibilities but the detail is not exact. We list them here:

John Clark, Mark Corless (Commemorated on the Morecambe War Memorial and in the RFA not ASC), Thomas Gladstone, Edwin Green MM RFA, Robert Higginson, Fred Higham and Edward V Monks and Oswald Towers. Others are John Baldwin (our records show he was in the Seaforth Highlanders), Robert Bond (our records show he was in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment), Reginald Crayston (our records show he was in The Border Regiment) and James (our records show "Jackson") Denwood.

### Standfast Dyers & Printers (NIWM No: None)

(also incorporating Sundour Fabrics  
Caton Road Lancaster Map Ref: SD 483626

Standfast Barracks has a smart Roll of Honour L66, for the Second World War. It is a bronze plaque framed in oak 18 inches by 30 inches, mounted in a corridor leading from the headquarters to the factory floor where hopefully it can be seen by all the employees. Lancashire roses are at each corner and a leaf motif border around the names. A Laurel wreath is between the dates 1939-1945 and the inscription reads: *The Employees of this Firm Dedicate this Tablet to their Colleagues who laid down their lives in the Second World War.* The names follow and the inscription ends: *We Will Remember Them.*



L66

The firm of Standfast was founded in 1923 by James Morton, who took over the old Lancaster Wagon Works, an impressive set of stone buildings, with a splendid clock tower, which stretched for over a quarter of a mile along the Caton Road. For over 40 years the Wagon Works had produced high quality rolling stock for railways all over the world, and when it closed in 1908 it still had 1,200 local men on its payroll. For several years it stood empty, then became a prisoner of war camp during WW1. Amongst those guarding the prisoners was a young officer, the poet Robert Graves, who wrote a description of his time in Lancaster in his famous work, *Goodbye to all That*. Standfast soon grew into a thriving prosperous business and, like its predecessor, was a major local employer. Its subsidiary company - Sundour, operating from the same site, gained an international reputation for making high quality fabric book covers.

When the Second World War began many of the firm's employees, both men and women, joined the services, and when it ended it was decided that a fitting memorial should be provided for those who had not returned. We have not yet discovered who designed or made the memorial, or any unveiling report. We do know that the Standfast memorial has at least one distinct feature – it bears the name of Nancy Scarfe, one of only six women listed on local war memorials. Moreover, from the local newspapers we have learnt something about her. She was 23 years old and had served in the Wrens for 3 years at the time of her death, which took place not during the War itself but in November 1946. The cause of death is not given – all we know is that she died in Beaumont Hospital while home on leave. There was a large attendance at her funeral in Scotforth Cemetery, including representatives of Standfast and of the British Legion. Nancy was not, incidentally the youngest of those listed on the roll of honour: Eric Bell, a sailor, was only 18 when he was killed in action in 1944 while serving on HMS Penelope.

### Storeys (NIWM None:)

Map Ref SD 465618

We have been told by a number of people of a Roll of Honour at Storeys. Despite some energetic research no trace can be found. This is somewhat surprising as the Company were major employers in Lancaster. We record here the men employed by Storeys from the obituaries recorded in the Lancaster Guardian and Morecambe Visitor. In so doing we pay tribute to the many men from Storeys who fought in both conflicts and remember with honour those who did not return.

**World War One: Alan D Bell, Tom Skirrow, Isaac Watson World War Two: Bernard Bleasdale**

Below we include some relevant quotes from "Storeys of Lancaster" by Guy Christie (Published 1964 by Collins).

Surely an oilcloth flexible and washable would be just the thing for a hospital (Crimean War). If we could demonstrate the qualities of our Lancaster Baize to Miss Nightingale she would see its advantages (p58).

Up until the First World War not a single female was seen around White Cross – wartime conditions speedily changed that (p164).

## Chapter 2 Lancaster

Throughout both world wars payments were made to dependants of men in the forces (p170).

White Cross Mill was almost the home of the Lancaster Volunteers, and the firm had its own company in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the King's Own Royal Regiment. By January 1915 it was reported that 297 men had joined the army and much the same position arose in the second world war (pp171).

Millions of yards of material were needed for black out material, millions of yards of different stuff was needed for ground sheets, gas capes, waterproof and gas proof material (p181).

Roy Storey, the son of Sir Thomas had two sons both killed on active service. The eldest a pilot in the RAF died in 1939 during night operations and the younger killed at Anzio in 1944 (p231).

C B C Storey fought in the Boer War equipping 8 troopers at his own expense, and being promoted to sergeant on the way out to South Africa. In the Great War he served in Gallipoli with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, and was ultimately invalided out of the army (p233).

Of course the Storey family generously gave the land for the building of Westfield War Memorial Village; members of the family are still very active within the Village Council.



L67

### **The Tank (NIWM Not Applicable:)**

The Tank, L67, very obviously not a war memorial nonetheless a souvenir tank was handed over to Lancaster because of the contribution, over £250,000 in War Bonds and Saving certificates, made by the citizens to assist the war effort. The Lancaster Guardian reported the occasion when the tank was placed in position on Castle Park and handed over at Easter in April 1920. A civic parade was held. Tank 149 was described by a Sergt as one of the old type, a male Mark IV 8 feet wide and 25 long and 8 high weighing 25 tons. The first version, the

"Mother " tank was equipped with 5 machine guns and known as a "female" whilst the Male tank had one machine gun and two 6 pounder guns, and crewed by 8 soldiers. The tank was first used on April 16th 1916 and thereafter was to become a permanent fixture on the battlefield - it still is. Tanks finally proved themselves a battle winner at the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917. General Haigh was reported as saying that "the importance of tanks in breaking down the resistance of the German Army can scarcely be exaggerated ..." The schoolmasters of the town were asked to "give their scholars a lesson on the tank before they broke up." (The Guardian issued advance copies of their report)!

Does anyone know where this tank went to? One explanation is that it was melted down, along with guns outside Lancaster Castle, to provide material in the Second World War. It is of interest that the only surviving "presentation" tank is apparently that in Ashford Kent. It was renovated and given a protective shelter by the Royal Engineers in 1987 (War Memorials in Britain 2005, Shire Publication)



L68

### **Unitarian Scotforth (NIWM None:)**

Map Ref SD480593

Just to the South of Lancaster on the A6, in Scotforth and opposite the Boot and Shoe Pub is this (at the time of writing) very pretty small church, L68. Inside is this lovely Roll of Honour, L69, commemorating the men who served (83) and died (7) in the Great War. It is a parchment bearing the Title "Unitarian Church Lancaster" and is set in an oak polished frame. It is 30 inches by 24 and in good condition. That this little church provided so many men to fight is remarkable. We have not been able to find any details about the unveiling or who designed and produced the Roll of Honour. This is a lovely little Church and sadly, at the time of writing is up for sale. Hopefully the Roll of Honour will find a proper resting place.



L69

### **The United Reformed Church URC (NIWM None:)**

High St Lancaster Map Ref SD475614

There are now three war memorials in this lovely warm and welcoming Church in the middle of Lancaster. The first is their own from the Boer War, the second two bronze Rolls of Honour "rescued" from the old centenary Church in Stonewell and the last a Second World War Brass moved from the Trinity Presbyterian Church.



L70

The church was built as a Congregational Chapel in 1773-4 by a congregation made up of founder members of the Presbyterian Church on St Nicholas Street and a number of "respectable families" wearied with the dull preaching of the Church of England. John Dawson was the leading light of this group and purchased the land for the chapel before conveying the building to nine trustees. In addition to three Ministers there were six self employed small businessmen all but one of whom is commemorated by a plaque in the church. In 1833 the chapel was extended to the east to accommodate a further 310 sittings (beyond the paired columns nearest the pulpit). The vestry was added and a school room built under the church at the east end

for the Sunday School. The building was illuminated by gaslight and a stove installed.

In 1851 the galleries were enlarged and the chapel re-pewed. The pews - 'high backed and with doors', are still in the church today. In 1855 the Sunday School building was erected to the design of E G Paley. Amongst the trustees was Robert Mansergh draper (commemorated by a plaque) who died 1863. In 1858 there were 631 scholars and 41 teachers in the Sunday School. The church finally took on the present appearance in 1873 when to celebrate the Centenary an organ was provided by Mrs Mary Barton in remembrance of her father William Jackson (cotton mill owner). The organ gallery was extended and two stained glassed windows installed either side of the pulpit.



L71

In 1964 with the closure of the Centenary Congregational Church in Stonewell, its members joined the newly formed Congregational Church Of Lancaster, worshipping at Bowerham, Scotforth (Closed 1969) and High Street. Nationally, in 1972, the Congregational Church and The English Presbyterian Church joined to form the United Reformed Church. As a result of this in 1974, when the Presbyterian Church in Queen Street closed, its members joined at High Street, thus ending a separation which had lasted for 200 years

### **Window and plaque dedicated to Dorlinda Bessie Hyland (NIWM No: None)**

The window is shown at L70 and L71 and the plaque at L72. Dorlinda, one of only six women commemorated on our war memorials, served as a nursing sister in South Africa during the Boer War. She lost her life on 13th February 1902 in Blomfontein. She was the Daughter of Isabella Wright, and stepdaughter of George Wright of 17 Belle Vue Terrace, Lancaster.



### The Rolls of Honour The Centenary Church Stonewell Lancaster (NIWM No: 3303)

Map Ref SD 478617

These two Rolls of Honour were originally in place in the Centenary Congregational Church in Stonewell Lancaster. This church closed In 1964 and remained closed for some long time when eventually it was converted into The Friary Pub! Luckily a local business man ensured the safety of



L73

the two plaques until eventually passing them onto a member of the High Street Church. As can be seen, L74, the two plaques are now safely mounted on an upper wall in the URC High Street Church. Fifty two men are commemorated on the two tablets.



L74

The Rolls of Honour were rededicated at the annual Carol Service of The Lancaster Military Heritage Group on the 14th December 2004. (See Chapter 7) Tom Edward Snowball [1871-1932] was a founder member of the Centenary PSA Brotherhood in 1893.

His son John Edward Snowball [1899-1963], a former Prisoner of War, unveiled the two tablets at a Service held on Sunday 14 May 1922 in the Centenary Church, Stonewell. It is fitting therefore, that Grandson and Son, Gordon Edward Snowball should unveil the Two Memorial Tablets from the Centenary Church at this service. Both sides of the Snowball family held prominent positions as members of the Centenary Church, the PSA Brotherhood, and the YMCA in Lancaster. A facsimile of the programme for the original unveiling ceremony in 1922 is included in the data disc.



L75

### Trinity Presbyterian Church Roll of Honour (NIWM No:) Map Ref SD476614 L71

Mrs Connie Noble, who presented the Book of Honour to the Church at this Carol Service, was involved in preserving and moving this to the United Reformed Church when the Presbyterian Church was sold. She is the sister of Corporal John Collinge of the Border Regiment who died in Burma in March 1944 and who is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, L75, now installed in this church. The ten who died and are commemorated on this Plaque include one woman.

The Lancaster Guardian of 9 April 1948 reported the unveiling of a Memorial tablet by Mrs C Smith at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Queen St, Lancaster. Ten names commemorated, 5 from the First and 5 from the Second World Wars. The dedication was by Rev. N. Bisset. The Guardian also recorded, on 28 December 1948, the Jubilee Service to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Queen street in 1923. Seven ministers had served since then..



### Westfield Memorial Village Lancaster (NIWM No: 18632)

West Road Lancaster Map Ref: SD 470616

The Westfield Memorial Village is a magnificent memorial in every respect. The NIWM Number above is for the House which contains a War Memorial plaque for the Second World War. However the Village contains its own "Cenotaph", all the cottages are named after famous battles and many of the Cottages have a brass commemorative plate affixed outside of the front door; one cottage is particularly well marked. Many articles have been written about this village, and, to date, five university theses. Some day a definitive book will be produced for there is a wealth of historical and social detail to be recorded. This small entry records the "bare bones" and we realise does not do it the justice it deserves.

**The idea** for "Westfield" first surfaced in a letter from Mr T H Mawson, (the Morecambe Visitor 21 November 1917), the internationally renowned Town Planner who lived in Hest Bank, He unfolded a scheme and produced plans for a "disabled soldiers industrial village" which he presented to the Lancaster Town Council. The Mayor read out an extract from a letter received from Mr Storey, as a representative of the late Sir Thomas Storey, all of whom were interested in this generous gift "It was agreed that Mr Mawson's scheme as ultimately drafted is adopted, we are willing to give the Westfield Estate as a site for the projected industrial suburb for disabled soldiers of the King's Own Regiment subject to a satisfactory arrangement with certain trustees."

Mr Mawson commented that he had embarked upon planning this scheme with Westfield as the site when he realised he had not contacted the owners! He had approached his old client Mr Herbert Storey with some trepidation but instead of the reproof he expected Mr Storey simply said: "Well show us what you can do with the property".

Mr Mawson explained that Westfield was an ideal site; hostels could be built for single men with communal kitchens. For married men houses would be built to the latest modern standards which would compare with the Port Sunlight and Bournville schemes. He thought a park could be included with bowling greens, tennis courts and bandstands. A site would be included for a Church, although the local area was well served. One aspect crucial to the scheme was the building of an access road. The report ended "General and cordial approval was

given to the scheme and the plans. The idea of a new road connecting existing roads was favourably received and the part which was suggested the Corporation should play in carrying out the scheme met with approval".

**The fulfilment.** Within three weeks of the Armistice on 11th November 1918 the Ashton Hall hosted a large meeting to decide just how Lancaster should commemorate those who served in the 1914-1918 War. Its concluding resolutions were ambitious and fitting:-

*"That a Permanent Memorial should be established in Lancaster to those who have fallen in the Great War. That this Memorial takes the form of providing a Settlement for Disabled Service Men on the Westfield Estate. That the object of this settlement be to assure to these men a home and employment on their return to civil life."*



L76

Herbert Storey, donated the land, including Westfield House, which had been the home of his father, one of Lancaster's leading industrialists, Sir Thomas Storey. A massive fund-raising campaign was launched and within twelve months the foundation stone for the first building, L76, was laid on 26th November 1919 by Lord Richard Cavendish, Commanding Officer of the 5th Battalion King's Own when it went to France in 1915.

The village was designed by the Scorton born landscape architect, Thomas Mawson. He was fascinated by town planning and, in February 1917, had published 'An Imperial Obligation' advocating village settlements for men disabled in the war.



L77

The Village was opened by Field Marshal Earl Haig, L77, on 27th November 1924 - and two years later the War Memorial, CP13 and L78, in the village was unveiled. The photograph of the Westfield unveiling memorial group, (from the Lancaster Guardian) was taken by Mr Wynpeare Herbert. Sir Archibald Hunter (Colonel of the King's Own Royal Regiment) is unveiling the Memorial assisted by Mr Storey, Alderman Briggs and Colonel G Wilson the new Secretary to the Westfield Council. The Vicar of Lancaster and the Rev E Marriott are the clergy near the memorial group.

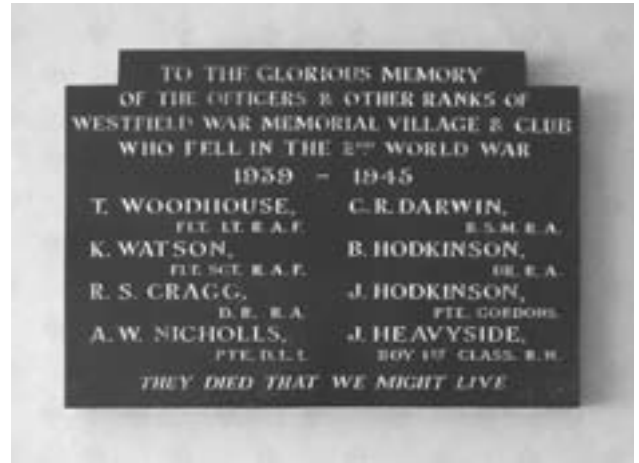


L78

Designed by Miss Jennifer Delahunt and cast in bronze the statue depicts a soldier assisting another in the field of battle. A bronze plaque affixed to the memorial, bears the inscription: *The Westfield Memorial Village. Founded in grateful remembrance of the sacrifice made by the King's Own Lancaster Regiment, The Lancaster Batteries of Artillery and other Lancastrians in the Great War 1914-1918. The Children of Sir Thomas Storey gave the property, the cottages were built by public and individual subscription. The village was designed by Mr Thomas Hayton Mawson.*

Following the initial 30 cottages at the village, more were added in 1930 and 1950 and then again more recently in the 1980s. There are now over one

hundred "units" which continue to benefit ex service people and the older population, The principal cottage, just outside the War Memorial, is the "Herbert Story Cottage", L76, which carries the badge of the King's Own together with an inscription which reads: *The War Memorial Village Lancaster. This Stone was laid by The Right Honourable Lord Richard Cavendish CB CMG 15th November 1919.*



L79

The Memorial for the second world war, L79, is contained in the Main House. The Lancaster Guardian on 27 February 1948, reported the unveiling of this memorial tablet which is made of black Aberdeen Granite and was made by local stonemason, Kenneth A Fraser. It commemorates 8 men, including two brothers (Hodkinson) from Westfield Memorial Village who fell in the Second World War and was erected in their memory in the village clubroom, funded by donations from fellow members. It was unveiled by Brigadier J H Hardy, M.C., Colonel of the King's Own Regiment; The Bishop of Lancaster, the Rev. Benjamin Pollard, performed the dedication ceremony. The Mayor, Councillor H Butler, was present, together with parents of the fallen, tenants of the Village, and many friends. At the close a bugler sounded the Last Post.

In the late fifties the Village began to suffer from the inevitable high maintenance cost of the ageing building stock. The Village Council, with care and sensitivity, considered the future and made a judgement to become a Housing Association, later leasing the entire stock to the Northern Counties Housing Association for 35 years. The funds from the leasing are carefully invested and produce a healthy income which is used to support appropriate charities; around £35,000 in grants are made annually. It is appropriate to note that

relatives of the Storey family continue to play an active part in the Village Council.

Photograph L80 is indicative of the 8 Brass Memorial Plates affixed to some of the cottages, all of which record donations made, and some commemorate individual soldiers. These are:

Bleasdale Auxiliary Hospital  
Kings Own Royal Regiment  
Lancaster Ladies  
KORL POW Committee  
Lancaster and District Co-operative Society  
Capt W E Roper (2)  
Albert Halton VC – Lived Here



L80

The Streets are named: Storey Avenue, Haig Avenue, Peel Crescent and Porrit Avenue.



There are 64 cottages in the village with sturdy stone nameplates; L81 is an example. The names are a "Battlefield

L81 Tour" ; Ypres – The Somme – Gallipoli – Baghdad - St Quentin – Imphal – Arnheim being a random sample. The cul de sac in Porrit Avenue bears the Falkland battles of Mount Harriet and Goose Green. Further photographs of the Cottages and the Memorial Plaques along with the list of cottage names is on the file "Westfield Village" on the data disc.

The Village is well worth a visit to comprehend the nature of the Memorial conceived by Mawson and

executed so admirably by The Westfield Village Council. The latter, still in very active existence, exert a firm but gentle control over the fortunes of the Village which is quite beautiful and well maintained. A veritable haven of quiet and still a magnificent memorial to the men who have died in war. Herbert Storey and Mr T Mawson would be very proud and pleased to see what future generations have done to preserve their ideals.

### Westminster Abbey (NIWM No: Not Applicable:)

#### THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR AT THE ABBEY

The following report from the Lancaster Guardian of 20 November 1920 gives a further flavour of the overall feeling in the area after the Great War of 1914-1918.

#### Lancastrians Graphic Description of the Cenotaph Scenes

Ex Corpl H Simpson of Lancaster who lost a brother in the War and served in the RAMC in France for over four years and is now on the Metropolitan Police Force has sent to the secretary of the PSA Brotherhood a graphic description of the scenes in London on Armistice Day when the King unveiled the National Cenotaph and the "Unknown Warrior" passed to his last resting place. It was read at Sundays meeting and made a deep impression.

"It was a great but very sad day here on Thursday" he wrote. "A sight I shall never forget. I was up there at an early hour just before 8 o'clock and the great crowd there at the time as alarming. The barriers were opened at 8.15 and the thousands who had come to pay homage commenced to walk in towards their places.. The morning was rather dull through a slight mist floating about which gradually went as the day grew. The sun was trying to break through the clouds and eventually it shone out, helping to brighten the sad hearts of thousands. At 9.10 one could hear the echo of the distant guns in the Park, this being the signal from Victoria of the "Unknown Warrior". These were the guns whose music had played to him to the last, and they were now greeting him back home to receive far greater music from a congregation of many thousands.

**Silence of London.** The silence of the crowds was magnificent. During those three hours you could not hear much more than a whisper, and the thoughts of

that great multitude were upon the one whom they had come to honour and pay tribute. Many relatives, especially mothers who had lost their loved ones had brought beautiful wreaths and their tear dimmed eyes made a great impression on us all.

At 10.30 the massed bands of the Guards were becoming audible. It was really wonderful. As they came nearer the music of the "Funeral March" enchanted us more and more. However, it had already proved too much for many and a lot of people broke down. I noticed one mother, although poorly clad, and carrying a beautiful wreath, had found the strain too much for her, and she had to be helped away.

### **Cenotaph Unveiled.**

At 10.45 the Cortège was received and saluted by The King at the Cenotaph. A short service was held and then the band began to play "Oh God our help in ages past" nothing more beautiful have I heard. The bands were like one massive organ and the congregation started to sing the hymn. No pen can ever describe these few thrilling minutes, and I can still hear the church organ sending out its sweet music as this solemn procession moved slowly along. I noticed the King was deeply moved but no more so than his sons and Mr Lloyd George and Mr Asquith. As the procession moved along the sobbing was pitiful and I heard one poor mother call out "My Son".

### **On the way to the Abbey**

I have never before been in the midst of such great solemnity and as we watched the passing of the Unknown Warrior his voice seemed to call out "**Mother I have come home!**"

And so he passed into the Abbey to take his last rest among the Royalties, the Famous and the Immortals. He is buried in the earth in which he fought and his dust will be far richer than theirs. The Empire had paid its tribute to "Our Glorious Dead" and Westminster Abbey will never hold a more sacred and richer soul than that of the Unknown Warrior."

If you should like a wreath placed on the Cenotaph in memory of the 36 Centenary PSA Brothers who fell in the war I would be only too pleased to do it. The Brotherhood have asked Mr Simpson to place a wreath on the Cenotaph.

### **Williamsons (NIWM None:)**

Map Ref SD 468618

As with Storeys, we have been told of a Roll of Honour affixed to the wall of the Main Entrance to the works. However no trace can be found. Thus, for the two major employers in Lancaster, there is no record of war service.

We record here the men of Williamson's shown as employed by them in the Lancaster Guardian and Morecambe Visitor obituaries of fallen soldiers. In so doing we pay tribute to the many men from Williamson's who fought in both conflicts and remember with honour those who did not return.

*World War One: John Bland, W Carter, Horace Edwin Clarke, James Lamb Gibson, J Kearns, F Proctor, John Simpson, John Thomas Wilson*

*World War Two: Francis Grant Robinson, W B Taylor.*

Note: All the newspaper obituaries are included in the Data Disc.

We should also record the death of Captain Julian Lawson Whalley of the Essex Regiment, mortally wounded at Cambrai, on 1 December 1917. He resided at Richmond House Lancaster and was the only son of Lady Ashton and step son of Lord Ashton of Ryelands, Skerton. The latter, of course, the owner of Williamson's.

### **Lancaster Lads Club House Record Book (NIWM No: None)**

Dallas Road Lancaster Map Ref: SD476613

The Lancaster Lad's Club on Dallas Road was founded in 1929 by a small group of volunteers whose aim was to provide local boys with a variety of well-supervised leisure time activities. Particular emphasis was laid upon sport which was seen as both character building and a means of improving physical fitness. In later years the Lad's Club became noted for producing a number of national competitors in one sport in particular – boxing. From the beginning the club proved popular with local lads, indeed it was so successful that within a few years it became clear that larger premises and a proper outdoor playing field were urgently needed. Once again a small group of local philanthropists and voluntary workers put their shoulders to the wheel – an anonymous donor gave £400 to enable

them to purchase their present playing field, and other individual donations came to over £500. A local Councillor, Mrs Musgrave-Hoyle, organized a bazaar, which raised a staggering £2,622 (remember this was during the 1930's). And finally the Club received a grant of £500 from the King George V Silver Jubilee Trust Fund. The King's third son, Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, was the President of the National Association of Boy's Clubs, and had already visited the Lad's Club in its very early days. Now he was to return in August 1937 to lay the foundation stone of the new building, an event marked, as the Lancaster Guardian noted, with 'cheering crowds lining the route to Dallas Road'.

Two year later, of course, a more sombre mood settled upon the people of Lancaster as Britain once more went to war. By now many of the Club's members were old enough to enter the forces and scores of them did. Happily most returned safely to civilian life - but five of them were not so fortunate, and on a January evening in 1948, members and relatives gathered together, to watch the Mayor of Lancaster, Councillor Herbert Butler, present the Club with a new '**House Record Book**', containing the names and photographs of the fallen. He said in his address that it was to honour these brave young men that the Club had already decided to name each of its five 'houses' after one of them, and the new record book reflected this. In this way their names would never be forgotten as long as competitive games were played at the Club.

Of the five names in the book, we know that Alan David Bell, a Grenadier Guardsman, was only 19 when he was killed in action soon after D Day, and that he had played cricket, football and table tennis for the Club; James Heavyside was a Boy 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gunner on H.M.S.Glorious, and had been missing since 8 June 1940, when his ship was sunk off the coast of Norway with the loss of over a 1,000 men; T E Edmondson, 'a keen sportsman' had joined the RAF at the age of 19 and had been shot down over Belgium; Gordon Kitchen had been killed shortly after D Day while serving with a Scottish regiment; and we know very little about Donald Carpenter, who was not a native of Lancaster, except that he died on active service at the age of 20.

### The Lancaster Roman Memorial 2005

Private Possession

The final and the newest "find" and yet the oldest memorial stone in town is a real-life Omega and Alpha. It is thought to date from some time between

the late 1<sup>st</sup> century to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, but has only just come to light. A team of archaeologists unearthed it on the site of the Aldcliffe Road dairy in November 2005. The site, unused for some time, is to be developed for flats. The large plaque, L82, portrays a mounted Roman soldier in battle armour, decapitating a man. If you can't quite make out the details of the scene, there are replicas of Roman armour and swords at the City Museum.

The County Archaeologist, Peter Iles, has kindly supplied this interim collaborative transcription of the Latin lettering – which is not easy as words and lines run on without breaks, leaving aside abbreviations. Here it is:



L82

*To the memory of Lucius Nisus Vodulli(?)us Citizen of the Treveri tribe, trooper of the Ala Augusta troop (or squad) 'Victor' Domitia /saw to the making of this stone/or placed this stone/or arranged for the erection of this stone/*

Domitia was probably the grieving widow of Lucius. The plaque was found near what seems to have been the site of a Roman road and may have been removed, or fallen from its mounting, after the Romans left Lancaster. (Nothing changes! – hence the need to look after our War Memorials –Editor) The latter seems more likely, as the face of the stone has not suffered greatly from weathering, suggesting it was protected by lying face down.

### The Vale of Lune RUFC (NIWM No: None)

Powderhouse Lane Map Ref SD 468634

The name of Vale of Lune RUFC cropped up regularly as we researched the biographies of those

killed in the wars, so we were pleased to discover that a Roll of Honour, for the Second World War, was still in the clubhouse at Powderhouse Lane. It is a bronze plaque, L83, 18 inches by 12 inches mounted on an oak backing and hung in a prominent position above the fireplace. Sixteen men are commemorated on the plaque. The Lancaster Guardian carried a picture, L84, of the unveiling in their edition of 10 March 1950. The report below the photograph read:

*"Vale of Lune R.U.F.C. players pause reverently in memory of their sixteen club mates killed in the Second World War, after their Captain H D Jones (holding the ball) had unveiled a memorial tablet before Saturdays game. The memorial in the clubhouse is flanked by the Arms of Lancaster and Morecambe."*



L83

The Lancaster Guardian also recorded the death in action of fourteen soldiers who died in the First World War and had played for the Club. We honour them here:

*Herbert Brockbank RFC, Joseph Cockroft Civil Service Rifles (see also his Christchurch Memorial), Robert Corless King's Own, D H Davies King's Own, John Gardner King's Own, H P B Gough Welch Regt, Thomas Hall King's Own, G R P Howson King's Own (His brother Harold, who also served, was apparently a founder member of the Club), Richard Irving King's Own (See also his memorial in Lancaster Central High School), William Matthews Scottish Rifles, James Shaw The Middlesex Regt, Geo Webster The Cameronian Highlanders, Arthur Widdop The Buffs (East Kent Regt), Geo Wilkinson Royal Engineers.*

The Club Centenary Brochure of the year 2000 records:

*"Spectators enjoy the Vale's grand style that took them to 19 wins in the 1913-14 season, but then sadly the clouds of war were looming in Europe and play was suspended*

*while Vale players, like men everywhere else in Britain, went off to fight for King and Country. It was a bleak time during which many Vale members gave their lives for the cause of peace and it was not surprising that there was a somewhat sombre mood around Quay Meadow when rugby was played once more towards the end of 1919"*



L84

And after 1937:

*"This was a period of gloom, with Germany on the march in Europe, and war once again looking inevitable. When it was eventually declared the men of Vale were quick to arms once more, fighting on all the major battle fronts in Europe and the Middle and Far East. Many wonderful rugby players fell in those battles and a modest plaque in the clubhouse recalls their bravery."*

**Modest it may be - but it's still there!**

**Laurence Binyon** We end this chapter, as we started it, with reference to a son of Lancaster, whose words and name will forever be associated with remembrance of those who have died in conflict. He was born at No 1 High Street Lancaster; L85 shows the plaque outside the house which reads:

Laurence Binyon, Poet and Scholar, 1865-1943, was born at No 1 High Street on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1865.



L85

**CHAPTER 3 – MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM**

*When you go home Tell them of us and say,  
For your Tomorrow We gave our today  
The Kohima Epitaph - Major John Etty-Leal*

**Morecambe War Memorial The Cenotaph  
(Marine Road Central) (NIRW No: 3332 )**

Map Ref SD 434644

The Morecambe Town War Memorial, CP1422, is situated opposite The Winter Gardens. The discussions which took place in order to decide upon the nature of the memorial are mostly included in the Morecambe Visitor and Heysham Chronicle of 1919; they make for interesting reading portraying some intense feelings and argument. Whatever the case there is no doubt that the townspeople and their Council were intent upon honouring those who fell in the Great War. No doubt such discussions took place throughout the land, and to précis them here serves to give a feeling of those times - and they don't appear to have changed all that much!

The Mayor of Morecambe had made a speech in which he suggested a memorial for the fallen. (Source: Morecambe Visitor and Heysham Chronicle Report dated 25 November 1917). The Visitor at that time applauded the ideals of the new Mayor suggesting that Morecambe was "poor" in the provision of inspiring landmarks and hoped that the townspeople would support all the fund raising activities to bring it to fruition. The report went on to say that "we trust it will not be merely ornamental but would produce some useful purpose - a utility".

One of the first suggestions to appear was in the form of a letter to the Visitor (Source: Morecambe Visitor and Heysham Chronicle Report dated 16 April 1919) from a Morecambe Sergeant and written from Belgium, headed "War Trophies". He was suggesting that Morecambe seek to obtain one such e.g. a captured German gun; he clearly felt that the Council were not "aggressive" enough and sought to obtain the backing of the Lord Lieutenant!

(Of interest Lancaster did display a British tank - see chapter 2). However seemingly the suggestion was never followed up..

A very strong and well considered view came from Mr T H Mawson, an Internationally renowned Town Planner (he lived in Hest Bank). The full proposal was reported in the Visitor (Source: Morecambe Visitor and Heysham Chronicle Report

dated May 1919) together with a sketch plan, M1, showing an Outlook Tower with an "electric lift" and incorporating a reading room, a tea room and bandstand to be placed at the Bare "Battery location".



M1

The Visitor became somewhat agitated when a meeting was called to "Consider" what the War Memorial should be - they had not been invited! The article went on to outline possibilities such as extending the Cottage Hospital (well favoured), the Mawson suggestion of a Tower, a suitable monument and a Memorial Hall. Quite a number of letters were received voicing the opinion that constructions which the Town needed were not suitable as a Memorial and should in any case be provided by the Council! The Visitor did not agree with these views. Subsequent letters in response called for a useful living memorial eg a library; a "Colonel Bogey" although applauding the idea of a memorial said for goodness sake don't touch the Golf links! This was followed by a plea for a "Monument on the central Promenade which would be entirely to the memory of the brave lads who have sacrificed all for us" (Source: Morecambe Visitor and Heysham Chronicle Report dated 18 June 1919)

Photo M2 shows a "Cenotaph" with a Guard of Honour of Boy Scouts at what must have been a temporary memorial "A beautiful cenotaph composed of white chrysanthemums and dahlias (the work of a Mr Cocking) surrounded a broken column erected in the gardens on the Promenade near the Central Band stand - Sacred to our Glorious Dead". This was included in a report about a remembrance service during "Peace Week"



(Source: Morecambe Visitor and Heysham Chronicle Report dated 24 September 1919 )



M2

**The Final Design.** A report ( Source: Morecambe Visitor and Heysham Chronicle June 1920) showed this outline drawing M3, the design was by Mr J Tarney of Morecambe, an architect, and Paley the ecclesiastical architects from Lancaster. The proposal was a circular space 60 feet in diameter with the Cenotaph at the centre. It was to be made with grey granite with the figure of a bronze British Lion looking out to sea. Inscriptions of the names of the fallen would be incised in the granite and filled with lead. The total height of the monument would be about 18 ft 6 in to the top of the figure.



M3

### **The Cenotaph was unveiled on 26 June 1921.**

Extracts from Morecambe Visitor and Heysham Chronicle Report dated 29 June 1921:

Morecambe paid tribute to the fallen when the War Memorial was dedicated on Sunday afternoon; the proceedings were entirely in harmony with the sanctity of the occasion. An atmosphere of quiet restraint prevailed and people obviously obsessed by poignant memories were tinged with joy that a

perpetual reminder was being established of the great sacrifice of the Morecambe lads. M4 shows the vast concourse of people around the Cenotaph (photograph Fred Cawsey Morecambe).



M4

The cenotaph occupies an imposing position overlooking the bay. The columns and the base are of Dalbeattie Granite surmounted by a bronze Lion. The inscription on the cenotaph reads “ *To the honour and memory of the men of Morecambe who fell in the Great War*”. The plans were prepared by Mr James Tarney and the work carried out by Messrs Kirkpatrick of Manchester. Prior to the unveiling a dedicatory service was held in the Winter Gardens. Relatives of the fallen “occupied the orchestra stalls” M5, and the Mayor in his scarlet robes was on the platform accompanied by many dignitaries from the Town.

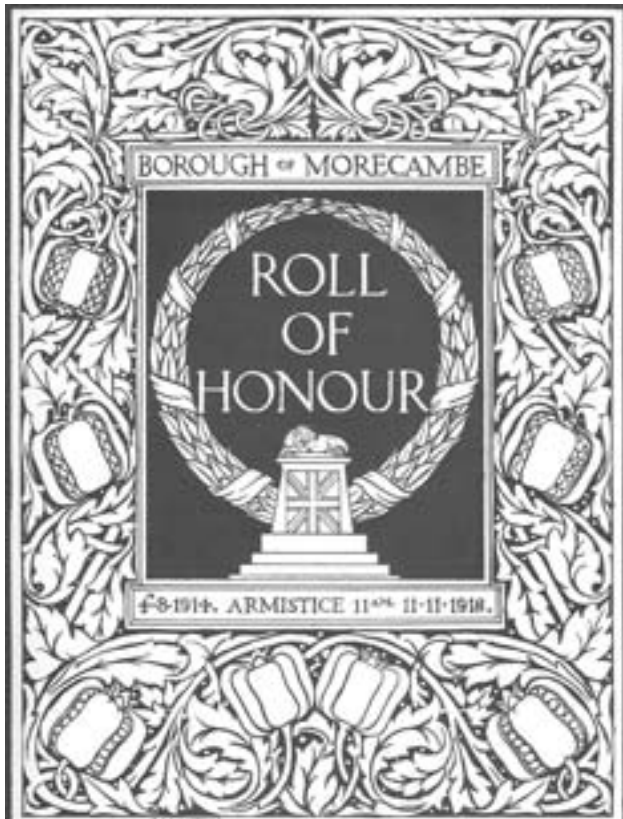


M5

A short service was conducted by Rev E Seymour Scott, Rector of Morecambe. The Mayor was called upon to speak but he appeared to be overcome by the solemnity of the occasion and simply spoke just three words “Lest we Forget”. The service was followed by the unveiling which was performed by three representatives of the rank and file, George Lee representing the Navy, Henry Mogg the Army and Stephen Wilson the Royal Air Force. They were accompanied by the seven year old son of the late Private George Austin killed in November 1914 - the first Morecambe man to lose his life. Mr Tarney, the

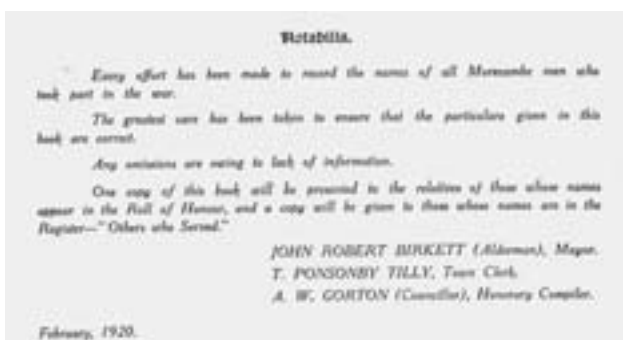


honorary architect and designer formally handed the monument over to the Town and it was received by the Mayor. The ceremony ended with the firing of a volley by the King's Own and the Last Post followed by laying of wreaths. A total of 203 names are commemorated on the Memorial for World War One.

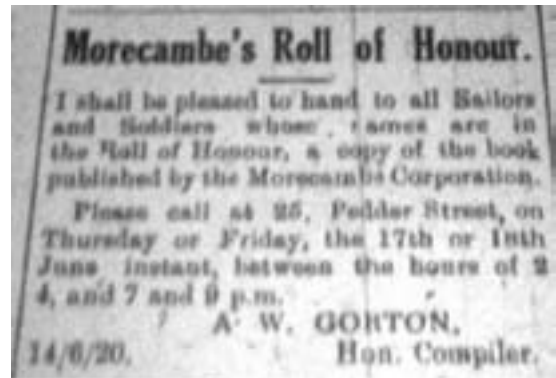


M6

The Borough of Morecambe, in 1920, produced a rather handsome Roll of Honour, M6, containing the names of all those who served and fell in The Great War. The Name, Regiment/Ship, date of enlistment, rank, date of death and theatre where killed were listed. As can be seen from the Mayors "Notabilia" M7 and in M8 the relatives of those killed were presented with a copy and also every man who served and survived. The original bound volume is in Morecambe Reference Library.



M7



M8

**The Second World War.** Morecambe's concern for their fighting men and women was again reflected in the Second World War as can be seen from the Visitor picture, M9, of the Mayors Grand Concert in the Winter Gardens, in front of 3500 people, which was later reported to have raised £600. Of course George Formby, and to a lesser extent, Charlie Kunz were show business icons of the time. A further 161 names, and later one name for the Korean conflict, were added to the memorial



M9

The photographs of the Morecambe "Peace Mug" CP15 and M10-M12, shown on the next page, are courtesy of Waters and Atkinson Accountants of Morecambe. Peace mugs were produced all over the land and the one for Galgate is shown with their entry.

**Cutting down iron railings.** An interesting facet of the war effort was captured in a small report as to why the cast iron railings were needed. "One Garden gate made 50 rifles and a small villa 10 bren guns. "

Source: Morecambe Visitor and Heysham Chronicle Report dated 16 December 1942



M10



M11



M12

### The Burma Garden (NIWM No: None)

Map Ref SD 434644

This beautiful and restful area, M13, is alongside the Morecambe Cenotaph opposite the Winter Gardens.



M13

The stone memorial in the centre, CP17, has a silver plate attached bearing the inscription of The Kohima Epitaph:

*When you go Home Tell them of us And say  
For your Tomorrow We gave our Today.*

Underneath is the Crest of The Burma Star Association. Frank Anderson and Fred Edmondson put the Memorial Garden in place; the stonework and plaque were designed and made by Frank Anderson (in 2005 President of The Burma Star Association).

### Clarence Street (NIWM No: None)

Map Ref SD 437646

### Honouring their Heroes An Impressive Ceremony at Clarence Street Church (The Home of the Fisherman's Choir) (Source: Visitor July 16 1919)

A service that was not only impressive but sounded a note of triumph, took place in Clarence Street United Methodist Church last Sunday when two beautiful tablets were unveiled to the memory of the fallen and also to those who served in the war. Both tablets are the work and gift of Mr Harry Hargreaves, one recording those who have fallen being in repousse work (ornamental metal work hammered into relief from the reverse side), the other on vellum recording those who had served. There was a large congregation and the unveiling was performed by Mr W J Southern who said it was a great honour to unveil the tablets.



M14

The tablet, M14, recording the names of those lost shows a figure representing sorrow with the laurel wreath in her hands. She is leaning on the cross for support and comfort.

*Erected to the memory of the men connected with this church who fell while serving their country during the Great War 1914-1919 (Eleven names follow). Greater love hath no man than this.*

**Gift to the Church.** These tablets were a gift to the church and beautifully done. Mr Hargreaves, during a solemn moment had dedicated himself to the task and had vowed that whether his own lads were spared or not he would prepare these tablets and present them to the Church. Thanks to God his sons had survived.

Along with the Wesleyan Church this memorial is one of the first to be erected in Morecambe in honour of those who fell and served in the Great War.

A gentleman who prefers to remain anonymous has generously defrayed all costs.

Notes: The second "tablet" (actually a vellum parchment), recorded the names of the 106 men (including those killed) connected with this church and Sunday school who joined his Majesty's forces in the Great War 1914-1919. The list was given in the Visitor report and is included in the Data Disc accompanying this Book. The list illustrates the "Fisherman" connection with 9 Baxters, 17 Woodhouses and 8 Willacys - common names amongst those earning their living from the sea. Clarence Street Church is now "The Rainbow Centre" and the Roll of Honour, M14, to the fallen is in Green Street Methodist Church. Sadly the tablet/parchment cannot be located at this time. Hopefully someone reading this book will find it in their attic!



M15

## Methodist Church Green Street (NIWM No: 3293) Map Ref SD 437646

This delightful Church, the entrance to which has some very interesting cast iron architecture, contains three memorials of its own and one from Clarence Street Church (now the Rainbow Centre). The first, M15, is the quite beautiful marble roll of Honour commemorating six men of the Church who fell in the Great War. It is of green alabaster marble set on a slate backing and is 27 by 35 inches in superb condition.



M16

The Church is also that of the Morecambe and District Branch of the Burma Star Association and contains The Burma Star Memorial Cross (NIRW No: 3293), CP20, is of a striking and modern design. It is on an elliptical mosaic base surmounted by a mosaic cross; inscriptions are in gold lettering on a white Sicilian marble background set into the side of the base. It was designed and made by Mr Frank Anderson, President of the Association in 2005. Its style has a dual effect and incorporates the colours of the Church in each mosaic, representing the colours of the jungle and sky, and also the Hill of Calvary, a tangible and spiritual embodiment of the Church and its teachings. Secured in the base are dedicated scrolls naming Branch Members. Funding for the architectural design, foundation work, materials and time was provided by Mr Bernard Robinson C.C. J.P while Mr Frank Anderson and family were responsible for various coloured mosaics, terrazzo, plinth and craft work. Both Mr Anderson and Mr Robinson are recipients of the Burma Star Medal. This is a Testimonial from the Branch and its Church to Central Methodists where the Cross now rests in quite repose under the guardianship of God. A framed plaque M16, accompanies the Cross with the following explanation:

*Presented to the Morecambe and District Branch by our Chairman George Rawlinson, the object of its creation in 1969 was to depict the sacrifice of all the men who fought in Burma in the 1943-1945 Campaign, and in particular those who lost their lives in combat with the Japanese.*



M17

Also in the Church is an oak Roll of Honour, M17, recording the names of Branch Members, their Regiments and date of Death starting at 1971 and complete to 2002, with 46 names inscribed.

#### POULTON-LE-SANDS Holy Trinity with MORECAMBE St Lawrence

Church Address: Church Street, Morecambe  
OS Map Ref: SD 440648



M18

Holy Trinity with St Lawrence Church is the Parish Church of Morecambe and is home to a number of Memorials, two of which are from the closed Church of St Lawrence (see below).

The first is a Brass Roll of Honour (NIWM No: 42379), M18, recording the names of 51 parishioners who died. It measures 6 ft by 4 ft and is mounted on

a fine oak frame. There is an Imperial Crown and Wreath above the text which is:

*To the Glory of God In Memoriam. Roll of Honour 1914-1918.*

Carved in the base below the names are the words  
*"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die"*

Below the main roll of Honour is a Brass plaque, M19, (NIWMNo: 42381):

*In memory of Sergeant G W Jackson 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards. Killed in action at Cambrai France 29th July 1915.*

The plaque was manufactured by Messrs Barkentin and Krall. His parents are buried in the Church Cemetery and Sgt Jackson is commemorated on their headstone. His address was the Derby Hotel, Barrow which may explain why he is not



M19

commemorated on the Lancaster or Morecambe memorials. He was awarded the DCM on 11 April 1915, educated at The Lancaster Royal Grammar school, and employed as an apprentice with Seimens Electrical Engineers, Stafford. A former member of the John O'Gaunt Rowing Club, he played football and tennis for Stafford Town and was also a keen shooter and swimmer. He is commemorated in the LRGS Memorial Library

The next is a very fine Boer War Plaque, CP16, (NIWM No: 42377) for the St John's Ambulance Brigade. It commemorates two men who died and ten who served, and as can be seen it is in the Art Nouveau style; made of copper and brass and measures 31/2 ft by 2ft . It is in excellent condition.

The Inscription reads:

*A.M.D.G. and in Remembrance of the patriotism of the men who in answer to duty's call offered themselves for their Country's service in the South African War 1899-1902. Including (names follow) and the following members of the St John's Ambulance Brigade Morecambe Division (Names follow) and in memory of (Names) who in ministering to others needs gave their own lives.  
Dulce Et Decorum Est Pro Patria Mori*

Two elements of the plaque are shown here. The Badge of the King's Own Royal Regiment of Lancaster, M20 and the St John's Ambulance Brigade, M21



M20



M21

## St Lawrence Church

Map Ref SD 435643

This church, no longer used, stands derelict in the middle of Morecambe. First established in 1878 as a Chapel of Ease to Holy Trinity, (Morecambe's founder church.) it was regarded by many in Edwardian times as "The Town Church", however it never was the Parish Church. (As a Chapel of Ease it was never granted a licence to perform marriages until it became a parish in its own right in 1918 and as can be imagined there was at the time some "political feeling" between the two parishes!) Thankfully much has changed over the years and since the uniting of the Parishes in 1981, the two Rolls of Honour of St. Lawrence have been held in safe custody in Morecambe Parish Church, although not on display. Both are of beaten brass and are in very good condition.



M22

The first, M22, (NIWM No: 42392) is:

*In loving Memory of George Rowland Paget Howson, Sec Lieut 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment killed at Arras on April 9th 1917 aged 31 years. Buried in the Cemetery of St Laurent Blangy France. Sic Itur Ad Astra*

There are brass embossed Lancashire Roses in each corner.

The second, M23, (NIWM No: 42382) commemorates fourteen soldiers and bears the inscription:

*AD 1914-1918 In The Great War (Fourteen Names follow) From this Church Died Faithful to Duty*

Edward and Richard Baines are commemorated on the Morecambe Cenotaph and were brothers. Alfred and George Downham are commemorated on the Morecambe Cenotaph and were brothers. Arthur and Colin Widdop were both educated at Lancaster Royal Grammar School and were most likely

brothers although this cannot be corroborated. Arthur is on the Morecambe Cenotaph but not Colin. Briscoe Baynes a Sgt in 10th Battalion York and Lancaster regiment was awarded the DCM for conspicuous gallantry and initiative on several occasions.



M23

He kept the men working steadily under hostile fire, and cleared a wrecked sniper post. He had many thrilling experiences and many a hairsbreadth escape. He was a keen athlete and a smart gymnast. His younger brother was in the King's Own and his father owned the West End Al Fresco Troupe. At a public presentation of Honours on the stage at the Morecambe Tower Mr Baynes accepted the award on behalf of his son. Fred Hodgson was presented with a Royal Humane Society Certificate of bravery for rescuing a boy from the sea on 9 March, 1915. Harold Parrish was in the choir of St Lawrence Parish Church and a member of Morecambe Golf Club. The fourteen names are recorded on the accompanying data disc. The two Rolls of Honour are not on Public Display however it is likely that this will be remedied in the not too distant future.

### Memorial Hall (NIWM No; 42406)

Map Ref SD 440648

The Hall was formally opened by Lord Richard Cavendish and the report from the Morecambe and Heysham Visitor of 16 January 1926 follows.

The Hall has been erected by the congregation of Morecambe Parish Church at a cost of £6000, and commemorates the men of Morecambe who fell in the Great War. The architect, Mr G Scott, presented a gold key to Lord Cavendish. Addresses were given by the Mayor of Morecambe Alderman A W Gorton who commented that from Morecambe's relatively small population no fewer than 1300 took

part in the war and 216 gave their lives. The Roll of Honour, M24, commemorates 49 who died in the Great War and 284 who served and he presented Lord Cavendish and the trustees of the Hall with copies of the Roll of Honour.

Lord Cavendish said that wonderful and striking as war memorials were, scattered far and wide in the country and on the battlefields there was a deeper and wider memorial which they could help preserve and build and that was to try to ensure that those who were left should not suffer any unavoidable hardships. No doubt the State would bear the main responsibility but there was ample scope for semi public and semi official organisations to fill any gaps to augment and do what the official organisations could not do.



M24

He went on that these organisations would need both money and service; there were very few of us who could not give one or the other. Thus he continued, let this beautiful Memorial Hall not merely serve as to remind us of those who have gone, let it also be a perpetual reminder of the obligation to see that those who survived should not be put to any more unnecessary suffering. The Foundation Stone, M25, inscription reads:



M25

*This Stone was laid on the 25th Day of June 1925 and the Hall built to the Glory of God and in memory of those from this Parish who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918*



**Milestone Memorial (NIWM No: None)**

Map Ref SD 458632

This interesting milestone is situated in the hedge by the Bus Shelter on the Morecambe Road to Lancaster at the bottom of the Morecambe College Playing Fields. The National Inventory of War Memorials have said that, whilst not exactly a war memorial, it is of sufficient importance to be logged on their data base. It is certainly part of the fabric of the area of Lancaster and Morecambe. A Brass plaque was attached explaining that the road was:

*"Built by ex servicemen returning from the Great War".*



M26

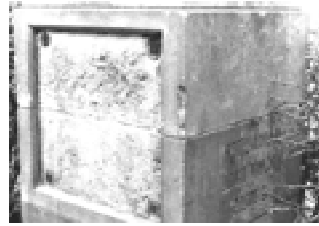
It now lies, virtually unknown and forgotten, in an unkempt hedge. The Brass Plaque has long since gone, presumably stolen. The whole construction was accompanied by great civic pride at various stages as can be seen. The first picture, M26, shows the cutting of the "First Sod" prior to construction of the "New" road from Morecambe to Lancaster, Morecambe Road, which starts from the Shrimp Roundabout



M27

The next, M27, shows the unveiling of the "Memorial" Milestone. The sad condition today is plainly evident from the two photographs M28 (Inscription: Lancaster Town Hall 2 Miles) and M29. (Inscription; Morecambe Clock Tower 2 ½ Miles). Is there anyone out there who would befriend this

Civic Mark of yester year and help to restore it to its former glory?.



M28



M29

The milestone is complemented by a "memorial" seat, M30, at the "Shrimp" roundabout, which is inscribed:

*This road was constructed to provide much needed employment and was opened by Brig Gen Maybury on 29 May 1923. This marks the completion of the road scheme.*



M30

**Morecambe High School (NIWM No: None)**

Situating on Dallam Avenue. Map Ref SD 444648

This school, previously Morecambe Grammar School when founded in 1919, shared premises with Morecambe Art and Technical College - hence the "Ship" emblem which is modelled on the weather vane above the Poulton building. The present School was opened in 1938 and is of similar design to Morecambe Town Hall. It contains a Memorial Library in the Art Deco style. There is extensive panelling of American white oak cut on the quarter (the expensive cut) and is most impressive. The Memorial takes the form of a Fireplace surround CP18, the centre panel M31, is 2ft 6in square and the outer panels 2ft 6in by 18ins. The School emblem, a Sailing Ship, adorns the top of the memorial and on the two flanks are the Rolls of Honour M32 and M33, commemorating 28 former students.

The inscription before the names reads:

*To the Glory of God and in Honoured Memory of the Old Grammarians who gave their lives in the World War 1939-1945*



M31

## Sefton Road United Reformed Church (NIWM No: None)

Map Ref SD 421632



M34



M35

This lovely little Church in Sandylands not far from the sea front, contains a Lectern M34 bearing a memorial to **James Edwin Crook**. He was the only Church member casualty of the Second World War, being fatally wounded by a stray sniper having survived many perilous missions. (See The Centenary Book of the Sefton Road United Reformed Church by Joan E Smith.).

The Lectern bears a plate, M35 inscribed as follows:

*Dedicated in Memory of James Edwin Crook 6th Airborne Armoured RECCE R.A.C a much loved member of this Church who gave his life that all might have life" March 27th 1945*

James was involved with 6th Airborne during the crossing of the Rhine by the Allied Forces in the Wesel area:

*"The airborne landings in the Wesel area, coordinated by the First Allied Airborne Army, commenced just before 1000 Hours and continued until 1300 hours. The 6 Airborne Division was flown from bases in East Anglia in 669 planes and 429 Gliders of the RAF."*

(Extract from "Report by the Supreme Commander to Combined Chiefs of Staff on operations in Europe of the Allied Expeditionary Force 6 June 1944 to 8 May 1945" HMSO Publication 11946.)



M32



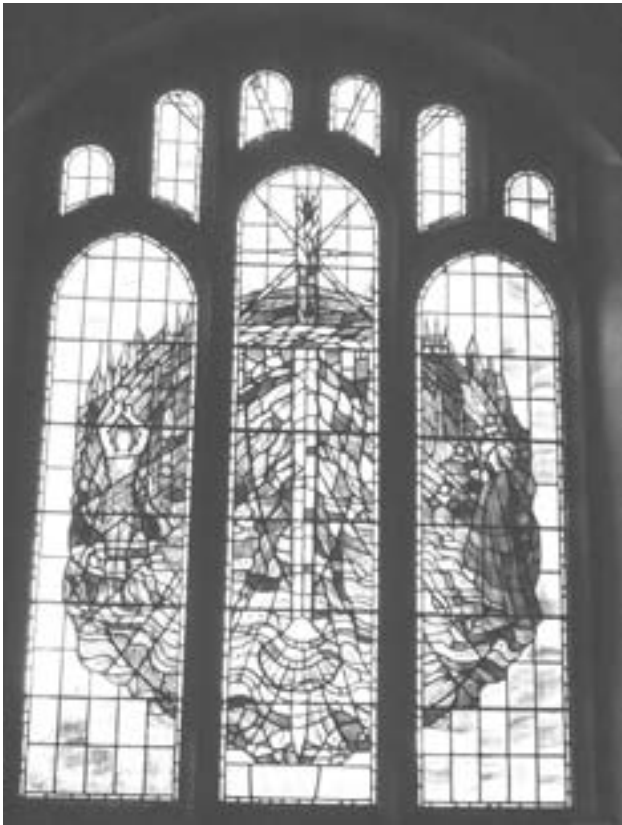
M33



### St Christopher Bare Morecambe (NIWM No: 424103)

Church Address: Marine Road East,  
OS Map Ref: SD 448649

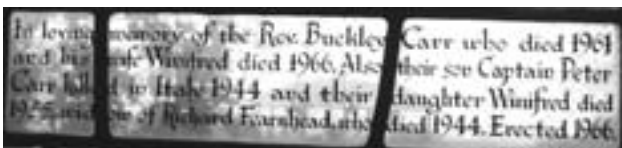
**St Christopher's Church Bare.** Sitting on the Morecambe Promenade looking out across the bay this lovely church contains two memorials. The first is a magnificent stained glass memorial window M36. This includes a memorial to Captain Peter Carr who was killed in Italy in 1944.



M36

The commemorative insert to the window, M37, reads:

*In loving memory of the Rev Buckley Carr who died in 1961 and his wife Winifred died 1966, Also their son Captain Peter Carr killed in Italy in 1944 and their daughter Winifred died 1955, widow of Richard Fearnhead who died 1944. Erected 1966.*



M37

The subject of the Carr memorial Window is that of Youth and Spiritual Vision, which is portrayed in a framed piece accompanying the window. The Donor expressed the wish that the subject of window be dedicated to youth. The design shows a symbolic presentation of Adam (earth and growth of natural order) to the incarnation or return to the spirit the Shell and Waters of Baptism culminating in the Chalice and bread (wheat forms) of the Holy Sacrament and Sacrifice with the sword of the Holy Spirit ("which is the word of God") as the central motif.

The second memorial is the Christening Font, CP19, constructed in Portland stone (NIWM No: 42410) . This is a memorial to those killed in the Great War 1914-1918 and the inscription reads:

*To the Glory of God and in memory of the scholars of St Christopher's who served in the Great War 1914-1918 - A gift from the Sunday School.*

### St Peters Heysham (NIWM No:3333)

Church Address: Main Street

Map Ref SD 410615

**Heysham "Warrior Heroes".** If you visit this famous and beautiful Church amidst the stunning scenery you will find a beautiful Village Cross CP21. A striking depiction of St George slaying the Dragon , M38, is a centre piece of the Cross.



M38

Thirty five out of 266 who joined up, most of them volunteers, are commemorated on this memorial and all died in the Great War. The men from Heysham who died in the Second World War are commemorated on the Morecambe Memorial and also on the stained glass window in St John's Church at Sandy Lands (see below).

The Village Cross was unveiled in October 1920 and extracts from the Morecambe Visitor at that time follow:

#### **Heysham Warrior Heroes**

#### **Memorial Cross Unveiled By General Sir A. Hunter**

*The warrior heroes rest in many lands, But here the symbol of their glory stands*

This is the inscription carved around the four sides of the base of the simple Cross of Derbyshire stone, which the people of Heysham have erected in the burial ground surrounding the historic old Parish Church, in memory of those of the township who fell in the Great War. Beneath this verse appear the names of the men who fell, with this further inscription :-

**To the glorious memory of the men of Heysham who fell in defence of their Country in the Great War.**

Above this at the bottom of the vertical pillar is carved the date "1914-1918" together with a representation of St. George slaying the dragon, whilst above in the centre of the cross there is the victor's crown wreathed with laurel.

The unveiling was a solemn and impressive ceremony with about three thousand people assembled in the shadow of the ruins of St. Patrick's Chapel, and many besides the relatives of those in whose honour the Cross has been erected, were moved to tears by thoughts of those who, going out so bravely and so cheerfully in defence of their homeland, now lie in foreign land in bits of ground "which are forever England". Councillor M. Taylor (Chairman of the Memorial Committee) Presided, and the act of unveiling was performed by Gen. Sir Archibald Hunter, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., D.S.O. Those present on the platform erected near the cross included Lady Hunter, Lady Sharpe, Capt. A. Bates, Councillor J. Hustler, and the clergy and ministers taking part in the service – the Rector of Heysham

(Rev. C.C.T. Royds), the Vicar of St. John's (Rev. D.C. Kennedy), Revs. W.J. Southern, W. Collins Davies, W.J. Britton and F.J. Greening. Others present were the chairman of the Council (Councillor L. Lister) and members of the Heysham Council, Mr. R. Whiteside J.P. (treasurer) and Mr Baldwin Bent. A combined choir from the various places of worship sang special hymns, under the direction of Mr John Bell, whilst Mr Arthur Dewhurst was at the organ.

**General Hunter's Tribute.** In releasing the Union Jack General Hunter said that a cross was the emblem of the faith which they as Christians all professed. It was erected in the cemetery of the Parish Church – and no more appropriate place could have been chosen – so that those who went there to pray might remember the sacrifice that had been made by the men of that neighbourhood. Many of those men belonged to the Regiment of which he was Colonel and his Majesty the King was Colonel-in-Chief, and which furnished the firing party that day. In the name of the Colonel-in-Chief and of all ranks, including himself, of their regiment he offered sincere sympathy to the bereaved ones whether wives, children, parents, relatives or friends. Whilst sharing with them the sorrow for the loss of these brave men, they claimed the right to share also the pride of kinship with those gallant soldiers who fought and died for them.

That monument, he believed, fulfilled more than the one purpose of bearing the record of those brave men's names. - it would stand to rising generations as an example of courage and of loyal devotion. The names inscribed on that monument would never die. A firing party of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment (by kind permission of the Officer Commanding the Depot) then fired three volleys and the buglers sounded the "Last Post", and, after a few moments of silent prayer the "Reveille".

In the Church cemetery there is a red granite "Pyramid" World War 1 memorial, M39, (NIRW No: 42341). (Strictly speaking this is a family grave and not a war memorial) The inscription reads:

*In loving memory of George W Parkinson, son of Robert E and Sarah Swindlehurst of Salem Farm Heysham, who died for his King and Country at Kemmel Park January 27th 1917 aged 39 years. And on the Base: Christ will clasp the golden chain closer when we meet again*



M39

Gunner Frederick Wyton, killed in the third battle of Ypres, is commemorated on his mother's grave in the Heysham Cemetery, M40. A local man who had come across his grave when visiting the Cemetery in France lays a wreath on the anniversary of his death. The Wytons were a well known family and ran the Strawberry Fields Entertainment complex (purveyors of the famous Heysham "Nettle Beer"!).

In January 1920 a Mr Baldwin Bent produced a Register of the men who had served in the Great War. The Heysham Rectory was also used as an Auxiliary Hospital during that time. Further details of both are included in the Book of Honour in St Peter's Church, and are included in the data disc.



M40

## The Church of St John The Divine Sandylands Morecambe (NIWM No: None)

Church Address: St John's Road, LA3 1EX  
OS Map Ref: SD 420630

This Church, beautiful in itself and in its setting, is located in Sandylands just beyond the West End of Morecambe. It is home to one of the most attractive and complete memorials to the Second World War. The Window, M41, is in the Sanctuary by the side of the Altar.



M41

The Sanctuary is regarded as a complete "War Memorial". In 1947 plans for the new Altar War memorial, including a design for the Chancel ceiling, were agreed by the Church Council. A faculty was granted in November; J W Bland decorated the ceiling panels which were provided by Edmondson Bros. The total cost was £72.17s.5d! The Wareham Guild made the carved wooden angels for the ceiling trusses. A War Memorial Dedication Service was held on 31 October 1949, and the Memorial dedicated by the Bishop. (From the history of the Church written by Shirley Hambly in the year 2000). This is a Wareham Guild Window showing the three coats of arms representing England, Scotland and Wales atop. (From a souvenir and Reference booklet 1968).

The left hand panel, depicts St Nicholas, Patron Saint of seafarers, with St George, Patron Saint of England and the Army on the next panel. The third panel shows St Michael the Archangel, Patron Saint

of the Royal Air Force., and the fourth, M42, gives the fourteen names of “the boys” from St John’s Church who lost their lives during the 1939-45 war.



M42

The insignia of the three Services, and below that the letters I.C. X.C. N.I.K.A. which mean: “In Jesus Christ Triumph” and below the names are the immortal words:

*Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn, at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.*

*“Here is a fitting tribute which the world would do well to remember. “*

(Words taken from a Souvenir and Reference booklet produced by the Rev D G Platt Vicar of St John’s in 1968).

### Trimpell Sports Club (NIWM No: None)

Map Ref SD 434632

This very well executed Roll of Honour, M43, is in the Trimpell Sports and Social Club, Out Moss Lane, Morecambe and lists the seven employees of Trimpell Ltd who died during the Second World War. The Roll of Honour is inscribed on copper plate and is 18 inches by 24 and mounted securely in a very prominent position in the main Bar Room of the Club.



M43

When Trimpell ICI closed their works at Heysham the Roll of Honour was moved to the Royal British Legion Headquarters in Edwards Street Morecambe. When this in turn closed it was returned home. Leslie Morgan, who gave us this information, was one of the “removal” men on both occasions. Four of the men are commemorated on the Morecambe Memorial, two on that of Lancaster and the seventh is not on a local memorial

### Unknown (NIWM No:None ) Blackpool

A gentleman responded to an article in the Morecambe Visitor concerning the whereabouts of local war memorials. He had rescued a brass Roll of Honour, M44, from a scrap metal merchant for £10.00!



M44

It commemorates eight men who had died, presumably in the Great War. There were no dates on the memorial. The memorial is safe in his keeping. Since it is not on public display their names and details are on the data disc. Some research has shown a very clear Blackpool connection. Perhaps it can be restored to its own locality presumably a Church in the Blackpool area which was demolished by the scrap metal merchant. This serves as a sad example of how some of our war memorials have disappeared without trace - but not this one.

### **Wesleyan Church West End (NIWM No: None) Map Ref SD 424636**

A full account was given of the unveiling of the Memorial Window in the West End Wesleyan Church in The Morecambe Visitor and Heysham Chronicle Report dated 2 July 1919. With a sub headline of "**£186 raised**" a picture was painted of a packed church, a Union flag fluttering at half mast as the Mayor of Morecambe (Alderman W Wright) unveiled a Memorial Window, CP22 and M45. A roll of honour produced for the occasion named the "100 men and 2 girls" who had served, 10 men being killed, 28 wounded and with many "earning distinction in the field".



M45

The inscription on the window was as follows:

*"To the glory of God and in honour of all those who have served, suffered and fallen in their duty to their King and Country in the cause of Justice and Freedom 1914-1919."*

In his speech The Mayor said; "My duty this afternoon is to unveil this memorial window to their

memory, the first of any memorial in Morecambe to those who had bled and died". Major Hogarth, who had also fought in the war, along with Dr Beet, both stressed the need for remembrance and for everyone to "work together". The report noted that a memorial tablet would also be affixed to the Church and that Alderman and Mrs Snowden would "Defray the costs".

Because the window cannot now be traced, and also to set out the design and specification of the stained glass window a report from the Morecambe Visitor of July 1919 is shown below in full.

### **Stained Glass Window for the Wesleyan Church**

(Source: Morecambe Visitor of July 1919)

The members of the West End Wesleyan Church are erecting two beautiful stained glass windows which are to be unveiled in memory of those fellow members who have fallen in the Great War. Appended is a description of the windows:

The scheme for the left hand light is represented by a figure of St George (Patron Saint of England and of soldiers) slaying the dragon - freeing us from the shackles of the evil spirit that has for so long been a menace to civilisation, and now happily a thing of the past.

In the background is shown the silent Navy, with the sister service the wireless station on the headland, and the aeroplane sweeping along through the clouds, watch and guard against an unscrupulous foe.

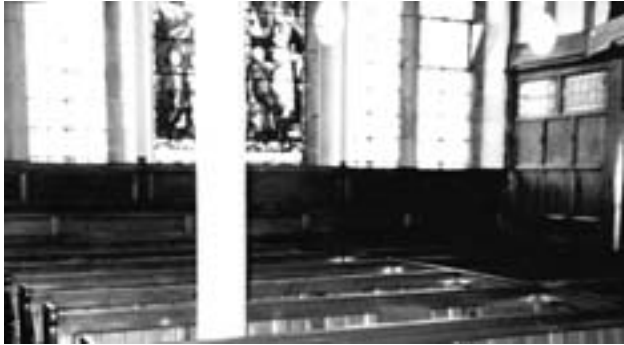
The scheme of the right hand light provides an example of the wounded soldier being attended by a Nurse at a dressing station, a haven of refuge temporarily, a short respite from the battlefield. He has gone through much to demonstrate loyalty to his King and Country before self. The Nurse (the Good Samaritan) sympathetically binds his head and wounded arm, and he is full of that faith and hope that comes to one after an arduous task, knowing that everything is being done to ease his pain and suffering.

The Angel with a laurel wreath and palm, symbolic of peace, hovers overhead and the sky, breaking to the dawn of a new day the night of sorrow gone (let us hope never to return)

The awakening of a new eve of Peace and Goodwill is about to burst into forth into a new future and the expression of a new harvest about to be fulfilled.

*"Greater Love hath no man that he lay down his life for his friend"*

The decorated borders surrounding the windows depict the palm branch in a golden stain with alternate squares with crown and the initial "G" for St George in one light, and in the other crown and fleur de Lys (emblematic of France where the serious part of the action took place).



M46

All the windows in the Church were replaced in the 1980's with clear glass. This was done because of the high heat loss in the Church. Effectively "double glazing" was installed!. Where the memorial window went is a mystery. We made enquiries with the contractors but they had no archive files. However The Visitor published a plea for information and we obtained a distance photograph of the window in situ before it was removed. Parts of the window are obscured by pillar. The photographer makes a hobby of before and after pictures of Morecambe Buildings and himself attended the Wesleyan Church. The picture M46 illustrates the size (each light was some 2ftx10ft) and impact of the window. Perhaps its new destination (if not in a skip!) will be found.



M47

Luckily two tablets, one to World War One M47 (eleven names) and one to the Second World War M48 (six names) have been retained in the possession of the Church Committee.

Both of these brass plates are in the safe possession of The Methodist Church in Heysham although not

on public display. The Church, which is opposite the Battery Hotel in the West End of Morecambe, recently (circa 1995) suffered a severe fire. It is not to be restored as a place a of worship and has now been sold for other purposes.



M48

### **West End Primary School (NIWM No: None)**

Map Ref SD 424634

This very simple Roll of Honour plaque, M49, is very firmly fixed on the wall of the current primary school by the School gates on Westminster Road. It is a metal plaque 2ft 6 in by 18in with a laurel wreath (the symbol of victory) surrounded by a stone feature which sets it off beautifully. Inscribed *"Roll of Honour 1914-1919"*, it has stood the course of time and is now weathered with a coating of verdigris.



M49

There are ten former pupils named on the plaque. It is of interest that one of them, Lieutenant S K Bates is commemorated on four memorials in the area; this one, the cenotaph in Morecambe, The Memorial Garden Lancaster and on the Roll of Honour in the Memorial Library of Lancaster Royal Grammar School, where he was educated and known for being a keen sportsman. A native of Morecambe, he joined up at the start of the war and was reputed to be the youngest full lieutenant in the British Army when he was killed in May 1915. His father Major Bates was second in command of the same Battalion 1st/5th Bn. King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

## CHAPTER 4 THE NORTHERN PARISHES

*For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck him out the brute!"  
But It's "Saviour of 'is Country" when the guns begin to shoot.*

*Rudyard Kipling*

### **Bolton-Le-Sands (NIWM No: 3325)**

OS Map Ref: SD 481675

The Village Cross stood in a small enclosure on the side road leading into the village from the A6. Sadly the cross was demolished by a falling tree during the high winds of February 2005 although the base pedestal remained. The Parish Council replaced it within nine months, at a cost understood to be of the order of £6000 – an interesting comparison with what it must have cost in 1920! It has been done with sensitivity and the Sword of Peace was retrieved and restored. It is understood the Cross was rededicated at the Remembrance Service on 13th November 2005. Photographs N1A and N1B are the "before and after".



N1A



N1B

It is a standard Blomfield "Cross of Sacrifice", twelve feet high with its base tablets built into a low surrounding wall four feet high, the whole presenting a well proportioned "Garden of Remembrance". The shaft and pedestal sit on tablets upon which 29 names from World War One and 8 from World War Two are engraved. The first inscription reads: **1914-1918** followed by the 29 names and the words: *Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints*. Sadly no historical references as to the unveiling or other details can be found.

### **Bolton-Le-Sands Holy Trinity Church**

Church Address: Main Road

OS Map Ref: SD 482678

This beautiful and well appointed Church, parts of which date from the 15th Century is home to no less than seven war memorials of different styles.

**The Great War. (NIWM No: 42320)** This quite beautiful tablet, N2, was unveiled in June 1920. The Lancaster Guardian of that time contained a preview report and extracts are as follows:



N2

No fewer than 29 men belonging to the Parish of Bolton Le Sands, which includes Slyne with Hest and Nether Kellet, sacrificed their lives in the war and a beautiful tablet is being unveiled this Sunday afternoon by Lieut Col D H Wilson. It was designed and executed by Messrs Shrigley and Hunt and the names cut in a piece of white Sicilian marble framed in alabaster the whole being set on a green marble slab. Upon a shell is the inscription:

*Their memory shall live. In perpetual memory of the Officers and Non Commissioned Officers and men belonging to the Parish of Bolton Le Sands, Slyne with Hest and Nether Kellet who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918. This tablet is erected by their fellow parishioners in gratitude for the sacrifice made on their behalf.*

The list of names, together with Rank and Regiment followed. The inclusion of the names of Ranks and Regiments is unusual for this area. This has been useful in tracing the lives of the men in compiling the Books of Honour. From a sociological point of view it is interesting to note the spread of regiments including 3 from the Canadian Forces, a sailor from the Australian Mercantile Marine, 2 Welsh Fusiliers and one Rifle Brigade, The Kings Own Scottish Borderers, The Durham Light Infantry, The Staffordshire Regiment as well as the local Regiments. The memorial which is 5 ft long and 3 1/2 ft deep has been subscribed to by the parishioners; Mr Armstrong (Schoolmaster) was Secretary to the Committee.



### The Second World War (NIWM No: 42320)

A similar tablet, N3, was erected in memory of the nine men who died, this time a simple list of names. The text on the tablet reads:



N3

*Also all those who gave their lives in the Second World War 1939-1945.*

No record can be found of when this memorial was unveiled and who designed and manufactured it - perhaps Shrigley and Hunt again?

There are three memorials commemorating individuals. A striking well manufactured tablet, N4, to a **Leading Seaman Edward Jackson Gaultier** (NIWM No: 42326) a native of Bolton Le Sands who worked the guns at Ladysmith and died at Lancaster on November 27th 1900 aged 28. The tablet says:

*Death hastened by the hardships of war/ This tablet was erected to his Honour by Public Subscription in his Native Place.*



N4

A siege gun and anchor are firmly etched on to the tablet which seems to be in as good a condition as the day it was put in place.



N5

At N5 is a tablet to the memory of The Rev Arthur Tomlinson Vicar of the Parish and his wife Theresa Juliana Marie and also to their youngest son **Frederick Roger John, Lieut The South Staffordshire Regiment, (NIWM No: None)** who was killed in action near Ypres October 1914.



N6

There is a **Litany Desk** at N6, (NIWM No: None) which is inscribed upon the top:

*To the Glory of God In Loving Memory of Richard Masheder Priest Oct 21 1915 Rector of All Saints Heaton Norris formerly Curate of this Parish his wife Elizabeth Alice Aug 23 1919 John Scollick Flight Cadet RAF their elder son who fell in the Great War Sep 19 1918 RIP*





N7

A very fine **Organ casement**, (NIWM No: 42324) N7, is inscribed:

*This organ case was the gift of Parishioners of the Church as a thanksgiving for safe deliverance from the perils of war AD 1946*

Finally as you leave the Church be careful not to miss the inside of the double exit doors for they are a fine pair of **Memorial Doors**, (NIWM No: 42323) shown at CP23. They are inscribed on each door as follows:

*To the Greater Glory of God this screen was erected to the memory of those of this Parish who gave their lives in The World War 1939-1945 and in thankful recognition of all who served their country. The Gift of John William Thornber of Bolton Le Sands, on the other: Remember before God those who have given their lives for their country. Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for his friends. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.*

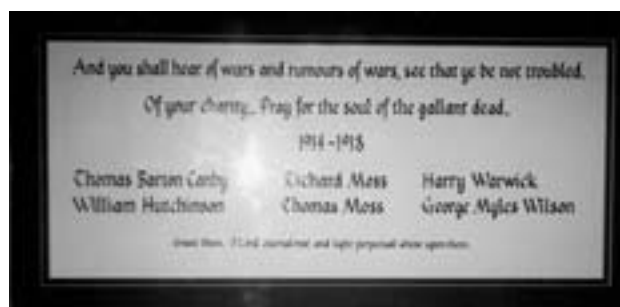
### **Borwick St Mary (NIWM No: None)**

OS Map Ref: SD 526732

The Lancaster Guardian Reported in May 1920:

**Borwick War Memorial** The grounds of Linden Hall lent by Mr and Mrs Briggs presented a pleasing appearance on Thursday when a successful garden fete was held in aid of the Borwick and Priest Hutton War Memorial. There was a good attendance and the various stalls did a good trade. Concerts were held and the children gave delightful performances of "Babes in the Wood" and "Gypsies". Competitions were held and tea partaken of in the grounds. A gift sale including calves, poultry incubator *and a parrot!* It was very

successful, the arrangements being excellently carried out by a band of willing helpers. (Let us hope that the parrot found a good home! – Editor)



N8

There is a Roll of Honour N8 in the Church with the inscription:

*And Ye shall hear of Wars and Rumours of Wars, see that ye not be troubled. Of your Charity, pray for the soul of the gallant dead. 1914-1918 - six names follow – Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest and light perpetual shine upon them.*

Nearby is the Borwick Memorial Hall, inside of which is a beautifully executed framed Roll of Honour, N9, for the Great War with seven names inscribed. All but one of the names are on the Roll of Honour in Borwick Church (The name of Joseph Stott is missing from the latter). The inscriptions, amidst two standards and a laurel wreath are: *For King and Country. This Hall was erected in Memory of (seven names follow) who laid down their lives in the Great War 1914-1918.*

Perhaps the hall was built from the proceeds of garden fetes and sales of work such as this.



N9

## Carnforth Town

Carnforth Town is a railway town; in its hey day an important junction on the London And North Western Railway (LNWR) line. There are four important war memorial locations: two churches , The Town Cenotaph and the railway station (the location of the famous war time film "Brief Encounter"). Extracts from The LNWR Roll of Honour Book, although not strictly a war memorial, add to the story. The considerable pride of yester year is still very evident in the Carnforth of today. In the context of this book, the active Town Council ensure that all the important remembrance occasions are suitably marked in a dignified fashion. The station, now The Carnforth Station and Railway Trust Ltd has been refurbished in the style of the time that the film was made and is well worth a visit. Two delightful little books which chronicle all the tales of times past have been put together by a long time resident Marion Russell (see further reading) and extracts from the first one are below.

**War Work.** At Morphy's Sewing Mill the market for fashion blouses and dresses decreased as the war went on and times got harder. Ella and Bertha Barnham, along with other young ladies, gave in their notices so that they could give more practical help to the war effort at Waring and Gillows factory in Lancaster. There they sewed fabric for aeroplane wings and painted them with strong-smelling 'dope'. They also made horse-rugs for cavalry regiments, and mosquito nets for troops serving in hot countries. Factory conditions were far from ideal! As there were no canteen facilities, the employees ate at their benches, a whistle signalling the beginning and end of meal-breaks. Tea, which was brewed from steam in the engine-room, was carried across the yard on large wooden trays. Those teenage girls put in a 15 hour day, catching the 7.25 a.m. train each morning and returning on the 9.25 p.m. at night.

### Carnforth (NIWM No:2229)

OS Map Ref: SD 497707

There is no better recollection of the erecting and unveiling of the Memorial than that of Marion Russell which is reproduced below

**The War Memorial. CP25.** Many families in Carnforth were still grieving for the husbands, sons, fathers and brothers who had died overseas during the war, and had no graves at home. It was felt strongly that our town should erect a fitting

memorial in honour of those whose lives had been lost, and a decision was reached that the statue of a soldier should be placed in A Garden of Remembrance on the Market Ground, and the mammoth effort of raising £1,000 to finance the venture was begun. A fund-raising committee of 37 persons was appointed, headed by our nine councillors F. W Lambert, W R. Williams, J. Smalley, R. T. Barnard, J. Murray, R. Ashworth, J. Kew, A. E. Linnell and Miss Willis.

This team of collectors took on the task of calling at each house in Carnforth; collecting boxes were placed in all strategic positions and every church, club and society joined in enthusiastically. Many individuals were filled with the desire to make their own special contributions. Down Hill Street, little Mrs. Ashton boiled mushy peas in their thousands to sell by the basinful. She didn't feel she'd 'Done her bit for the lads' until neighbours near and far were 'Full up to here' with peas.

The War Memorial Fund Committee published a small pink booklet entitled 'List of Subscribers, ' with the amount of the donation by each name, e. g. Mr. J. Kew had collected £9 2s. 6d. from 15 homes in Haws Hill and Booth Street, and had received sums of less than 5s. which came to £1 7s. 6d ... £10 10s. in all. The grand total for the whole of Carnforth was £891 7 s. 5d. Our old Market Ground was chosen as the site for the Memorial because of its central position, and for the fact that it had always been the meeting-point for all our town's events. It was an uncared for piece of land, and lines of flapping washing, overflowing from Hunter Street and Ramsden Street back-yards, gave it an unsightly appearance. Standing in the Garden of Remembrance our Soldier Monument, N10, was unveiled by Lord Richard Cavendish at 3 p.m. on November 9th.



N10

The dedication service was led by Rev. E. Charlesworth and volleys were fired by soldiers of the 5th. King's Own Regiment. The names of Carnforth's 47 servicemen who had died for our country were recorded on plaques on the sides of the Monument. Sadly they had no graves in Britain, but now they could be quietly remembered in the small pleasant park provided by our townsfolk.

**Note:** A facsimile of the "Pink Book" and a programme of the unveiling service are on the Data Disc.

The Memorial is interesting in that for both of the World Wars the bronze plaques bearing the names included those who had died after the end of the wars, having suffered the effects of war.



N11



N12

The inscriptions on the bronze plaques containing the names are as follows:

Face One, N11. *Erected to the Glorious Memory of the Men of Carnforth who obeyed the call of Duty, went forth and died, for their King and Country in the Great War 1914-1918.* Forty seven names follow.

Face Two, N12, Below a pictorial relief of soldiers, marching proudly are the words *Off to the Front* and below, *This Tablet was erected to the honoured memory of the Men of Carnforth who have died since the Armistice through the effects of their war service 1918-1924.* Ten names follow.



N13



N14

Face Three, N13. *Erected to the Glorious Memory of the Men of Carnforth who obeyed the call of Duty, went forth and died, for their King and Country in the Great War 1939-1945.* Nineteen names follow.

Face Four, N14, is inscribed: *To the honoured memory of the Men of Carnforth who died after the close of the 1939-1945 War from the effects of war service.* One name follows.

As can be seen the proud soldier on the memorial is kept company by a flock of birds! He won't mind.

### Carnforth Congregational Church (NIWM No: None) (See page vi)

OS Map Ref: SD 501706

The Lancaster Guardian, on 21 May 1921, had this report:

**Congregationalism at Carnforth. New War Memorial Window Unveiled** An impressive service was held at the Carnforth Congregational Church on Sunday afternoon when Captain Walter Briggs, of Linden Hall Borwick, unveiled a two-light stained glass window erected in memory of the members of the Church who fell in the war. The window consists of two panels one of which depicts a Red Cross nurse attending a wounded soldier on the stricken field, whilst the other panel portrays St George. On the shield is the inscription: "To the glory of God and all who fought and fell in the Great War 1914-1919", with the names of the thirteen men as follows: R Abbott, A Armer, W Atkinson, S Balderston, R Balderson, R Brockbank, W Pedder, E Penswick, J Edmondson, J Watson, H Penrith, E Parkinson, E Watson.

There was a crowded congregation including members of the Carnforth Branch of the Comrades of the Great War, and the Carnforth Brass Band.

The service was conducted by the Pastor (W H Towers) and Mr Heald of Warton read the lesson. and there were also present the Rev H C Veale (Wesleyan), Captain Macmuir (Salvation Army) and Mr Laycock (Primitive Methodist)

**The Unveiling** Mr R T Barnard (senior deacon) said that sixteen men of the Congregational cause had joined the colours and thirteen had fallen - nine of whom were old pupils of his and had attended the Old British School, now used as the Fellowship Institute. They were useful in the church and performed with others a noble part for righteousness and justice, and died that others might live. They followed the path of duty and they could not think of them as dead, but calling on those left behind to follow the same path. He was sorry that Mr Holmes the designer could not be present as they were much indebted to him for the artistically arranged window.



N15



N16

Mr Walter Briggs, after unveiling the window, referred sympathetically to the bereaved families and expressed the hope that the men who had returned should also be remembered. They had all fought to make a happier world, and the country today needed to follow the example of cohesion which the Great War produced. If they all did their duty trade and prosperity would return. The errors of Russia should make us beware lest we made shipwreck of our Empire.

After the anthem: "Who are those who are arranged in white robes" had been excellently sung by the choir, a time for silent prayer was observed. Mr Threlfall conducted the choir and Mrs Knowles A.T.C.I. was organist. The collection was over £13.

There are two Second World War Rolls of Honour, an original "manuscript" version, N15, and a new plaque, N16, which is beside the memorial Window.

## Carnforth Christ Church (NIWM No: None)

OS Map Ref: SD 499706

There are four war memorials in this welcoming church which clearly illustrate the depth of feeling of the Carnforth folk in honouring their heroes.

From Marion Russell's Book:

On Sunday, July 17th at 2. 00 p.m. a service was held in The Parish Church for the Unveiling and Dedication of a Memorial Window in remembrance of the 50 men who had died in the war. The Dead March from Saul was played on the organ. The Last Post and the Reveille were sounded by a bugle, and Colonel E. North gave an address and unveiled a Memorial Tablet.



N17

The original bronze for The Great War, a memorial tablet, N17 commemorates fifty names and bears the inscription:

*AMDG and in perpetual memory of the men of Carnforth and from Carnforth homes who gave their lives for us and their Country in the Great War 1914-1919. The adjacent window is placed in this church.*

At the end of the Church, near to the memorial tablets, is the magnificent Memorial Window N17A for the Great War 1914-1919. The inscription on the window reads:



N17A

*AMDG and in honoured memory of the men of Carnforth Parish and homes who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1919 RIP. Greater Love Hath no Man than this, that a Man lay down his life for his friends.*

There is a separate bronze panel for the Second World War underneath that for World War One, commemorating twenty lives. The inscription reads:

*For God King and Country. In Hallowed Memory of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Second World War 1939-1945.*



brass plate, N18, with the inscription:

*The carpet in this shrine was given by W T and A J Cherry in remembrance of the men who fell in the two world wars: "For your tomorrow they gave their today".*

Finally, at the entrance to the church facing one, is a framed Roll of Honour, N19. The inscription reads: **CARNFORTH PATRIOTS Great War 1914-1919. These men served their Country from Carnforth and Carnforth homes. Roll of Honour.**

It honours all those who Died or Served in The Great War Showing:

**Died (40), POW (13), Sick (30), Wounded (49 Once, 5 Twice, 4 Thrice), and Gassed (4). Awards: VC-1, DCM-2, MM-10, MC-1, Meritorious Medal - 1. Total names 377, and includes Florence May Holroyd, the only woman.**



N19

**Carnforth Station Albert Halton VC Memorial Room. ( NIWM No None).**

OS Map Ref: SD 496707

Carnforth Station. once one of the main Railway Stations in the land and the location of the famous war time film "Brief Encounter" has been refurbished into a local attraction. One of Carnforth's sons, Albert Halton, received the Victoria Cross in the First World War and so the Station have included a special room in the buildings to his memory and to the memory of the men killed in war.



N20

Carnforth were the first Town to embrace, with much enthusiasm, the concept of a Book of Honour containing biographies of the men commemorated on their War Memorial. The Book was presented in November 2003 and now resides in this memorial room. A picture of the Book and its position in the room (centre on the roll top desk) is at N20.

A photograph of Albert Halton VC, N21, (with replica medals) and a further copy of the Town's Roll of Honour showing both those who died and those who served - another copy is in the Church (see N19).



N21

#### **Roll of Honour 1914-1915 Carnforth Conservative Club ( NIWM No None).**

Also in the Memorial Room, N22, is this Roll of Honour. It covers only the first two years of the Great War. It shows twenty eight men serving naming their Regiments of whom, at that time, two had been killed.



N22

It has hand coloured cartouches which show the main activities at the front: Soldiers, Flying Corps and Medical Orderlies along with a Battleship and Field Gun. Two soldiers in action are shown at the

bottom, Scottish Infantry and Horse mounted cavalry. The two shown as "Fallen" are Herbert Beattie and Gerald Kirk (Warton Memorial); two others were killed later in the war: George Graveson (Warton Memorial) and G R P Howson (Morecambe Memorial).

#### **London North Western Railway Roll of Honour (NIWM No: None ).** Privately owned.

Although not strictly a war memorial this rather wonderful Book, CP24, produced by the Company is a natural follow on from the memorials of Carnforth, for if ever there was a "Railway Town " Carnforth was. It belongs to a local man who, "when he was a lad" played around the memorial and proudly showed his mates "That's my name".

He now knows it was his great uncle who was killed in the Great War to whom the Book was presented;

The Book contained a certificate to each man who was killed showing his name, Grade, Station and military rank all in copper plate handwriting. The certificate, N23, contained these words;

*The London and North Western Company's Roll of Honour: Gratefully dedicated to the memory of London and North Western Railwaymen who lost their lives while serving their country in the Great War 1914-1919, amongst whom was the above. (The name , military rank and Railway "Rank" follow). In asking acceptance of this album the shareholders of the company wish to place on record their deep and sincere sympathy with the relatives and friends of those men to whom this album is dedicated.*



N23

The Book lists all those who worked for the LNWR along with their station and grade; listed also are honours and awards gained.

It gives some idea of the great pride of these companies who most surely made a major contribution into putting the "Great" in Great Britain! The number of different grades listed is quite fascinating and gives a glimpse of the structure of a great railway company and of the undoubted skills and quality of the railway men of that time. And the men of Carnforth were surely that. The illustration, CP24, shows the quality of the outer cover.



N24

The next, N24, gives details of the local men killed: 24 from Lancaster, 8 from Carnforth and one each from Morecambe, Bolton Le Sands, Hest Bank, and Bare Lane stations. Eleven awards were made to local men, N25, including Military Cross (Twice) and nine Military Medals.



N25

There are many other illustrations which include a picture of the War memorial at Euston station, a facsimile of the Roll of Honour showing a total of nearly 32,000 men, 34% of the work force who served in the forces. Another, N26, outlines the enormous amount of strategic and local effort the company provided to assist the war effort. A total of 6,584 women were employed to replace the men who had gone off to war. And this lovely piece:

*In order to assist the effort for home grown food the Company provided 14,000 allotments alongside the*

*line and issued a small guide giving instructions for planting etc!*



N26

An exquisite social document of great interest, particularly locally.

### Caton With Littledale (NIWM No: 3328)

OS Map Ref: SD 530640



N27

The Caton Village Memorial Cross, CP28, stands proudly in its own well kept Garden of Remembrance in a central position at the main cross roads in the village. Of Celtic design, the Cross is richly embellished with beautiful stone carvings which are complemented by a similar carved plaque. Below the carving are the slate name plates, N27, commemorating those who died in the two World Wars. WW1 - 46 and WW2 - 20.

The first name on the WW1 plaque is that of Clementina Addison.

She is one of only two women commemorated on the outside memorials in our area and her story is an interesting and moving one, which is told in full in the Essay section of the data disc. After training as a nurse, at the age of 26, she went off to the front in 1915 to tend the soldiers in the trenches in Verdun. She became very ill and had to return home where she died in March 1916. A contemporary newspaper account records her funeral: "A party of Soldiers from the Bowerham Barracks accompanied the remains". The local Council erected a flagpole at the site to commemorate fifty years of peace 1945-1995.

The Lancaster Guardian of 9 July 1921 records the unveiling ceremony and extracts follow:

**The Caton War memorial was unveiled in July 1921.** "There was a large gathering on Sunday afternoon when the War Memorial Cross in Honour of the fallen was unveiled by Brigadier General Hibbert. The form of the memorial was decided by a meeting of the parishioners convened by the Parish Council. The Cross was designed by Mr H A Paley. The names are inscribed on a panel of green Westmoreland slate. The proceedings were inaugurated by the singing of the National Anthem followed by the hymn "O God our help in ages past" the singing being led by the Caton Choir while the accompaniments were played efficiently by the Caton Band. Mr I H Storey who presided has invested £100 for the maintenance of the cross and grounds.

General Hibbert, before unveiling the Cross, said that they were met to honour the memory of 43 men and one woman of the Parish who gave their lives in the service of King and Country in the Great War and he thought it would be as well to consider the part that Caton had played in the great tragedy which had swept over the whole of the civilised world and had cost us so many valuable lives. At the time the war broke out the population of Caton was 1,100 souls. If they took the population of the country they could say that 7% was the average fighting strength - the men fit to bear arms - and if that was taken as a basis 77 would have been the total sent by Caton. He was proud to think that Caton was not satisfied with that, for no less than 170 men at once came forward to uphold the honour of the country. Of that number one quarter had their names upon this roll of honour. It was a terribly high percentage but one could only think of them with gratitude. Their sympathy went out to those who were near and dear to them and that sympathy was mingled with pride and that saw their duty so

clearly. To all the rest who came back, they had faced death and were unafraid; their gratitude should go out to them and there were others who, due to physical infirmity, were rejected but they were willing to go. There was another class to whom they ought to be grateful. He did not know of a time when the women of Britain played so noble a part as the women did in the war and they ought to remember them.

### **Halton with Aughton**

This Parish has many fine memorials including the Village Cross, The Church and The Village Institute (now renamed The Halton Social Club).

#### **The Village Cross (NIWM 3334).**

OS Map Ref: SD 500648

Situated at the cross roads in Halton, the Cross, CP27, was dedicated in April 1920 by the Rector Rev J H Hastings upon a site given by Mrs Hastings of St Wilfrid's House (Lancaster Guardian dated 3 April 1920). The design, based on Early English, was by Austin and Paley and the masonry carried out by Mr A O Thomas, with carvings by H Birch and G H Leader. The overall height is 15 feet, the cross, which was worked from one block of stone, being 11 feet high. A lakeland slate gravestone tablet bears the names of the twenty five men who died in The Great War; seven names for WW2 were added later. It bears a laurel wreath with the words "*To the men of Halton and Aughton who gave their lives for King and Country in the Great War.*" The base of the cross bear the following inscription: "*These passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self sacrifice*". Altogether 120 men from Halton and Aughton served in the Great War.

#### **HALTON St Wilfrid with AUGHTON St Saviour The Hasting's Window ( NIWM No 18684) CP39**

George Herbert Hastings was the son of Samuel Hastings, the Rector of Halton, and his wife Sarah Louise who lived in St Wilfrids House. His mother, who kept notes of those who died in the First World War, wrote of her own son '1915, Febry, 5<sup>th</sup>. Captn. G. H. Hastings, Middlesex Regt. Killed in action in France and buried in Armentieres.' It can be imagined how painful it must have been for her to write these words. The CWGC states he was a Captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Middlesex Regiment who died on Friday 5 February 1915 aged 34 years. He is buried at the Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery Armentieres Nord, France. This Memorial Window in the village Church was dedicated to him on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1916.



His name also appears on a plaque in the gardens alongside The Village War Memorial. Indeed the village would probably not have this delightful little garden without the tragic death of Herbert Hastings. There is also a commemorative gravestone to him in St Wilfrid's Churchyard and it is located next to that of his parents.

The window at the eastern end of the north aisle is of two lights and was designed and executed by Messrs Shrigley and Hunt, Lancaster and London. The theme emphasises the alliance with France. In one light is St George. He stands with drawn sword in his right hand and his foot upon the dragon which he has overcome. In his left hand he holds an elaborately embroidered white banner charged with his red cross. In the other light is Joan of Arc- a simple figure in white armour with surcoat and mantle embroidered with Fleur de Lys. She is looking upwards and has her naked sword laid across her upraised arms as if asking heaven to accept its service. Both figures are relieved against richly embroidered curtains. Beyond the curtains and behind the heads are, delicately painted, Rheims Cathedral and St George's Chapel Windsor. Around the upper part of the window is a heraldic border of the Lion of England and the Lily of France again marking the alliance. Balancing with the banner of St George there is, above the head of Joan of Arc, the shield of France, blue with three golden Fleur de Lis surmounted by the French Crown. The principal opening of the tracery bears the shield of Hastings and quarterings, in the smaller openings the initials "G.H.H." and the dates of birth and death of Captain Hastings, while at the base of the window are the badges of his two Regiments - The Lancashire Fusiliers N28 and the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) N29.



N28



N29

#### Parishioners Roll of Honour World War One (NIWM No 42334). N30

This simple parchment, encased in an oak frame records the names of the 25 men who died in the Great War. The Inscription reads:

*1914-1918 These passed from sight by the path of Duty Pray for their Souls And all the trumpets sound for them*



N30

#### Parishioners Roll of Honour World War Two (NIWM No 42337) N31

A smart oak frame with seven names inscribed. The Inscription reads:

*1939-1945 These gave their lives for God, King and Country Pray for their souls All they had to give"*



N31

#### Memorial to Surgeon H Davies MB CHB (NIWM No 42339)

This very fine Brass Memorial Tablet, CP26, has a pictorial scene, given in relief, of a fallen soldier being propped up by a second and offered a cup by a third. Behind is a stretcher party with a border of oak leaves. It is not known who designed and produced this very fine piece of work. The Inscription upon the tablet reads:

*In Memory of Herbert Davies MB CHB 4th son of Henry Davies JP of Carus Lodge who, having volunteered in connection with the Transvaal War as a Civil Surgeon for duty at the front,*

*Died of Dysentery at Springfontein in the Orange River Colony June 15th 1900 Whilst engaged in relieving the sufferings of the sick and the wounded of his fellow countrymen Aged 26 years And yet he did much if his days were few*

### Halton Social Club

OS Map Ref: SD 502648

Formerly The Village Institute, it is the home of a First World War Roll of Honour, a Brass Plaque for the Second World War and A Book of Honour, N32.

The Lancaster Guardian carried this report:

The Institute, along with the beautiful Village Cross, have happily completed the War Memorial. Mrs E Sharpe of Halton Hall opened the building and also unveiled the Roll of Honour. It is an oak panel commemorating the names of the 26 who died along with a 113 of who served. It bears the words:

*To the memory of the men of Halton and Aughton who fell in the cause of liberty 1914-1918, and to record the names of their comrades who served in the Great War.*

The building was designed by Messrs Austin and Paley with billiard, reading and lecture rooms each measuring 25 by 16 ft The Committee had purchased a fine billiard table along with the appropriate furniture. The whole memorial had cost about £2000 and the building opened practically free from debt. The Oak Panel was the work of Mr J Jackson, the building work by Messrs Wright and Sons and the lighting by Mr Hartley.

Sir Norval Helme presiding, said that whilst they all rejoiced that victory was won they could not forget the blanks that were left in the family life the village. Mr J Helme, in representing the committee as secretary to the scheme, mentioned that all had worked harmoniously for many years to provide a fitting memorial. It had been a spontaneous expression of gratitude and although there had been some differences of opinion these were never allowed to disturb the harmony or to interfere with the common purpose - to have the best memorial they could. They already had a beautiful cross and now there was an institute which they hoped would be a *'living memorial'*. Colonel G Sharpe on behalf of Mrs Sharpe said his mother was very honoured to unveil the tablet and declared the Institute open.. His mother felt that the tablet was a very excellent thing which would remind future generations of the

reason for putting up the building and show them that in war they were united. Mr Angus, who lost a



N32

son in the war, thanked Sir Norval Helme and Mrs Sharpe for performing the ceremony. Mr John Alston, an ex serviceman supported the resolution.

A Second World War Plaque was affixed beneath the oak tablet commemorating the seven men from the village who had lost their life.

During the Remembrance weekend in 2002 The Lancaster Military Heritage Group presented a Book of Honour containing biographies of the men named on both memorials. The Book was presented by Mrs Anne Wright; she had never known her Father, an Air Gunner in the RAF, who had been killed in the Second World War. The Village later arranged for a handsome cabinet to be made to house the Book which now sits below the Oak Panel in the Billiard Room. (See Chapter 7).

### Over Kellet Village Cross (NIWM No:3298)

OS Map Ref: SD 520700

The Cross, N33, stands proudly in the centre of this pretty Village. It is in very good condition and is nine feet high. The railings surrounding it have recently been removed and it looks much better. The unveiling of the memorial was reported by the Lancaster Guardian on 16 April 1921 as follows.

**Col H D Wilson's Tribute to the Soldiers.** Amidst spring sunshine and nature's resurrection the inhabitants of Over Kellet were joined by hundreds of friends from Carnforth and the adjacent district on Sunday 10 April; when the memorial to ten men from Over Kellet and Capernwray who fell in the

war was formally unveiled by Lieut Col H D Wilson DSO, who commanded the Lancashire Artillery Brigade in France. The memorial takes the form of a "broken " column admirably carved from a piece of local limestone by Mr T Bolton of Warton, the inscription being:



N33

*To the memory of the men of this parish who fought and fell in the great War 1914-1918. "Lest we Forget"*

followed by the ten names.

The Carnforth Branch of "Comrades" including Officers and men headed by the Carnforth Brass Band marched under the command of Major R E Jackson to the ceremonial which has proved to be the most interesting that has taken place in the village. Col Wilson unveiled the memorial whilst the Old Comrades stood to attention and after the Union Jack had dropped he gave a most impressive address. "I just came prepared to pull the cord" he explained " but I have been requested by Mr Garnett to say a few words and feel considerable difficulty about it as the war through which we have just passed is a subject which either much or nothing should be said. However our thoughts must be with the fallen and if I give some little account of the lives and deaths of the loved ones it would be the most suitable thing. If your loved ones belonged to the King's Own 1/5th or 1/4th they would be

members of the famous 55th Division. Everything I tell you will be what I have actually seen them doing if they belonged to that Division; if they were not the remarks will still apply as the conditions and circumstances were almost identical."

**Our Tommies** Describing life out of the trenches behind the lines Col Wilson said "our Tommies made a name for themselves among the working people of France that will never be forgotten. They were billeted in villages and made themselves thoroughly at home doing all they could for the people with whom they were billeted; the lady of the house they invariably called Mother. The result was that the women of France had a very real affection for the British soldier. There was no licentiousness or drinking, their lives were model lives and caused no regrets in France. Up in the trenches it was impossible to describe them otherwise. Even under the most appalling climatic conditions the men carried on with cheerfulness worthy of all praise. They knew that at any moment their end might come with the "zip" of a bullet or the shock of a shell but all was borne with absolutely unflinching cheerfulness.

**Brave in Death** It was unfortunately the fate of every officer to see many men die. The remarkable thing about it all was, although they were cut down, some in their youth, some in their prime, there was no repining such as one might expect if a young man died at home. Probably this was due to the fact that they had been living with death for months and years as a constant companion and had been familiarised with the idea, so that when death came along it was met with the same heroism that the men had displayed in the perils through which they gladly emerged unscathed.

There was perhaps the hope that a message would be sent home, but there was always the hope that the enemy would be defeated and that they would not have died in vain. In the push of 1918 practically every man's chief thought was "We shall stop them shan't we sir? They will never get through to Calais?"

**Many VCs earned** Col Wilson next spoke of the medical services which were perfectly splendid. Nobody wounded was left more than a minute longer than was possible The stretcher bearers behaved with the greatest gallantry and brought them in circumstances which in previous wars would have earned hundreds of Victoria Crosses. When men came to the dressing stations everything

that was humanly possible was done, so that the relatives need have no regrets that things might have been different and think they could have had more attention devoted by the medical men and nurses.

**English Cemeteries in France** The Colonel mentioned that he had just returned from France and had been over the greater part of the line in France and Belgium. "I have visited very many of the English cemeteries" he added. "It may be some satisfaction to the relatives to know that the bodies of soldiers are being most reverently moved from temporary burial places to cemeteries that will be for ever a part of England, with English soil, all fenced in and bearing temporary wooden crosses with number, rank, name and regiment. The grass over the graves was as carefully kept and the paths of gravel weeded as if they were in their own churchyard at Kellet. In a short time permanent stone walls would be erected around the cemeteries and stone crosses would be placed over English graves for all time.

**The Unknown Warrior** But here was another source of comfort for relatives. They had all read of the burial of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey, where the remains lay of a soldier or sailor whose memory was equally respected with the greatest of the British dead buried there. For anything they knew the Unknown Warrior might be one of the Kellet heroes. In conclusion he said Today we should not be mourning but look upon this memorial with pride, every one who reads the inscription should think "**He died for Me**"

One word for the men who returned wounded or in poor health. If there are any employers of labour present I wish strongly to put before them the claims of the Ex Service Men. If they apply for a job and you ask "Where have you been during the last five years" and he answers "In France", I don't want the employer to answer "That's no good to me, I want a man who has been learning his trade". If a man has been in France he has learned much that will be more useful, the principle of sacrifice, how to overcome troubles, self reliance and in a very short time these attributes will be worth more to the employer than if he had been learning the business all the time. So I beg all the employers to give these men the first chance and remember that, but for the thousands like him, the employer would have no business either to live on himself or employ others".

Mr S B Harris (Wesleyan) offered prayers and the relatives laid wreaths at the foot of the monument, a

beautiful wreath also being placed there by Mr Garnett on behalf of the Memorial Committee. Responding to the vote of thanks he said he considered it an honour and a privilege to unveil the memorial. The Last Post was sounded by Bugler R Parker of Carnforth and whilst the Old Comrades stood to attention the National Anthem was played by the band."

This report is included without edit for it gives a feel for the sentiments of the time across a number of issues. No further comment is needed in this book.



N34

### **Over Kellet St Cuthbert Cross (NIWM No: 3299)**

Church Address: Kellet Road, LA6 1DP

OS Map Ref: SD 523697

The Churchyard contains a memorial, N34, commemorating the lives of 12 soldiers who died (10 from WW1 and 2 from WW2).

It is a single stepped base memorial surmounted by a rough hewn plinth and Celtic Cross. It was unveiled in 1921 but no details of the ceremony are available. The Inscription, on a scroll shaped tablet, with the names engraved on a shield shaped tablets, reads:

*1914-1918. Remember with faith and thanksgiving the true and faithful men who, in these years of war, went forth from this place for God and the Right. The names of those who returned not again were inscribed to be honoured for evermore. Father in Thy gracious keeping leave we now our servants sleeping.*

In the Churchyard is the grave and Commonwealth War Grave Headstone of Jeremiah Charles Garnett, Flight Lieutenant (Pilot) Regiment: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died on 14th September 1945; he was 23 years old. He was the son of Reginald Charles and Josephine Mary Garnett, of Bromley Cross.



N35

### **Peace Stone Nether Kellet (NIWM No: None)**

Map Ref OS SD 503680

The Parish Council state that since no men from this sister village were killed, a peace stone, CP30, had been erected. Although not strictly a war memorial it is included here as part of our local heritage. The inscription reads:

*This Tribute to lasting peace was planted by T C Butler-Cole Esq of Tunstall House and Mrs S T Whalen of this Village at the Nether Kellet Peace Celebrations on the 8th Sept 1945 to commemorate*

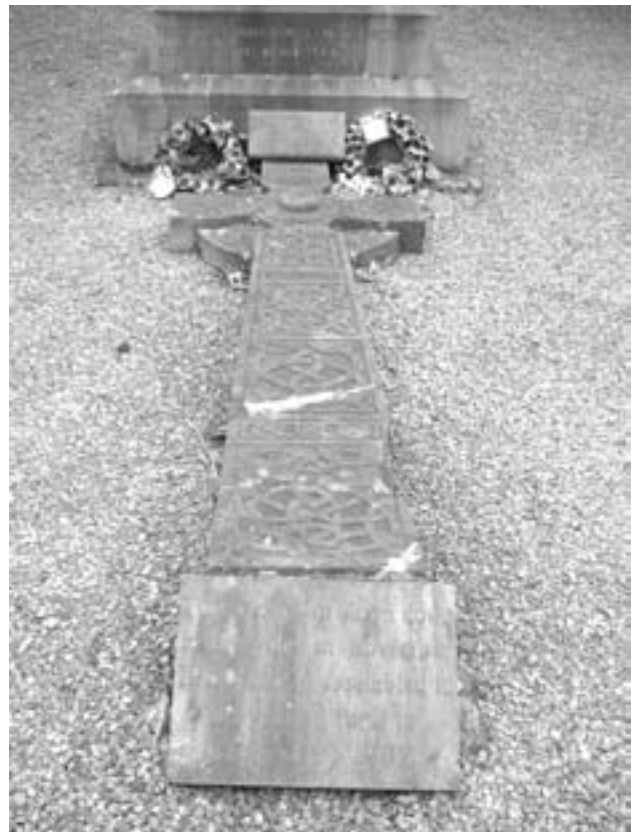
*the cessation of hostilities in the 2nd World War  
3rd Sept 1939 - 15th Aug 1945*

The stone is some 4 feet high and of concrete with the bronze plaque attached. The Rose of Lancashire is included at the bottom of the Plaque.

### **War Memorial Silverdale (NIWM No 593)**

OS Map Ref: SD 460750

This memorial, N35, stands in a very well kept Memorial Garden surrounded by some carefully chosen trees whose leaves wave gently in the breeze. It was unveiled in 1921. The original cross, described below, was blown down by a gale in November 1960. In September 1962 it was pieced together, N36, and laid in front of the plinth. A new, plain Latin Cross was added in June 1979, the funds being raised by public subscription. Interestingly all the stone work on the three occasions was by the same firm.



N36

**Unveiled by Col Wadham of Dalton (From a Lancaster Guardian report):** On Saturday afternoon in the presence of a very large gathering of parishioners the Silverdale and Lindeth War Memorial was unveiled by Col Wadham of Dalton in Furness. The memorial takes the form of a Celtic cross and is of Stainton limestone, about 14 feet in height, the shaft being about 8 feet high and resting

upon a plinth, and two lower bases of limestone. The shaft is beautifully carved in panels of Celtic design and has a most artistic and effective appearance. The plinth is very substantial and weighs about 30 cwt and the shaft about 15 cwt. The site was given by Mr Dickens of Woodlands and is situated close to the Wesleyan Chapel. The front side of the plinth bears the following inscription:

*Erected by public subscription in honour of the men of Silverdale and Lindeth whose names are herewith inscribed, who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1919. On the lower base is: Their names shall live for ever and their glory shall not be blotted out.*

The 26 names are in prominent lettering on the left and right sides of the plinth. The designer of the memorial was Mr T Bolton of Warton and the contractor Mr R J Bolton of Silverdale.

**The Ceremony.** The unveiling ceremony was preceded by a short service in the Parish Church conducted by the Vicar and attended by a crowded congregation. The united choirs (Church and Wesleyan) rendering the musical portion with great effect. Seats had been reserved for the relatives of the fallen and ex servicemen, who mustered in good numbers. Subsequently the large congregation proceeded in procession to the memorial site. Mr T Richmond presided and said they had assembled to show the greatest possible honour and respect for the men of Silverdale and Lindeth who had nobly died for their country. The memorial, they hoped, would stand there for many hundreds of years. Mr Calverly, Secretary, read the report stating that in May 1919 at a public meeting it was decided that to erect a memorial artistic, dignified and worthy of the brave men who had fallen in the war. A committee was appointed and it was decided that the memorial take the form of a cross. The estimated cost was £300 and subscriptions amounted to £295.14s.6d which with bank interest brought the total to £300.

Col Wadham in unveiling the memorial expressed the honour done to him in inviting him to perform the ceremony, more especially as many of the King's Own, a Regiment with which he was connected, were represented and which had done a great deal to win the war. Memorials should not only stand as a tribute to the fallen, but also as a matter of thankfulness for all who had safely returned home. He hoped that the memorial would serve as an incentive to serve King and Country as these brave fellows had done. The "Last Post" was sounded by Buglers Malvaney and Barret, from the King's Own

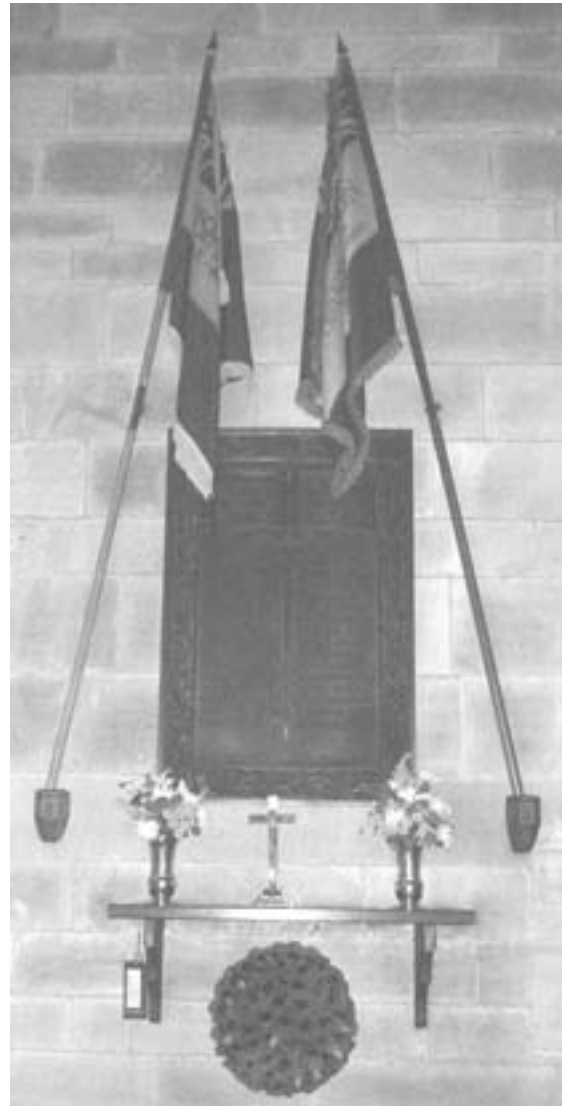
Depot. Col Wadham afterwards distributed bronze medals (provided by the Peace Council Committee) to the relatives of the fallen and the ex servicemen. The National Anthem concluded the ceremony.

## Silverdale St John (NIWM No: None)

**Church Address:** Emesgate Lane

Map Ref: OS SD 468754

There are two war memorials in this Church and a laid up standard. The first, in a side Chapel, is a very elegant arrangement as shown in N37, consisting of a very fine bronze tablet 3 feet by 4 feet.



N37

The inscription at the top reads: *To the Glorious Memory of those from this Parish who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1919.*

A sword of Peace separates two rows of 14 names each (two more than the Village Cross – all the names are on the Data Disc); Lancashire Roses are mounted in each corner and the tablet edged with fine leaf motifs.



N38

In the same Chapel is the laid up standard, N38, accompanied by a brass plaque which reads:

*The Standard of The Normandy Campaign Association 1982-1988. This Association of old Comrades was formed in 1982. In 1984 it took part in the commemorative events held in Normandy to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day. It was dissolved in 1988 when its members joined The Normandy Veterans Association as No 8 Branch, Cumbria with Lancaster. The Standard was placed here in 1995 on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Second World War.*



N39

An imposing double door at the main entrance to the Church, N39, is a memorial to the three men of the village who died in the Second World War.

## Memorial Institute Slyne with Hest (NIWM No: 42424)

OS Map Ref: SD 473660

**"Brick Laying Ceremony at Slyne"** (Lancaster Guardian report of 1922). The inhabitants of Slyne were not to be out done in loyalty and enterprise. On Wednesday the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new Institute Hall, N40, dedicated to the memory of the ten men of Slyne with Hest who gave their lives in the Great War. The building was designed by Mr Thomas Mawson and Sons Lancaster and comprises a main hall 60 ft by 30 ft; Mr R L Dilworth was the builder.



N40

The dedication was carried out by the Rev J T Ormerod of Bolton Le Sands, the cost was estimated at £1400 with £1268 in hand. A kitchen was required and other furnishings so the community were asked to pay for the privilege of laying a brick - a privilege because it was in memory of the men of the village who had given their lives. Mr Kirby said that a strong meeting had been held in 1919 to consider some kind of memorial and a Hall was unanimously approved. The Hall was to be the property of the Parish Council of Slyne with Hest and he was going to ask them to dig deep in their pockets so that the Hall would be completed free of debt. It was a memorial to the boys who were gone, the boys who had given freely of their lives devoted to our freedom. It was a debt they could not repay with money but by erecting the Hall they could do something to honour their memory.

In April 1922 Mr T H Mawson performed the opening ceremony for the new Institute, and the Lancaster Guardian reported: The inhabitants of the Parish, in erecting a Memorial Hall, have appropriately commemorated the deeds of their fallen heroes. The building stands on the road between the two villages and will be the Mecca for social and educational gatherings promoted by the different social and religious organisations.



After about 4 years the funds were raised and the hall officially opened. by Mr T H Mawson who had rendered invaluable assistance to the committee doing all the architectural work with a free and willing hand. He said that they had met to dedicate to the living that memorial to the brave lads of Slyne with Hest who had gone forth to battle, like true knights of St George, for the maintenance of high ideals. Some God had returned home after passing through an ordeal which had made men of them; others returned bearing the marks of their struggles and some alas never returned at all. But all were prepared to do and die and therefore they were under the obligation of each and that was their mark of remembrance of the dead and their token of gratitude to the living. He continued that the purpose of the hall was the cultivation of kindly social and neighbourly graces and virtues which made for communal good will. In the hall they hoped to minister to every need physical, mental, recreational and refreshment so that they would begin the fuller life which everyone had a right to demand. Nothing to his mind would so distress the heroes if they followed their doings in a spirit of a kill joy, they fought to give a better and brighter England in which laughter should again take its place.



N41

Mr Atkinson Treasurer said about £1300 had been raised from subscriptions £667, dances whist drives etc £257, sales of work £66, ladies football match

£30, three gala days £ £211 15s and the stone laying ceremony £40; £100 of debt remained. Thanks were expressed to Mr Mawson and to Mr Wearing Pennington for the execution of the beautiful roll of honour, N41. Rev Legge said the Memorial Hall would be a landmark of the two hamlets. Mr Mawson concluded by saying -"You have not finished here - you want kitchens, bowling greens and tennis courts" That night a grand concert and gift sale were well attended.



N42

### Warton St Oswald with Yealand Conyers St John (NIWM No; 42427)

Church Address: Main Street

OS Map Ref: SD 498723

The Lancaster Guardian 16 October 1920 had the following report on the unveiling.

**Warton War Memorial. Large Gathering at Unveiling by General North.** The dedication and unveiling of a cross, N42, in memory of the twenty men of Warton Parish who fell in the great War took place on Sunday afternoon in the presence of about 800 persons and in beautiful autumnal sunshine. The cross is of Celtic design, is twelve feet high and of Stainton limestone.



The whole has been excellently executed by Mr Thomas Bolton the well know local monumental mason. The total cost is about £150 the whole of which has been subscribed by all classes in the Parish. The names of the fallen are in imperishable lead letters and the inscription is :

*In lasting remembrance of the men of this Parish who laid down their lives in the great war and in gratitude for the safe return of their comrades. Their name liveth for evermore.*

The executive committee were the Vicar The Rev E W A Ogilvy, Miss Baton, Mr R Unsworth, Mr J Platt, Mr Fuller- Maitland, Mr H Bolton and Mr W Briggs. The Cross has been erected just within the churchyard and faces the main entrance gates.

A dedication service was held prior to the unveiling by General North. The Vicar noted that all those in the Parish were united in a desire to do something to keep alive the glorious memory of those who had made the great sacrifice. It would be noticed that they wished to record their thankfulness for those who came back; about 200 gave themselves willingly and all but 20 came back. Might they hope that the



N43

memorial would be a constant reminder of their duty to make good what had been won for them. Let them make the country free of all class prejudices and fights and quarrels. There was a brotherhood throughout the armies, they should not let it go now they had come back, but let there be a brotherhood throughout the whole social family.

General North in unveiling the cross referred to the beauty of the memorial and the brave men who went forth and never came back again. The great crisis had left its mark upon us, there had been nothing like it before. They fought for their very existence for that which had been handed down to them by their ancestors. He remarked upon the beauty of their fine country, a contrast to that in France blown up by shellfire. Thus they would realise what they owed to those brave men, and had it not been for them their fate would have been different. Let them always try to do their best to perpetuate the memory of those who gave their lives. The ceremony concluded with the sounding of the Last Post by Mr Robert Parker of Carnforth, himself an ex soldier. The Warton 1st Troop of Boy Scouts were in attendance.

Inside the Church is a rather fine Roll of Honour, N43, for both wars naming the 20 from WW1 And the ten from WW2

### **Yealand Conyers War Memorial Cross (NIWM No; 3294)**

OS Map Ref: SD 503752

This wonderful cross, CP29, standing in its own roadside garden, is constructed of local stone. Picture N44 shows the gathering of those officiating at the unveiling reported by the Lancaster Guardian report of 28 August 1920 :



N44

**Dedication and Unveiling Ceremony** There was a large gathering at Yealand on Saturday afternoon to witness the dedication and unveiling of a Memorial Cross erected in memory of residents of Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne who fell in the war. The Cross, designed by Mr J E Curwen of Kendal has been erected on the roadside near the National School and about halfway between the two villages and it bears the names of the local soldiers who have fallen.

The unveiling was preceded by an impressive service in the Parish Church conducted by the Vicar the Rev J Gamble. The 90th Psalm was sung and the hymns included "O God our Help in Ages Past" and "For all the Saints".

In the course of an address the Vicar said their thoughts reverted to the 4th August 1914. The heroic deeds of that small expeditionary force and those who answered the call and gave up all the comforts of home, to brave the hardships and stern realities and discipline of the war. It was only right and fitting that they should pay a tribute of deepest respect and gratitude to those who had gone and especially to those who would never return. If it had not been for the loyal and ready response of those heroes England would have suffered the awful ravages of a war and it was for that great service they owed an everlasting debt.

At the close of the service the organist Miss E Corbett played the Funeral March and the congregation wended their way to the scene of the unveiling ceremony which was performed by Brigadier General North CB. Mr J H Ford presided and said the idea was that the cross should be of native stone and simple in design, harmonising with the country side and symbolising the motives of the men to do their duty in the Country's hour of need.

General North said that the cross would be a living memorial to those who had given their lives in the great struggle. The whole nation had gone through a tremendous strain from which they could not hope to recover quickly. They were absolutely forced into war against an unscrupulous enemy who had been preparing for years. Those who had taken part in this war, and especially those who had sacrificed their lives, had saved this country from untold misery and devastation. Seven local names were recorded in connection with the memorial cross including that of Forewoman Minnie Lund who had died at Larkhill Camp 16 March 1919 aged 24 years.

At the close of the ceremony Drummer L Jones King's Own Depot sounded the Last Post and the assembled company sang the National Anthem.

## Yealand Conyers St John (NIWM No: None)

OS Map Ref: SD 507748

There are two rolls of honour inside the Church. The first, N45, is skillfully carried out by hand, painted upon a board framed in dark oak with gold mini-

frames. It includes all the fifty who served, and commemorates the nine who died including one woman. At the top of the Roll is the Royal Coat of Arms and two standards – The Union Flag and the Royal Naval Ensign. The inscriptions read as follows.

## *Roll of Honour – Parishioners of Yealand and others connected with the Parish who served in the Great War.*

*Not unto us O Lord, but unto Thy Name give the Praise.*



N45

The woman who died was Minnie Western Lund whose Commonwealth War Grave headstone is in the Churchyard. She was Forewoman 12180 Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, who died on Sunday 16 March 1919 . Age 24,. The Daughter of Mrs. Jane Lund, of Yealand Redmayne, Carnforth. The "Rank of Forewoman" seems curious until one has sufficient knowledge. We were told by a military historian that women at that time in the QMAAC were not allowed to carry the normal rank titles as we now know them. "Forewoman" is apparently the rank of Sergeant! These wonderful ladies tended the sick, were involved with burials and war grave cemeteries and other duties providing support and succour to soldiers in the field. Bless them. It is a pity we don't know any more about Minnie Lund.

The second, N46, is a Roll of Honour for World War Two. It is handwritten and somewhat crudely done; it could well have been done by school children and is not in alphabetical order. It lists 46 names, and 7 are women. Two men died and are so annotated on the Roll. It is of interest that the sword of Michael Richard North RN, who died in May 1940 and is commemorated on the Roll, turned up in a Lancaster Antique shop recently. How very sad. Full details are on the data disc.



N46

## CHAPTER 5 – THE EASTERN PARISHES

*But to the end, unjudging, he'll endure  
Horror and pain, not discontent to die  
That Lancaster on Lune may stand secure  
Siegfried Sassoon From The Redeemer*

**Arkholme St John the Baptist (NIWM No: 3336 ).** OS Map Ref: SD 588718.

There are two war memorials in this lovely church which nestles, somewhat out of the way, just south of the B2654 Kirby Lonsdale to Carnforth road. The first, E1, is a plain rectangular stone tablet with an inscription, in black lettering:

*In Gratitude to God for Victory and in memory of  
Harold Edward Newby who died for his country in  
1914, and in grateful remembrance of those who  
served in the Great Wars 1914-1918 & 1939-1945.*



E1

The Parish of Arkholme was lucky in that no one was killed in the First World War; however they proudly remember those who served on a very fine Roll of Honour, E2.



E2

This is not in alphabetical order and may have been completed in the date order when the young men enlisted. It is a very neatly produced document, the names hand-written in copperplate. The inscription reads:

*Pray for those who have gone from this Parish to  
serve our King and Country by land, and sea and air.  
Our Roll of Honour.*

Then follow 59 names of those who served in a variety of English Regiments, one each in the RN and RAF, one with each of the Canadian and Australian Forces, and including many well known local names; four Bargh and three Bibby all of whom served with a New Zealand Contingent.

**Gressingham St John the Evangelist (NIWM NO 3326).** OS Map Ref: SD 572700.

Another of the beautiful Lune Valley Churches situated prominently in Gressingham. There are four memorials in the Church, two for each of the world wars. The first, E3, is a brass plaque



E3

It is very well polished, 14 by 8 inches, with the following inscriptions:

*To the Glory of God and in Loving memory of Frank Pearson, Thomas Burrow, Anthony Orr, who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War 1914-1918. Pass not this plate in sorrow, but in Pride, and may you live as nobly as they died.*

This is followed by a well preserved hand written Roll of Honour for the First World War, E4, 30 by 18 inches in a stout oak frame. It is headed "Roll of Honour" and at the top a cartouche of two soldiers (one Scottish) with an engraving of the King in the middle under a collection of national flags. There are 29 names, not in alphabetical order, so again maybe listed by enlistment date. There are 3 Marton, 3 Moore and 3 Thistlethwaite, presumably related.

The three killed who are named on the Brass Plaque are included but not highlighted, which again may indicate that the Roll was in enlistment date order.



E4

The next is a fine mahogany board affixed to the organ, CP31 and E5.



E5

It is 30 by 20 inches and, in gold lettering, commemorates four men who died in World War Two, three of them brothers, as follows:

*For the Worship of God and in loving memory of David Lionel Brendon, Major, Dorset Regiment killed August 11th 1942. This Organ was given by his widow and their parents. And of his two brothers killed on active service at sea. Peter Algernon Lieut RNR March 1941, Michael John Lieut RN Sept 1942.*

*The electric heating in this Church was given in memory of James Clement Hornby, Flight Lieut RAFVR missing in operations over Germany Feb 24th 1944.*

Finally there is another well cared for brass plaque, E6, 10 by 7 inches commemorating two men who died in World War Two, the lettering being:

*An Altar Frontal for use on the greater festivals was given in memory of James Clement Hornby, Harry Sedgewick, who gave their lives in the war 1939-1945.*



E6

The standard War Grave Commission graves of Major Brendon and Anthony Orr are in the new graveyard section to the South of the Church and nearby are the railed in plots of the Pearson and Marton tombs half way along the North side.

**Hornby St Margaret Church (NIWM No: 589).** OS Map Ref: SD SD 585686 Address: Main Street Hornby

There are three memorials in Hornby. The main memorial, E7, is a cross rebuilt from a thirteenth century market cross, and its unveiling was reported by the Lancaster Guardian on August 5 1921 as follows:



E7

**Hornby War memorial Tablet and Cross Unveiled and dedicated.** There was a large gathering at Hornby on Sunday afternoon 31 July when the War Memorial cross erected in honour of the fallen parishioners during the war was formally unveiled by Brigadier General North. The Cross, designed by Mr A H Paley of Lancaster and built by Mr Arthur Thomas, is fixed on a base made of stones removed from the old market cross which date back to the latter part of thirteenth century. The sides of the columns are beautifully carved, the east side bearing a representation of St George slaying the Dragon, on the North side the letters "IHS", on the South a representation of the cross of peace and on the West the figure of St Margaret, the Patron Saint of Hornby Parish Church. On the front side of the plinth is a bronze tablet with the following inscription:  
*Re-erected in 1920 to the heroes of the Parish of Hornby who died for us in the Great War.*

The cost of the monument is about £180 and has been raised by public subscriptions. The arrangements have been carried out by a committee. Prior to the service the ex service men and boy scouts assembled at the Institute and marched in procession to the Church under the command of Capt H Gregg and Scoutmaster H Richardson, headed by the Wray Brass Band under the conductorship of Mr C Dixon. The service was taken by the Vicar of Tatham ( the Rev T Williamson being ill) the Rev H S Roberts and was of a most impressive character. The hymns "For all the Saints" and "On the Resurrection Morn" were sung in addition to Nunc Dimittis and the Rector gave an appropriate address. The names together with inscriptions are shown below; World War One E8 and The Second World War E9.



E8



E9

The Guardian report continued with a "Tribute to Boy Scout".

The procession was reformed and on the way from the Church to the site of the memorial a halt was made at the West end of the Church where Mr C Foster unveiled a brass plaque erected by his fellow scouts in memory of Harold Slinger and bearing the following inscription

*In tribute to Harold Slinger, of Hornby, an only son and ex scout aged 19, who in the Great War in 1917 gave his life for his country on the battlefield of Flanders. Ours The Victory his the Crown, May he rest in peace.*

The Brass Plaque of commemoration, which is in the Church, is below, E10



E10

The organist, Mr Beckett played a funeral march, and the procession wended its way to the green where the Cross has been erected. Here the processionists were joined by members of the Roman Catholic Church, a special service having been conducted in the Church by the Rev Father Smith. After singing the National Anthem General North unveiled the memorial, paying high tribute to the men who had answered the country's call. We owed them a debt of gratitude and we should always honour the memory of those who had given their lives for King and Country.

In addition a **Memorial Playing Field** was provided in 1950 by Sir Harold Parkinson of Hornby Castle.

### **Leck St Peter (NIWM No 3329).**

OS Map Ref: SD 643766 Church Address: Leck, Cowan Bridge, Carnforth, LA6 2JF

The Leck War Memorial Cross, E11, is very well situated and in full view as one enters the Churchyard on the approach to the main door.



E11

On the South Face is the Inscription:

*In memory of Leck and District soldiers who fell in the Great War 1914-1918.*

Nine names follow. The Cross itself is 3 feet high and sits on a pedestal measuring 35 by 20 inches; this in turn rests upon two steps.

The whole is in very good condition; indeed it was being cleaned by a relative of one of the soldiers of the Great War when the photograph was taken. On the West face is inscribed:

*In memory of the men from Leck and District who fell in the war 1939-1945.*

Four names follow. One of the men, Sergeant Lancaster, Wireless Operator and Air Gunner RAF, is buried in Leck Churchyard his grave marked by a Commonwealth War Grave headstone. There is a small cross engraved upon the sculptured cross which bears some initials (in curious script) which seem to read: "EGS", perhaps that of the stone mason?



E12

Inside the Church, in the Bell Tower, is a very interesting Roll of Honour, E12. It is headed "Roll of Honour" and is a facsimile of the signatures from the original treaty of 1831 "guaranteeing the independence and neutrality of Belgium, which was confirmed by the 6 powers in the famous treaty of 1839, the breaking of which by Germany is responsible for the present war with the British Empire". It seems to be a ready made scroll for a "DIY" Roll of Honour. It is headed:

#### **"FOR A SCRAP OF PAPER"**

**ARTICLE I** Her Majesty The Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary and Bohemia, His Majesty King of the French, His Majesty The King of Prussia, and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russia's declare, that the Articles mentioned in the preceding Article, are considered as having the same force and validity as if they were inserted in the present Act, and that they are placed under the guarantee of the said majesties.



**ARTICLE VII.** Belgium, within the limits specified in Articles I, II., and IV. shall form an independent and perpetually neutral state. It shall be bound to observe such neutrality towards other states.

The document bears the signatures of plenipotentiaries: PALMERSTON, Britain; SYLVAN VAN DEWEYER Belgium; SENFFT Austria; H SEBASTIANI France; BULOW Prussia and POZZO DI BORGO Russia.

The facsimile was produced by the Fine Arts Co Ltd of Green St London, by permission of the Foreign Office, and in aid of the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund.

There are 43 names on this Roll of Honour which was obviously filled in as the men enlisted. It includes their regiments. Later those who died are "overwritten" with the date and place of death. A very complete and nostalgic document, part of the social history of Leck. It was rescued from the top of the bell tower by a Leck resident and hung in its present position. The parchment is crumbling somewhat and there is some foxing. The Church Warden said he would consult a picture framer to ensure no further deterioration.

### **Melling St Wilfrid (NIWM No: 3327)**

Church Address: Main Street, Melling, Carnforth, LA6 2RA OS Map Ref: SD 598712



E13

There is a prominent Brass Roll of Honour, E13, in this Church commemorating the six men who fell in the Great War.

It is 28 by 18 inches in size and whereas the brass and mahogany surround are in good condition, the red pitchblende filling of the incised Cross is almost completely gone. The brass bears the lettering: "Singer, Frome", at bottom right. The Lancaster Guardian report of 22 May is shown below in full.

**The Rev H Remmington** conducted a service at St Wilfrid's Church on Wednesday, the occasion being the unveiling of a brass tablet in memory of the six young men of the Parish who had paid the supreme sacrifice in the war. A large congregation assembled. The Vicars Warden, Mr W S Powell explained the object of the service and the Rural Dean The Rev T S Williamson unveiled the tablet. He paid a high tribute to the lads who had so nobly sacrificed their lives. The tablet is erected on the north wall of the chancel and bears the following inscription; "This tablet is erected by the parishioners in grateful memory of ( six names follow) who gave their lives for King and Country, the cause of Justice and Right. The Great War 1914-1918". At the foot of the tablet was laid a laurel wreath tied with red white and blue ribbon and a cross of pale pink rhododendrons.

**Tatham Fells** This is the generic name for the quite beautiful rolling countryside in which the villages of Lowgill, Lower Tatham, and Wennington all sit. There are four war memorials in the area. All come under the Tatham and Wennington Parish Councils.

### **Lowgill Village, Tatham Fells (NIWM No: 586).** Grid Ref SD 654654.

A rather splendid village memorial is at Lowgill, CP 33 and E14.



E14

The Lancaster Guardian of 11 September 1920 reported the unveiling as follows:



"The unveiling and dedication of the War Memorial took place on Sunday afternoon in front of a large gathering of parishioners and friends, the Ceremony being performed by The Rev A S Roberts Rector of Tatham, assisted by the Rev J Moore of Bentham. The memorial is an obelisk 12 feet high of red polished granite and bears on its base the following inscription

*To the Glory of God and in memory of the Tatham Fells men who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War 1914-1918, Faithful unto Death. John Thomas Carr; Lawrence L Dowbiggin; John Emmott; Alfred Gunn. Rest In Peace.*

After the concluding hymn "The Saints of God" followed by the blessing, Gunner John Gordon Leeming of the 13th Batt Tank Corps, who was Mentioned in Despatches sounded the "Last Post". We are pleased to be able to state that the memorial has been erected free of debt."

Facsimiles of the records of the Public Subscriptions, the building of the Memorial by Slinger of Bentham, the plan of the memorial and the order of service are all shown on the data disc. The cost was £118.8s.6d and the plan, interestingly in metric measurement, shows the height of the memorial as 3m 21cm.



E15

### Tatham Fells The Good Shepherd Church

Address: Lowgill, Lancaster, LA2 8PS OS Map Ref: 655654

In the Church is a stunning Roll of Honour in the Form of an Illuminated Manuscript, E15, commemorating two died and fifteen survived. It is mounted in a polished oak frame and is 33 by 27 inches and in excellent condition. It is an unusual memorial of its type in this area in that not only are those who served included, but the movements and actions of each are recorded in fine script. It was professionally produced by H M Davis of Birmingham and is dated 11 September 1920. The full details are included on the accompanying Data Disc; two examples are below:



E16

**JOHN EMMOT** Kings Own Royal Lancasters. Enlisted Jan 2nd 1917 Trained at Oswestry, crossed to France March 1917, Transferred to 8th Batt. East Lancashires. Was in the attack on Massines Ridge, afterwards mentioned in despatches and **awarded the Military Medal** for conspicuous gallantry whilst delivering a message to Headquarters under heavy shell fire. Was wounded and gassed in the same battle. Reported missing between March 24th & 30th found to have been taken prisoner wounded & died in German hospital May 26th 1918, CP32 and E16.

**THOMAS JOHNSON** Kings Own Royal Lancaster's. Enlisted June 18th 1916. Trained at Plymouth, transferred to the Worcestershire Regt. Left Southampton for Mesopotamia April 1st 1917, embarked in HMS Cameronia at Marseilles. Ship torpedoed 100 miles from Malta. Left Port Suez in June in HMS Chahara which grounded in the Red Sea but being towed off returned under own steam eventually reaching Mesopotamia via India, joined the 9th Batt. & fought in several actions against the Turks. In 1918 marched through Persia to the Caspian Sea 700 miles. One of 70 volunteers to hold a pass, marched 40 miles without food & "did" a guard in less than 24 hours. In Baku in 1919, Tiflis Batoum Constantinople & in the wilds of Turkey, sent home in October & demobilized Oct 29th 1919.

**Old School Tatham Fells** (behind the church) is used as a community hall. A Roll of Honour, E17, commemorates the same soldiers as that in The Church, E17.



E17

**Tatham St James the Less, Lower Tatham**  
Church Address: Monks Gate, Lower Tatham,  
Lancaster, LA2 8NH OS Map Ref: 603693



E18

A framed Roll of Honour, E18, is in this Church. In a polished oak frame 26 by 20 inches beautifully scripted and in excellent condition. The lettering is as follows:

*Parish of Tatham. Inscribed on this Roll of Honour are the names of those from this Parish who responded to the Empires Call in the hour of its greatest need, and who served in The Great War 1914-1918.*

The names of two who died and twelve who survived follow. Two of the survivors received the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Also named (but not recorded on the Roll of Honour) are those who served with the YMCA (British Expeditionary Force in France) and were awarded the General Service Medal: Grace Barker Red Cross: Lucy Henrietta Shawcross, John Leslie Thomas Shawcross.

**Wennington.** There are no memorials in Wennington but Air Gunner C F M Saunders, from Wennington Hall, who was killed in World War 2, is buried at Melling. Some of the people remembered in St James the Less Church Lower Tatham will be from Wennington.



E19

**Tunstall St John the Baptist (NIWM No: 3324)** Church Address: Church Lane, Tunstall, Carnforth, LA6 2RQ OS Map Ref: SD 613739

This Church, set well off the road, is in a lovely and peaceful setting. There are six war memorials, five inside the church and three Commonwealth War

Graves in the cemetery. The village Cross, E19, sits proudly in a well kept churchyard by the pathway leading up to the main door of the Church. It is in superb condition, although the lettering is fading slightly. It is of the form of a Celtic Cross in rough hewn stone some 8 feet high sitting on a 3 foot square pedestal. On one face is inscribed:

*To the Glory of God and in everlasting Remembrance of the men of this Parish who sacrificed their lives in the Great War 1914-1918, and as an offering for the safe return of their comrades (Fourteen names) followed by the immortal words: Their name Liveth for Evermore*

On another:

*To the Glory of God and in everlasting Remembrance of those who gave their lives in the Second World War 1939-1945.*

Five names are engraved upon this face, three of whom are buried in the Churchyard.



E20

There is a brass plate, E20, affixed to the organ, E21, (and a very fine organ it is too) with the inscription:

*This Organ was dedicated to the Glory of God on September 12th 1923 it is in part of a memorial to those who fell in the war 1914-1918.*

There is a Framed Roll of Honour, E22 for the Great War, 27 by 22 inches, and in very good condition.

In common with many of the memorials of this type in the Lune Valley it is "Home Made"; beautifully illustrated with a border of a grapevine, a central cross and crown, it has written in scroll work:

*The Great War 1914-1918. Greater Love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for a friend. Roll of Honour Parish of Tunstall.*



E21

Then follow 41 names of those who served including the 14 who did not return; it is hand-written and includes decorations.



E22

A similar hand-written Roll of Honour, E23



E23

for The Second World War headed "Roll of Service" lists 39 names, including 8 women. Three names are annotated with a cross, of whom two are on the Main Memorial outside. E D W Lawford is not so marked although he died in 1942 and is buried in the Churchyard.

The next memorial is a magnificent stained glass window, E24, with three lights depicting St George, St Michael and Joan of Arc.



E24

The lower parts of the windows contain the inscription:

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Eric Brown Lees, Major, Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry Killed in Action near Albert July 31st 1918 This window given by his wife. A Good soldier of Jesus Christ.*



E25

Finally we come upon a very old memorial, E25, a white marble tablet 5 by 3 feet set in a grey granite border and in very good condition. The Inscription reads:

*In Memory of Capt Louis Aylmer North 2nd Son of North North Esq sometime of Thurland Castle and Lord of This Manor. He died in South Africa Dec 3rd 1901 of enteric fever aggravated by old wounds received in the Tirah campaign when serving with the Royal Scots Fusiliers at the storming of the Ubhlan Pass in 1896. Dulce et Decorum Est Pro Patria Mori.*

**Whittington in Lonsdale St Michael the Archangel (NIWM No500) OS Map Ref: SD 600760.**

Outside the Church is the Village Cross, E26 and there are four more memorials inside the church. The Cross shaft is 5 feet high upon two pedestals and a stone base. All the stonework and lettering is in very good condition. There are six names boldly engraved upon the pedestals, five from the First and one from the Second world wars. It sits at the side of the Church on the edge of a warm grass path leading to the main door.



E26

Inside are two memorials to those who fell in the First World War.

The first, E27 is a glass framed Roll of Honour set in a polished oak frame. Well executed it has a leaf border with the Lancashire Rose at intervals. It is headed:

*Whittington Men of this Manor who served in the War 1914-1918.*

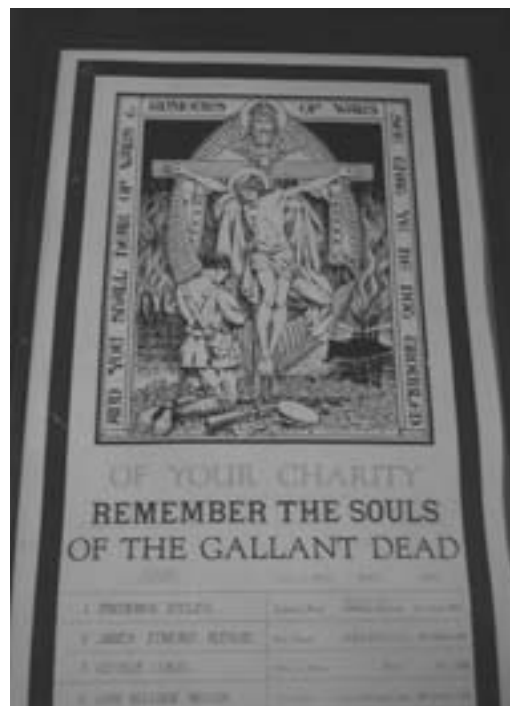
Fifty names follow and there is no indication of those who died although the five men commemorated on the outside cross are included. Decorations are also shown and there are six

"Norths"; a Brig Gen, three Lt Cols a Major and a Lt, presumably all from the same family.



E27

A second Roll of Honour for World War One, again framed, E28, commemorates thirteen men, showing their names together with the cause, place and date of death. Names are typed in date of death order, and all thirteen are on the previous Roll of Honour.



E28

The cause of death is interesting for listed are: typhoid, shell shock, shell burst, killed in action and pneumonia. The Drawing at the top depicts a soldier kneeling before Christ, in the background is a burning town on the left and a ship on the right. The lettering around the top reads:

*“And you shall hear of Wars, rumours of Wars. See that Yee be not troubled”. The Roll of Honour is headed; “Of your Charity, Remember the souls of the gallant dead”.*



E29

These are complemented by a Roll of Honour for the second World War, E29, headed:

*Men and Women of Whittington Parish who served in the War 1939-194.*

Seventeen names follow, including two women and Major North who was killed and is named on the Cross outside. Finally there is a very fine three light stained glass Memorial Window, CP34, with a brass plate at the side which states:

**We pray you remember in the Lord, John Dawson Greene, 2nd Lieut Grenadier Guards who died April 23rd 1918 of wounds received in action in France, aged 20 years. To whose memory his Mother Sisters and the Tenants of the Whittington Hall Estate have erected this window.**

**Wray Holy Trinity (No NIWM No:) Church**  
Address: Main Street, Wray, LA2 8QQ OS Map Ref: SD 603677

There are two memorials in this Church. The first, E30 is of a mottled white marble construction 36 by 30 inches. It has a simple leaf motif in each corner

and a Cross engraved on the top left. A similar marble shelf is below upon which to rest flowers.



E30

**The Inscription reads:**

*To the Glory of god and in the memory of ( seven names follow) who fell in the Great War 1914-1918. Also in grateful acknowledgment for the lives of those who were spared to us.*

The second one is another Roll of Honour for the First World War, E31



E31

This has been recently installed. It is in a handsome mahogany frame 30 by 24 inches and is beautifully scripted. This now commemorates fifteen men, including the seven on the marble tablet. Research by the parishioners show that a further eight men who died were connected with Wray. The inscription reads:

*The Parish of Wray with Botton. Remembered here are the names of the men of this Parish who gave their lives in World War .*



## CHAPTER 6 THE SOUTHERN PARISHES

*Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow;  
I am the diamond glints on snow.*  
Anon

### Abbeystead Over Wyresdale Christ Church (NIWM No:590)

OS Map Ref: SD 551545

The Abbeystead or Wyresdale Village Cross, S1, stands in a prominent position in the churchyard. It is a peaceful spot overlooking the tumbling greenery and hills of the Lune Valley. It is a fitting position for the nine soldiers of the First World War and the two from the Second; they can look out on England's beautiful countryside. The Cross is of Celtic design, sitting on three steps. The lower shaft, 3 feet high, bears the names whilst the upper more slender shaft five feet high, bears a carved crown below which is the inscription:



S1

*Remember The Men of Wyresdale who fell in the War 1914-1919.*

Below on the top step has been added: 1939-1945

We have not been able to find any details of who made the cross or when it was unveiled.

**Cockerham St Michael's (NIWM No: 42328 – The Harrison Tablet only) )**  
OS Map Ref: SD 463519

This is a delightful Church, known as "The Church in the Fields". It stands proud and prominent and, it is said, " served as a beacon for mariners out at sea". Cockerham is mentioned in the Domesday Book and St Michael's was thought to have been founded in 1134. Some of the Stained Glass was designed by Ford Maddox Brown, Edward Burne Jones and William Morris, famous in their day as leading exponents of the Art and Crafts movement. It is believed that there is an unmarked "Plague Pit" at the East end of the Churchyard used during the Black Death when half the population of Cockerham perished. The Harrison family of Hare Appletree contributed to building of the Chancel, and upon the wall is engraved:

*To the Glory of God and in glorious remembrance of his Grandparents, This Chancel was erected by George James Harrison of Hare Appletree March MDCCCCXI.*

(All this taken from a very informative history of the Church - with thanks)

There are four War Memorials in the Church, and two soldiers of the Great War are buried in the Church Yard: T Harrison of the Canadian Infantry and James Corless of Cockerham; both died in 1919. It will be seen that the Harrison family are well represented in this Church and no doubt the Canadian Soldier was a relation.



S2

The oldest memorial, S2, is to an individual, a Major in The Cameronians who died at Lucknow in 1891.

It is a very fine brass tablet with the Regimental Badge engraved and some decorative additions in each corner. Very high up on the wall, 4 foot wide and 3 foot high, it is quite dirty at the moment and the lettering not easy to read. Nothing that a good wash in soapy water would not put right - if you are brave enough to climb up!

The inscription reads: *In Memory of James Bond Clarke, Major in the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), second son of the late James Addison Clarke Esq of the Laund in this Parish, and of Slimmer Hill in the Parish of Ulverston and Mary his wife. He died at Lucknow January 28th 1891 aged 45 years.*

The first of two memorials to the Great War is a superb bronze tablet, CP36 , with fine decoration including a Laurel Wreath and an inscription:

*To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of the men from this Parish who gave their lives for their Country in The Great War.* Two names follow J Corless and J Hornby

The next is the "Harrison Family Tablet", S3, (NIWM No: 42328). It is an alabaster tablet (similar to others in the vicinity and maybe by Shrigley and Hunt - see the entry for Bolton Le Sands Church) and apparently was erected in 1918.



S3

The inscription is engraved upon the tablet: *To the Glory of God and in remembrance of Harold M Harrison, NZFA, died of wounds near Ypres 23 October 1917 aged 21; Gerald J C Harrison, NZEF, killed in action near Ypres 3 December 1917 aged 22, sons of James Harrison, Chibeln New Zealand; and of Charless Griffin Harrison, Lieut Yorks & Lancaster Regmt, killed in action at Bourlonville, 27 November 1917, aged 22, son of Thomas Harrison Kaikoura NZ. Grandsons of John Harrison of Cockerham.*

*They loved not their lives unto death.*

How very sad for the Harrison family, particularly if T Harrison was one of theirs, and was to die just two years after his three relatives. Perhaps they had all emigrated to seek their fortune, and, like many similar young men from the locality who had done the same, had volunteered immediately to "do their bit" in the Great War.

The fourth memorial is for the Second World World War, S4, a brass plate neatly engraved with this inscription::



S4

*To Commemorate those who gave their lives in the Greater War 19139-1945.* Four names follow: Alan Williams, Owen Williams, David Lee Karck, Richard Jarvis.

The description "The Greater War" is a unique and interesting description which presumably relates to the world wide conflict of the Second World War as compared with the First.

The leaflet giving the history of the Church bids: "*as you leave our Church realise that it is the home of a living religion, and that people worship here today as they have done through many centuries*". It is indeed a sobering thought set against the backdrop of our helter skelter life today and serves to emphasise once more the strength of the human spirit characterised by the young men commemorated in this Church who went off to war for all of us.



## Dolphinholme St Mark's Church

(NIWM No:3302)

OS Map Ref: SD 517535



S5

The Village Cross, S5, was dedicated by Canon Percy Coates of Bentham during a ceremony in April 1920. The Cross was designed and executed by Messrs Maill and Sons London, and is of unpolished cornish granite standing 10 feet high. The names of 19 men from Dolphinholme are incised upon the base. Mr T Kellet of Green Bank unveiled the Memorial and a Last Post played by buglers from Lancaster Barracks.

### The Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground(NIWM No:42331 )

The Hall was also opened in April 1920, being the second part of the scheme for the War Memorial. Mr Garnett of Myerside had generously donated the building and Mr Wilson together with Mr Harrison and his work force had carried out the works at a cost of about £400. The Hall consisted of rooms for a war memorial, concerts, dressing and tea rooms. At this occasion the Vicar Rev T C Milner commented that "...this second part of the village intentions provided for a building both for a

Memorial to the men who had died and a common centre for the social life of the village. Mr Welsh declared the building "Open" and Mr Armitage from Galgate spoke about the necessity to provide social recreational and educational facilities for villages as well as the towns - the whole thing was splendid. An entertainment followed including sketches entitled "Rip Van Winkle" and "Dolphinholme 10 years hence" both of which included happy hits. The whole occasion was greatly enjoyed by all

*Source: LancasterGuardian 3 and 10 April 1920.*



S6

The Memorial Hall contains a Roll of Honour, S6, encased in a very fine oak frame five feet by four feet with an arched top below which is a nicely carved Lancashire Rose and a scroll "1914-1919". An inscription follows:

*The following are the names of the Men who went from this Village to serve in the Great War: Fallen (17 names); Served (68 names). May they be held in Remembrance.*

There are two mysteries about the names. We cannot find any reference to a Guy De Puy Fontaine in any of the British reference data. However some extensive research in Dolphinholme has located a French soldier who was killed in World War One. Full details are now included in his biography which can be found on the data disc. Neither he or Thomas West, both on the Village Cross, are named on the Roll of Honour. We found two soldiers of this second name both of whom were born and enlisted in Blackburn; the wife of one, a Gunner from the Royal Horse Artillery, is also recorded as from Blackburn. Full details of all the soldiers are contained on the data disc.

**Forton Village War Memorial. (NIWM No:None )**

OS Map Ref: SD 487513

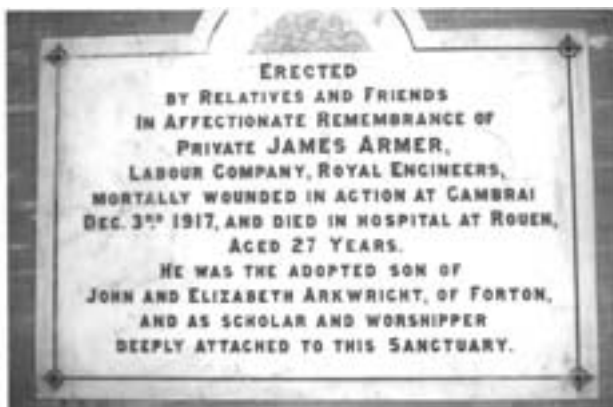
This lovely Cross, CP38, was situated on the A6 until, after a series of road traffic accidents, it was moved in 1996 to its present position central in the Village. It is situated in front of the old schoolhouse which is now used as a Village Hall. The inscription reads:

*To the Honoured Memory of the Men of Forton and District who fell in The Great War 1914-1918.*

Fifteen names are recorded for The Great War and the names of five local men who died in World War Two were added after the war.

The unveiling was reported by the Lancaster Guardian on 5 February 1921:

“Symbolic of their sacrifices made during the war a wayside cross was unveiled at Forton by General Hunter MP. The cross was erected on the main Lancaster to Preston road (the A6) at a junction leading to Forton School. It is of Welsh stone 12 ft high and artistically carved with a crown in the centre and on the on the base are carved 15 names. Many residents relatives and schoolchildren attended together with a large representation of the local clergy. Gen Hunter mentioned that 5 of the men were from the local regiment, The King’s Own, who had lost 6349 officers and men; the cross would be a reminder to the boys and girls of what the men had done for them before they had grown up and act as an inspiration for the future. The Cross was unveiled with the words; “To the Glory of God and to the sacred memory of the soldiers whose names are inscribed upon the Cross”.



S7

**United Reformed Church School Lane Forton. (NIWM No: None).**

A plaque, S7, commemorating James Armer of the Labour Company Royal Engineers is in this Church. Clearly a well loved soldier much missed..

**Ellel (Galgate) St John the Evangelist (NIWM No:554 )**

OS Map Ref: SD484554

**Ellel War Memorial (Lancaster Guardian August 1921)**

**Formal Unveiling by Captain John Welch** There was a large gathering of the parishioners of Ellel on Sunday afternoon when the war memorial was formally unveiled and dedicated. The Cross, S8, runic in design on a plain shaft bears the Inscription: *In memory of the men who gave their lives for their country especially those of this Parish and in gratitude for the safe return of their comrades 1914-1919.* Of the 200 men of Ellel who served during the war 20 fell (the names followed).



S8

The cross was erected by public subscription the arrangements being carried out by a committee of ex service men.

The unveiling ceremony was preceded by an impressive service in the Church which was crowded to the door, those present including relatives of the fallen, ex servicemen and a detachment of boy scouts. The service was conducted by the Vicar the Rev Roy Coleman. He said that he had pleasant memories of most of them and did not need a piece of stone to remind him of them. They would live in their memories for ever but the memorial was something to show the honour in which they held them and would continue to hold them in years to come. It was an expression of gratitude for all they and others did for them. God grant that those who remained might catch some of the spirit and patriotism which helped them to make a great sacrifice. The memorial was also a reminder of the great principles for which they died; liberty, justice, freedom and all that went to make Great Britain such a great Empire. It was also an expression of thankfulness for the safe return of many others. More than 200 names were on the list of those who went from this Parish and of these 20 never returned, and it was by special request that that the inscription included a note of gratitude for those who did return. It was left to them to carry on. It would be by no means an easy task, but difficulties were made to be overcome and there was always a duty to be done and if they were animated by the spirit as those who had made such a sacrifice living for one another and helping one another in the spirit of good comradeship and good fellowship the difficulties would be overcome and they would pull this country around again. He believed that the only thing that was going to save England now and in the future was the Christian faith apart from that there was no hope.

**Unveiling Ceremony** At the close of the service there was a procession to the Cross which stands in front of the Church. So universal was the feeling that the committee of ex servicemen was approached to solicit contributions; over 95 per cent of houses in the district contributed. The many who had fallen lay very close to where they had fought and in many cases it was quite impossible that relatives could make even one pilgrimage to their graves but the Memorial belonged to them all, for he supposed that there was not one of them who had not suffered bereavement in some form during the war. After reading the names of the fallen Capt. Welch said that their lives spoke for them. Some he met in France always cheerfully going about their duties animated by that British spirit which refused to be beaten. That cross was not only a Memorial to brave men but it was also a reminder that no great

power should try to attain the selfish ends by means of mere brute force. It was also a memorial that would remind them of the lessons of patriotism comradeship and all that these things meant which they learned during the war.

The sentence of dedication having been read three volleys were fired by a detachment of troops from Bowerham Barracks and the Last Post and Long Reveille were sounded by a bugler.

### **Ellel (Galgate) War Memorial Hall(NIWM No: 51421)**

OS Map Ref: SD 486558

**Interesting Ceremony at the Village Institute S9**  
(Lancaster Guardian 2 October 1920)



S9

The villagers of Galgate are to be congratulated on the practical way they have decided to remember their heroes who fell in the war. This has been possible through the generosity of Messrs W Thompson and Co Ltd the owners of the Galgate Silk Mill. They transferred the deeds of the old schoolroom in Stoney Lane erected by John Armstrong in 1844 - as a recording stone proves - to the Parish Council who have also contributed £100 towards its enlargement and transformed it into a Village Institute; a large assembly hall to accommodate 300 people, provision for a billiard room for two tables, a room to hold laundry and cookery classes, a lavatory and cloakroom facilities. The Lancashire Education Committee have taken the premises for 5 years. The cost of the present scheme is £1300. Mr W Armitage, Chairman, declared the stone, S9, well and truly laid in honour of those boys who did so much for us and with the hope that with prayer they might all prove worthy.

Major and Mrs Sandeman laid new stones, S10, and referred to the gift from Mr Thompson which he hoped all would appreciate. Lady Hunter wife of Sir Archibald Hunter, Mr Storey and the Vicar Rev F Coleman all made remarks, welcoming the new Institute as a centre for education.



S10

Finally the Galgate "Peace Mug" is shown at S11 and S12.



S11



S12

### Glasson Dock The Memorial Hall (NIWM No: 462)

OS Map Ref: SD442558

The Lancaster Guardian of 29 May 1920 contained an illustration, S13, of the proposed Memorial Hall and Cross to be built at Glasson Dock. This perspective drawing was hung at the Royal Academy Exhibition in 1919, a great tribute to Mr C B Pearson FRIBA of Dalton Square.



S13

The Cross would bear the names of the fallen and the Memorial Hall was to have a committee room, cloak room and assembly hall and library. The concept was of a "garden village scheme" providing "much needed village accommodation".

Villagers currently gather in the school room so the memorial hall would meet a long standing want. It was "hoped that the men who toiled in the trenches would be remembered by those who were sheltered in their Island home".

The Memorial Hall was built but not the Cross.

A Roll of Honour Board, S14, takes pride of place in the Hall and the Lancaster Guardian of 15 April 1922 carried this report of the opening ceremony:



S14

"The opening of the Glasson Dock War memorial is to take place on Easter Tuesday, Captain Brian Bibby performing the ceremony. An excursion train was run from Castle station. Glasson was an ideal Easter holiday spot with glorious views including The Lune Estuary, Morecambe Bay, The Fells and the Blackpool Tower! The first tidal gates were constructed at Glasson Dock in 1795. These enable vessels to float whilst unloading cargoes. Owing to lack of funds it was not possible to complete the whole of the scheme and a Memorial Cross was not then affordable. The Memorial Hall has a large meeting room 49 ft by 23 ft with committee and cloak rooms. The contractors were Thompson and Morris the estimate for the building being only £1750 16s 6d. The architect was Mr C B Pearson of Lancaster. Later Guardian reports were about the opening ceremony (15 April 1922) and "Finding a silver trowel in an Antique shop in Lancaster (15 Feb 1952).

### Glasson Christ Church (NIWM No:None)

OS Map Ref: SD 454559

This pretty Church extends a warm welcome message on its notice board and contains a beautiful alabaster Roll of Honour, S15. The inscription on the Roll of Honour reads;

*To the Glory of God and in grateful remembrance of the men of this Parish who fell with their comrades in the War 1914-1918.*



S15

A plaque for the Second World War has been added. Eighteen names from WW1 and four from WW2 are commemorated on both the Church and Memorial Hall Rolls of Honour.

We have no further details of the unveiling of the Roll of Honour in the Church.

### Overton St Helen's Church (NIWM No: 42415 and 3331)

Church Address: St Helens Road, Overton

OS Map Ref: SD 442575

The Village War Memorial, CP35, is just outside of the door of the Church. It takes the form of a rough hewn, granite two step base Celtic cross surmounted by a tapered plinth and shaft. Inscribed upon the smooth faces are the words;

*This Cross is erected in honour of the Boys of this Parish who fell in the European War 1914-1918 followed by Killed in Action, France (seven names) also Pte P Shuttlewoth RAF Died whilst Training. On the lower face: Also in The World War 1939-1945 - five names including only the fourth woman named on an outside war memorial in this area: Wren Eugenie Nettelton Denby.*

We understand that there is one name missing from the memorial, and he is well remembered. This memorial appears to have two NIWM Numbers, the larger one the most likely.

Inside the Church is a stained glass window, S16, commemorating a local Colonel Satterthwaite of the Loyal Regiment who died in 1930.



S16

## Overton The Memorial Hall (NIWM No: 42416)

Heysham Road Overton Map Reference SD 430580



S17

Outside the Hall is a foundation stone, S17 and S18, :

*Laid by the President Brigadier GF H R Maclean  
CBE MP July 9th 1919.*



S18

Inside the Hall is a brass plate inscribed: *This hall was built in honoured memory of all from this district who made the supreme sacrifice and who served in the two Wars 1914-1918 and 1939-1945.*

Below this is a framed photograph of the War Memorial Cross outside of the Church showing the names of the men who died. At the side is a nice framed photograph of the entire Hall Committee at its opening in 1949. The hall is central to Village life and is well used. Every Remembrance Weekend a wreath is laid in the Memorial Hall by the side of the Brass plaque

## Quernmore St Peter's Church

OS Map Ref: SD518603

This Church, way out on its own is home to two memorials. The first is an oak Honours Board, S19, (NIWM No:563) five feet by four with a semi circular top which has a carved laurel wreath and the words; 1914-1919 and commemorates those who served. It is inscribed: *Roll of Honour. The Men and Women from this Parish who served their country during the Great War*

The names of four who served in the Royal Navy, forty four in the Army and five women follow.



S19

Nearby is a brass tablet, S20, (NIWM No: None) three feet by two and a half feet, commemorating the three men who died in the Great War.



S20

It has a Cross within a laurel wreath and the inscription reads:

*To The Glory of God and in Memory of (three names follow) Men of this Parish who died for King and Country in the Great War 1914-1919. Let those who come after see to it that their names be not forgotten.*

# **Scorton Parish Church (NIWM No: Not Known)**

OS Map Ref: SD479523

This beautiful Church is the home to six memorials. The Village Cross, S21, has a central shaft four feet high with a Greek Cross above, the whole sits upon a square pedestal which bears the inscription:

*1914-1918 They Died that we might Live. To The Glory of God and in Sacred Memory of* (nine names follow) *1939-1945 (One Name)*



S21

Inside there are framed Rolls of Honour for both wars.



S22

That for the Great War, S22, is handwritten and lists the names of forty four men along with their regiments who went away to war. The one for the Second World War, S23, lists sixty six men who served and is in fine script.



S23

There are also three oak plaques commemorating four soldiers and a sailor. All are handsomely finished.



S24

The first, S24, is to two brothers: *To the Glory of God and in memory of* (two Ormrod brothers, both Captains who fell in 1916/17.).



The next, S25, is to an individual; the inscription reads:

*To the Glory of God, and in memory of our beloved son William Broughton Applegarth, Machine-gun Co. Coldstream Section, Guards Division, B.E.F. killed in action Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 1917, at Combles, France, in his 21<sup>st</sup> year. "Greater love hath no man than this."*



S25

The Coldstream Guards Badge is resplendent in the centre flanked by Lancashire Roses.

Finally S26 also to an individual, is decorated with Royal Navy Insignia and the inscription, surrounded by ships rope; reads:

*To the Glory of God and in most loving memory of Arthur J Collins RNR DSM. Killed at Sea 7<sup>th</sup> July 1917 aged 30. "Returning to Harbour"*



S26

## Thurnham Memorial Hall (NIWM No: 561)

OS Map Ref: SD460545

THURNHAMS MEMORIAL (Lancaster Guardian 28 August 1920)

To pay a tribute to "The honour of the unreturning brave" who fought and fell in the Great War, and also to provide a place of recreation for their successors, the Thurnham Memorial Hall, CP41, was opened in the old fashioned village, with the remnants of thatched roofs, last Wednesday afternoon by Mr J H Dalton the owner of the estates so long associated with the Fitz Gerald and Daltons of Thurnham Hall - a relic of Jacobite days.

Standing on the rising ground of the village and with a fine view of the farm lands which stretch right to Cockersand Abbey, on the shores of Morecambe Bay, the New Institute is a substantial single storey building of brick with an entrance from the roadway. It had a startling experience for last December whilst a storm raged the building, then in course of construction, was blown down. Steps were taken to strengthen the structure which it is intended, when funds permit, shall carry another storey and provide billiard and reading rooms. The interior is brightly distempered in sea green and the walls are decorated with pictures two of Landseer's works having been presented by Mrs Shannon.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

Mr and Mrs Rigbye have made a suitable gift in the form of an oak roll of honour, S27, on which are inscribed the names of the four heroes from the Parish who fell and the 25 who served their King and Country. The design is very effective including the Lancashire Roses and upon the scroll work is painted the following text:

Thurnham Roll of Honour 1919, The Glorious Dead F Hodgson L C; I Pye W C Y M C's; J Hornby 54 A L E F; W Wright 1-5 K O R L R; This tablet was presented to the Thurnham Village Hall by Mr and Mrs Rigbye 1920.

The estimated cost of the building was £500 but it was expected that £800 would be nearer the mark. Towards this, by organising entertainments at Thurnham Hall, about £166 had been realised in the past year.

The building committee consisted of Mr Dalton President and Messrs W Pye, J Jollye and J Rigbye trustees, Mr J Rigbye Chairman, Mr Shannon Hon Sec, Mr W M Pye Treasurer, Mrs Shannon Secretary of the Entertainment Committee and Mrs Rigbye Treasurer.



S27

## Opening Ceremony

Mr Mattinson, contractor, provided a silver key for the opening ceremony and this was presented to Mr Dalton by Mrs Shannon. Amongst others present were Rev C E Golland Vicar of Glasson Dock and Miss Dawson of Aldcliffe Hall.

Mr Dalton expressed his pleasure in being asked to perform the opening ceremony of the Village Institute which marked an achievement and showed what could be done by hard work and an enthusiastic committee. The tenants of the estate, and other friends in the surrounding district, had subscribed nobly and well and if the effort that day came up with expectations he would be delighted. The misfortune which occurred last December when the building under construction was blown down by a storm would have disheartened many but Thurnham people had been undaunted. Having laid the foundation stone he now had pleasure in

declaring the building open. In conclusion he thanked the contractors and those who had assisted in carting materials and handed over to the trustees the deeds of the land upon which the Institute was built and a plan of the same. Mr Dalton then unlocked the door with the silver presentation key and entered the Institute amid applause.

The Rev Golland in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Dalton mentioned that he had often spoken to Mr Dalton of the need for a recreational institution such as those which were known to have done good service in America. With that need was coupled the desire to show their gratitude for the true patriotism of the men in the village and the district who had fought in the Great War and, with millions more, conquered against a more disciplined but more serf like foe. In spite of the heavy burdens of taxation and the higher price of living he was sure that money would be forth coming to prove they appreciated the sacrifices which had been made. They thanked Mr Dalton.

## CHAPTER 7 THE WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT

*Didn't the Spitfire make such a noise – "That wasn't noise" said a Veteran – "That was a melody!"*

*Overheard at the VE 2005 Celebration*

### The Origins

**Lancaster's Military Heritage.** The history of Lancaster is integral with the military history of the area. The arrival of the Romans in 70 AD led to the establishing of a Roman fort which remained on Castle Hill for the next three centuries. Only recently, in October 2005, excavations revealed a memorial to a Roman Trooper, and we include this in our survey (see Chapter 2). Whilst soldiers lived in the fort, a village grew up outside the walls, and this expanded to what we today call Lancaster.

The conflicts of the 20th century have had a major impact on Lancaster. In the South African War of 1899-1902 the locally based King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment was one of the first to depart England for South Africa - and as the war continued Volunteer and Militia soldiers from the local area went out to join the regular army (See Chapter 2)

Both the First and Second World Wars saw the involvement of the local regiment, The King's Own, but many other units also recruited in the area. The local gunners of the 88th Field Regiment Royal Artillery (350 Battery was based at Dallas Road) served in France and Belgium, before being evacuated through Dunkirk, only to be sent to the Far East where many men were captured at the fall of Singapore to the Japanese. The Second World War saw an influx of soldiers, taking over Ripley School in Lancaster and Middleton Towers Holiday Camp and the RAF took over many of the hotels in Morecambe (The Midland being a Hospital).

Local industry turned to support the war effort. Furniture makers Waring and Gillow made everything from tents and canvas bags and equipment to the wooden wings for gliders. Many women were employed in support of the war effort, including clerks who worked for the Canadian Treasury who had offices in Lancaster; the City Museum was closed for the duration of the conflict and handed over for office use.

Wars are not only won by soldiers, sailors and airmen alone – but also by those who remain at home supporting them.

**Lancaster Military Heritage Group** (Logo at P1) was founded in 1999 by a small group concerned that these historic links between the area of Lancaster and Morecambe and the Armed Forces were becoming severely reduced and resolved to maintain them. The Founders were conscious from the outset of the debt the armed services owe to the local communities who provide their sons,



daughters and support in times of conflict and the need to concentrate on links with the community. So the main purpose of the Group is to:

*"To maintain and develop the historical links between the armed forces, their supporting civilian services, and the local community"*

An essential element in the Group's philosophy is to tell the story of the various conflicts that the long-suffering civilian population have had to endure. However in seeking to thank the community for their continuing support it was decided to launch a War Memorial Project which would, as a prime aim, research the short lives of the nearly three thousand men and seven women commemorated on our local war memorials. Biographies were to be compiled for each one and theses bound into Books of Honour for presentation to the local community.

The project commenced at the beginning of 2002. The Group were most grateful to "Awards for All"



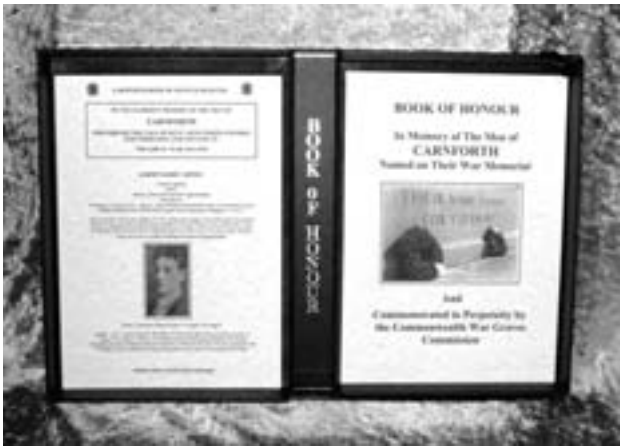
North West for their generous grant. Without it the project would not have got off the ground and it would not have been possible to do justice to those named on our local War

Memorials. It is heartening to know that Lottery money is available for such local activities. The Project was also awarded the accolade of the designation "Queen's Jubilee Project", P2.

### The Research

As well as compiling the biographies the Books were intended to stimulate research into this aspect of family history and also to provide a "Time Capsule" to retain additional material which the community might provide at any time. Thus the

original books were supplied "loose leaf", P3, in suitable open boxes to facilitate additional material; this option later became too expensive. The Books are all available in local Churches or the libraries.



P3

The starting point was a list of names from all the local memorials compiled by Harold Wilkinson of the Lancaster Family History Society. This was followed by extensive use of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) web site to download the data they hold for each of the names. We are most grateful, without them the Book would not exist!

**Using the CWGC Data Base.** For an unusual name, when only one or two are found then the CWGC data base often gives detail which establishes a local connection. However one of the difficulties of using the CWGC web site with only name and initials is that a multiplicity of records are found; try using J Smith!. Of particular use is the Regiment and Date of Death of the casualty. Thus other sources must be used to home in on the "local man". These are shown below

**Relatives.** This was the most rewarding source of the research and resulted in making the pen pictures of those who died "Live again". A "Flier" was produced to which many relatives and friends responded and much information was obtained in this manner.

**The Navy and Army Press.** This organisation produced very complete data after the two world wars and their material is available in the Reference Section of our libraries. For each name locations of birth, residence and enlistment are given which further establishes a local connection.

**Local Newspapers.** The Lancaster Guardian and Morecambe Visitor newspapers of the time, again available in the Reference Libraries, all carried extensive reports on the men who died, particularly for the First World War, together with details of where they lived, worked, played, were educated and often with photographs. The pen pictures began to build up.

**Lancaster Town Hall Forms.** These, described in Chapter 1 were really useful, giving number rank and name, date of death and local addresses.

**War Memorials.** The ones within churches and Memorial Halls often give Regiments, Date of Death and an example is that in Bolton Le Sands Church.

**Census Data.** If further corroboration is required then census data on the Internet can help the detective work.

**Advertising.** The local newspapers and Morrisons Supermarket in Morecambe, P4, all helped to publicise the project to which relatives of the men who are named on the memorials responded.



P4

**Local Cemeteries.** A number of casualties were buried locally and this can also help to build up the biographies.

**The Internet.** Much information is available to the "surfer" and for us this was very useful in researching the Boer War. A list of some of the most useful is at Annex G.

**Searching for Information.** A guide was produced by Peter Donnelly the Curator of King's Own Regimental Museum, and we are pleased to present this at Annex A.

### Archive Material

**Essays.** During the research the contents of the "buried treasure" of information mentioned by Borg (see Chapter 1) within the attics and albums of relatives and friends were made available to us. And what an interesting and detailed source it is. As a result many of the "pen pictures" turned into very moving essays, Annex B gives details of these and all are contained on the data disc.

**Publications.** Some of the material consisted of Orders of Service and various compilations. These have been included in the Data Disc and chief amongst them are The Street Collection Booklet of Carnforth, P5, The Baldwin Bent Memorial Booklet and Hospital Documents from Heysham and the excellent Booklet describing the King's Own Regiment Memorial Chapel in the Priory Church, produced by Colonel Cowper (now out of print).



P5

### **The Books of Honour**

The finished Books contain biographies of nearly three thousand men and women who are commemorated on all the War Memorials in and around the Lancaster and Morecambe area. Each book contains a forward from the Group President and it is appropriate to record this at Annex C. This is followed by a piece from each of the Parishes, an Introduction, a "How to use" section and acknowledgements.

There is one Book only for every Parish and Township within the purview of Lancaster City Council. Separate volumes were prepared of the Newspaper obituaries contained in their reports during the wars, and also of the set of essays written by the relatives. Each was bound by Lancaster University Book Binding facility. The Books were presented at appropriate occasions as shown below.

### The Presentations

Seven presentations were made to Churches or Town/Parish Councils. On each occasion the Book was presented or received by a Relative of someone commemorated on the local Memorial.

**Carnforth Town Council.** Carnforth were the first of our public bodies to embrace whole heartedly the idea of a Book of Honour. This was largely due to the energy of the Mayor, George Birkett and past Mayor, Mr Ken Bond. The Book was presented., CP42, in the Carnforth Civic Hall on 6 November 2002, the presentation being made by Mr Keith Jenkinson and received by Carnforth's oldest resident 93 year old Mrs Mary Melling. Mr Jenkinson's father Thomas Jenkinson was killed by the Japanese during the surrender of Singapore on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1942. Further details of Thomas are in the Essay "From Carnforth to Singapore via Dunkirk: A Postman's Journey" written by his son Keith.



P6

**Halton with Aughton Parish Council.** Their Book of Honour, P6, was presented by the Vice President of the Lancaster Military Heritage Group Major General Nigel Gribbon OBE in the Halton Social Club on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2002. It is now housed in the handsome cabinet. The Book was received by Mrs Ann Wright on behalf of the local community and in fond remembrance of her Dad, Robert Fawcett, who was a rear gunner in Hudson and Lancaster bombers. His aircraft was shot down on 1 June 1941, and he and the entire crew were lost. They are commemorated on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede. Robert was only nineteen years old. Ann was born three months after he died. She is intensely proud of him and has collected material about his life which is included in Robert's biography.

The archive includes his flying log book, left to her Grandmother. The last poignant entry reads: "Failed to return . . . ." Ann remembers with great affection that local farmers, knowing she had lost and never known her father, used to leave pats of butter and other goods on the doorstep for her and 5 other children in similar circumstances. Ann lives in Lancaster

**Morecambe Town.** The Township remember those who died at an annual Remembrance Concert. This is in two parts, the first an affectionate memory of the wartime days including a sing-song. The second part is a Remembrance Service and the Morecambe Book was presented during the November Concert in 2003 by Brigadier Jim Dennis to the President of the local British Legion, Mr Raymond Hirst. The Book was later presented to Morecambe Reference Library where it is held in a special place.

**Heysham St Peter's Church.** The Book, P7, was presented at the annual Remembrance service in November 2003 by Mrs Mary Hill, the niece of Richard Stephenson Warbrick of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Prince of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment who died on 20 September 1916 whilst fighting on the Somme.



P7

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. The Book was received on behalf of the Heysham community by the Rev David Tickner, Vicar of the Parish. The Book is now

retained in an honoured place in the centre of the table in a side chapel.

**Caton Parish Council.** Their Book, P8, was also presented at the annual Remembrance Service in November 2003. The presentation was made by Mr Malcolm Hogg the nephew of Stephen Cook of Caton killed in the First World War on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1915. He joined the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the King's Own in September 1914 as one of approximately 200 men enlisted overnight and known as the "Gallant 200" or "Pals Company". He was just nineteen years old when he died. His full story, and of his death along with five other soldiers of B Company killed by just one shell, is in the Essay Section on the Data Disc.



P8

**Warton St Oswald's Church.** This presentation, P9, was made on the Sixtieth Anniversary of D Day on 6 June 2004 by Mr John Stephenson whose Father Private Walter Edward Stephenson of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment, was a native of Warton. He had landed just after D Day and was involved in the thrust around Caen when he was killed in action 7 August 1944, aged 26 years. His full story also appears in the Essay Section on the Data Disc.



P9

**St Joseph's RC Church Skerton.** This Book, CP37, was presented on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at a special service. Father Andrew Broster, the Parish Priest offered this thank you which is published in the Book:

**Thank You** This book was presented to the Parish on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2005. We chose this day in particular because it happened to be mid-Lent Sunday and also Mothering Sunday. The celebration was also Family Mass, where the church was full and particularly lively with young children.

To watch such a scene of young and old together, families and friends, regulars and visitors, we could only have “thank you” on our lips. “Thank you” to the young men and women of past years who gave their lives in wartime so that we may live in freedom and peace. Only a few years before their deaths, they themselves would have been the children of St. Joseph’s. Their mums would have held them close during the Mother’s Day Mass, unaware at that moment of the sacrifice their children would make in the years to come.

It is with humble pride and eternal thanksgiving that the Parish of St. Joseph's receive this Book of Honour, the generosity of the Lancaster Military Heritage Group, in memory of our fallen.

The Book was presented by Mrs S C Fegan the granddaughter of George Kennedy, a Mate in the Merchant Navy, who died when his ship, the S.S. Maurita (Lancaster) sank on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1941



P10

**United Reformed Church High Street.** Two World War One Bronze Memorials came from the Centenary Church Stonewell which was closed in 1964 and remained closed for some time. Eventually it was converted into The Friary Pub! Luckily a local business man ensured the safety of the plaques until

eventually passing them to a member of the High Street Church who stored them safely in their cellar. At the Lancaster Military Heritage Group Carol service on 14 December 2004 the two memorials, which could have been lost for ever, were rededicated. They had been beautifully restored, P10, by The Heritage Group and placed in the Church. They were unveiled by Gordon Snowball, P11, whose father made the original unveiling of the Bronze Tablets in the Centenary Church in 1924.



P11

A Copper Roll of Honour, commemorating nine men and one women from both World Wars, was saved when the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Queen's Street, was sold off, and re-installed in the High Street Church. It was Mrs Connie Noble who ensured its survival; her brother John Collinge, a corporal in the Royal Border Regiment, died in March 1944 in Burma and he is commemorated on the Trinity Plaque.



P12

Connie presented a special Book of Honour, P12, prepared by the Lancaster Military Heritage Group, into the safe keeping of the Church at the Carol Service.



## VE 2005 A Community Remembers

The year 2005 was of course the year of many "Sixtieth Anniversaries" of the Second World War. The Government let it be known that this year was likely to be the last of the National celebrations, particularly so as the numbers of those who took part in the conflict were dwindling. With all the Books of Honour complete it was decided to present them to the City of Lancaster on the 8<sup>th</sup> May, the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. A working party from the Lancaster Military Heritage Group was formed under the able and energetic Chairmanship of Sheila Denwood, a busy City Councillor and a Group member. She led off by saying: "If you ask why we are doing this - it is not to write another chapter in the history of conflict. It is to recognise and celebrate what men and women do for each other in times of fear and danger".

Applications were made to various funding bodies and we were again fortunate to receive a sizeable amount from Awards for All (North West). Other support came with handsome grants from the Westfield Memorial Village and the Regimental Headquarters of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, a contribution from Lancaster City Council and some personal donations all of which was sufficient to realise our aims.



P13

The plan was to follow the format of the proceedings of December 1924 when the Lancaster War Memorial was unveiled. The basis was for a parade through the City of Lancaster, a celebration in the Garden of Remembrance, including presentation of the Books, a fly past by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight followed by a Mayor's reception for the relatives and friends of those named on the memorials throughout the area. All of this was to be supported by activities leading up to the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. A quality souvenir programme was produced and 1800 copies distributed – donations

raised over £1000 for the Royal British Legion. The local schools became involved ( see below) and a number of organisations contributed.

In the event the weather was quite beautiful on the day and over a thousand people crowded the environs of the Garden of Remembrance. Two bands pictured at VCP1 and P13, led the parade which was headed by the Regimental Associations, at the forefront that of the King's Own Regimental Association. We were honoured with the presence of the Colours of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment and representatives of the two ships, HMS Lancaster, P14, and HMS Trafalgar both exercising their Freedom of The City.



P14

The Parade included representation from many community organisations: Scouts, Guides, Cadets of every hue, P15, the Police, Fire and St John's Ambulance Brigade. The full list is shown in a facsimile of the programme on the data disc.



P15



P16

The salute, VCP2 and P16, was taken by Councillor John Day MBE, The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Lancaster accompanied by the High Sheriff of Lancashire Mr Jimmy Armfield, the Captain of HMS Lancaster, Captain J D Morley, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Beatson, Commanding Officer of the Lancashire and Cumbria Volunteer Battalion and Air Commodore W.M. Craghill RAF (Ret'd).

The Standards of the Regimental Associations took their position in the Garden of Remembrance along with the Regimental Colours, VCP4 and P17.



P17

It was always intended that there be community singing before the service; this was enlivened by the need to take up some time when the parade broke all marching records to arrive some 15 minutes before the scheduled arrival and we had to await the fly past! This small hiccough did not detract from the celebrations. Indeed such was the good nature and depth of feeling around, P18, that a veritable "street party" atmosphere was generated, spurred on with great enthusiasm by the Master of

Ceremonies Major Paul Bradburn.. (See him in action at VCP3 and VCP7)



P18

Finally the Fly past of a Battle of Britain Spitfire, P19, took place amidst much applause. This fly past, courtesy of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight was followed by a fly past of three Grob Tutor aircraft of No 10 Air Experience Flight RAF Woodvale, P20



P19



P20

The service began with a fanfare sounded by the Trumpeters of 103 Regiment Royal Artillery (V) followed by the introductory hymn "O Valiant Hearts". The Parade Marshall, Lieutenant Colonel John Hacking then welcomed everyone, VCP3, to the "special celebration" they were about to witness. This was followed by the presentation of the Books of Honour to the Mayor Councillor John Day MBE, VCP5,. The Books were presented by relatives of the soldiers named below, by a veteran, a Parish Councillor and a young cadet. Piper Denise Bowland played a beautiful lament during the presentations, VCP6.

**First World War:**

1. The Three Adams  
Brothers: Sgt Henry and  
Ptes Charles and John  
Edward
2. Pte William Anderton
3. The Four Butterworth  
Brothers: LSgt Christopher  
and Ptes William, John and  
Hugh
4. The Three Dinsdale  
Brothers: Sgt William  
Thomas and Ptes Frank  
and George
5. Sgt Herbert Dobson MM
6. The Two Holding  
Brothers: Ptes Frank and  
Richard

**Second World War:**

7. Pte William Henry  
Mitchell (Arnhem)
8. Leading Seaman Trever  
Coupe RN (Submariner)
9. Sergeant (W.Op./Air  
Gnr.) Stanley George  
Walton RAF

**Korea:**

10. Pte Daniel Brown MM

**Parishes North:** Bolton Le Sands, Borwick, Hest Bank, Slyne with Hest, Over Kellet, Silverdale, and Yealand

**Parishes East:** Dolphinholme, Hornby, Melling, Tatham, Tunstall, Leck and Whittington

**Parishes South:** Abbeystead, Forton, Galgate, Glasson Dock, Overton, Pilling and Scorton

**A Book of Essays:** Written by relatives

**A Book of Newspaper Obituaries:** Lancaster Guardian and Morecambe Visitor (Both Wars)

After the presentations, The Mayor, with great sensitivity turned to the War Memorial and spoke to

the fourteen hundred men and one woman named on the memorial, CP39 and P21.



P21

"Over 80 years ago my predecessor, along with your relatives, unveiled this memorial. We promised never to forget you and we haven't for every year we have congregated here to acknowledge what you have done for us. In particular this year your short lives have been recorded in Books of Honour. It tells of your youth, where you went to school, where you played and worked and your hobbies; where you fought and died and where you now lie in peace. These Books, lovingly prepared, have been presented to me for safe keeping again by your relatives and it is a great honour for me to accept them on your behalf. In 1924 it was said that no ceremony during his year of office gave the then Mayor greater pleasure - I can assure you that as I reach the end of my term, I feel exactly the same.

At that time there were a thousand of you. Now you are nearly 1400. You are a constant reminder to us all of what men and women will do for one another when it really matters. You remind us of what is really important in our lives - that is one another. I believe that this gives us strong hope for the future, and that it shows the true strength of the human spirit.

I know that everyone here joins with me to say God Bless you all".



P22

After the hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers*, prayers were led by The Reverend Canon Peter Cavanagh and the Reverend Robert Canham., P22. An extract from “*For the Fallen*” by Lancaster born poet Laurence Binyon, “*They shall grow not old.....*” was read by Scout Jonathon Gardner of 16 St Pauls (Lancaster) Scouts, VCP7, followed by the Kohima Epitaph “*When you go home.....*” Read by Burma veteran Mr Harry Adams, P23.



P23

Then followed moments of pure emotion as a Firing Party, P24, from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment fired a volley in honour of those who did not return from conflict; this was followed by The Last Post, Two minute silence and Reveille.

The final hymn, *I Vow to thee My Country*” was sung with great gusto, as was The National Anthem and the service concluded with The Blessing given by The Reverend Canon Stephen Sheild, Dean of Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Cathedral.



P24

The Mayor's reception which followed was a very jolly affair, much enjoyed by a large attendance mostly from relatives and friends of the men named on the memorial.



P25

The New Voice of Youth, pupils of Our Lady's Catholic College and St Bernadettes Roman Catholic Primary School, stole the hearts of everyone with their singing of wartime songs, P25.

All of the Books of Honour were available for inspection., P26.



P26

Many of the veterans who attended were able to swap some of their experiences together, P27.



P27

There was a very heart warming moment when the relatives of Sergeant Dobson MM were introduced to the relatives of Second Lieutenant Higginson both of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's Own, CP 43 and P28. The latter had written to Sergeant Dobson's parents in August 1916 when their son was killed only to die himself just six days later! Both of their stories are told in the data disc.

The proceedings came to an end with The Mayor, this time thanking the relatives:

"I want to welcome you to this reception - one which tries to emulate the one held 80 years ago. If we were true to the special nature of today - the 60th anniversary of the ending of war in Europe you would all be drinking Camp Coffee and eating dried egg sandwiches. But I'm afraid the Council Budget doesn't run to that and you know how careful we are at spending money!

There must be many emotions amongst us all after what we have witnessed today and what we witness in our everyday lives. But I suspect that,



P28

although quite rightly there will be a great measure of sadness in our hearts, as I mentioned to the lads out there is something uplifting in occasions like this. There are two other sets of people to whom we must be for ever grateful. First to their comrades who fought by their side and returned home; there are some of you here today. And there are some of you who will do likewise when needs be - you did and will do your duty as those before you did - and we will continue to owe you a debt of gratitude for your selflessness."

Our Chair Councillor Sheila Denwood, P29, in reply said:

"It has been a great honour for me to have been the Chair of VE 2005. I must be a glutton for punishment because it hasn't been easy for there has been so much to do. But as well as honour there has been immense pleasure and satisfaction doing the job. I know that those who compiled the books found that the greatest pleasure was in meeting the relatives, finding such goodwill everywhere and hearing such moving stories.



P29

For me one of the most significant parts was The Acorn Project (see below) - 26 Primary schools have laid a carpet of crosses around our war memorials all bearing the name of a soldier lost in battle."

A souvenir video and picture disc were made of the occasion and widely distributed to those who took part.

### **Schools Participation**

From the outset we aimed to involve local schools in the VE 2005 celebrations, particularly with a view to stimulating interest in remembrance in relation to conflict. Considerable effort was made but sadly only two secondary schools showed any interest – Out Lady's Catholic College and The Central Lancaster High School. Undaunted Councillor Sheila Denwood developed a new initiative - "The Acorn Project" so named because "acorns grow into large oak trees" just as small children grow into adults.

**The Acorn Project.** She proceeded to sound out the local primary schools in the district to find out if they would be willing to be involved, stressing that this was not to glorify war or to be triumphalistic, but a celebration of the men and women of the armed forces and civilians, who had laid down their young lives, so that future generations could live in peace. The response from the 49 Schools and Nurseries was fantastic with 26 wishing to become involved.

Just the simple guidelines below were sent to each school:

**What is it?** An Invitation to the Schools of Lancaster to be involved in Lancaster's VE 2005 Celebrations.

**What will happen.** Schools are invited to plant a "Field of Crosses" which they will decorate. Each Cross will bear the name of a soldier who gave his life in war and who is commemorated on the Lancaster War Memorial There are 1400 of them! Thus Schools can plant a great "Field of Crosses" all around the City.

**Where?** Each Field will be planted on the School premises and then will be judged by a Panel Chaired by The Editor of the Lancaster Guardian. Look out for your picture in the paper!

**When?** In the fortnight leading up to 8 May, the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

**Why?** To recognise and celebrate what men and women do for each other in times of fear and danger. To see in this the greatness of the human spirit which gives us hope for the future.

The result? If a picture paints a thousand words then here follow 26,000! The project was a great success and the schools together succeeded in creating a garden of remembrance around the locality; 2,700 crosses, one for each name commemorated on our war memorials. A temporary but living memorial.

The first "Field of Crosses" was produced by St Paul's School Scotforth; Sheila Denwood is pictured here, P30, with the result. The backdrop has been used as the cover for this book.



P30





**Brookdale Primary School**



**Moorside School Bowerham**



**St Bernadette's School Bowerham**



**St Joseph's Primary School Skerton**



**Greaves Park Nursery School Bowerham**



**Bowerham Primary School**



**St Paul's School Scotforth**



**Bowerham School Bowerham Road**





**Ellell St John School Galgate**



**St Lukes Primary School Slyne Road**



**St Peter's Cathedral School Balmoral Road**



**Ryeland's Primary School**



**Skerton Community Primary School**



**Christchurch Cof E School Derwent Road**



**Great Wood Primary School Morecambe**



**Poulton Le Sands C of E Primary School**



**Hornby St Margaret's Primary School**



**Over Wyresdale, Abbeystead Cawthornes  
Primary School**



**St Patricks Primary School Heysham**



**Nether Kellet Community Primary School**



**Glasson Dock Primary School**



**Morecambe Road School**



**Marsh Community Centre**



**Slyne with Hest St Lukes C of E Primary School**



**Trumacar Primary School Heysham**

Our local paper "The Lancaster Guardian," gave whole hearted support to the project and all of these pictures were published in the week before the VE 2005 celebration. In the weeks following Councillor Denwood and other group members revisited each school to thank the Staff and children for all the work they had put in with their individual creative gardens. They were again given wonderful welcomes, and some children sang the songs from the "Forties" such as – "We'll meet again", and "Blue birds over the white cliffs of Dover"; there was magic in the air! Framed photographs of their

gardens, a Certificate of Merit, books for the school library and the Souvenir Programme were presented to each school. All the gifts were received with great enthusiasm, and the delight was obvious.

**Our Lady's Catholic High School** As a prelude to the Sunday celebration this secondary school devised a an enterprising way of illustrating conflict at a VE Day 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert. The Head of History, Chris Robson, gave short but pithy accounts of the events through both wars. After each one, the young people of the school then brought each to life through drama, dance and music. The whole evening played to a "packed house" who were enthralled by the event. Over £600 was raised for the Royal British Legion; P31 is the presentation of the Cheque to the President of the Lancaster Branch of the Royal British Legion Mr Yates. A full account of the concert is given in the data disc.



**P31**

**Carnforth Schools.** The Carnforth Town Council paid for complete copies of their Books of Honour to be presented to each of the schools in Carnforth.

**Central Lancaster High School.** We have already described the "Lost Memorial" for Second Lieutenant Richard Irving (Chapter 2 page) and the part this school played in its rededication. As a School specialising in Art and Design, they have continued their interest in the whole topic through studies in art. Four of the pictures produced are featured below.

The first is by **Nytasha Zaltowski**. She explains: "My collage shows soldiers at war in the trenches. There are no leaves on the trees because they have been blown off by explosions and gun fire. I have used dull earthy colours that portray my feelings about war. The soldiers who died were so young, many of them only a few years older than I am now. I have looked at artists such as Paul Nash to inspire my thought on the First World War. I have also been looking at the ways that poets and writers have

used words to show their feelings. I think it is important that we learn about wars from the past so that we remember the many who died for our freedom – lest we forget.”



Collage by Nytasha Zaltowski

The next is a pen and ink drawing by **Emma Spratling**. She says: “ My ink drawing is of a battlefield during the First World War. It represents the disrupted scenery with trees blown to bits with no leaves or twigs. I have chosen to use black and white ink to show the sombre emotion related to war. In war lives are lost and in the First World War so many lives were lost, including a one time teacher at our School – Richard Irving.”



Pen and Ink by Emma Spratling

**Jack Seymour** says: “I looked at the war artist collection on the Imperial War Museum website and discovered the different ways painters conveyed war. Paul Nash used positive and negative affects to show images of trenches and battle fields. The leafless trees look as though they represent the soldiers souls-blown apart in the terrible warfare.



Pen and ink by Jack Seymour.

He shows waterlogged trenches and gang planks that lead to nowhere. I have tried to capture the same ideas by taking sections of his prints and rearranging them in a composition and then using black ink applied with a range of tools.

I have enjoyed the project. It has been good to look at war in a number of different lessons; Art, History and English. I wonder how the trenches and battlefields look today. Are they haunted by the wandering souls of young soldiers?”



Collage by Billie-Jean Airey

**Billie-Jean Airey** said: "My mixed media design shows a soldier in a battlefield. The battle field has been blown apart by bombs and shells. It was a horrible place to be with soldiers killed in action rotting in the mud. There were rats running in the trenches over sleeping and dead bodies. The place smelt very bad. I wanted to show the misery of the war so as to remind us so that we do not encourage conflict. It is better to try to resolve things without using violence."

Finally, to finish this section here is a lovely piece from far off days in Forton.

**Schools knitting for the Soldiers at the Front World War One.** The picture, P32, is a facsimile of a letter sent to a young girl, 9 years old, who was at Forton School. She and her classmates made comfort items for the soldiers in the trenches; socks, gloves and hats for beneath the steel helmet (perhaps this is where the name "Cap Comforter", a standard issue in the Army during the 50's, came from?). Gladys kept five of the letters sent to her. It must have been an equal comfort to the soldiers to know that those back home, particularly the little ones, were thinking of them. Some extracts from the letters are below:

"I received your most welcome parcel this morning, thanks very much for it they will be grand for me, for it is jolly cold first thing in the morning.. If you are only nine years old you can knit a pair of mits. Well these are the warmest I have ever seen"

"I received a pair of socks from Margaret Caris a little while ago. You are certainly doing your bit at the old school and I feel quite proud of the fact that I once belonged to it."

"I take the greatest of pleasure in writing a few lines to thank you so much for the trouble you have taken in knitting the cap. It fits champion. I think you must have the size of my head. It makes the steel hat much easier to wear."



P32

"I received your cap and I am wearing it and it is worn underneath my steel helmet and I thank you very much for it. It is good of you to think of us out here as the weather is cold and we are all living in dugouts when not in action."

"Dear Miss Robinson Very many thanks for the very nice cap you have kindly knitted for me. Yes I do like it for it will keep me warm theses cold nights going up to the trenches. I think it is very clever of you to have made it so well."

It is nice to feel that there is still so much love and warmth alive in our primary schools for soldiers killed in combat as exemplified by the response to The Field of Crosses project.



## The Media

No one can be in any doubt about the power and influence of the media – they are often seen as the root cause of some modern day problems! However without a doubt the local media in our area were marvellous in their support throughout the three years of the project. Our research into the biographies of those who died showed how committed they were in their support of the armed forces both at the regimental and individual levels. This continues to the present day as each one does what it can to support the soldiers of the local Regiment, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, who deployed to Iraq in October 2005.

**Radio Lancashire** attended every one of the Book Presentations and broadcast interviews with relatives and researchers. **North West Tonight Television** produced an excellent piece on the preparation of the Books of Honour at an early stage and helped fuel the publicity campaign. **The Morecambe Visitor** were always willing to cover our events.

**The Lancaster Guardian** provided consistently strong support to the project from the start and were



clearly interested in what we were trying to do. In the run up to the VE 2005 celebrations, each edition (headed by their VE 2005 Logo, shown on the left) printed the details of each man named on the Lancaster War Memorial,

including rank, name, regiment and where he lived. Along with these lists, various moving stories of men and women involved in war were printed and served to raise the public awareness of sacrifices of those difficult and dangerous times. The Lancaster Military Heritage Group are most grateful for this welcome and freely given support and encouragement.

## Local Cemeteries

Part of the research consisted of recording the names of those buried in the locality with a Commonwealth War Grave Headstone. There are 335 graves in 28 cemeteries (including churchyards) in our area. Full details are on the data disc.

## The Data Base

An enormous amount of material has been uncovered during this project and our Group are anxious that it all be easily available to the local community. Thus a Data Disc recording all of the material has been produced to accompany this Book. Annex D gives details of the contents together with instructions on its use.

## Epilogue

### REMEMBRANCE

*"But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,  
All losses are restored, and sorrows end."*

*William Shakespeare from Sonnet 30*

When I was a lad, at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month everything stopped; the buses, the cars and the people. I was about seven; we were taught that this was a special day. I remember some submariners, far from home, came to our house for tea one day. My Dad told me they didn't survive the war. So I used to think of them. Then it all stopped; at least nobody seemed to stop anymore. Remembrance was not in vogue, patriotism was simply jingoism - we were only glorifying war.

Now, fifty years on, I am part of a group producing pen pictures of all of those named on the war memorials in and around Morecambe and Lancaster - all 2,500 of them. Initial details are obtained from official sources, but it is the stories of friends and relatives, from their memories and archives, which make the names live.

Like Herbert Dumbleton, a sailor from Carnforth who kept a diary. A small extract:

*"The next operation was the battle of Crete. The fleet left Alex and made their way towards Crete. During the night of 23rd May approx we were detailed to intercept convoys from Greece, around the NW coast of Crete. We did our damage and it was not so pleasant but it had to be done."*

He was lost at sea on 1 March 1944. His brother, still living in Carnforth, treasures the diary.

Edward Bibby, a Morecambe Grammar School boy, was a Second Lieutenant in the East Lancs, a parachute battalion. He landed in France on D Day. They captured *Ranville*, the first French village to be liberated. Then came a ferocious action.

Contemporary accounts record the following;

*From The Commanding Officer: ". . B Company went straight up the hill, with A in support, and they stormed into the German positions with the bayonet, and advanced to the very top of the hill. Then suddenly, they were counter attacked, and a well sited machine gun*

*opened up, seriously wounding Major Tarrant and Lt Bibby who were leading their men with the utmost gallantry"*

*And from the The Padre: "Man after man went down, but the remainder never faltered, but pushed steadily forward in spite of vicious torrents of fire. But it was costly and it became apparent that the possibility of getting established at the top of the hill was very remote. Some did reach the top, fought in the enemy positions. Lt Bibby did that with one section but failed to return"*

Robert Fawcett was a Lancaster Bomber rear gunner. His daughter Anne has his flying log book; the last poignant entry reads: " . . . . . Failed to return". Anne was born three months after he was lost and remembers with great affection that local farmers, knowing she had never known her Father, used to leave pats of butter and other goods on the doorstep for her and 5 other children in similar circumstances.

In 1915, immediately after qualifying as a nurse, Clementina Addison went straight to Verdun to tend the soldiers in the trenches. A newspaper of the time records:

*"Nurse Addison returned to England on the 3rd of March, utterly broken down by the arduous tasks she had so willingly undertaken, ever speaking cheerfully, whilst knowing she had such a short time left, and constantly referring to the way the soldiers at Verdun bore their sufferings."*

Soldiers from the local Battalion attended her funeral; hers is the first name on the Caton War Memorial.

Times thankfully are changing. At the eleventh hour, almost the entire Nation pause to ponder the enormity of the sacrifice that ordinary men and women have made, and continue to make, in conflict. As for me, I still remember the submariners, and my friend Mike killed in the Falklands. And I think of Herbert Dumbleton writing his diaries, of Robert Fawcett dreaming of a new baby. I picture Edward Bibby leading his men with gallantry and dying in the process. I think of the Florence Nightingale of Verdun, Clementina Addison.

**And I have a Lump in my throat.**



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Producing and editing a Book and Data Disc of this nature has involved a large number of people and organisations. An abiding memory is how many “nice” people I have met; all have been interested, courteous and helpful. There are so many to thank. I hope they will not mind if I simply list their names – they will know of their contributions and what it meant for them.

**For the Book and the Data Disc:** Janet Brewer, Sheila Denwood, Lynda Burke, Dorothy Phillips, Judith Clarke, Jane Hughes, Chris Robson, Francis Parker, Peter Donnelly, Norman Gardner, Peter Dew,

**For photographs** The majority of the photographs are by me and I apologise in advance; there is no substitute for expertise! The better ones are by Gillian McQueen, Judith Clarke and Peter Donnelly: the professional ones are from the Lancaster Guardian and the Morecambe Visitor . We are most grateful to both of them for permission to use their photographs.

**From organisations:** The Lancaster and District Library Service (Steve, Lyn, Jennie and Susan for their everlasting patience and expertise), Lancaster Guardian for consistent support and understanding (Sue Riley and Louise Bryning), Morecambe Visitor (Glen Cooper), Radio Lancashire (Tim Padfield), Kent Valley Printers (Howard Duff), IDENT of Kendal (David Smith), ISSC of Lancaster (Darren Phillips).

**The National Organisations.** The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the National Inventory of War Memorials and the War Memorials Trust all provide information and data without which this Book and Data Disc would be impossible.

**Financial Support.** We are most appreciative of receiving two Grants from Awards for All (North West) which have funded the War Memorial Project. We thank the Westfield Memorial Village Council and Lancaster City Council for their support

**The Custodians.** Those who look after the 200 War Memorials recorded in this book have been most patient and helpful during our research. Thank you.

**Relatives and friends.** Who have provided information about their loved ones who died in conflict, and told us so many moving stories. We cannot thank them enough.

**My wife and family.** For wondering who the fellow was sat at the computer! For supplying copious quantities of tea and support. For proof reading.

**Most of all.** Our thanks to the 2700 men and women commemorated on our War Memorials.

## IN SEARCH OF INFORMATION

By

Peter Donnelly

Curator King's Own Royal Regiment Museum

These notes mainly relate to the army, but will in a small part cover service personnel of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. The aim of the note is to give guidance to the beginner by providing some of the main references for information. These will in turn provide further links to other sources.

Thousands of people are undertaking research on their families and those who come across a family member who served in the forces are often lucky to find more information about them than a civilian of the same period.

The first thing to say is, **if the person died there will be a record**. If they died during the First World War (1914-1919) or the Second World War (1939-1947) the details of their commemoration will be retained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. You can write to them at:

CWGC, Enquiries Section, 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7DX. Or use their website: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

For deaths outside this period contact the Casualty/Compassionate Cell of the British Army, in writing to:

MOD Personnel Services 4 (Army (Casualty) Compassionate (Coord)), Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN9 6BE.

**If the person did not die and they served prior to 1922** there is a good chance that there will be some record of their service at the Public Record Office. This may be a record of their discharge (before 1914 if they completed 22 years in the Army); it may be their First World War service papers, or it may just be their name listed in the British War and Allied Victory Medal roll.

The Public Record Office (PRO), houses substantial records of officers and soldiers who served with the British Army, and other services. WO363 contains records of First World War Soldiers. Although 60% of First World War records were lost through bombing in 1940 certain documents have survived. These are held by the PRO. Contact the PRO in advance of a visit to see what information they may have available. If you are unable to visit in person they can supply a list of researchers who will undertake the work for you for a fee. The PRO

provide a whole range of useful information sheets which can also be found on their website.

Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

A really useful book is *Army Service Records of the First World War* by William Spencer, Published by the Public Record Office in 2001.

**If the person served after 1922** details will be held by the Army and they are available only to the person themselves or the next of kin. A fee is usually charged to provide the information. Contact:

Army Personnel Centre, Historic Disclosures, Mailpoint 400, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX.

Once you have found out the details of the person's service - you can set about finding out the actions and campaigns they took part in. To do this study the unit or regimental histories. There are official sources such as the War Diaries held at the Public Record Office. There are also many published unit and regimental histories which can be obtained through libraries or good book shops. Often second hand book shops are worth a visit, along with specialist institutions such as the Imperial War Museum and National Army Museum.

A major source of unit and regimental history is of course the Imperial War Museum and the Corps and Regimental Museums. The former now have a splendid Northern site in Salford Quays and the others are spread all over the country, they are listed in the Museum Associations Museum Yearbook (try your local reference library for a copy). Other locations can be found in "A Guide to Military Museums" by Terence and Shirley Wise and on the British Army and Army Museums Ogilby Trust Websites:

[www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

and

[www.armymuseums.org.uk](http://www.armymuseums.org.uk)

**The Imperial War museum** has a series of pocket size volumes on "*Tracing your Family History*" for each of the three services: Navy, Army, RAF and The Merchant Navy. These volumes list a large variety of sources of information. Their web site provides an excellent over view of the contents and services available from the museum; their publications can be obtained on line or by post. The web site address is:

[www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

## Regimental Museums

These vary greatly in what they hold and what services they provide. Some have more records than others, some have no records of individuals who served, and others have established extensive databases of thousands of names over many years of time-consuming detailed labour.

When contacting Regimental Museums please be aware that there are many pressures made upon the resources of the staff, often only one person, so don't always expect an immediate reply. If you send an e-mail please include your postal address. If you really want to help providing a large stamped self-addressed envelope will get the staff on your side!. Most of all, the majority of museums are Charities, so a donation to support their work is always appreciated. Some museums do charge a fee for research.

The Museum of the local regiment, The King's Own Royal Regiment, is housed within the City Museum in Market Square, Lancaster. The Museum:

Does not charge a fee but hopes a donation will be made

Aims to answer enquiries within a couple of days

Has pre-printed information sheets to speed reply

Hopes and expects people to undertake some study themselves, for example following the reading lists provided or researching information at the PRO.

The museum does not have a record of everyone who ever served in the Regiment. Through long hours of work Computerisation of records is currently taking place and this will obviously aid the speed and extent of providing information. However this is a long process and will be an ongoing project for many years to come.

The museum has available a wide range of low priced publications which will assist some researchers.

An appointment is required for personal callers. One member of staff deals with the King's Own.

Other sources to consider include local Reference Libraries who often hold copies of **local newspapers** which, during wartime, often include details about soldiers who were killed, injured or awarded medals. Some libraries also hold copies of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Registers and copies of the official publication 'Soldiers Died in the Great War', published in 1921 and Soldiers died in the Second World War (Both published by Naval and Military Press) on a CD-ROM.

Enquiries relating to the issue and replacement of medals should be addressed to:

Ministry of Defence, Army Medals Office, Government Buildings, Worcester Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 8AU.

Finally for Schools there is an excellent self contained teaching package available on a First World War Education Based Web site especially written for the Museum. It is:

**[www.cleo.net.uk/content/history/remember](http://www.cleo.net.uk/content/history/remember)**

The site is based upon The National Curriculum and addresses Key Stage 3. The package is "educationally" complete, containing Teachers and pupils notes and worksheets and, importantly, involves visits to local sites. The staff of the Museum are only too delighted to assist Schools with projects. Peter Donnelly at the museum is on hand to explain to teachers exactly what is available.

## RELATIVES ESSAYS

By  
The Editor

Part of the original concept of this Book of Honour was to follow the section containing the biographies of the men on the memorials by a series of complementary essays giving personal accounts, and if possible a local flavour. In the event the response has been marvellous; the content of each is informative, stimulating and always moving. These essays are also printed separately and a copy is in the Lancaster library.

We start with a short personal view of "Remembrance", and what it means to the writer. This is followed by a tribute to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; their massive information base, easy retrieval and permission for use has made compiling the Book's of Honour possible. The Royal British Legion - God Bless them - then tell us about the tremendous range of work they carry out every day of the year, not just Poppy Day. Peter Donnelly has given us an authoritative piece to assist those who wish to carry out research into people involved in the various conflicts, concentrating mainly on the two World Wars (see Annex A). The solution of a very interesting problem, which utilises the advice given in the previous essay, facing the researcher of the Warton Book is shown in "The Mystery of J M Wilson".

Some very moving stories from relatives and friends follow and tell about the search for information on those named on local war memorials. We start with "A Slogging Match" from John Stephenson who has a very extensive family archive about his Father - commemorated at Warton. Keith Jenkinson tells a moving story about his father; he explores a variety of issues, but his obvious love and pride shine through. Ruth Harmsworth sent us a very nice letter about the impact of these Books of Honour - thank you Ruth. Brenda and Lynne Whitehouse with "The Roar of the Lions" give a wonderfully detailed account of their journey into the past looking for their relatives Arthur and Robert - to whom they now feel very close. A lovely little anecdote "Endurance Test", was sent by 85 year old Mrs Hopps of Heysham. She told the story of her Brother Cyril Whittle, A Coldstream Guardsman killed in Italy in 1943, which is included in the Morecambe Book of Honour.

We are really pleased to be able to include an essay about the Korean War. June Brightman, the sister of Denis Raine, commemorated on the Morecambe Memorial, provided much information about Denis in "Trained to Heal". Why should someone who died as a member of the South African Forces be listed on a local memorial; Jean McLeod tells us about William Birkett Blacow. Two essays follow from families whose men folk returned safely from combat. Both give an insight into how whole families responded in a time of danger for the country. Some friends (anonymous) wanted to remember their friend John Jennings, and Margaret Newsham told us what a lovely feeling it was to read and write about lost soldiers.

Norman Gardner in "Three before Breakfast" identifies the first local casualties reported in the Great War when two local sailors were killed by one German submarine sinking three British Ships. "Trawling for Mines" is a tribute to the part played by local fishermen in the First War beautifully scripted by Dick White. The third naval story, "The Last one Down" is written by Sheila Nolan Fox and is a tribute to her uncle who was killed in the last British submarine to be sunk in the Second World War. Sheila now lives in Doncaster but Trever (not a spelling mistake) Coupe is commemorated on the Lancaster Memorial; our little project has stretched far afield! Norman Gardner has produced a lovely piece tracing his relatives in "Red Roses grow in Flanders Field". Jim Carton then gives us a heartfelt account of the devotion of the Merchant Navy to our country through all conflicts.

Peter Dew follows with an article about our local regiment, The King's Own, describing the learning curve in the early part of the Great War through to when seasoned troops ended it. He ends with a startling set of numbers - if you were asked to guess how many men of this noble regiment were killed in that war you would never get near it! The next essay is a very suitable follow on - the moving story of one these numbers - Stephen Cook of Caton, a member of the 1/5th Battalion of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. I have read this essay several times; I feel that I know Stephen and I am always left with sadness in my heart.

Brian Jefferson ends the service section with a fine informative piece about "War in the air and the formation and contribution of the Royal Air Force - along with many local references.

We have not forgotten the role of Women in War and show a facsimile of a beautiful scroll awarded to the ladies of the St John VAD Hospital Preston for service during the Great War, and a photograph of the memorial window in the United Reformed Church Lancaster, to Dorlinda Bessie Hyland, a "Lady Nurse" the Boer war. The story of Clementina Addison, the first name on the Caton memorial brings tears to the eyes of the most hardened soul.

Some authoritative and interesting articles (particularly for the historian) follow. Nick Saunders has kindly condensed his excellent book on "Trench Art" into four pages! He was stimulated into this scholarly research by finding a piece of "Trench Art" passed down in the family by one of his grandfathers who served in The King's Own. Alastair Cameron shows that collecting militaria is not just hoarding artefacts; his account is more about the men behind the medals than collecting and is entirely in line with the theme of our project; he follows this with "The tale of a Torrisholme Headstone". Norman Gardner has produced a scholarly piece about The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment 1/5<sup>th</sup> (Territorial) Battalion; a must for readers interested in the King's Own. An engaging compilation of "The Poetry of Conflict" by Brian Jefferson is followed by a really warm family essay "One day in August 1914" by Elizabeth Anne Knight, it is the story of the Holding Brothers killed in the First World War. The Essays end with the remarkable story of the burial of submariner Donald Cameron: "Full Military Honours", a fitting end to this set of essays with a post script which defines the spirit of this Project: Books of Honour.

The Lancaster Military Heritage Group are certainly lucky to have had such a response, and are deeply grateful to all the contributors for their fine and moving stories.

## **FOREWORD**

(To the Books of Honour)

**by The President**

**Major General R J Hodges CB OBE**

It is with considerable humility I write this foreword as it commemorates the ultimate sacrifice that young men and women have made in the cause of democracy and freedom. This feeling continues as I write as the President of the Lancaster Military Heritage Group for we owe everything to the Community who give up their sons and daughters to serve with us, and who always support us steadfastly.

Our Group have been preparing Books of Honour of those named on the War Memorials in the Lancaster and Morecambe area since 2002. They have been put together at a period of time when the world faces many new challenges and threats to a peaceful co-existence. This act of dedication serves to remind us of the awful price of war.

These Books, presented to The Mayor of Lancaster on the Sixtieth Anniversary of VE Day cover both World Wars and other conflicts. They provide a fitting climax to the Group War Memorial Project. Each Book includes "pen pictures" of the short lives of the 1348 men, and one women, commemorated on the Lancaster War Memorial. Their sacrifice can thus be more significantly marked for all time. Our Group hope that this record will serve in a small way to give thanks to the Community who gave up their gallant sons and daughters, and continue so to do.

The Community of Lancaster

**WE SALUTE YOU**

*"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them"*

## **THE DATA DISC(S)**

1. **Outline.** The material we have collected during the project is consolidated into the War Memorial Book and the Data Disc. The data disc has three parts:

a. Listings of the war memorials in the area, the Commonwealth War Grave Headstones in the area and all of the names commemorated thereon. For each name the associated war memorial is shown.

b. The entire set of biographies of the 2700 men and women commemorated on the local War Memorials of the Townships and Parishes under the purview of Lancaster City Council.

c. Other associated material such as the 42 page Booklet describing the Regimental Chapel of The King's Own Royal Regiment, compiled by Colonel Cowper and now out of print.

2. **Access.** This is by way of a user friendly set of links (as in web sites) to the appropriate part of the disc. The disc will operate on most modern computers and full instructions for use will be included within the disc cover. Upon insertion in the disc tray the disc will run automatically. The minimum hardware requirement is for a DVD reader; Windows XP is the preferred operating system although earlier editions of Windows from '98 should be alright.

3. **Disc Cover.** The cover can be personalised with a picture of a particular war memorial or soldier, either from the outset or can be locally produced.

### **Contents**

4. **Biographies.** The following memorials are included for both world wars:

a. **Lancaster** - 1,400 names

b. **Morecambe and Heysham** - 368 names

c. **Northern Parishes:** Bolton Le Sands, Borwick, Hest Bank, Slyne with Hest, Over Kellet, Silverdale, and the Yealands.

d. **Eastern Parishes:** Dolphinhholme, Hornby, Melling, Tatham, Tunstall, Leck and Whittington.

e. **Southern Parishes:** Abbeystead, Forton, Galgate, Glasson Dock, Overton, Pilling and Scorton.

### **5. Other Material.**

a. Full copies of: Book of Essays written by relatives, A Book of Newspaper Obituaries: Lancaster Guardian and Morecambe Visitor (Both Wars).

b. Booklets: The King's Own Regimental Chapel (Cowper); Heysham War Dead WW1 (Baldwin Bent); The Heysham Hospital WW1; The Carnforth Street Collection WW1; National Arboretum Details and photographs; Our Ladies Concert.

c. A full detailed list of the 200 War Memorials in our area, together with the names of those commemorated and a similar listing for the , Commonwealth War Grave headstones.

**Note: The Data Disc must be purchased separately.**



# Annex E The British War Effort 1914-18

Date	THE WESTERN FRONT			AIR	SEA	NEAR EAST
1914	<p>Aug: British Army small &amp; most professional in the world. Lack of modern equipment. Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reichswehr invades Belgium. Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>. UK declares war on Germany.</p> <p>Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>. BEF at Mons. Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Marne. Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Le Cateau. Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>-Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> Battle Ypres.</p> <p>Aut'mn: Kitchener's appeal for men.</p>	S/F EN FAILS	B.E.F.	<p>Aug. 63 aircraft in the Royal Flying Corps (founded in 1912).</p> <p>Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> success; Elrich Taube forced down. Sept: RFC spots for enemy batteries.</p>	<p>German ports block-aded. RN gets BEF safely across Channel. Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>. Heligoland</p> <p>Bight. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Coro-nel. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. Falk-lands. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Scarborough shelled.</p>	<p>Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Turkey in War.</p>
1915	<p>March 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Neuve Chapelle. April 22nd-May 27<sup>th</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres. May: Admiralty experimenting with tanks.</p> <p>Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. Loos.</p>	DEFENDER HAS INITIATIVE WITH MACHINE GUN AND ARTILLERY - TRENCHLOCK	KITCHENER'S VOLUNTEER ARMY	<p>April: Zeppelins bomb London. May: Start of aerial bombing: bridges, railways, arms dumps. RFC has 166 planes. Aug: Trenchard RFC field commander.</p>	<p>Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>. Dogger Bank.</p> <p>May: U Boat sinks Lusitania. Naval support vital at Gallipoli.</p>	<p>April 25<sup>th</sup>. Landings at Anzac Cove. May 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Krithia. Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>. British land at Suvla Bay. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Evacuation of Anzac Cove.</p>
1916	<p>January: Conscription. Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>-Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>. Massive press-ure on French at Verdun. British, to assist French, decide on Somme offensive. July 1<sup>st</sup>. Start of Somme offensive;</p> <p>60,000 fell on day 1.</p> <p>Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. British use tanks for first time at Flers-Courcelette. Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. End of Somme Battle. ¼ m. British dead.</p>	SOMME	BRITISH	<p>Public takes an interest in 'aces' and 'dogfights'. Spring: Technol. advance: inter-ruptor gears. July: RFC has 27 squadrons (421 planes). Winter: Dev. SE5 fighter, Handley Page bomber.</p>	<p>May 31<sup>st</sup>. Jutland. Germans sink more ships, but never leave Wilhelmshaven again.</p>	<p>Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>. Last British troops evacuated from Cape Helles. April: British</p>
1917	<p>Feb: Germans withdraw to Hindenburg Line. April: US declares war on Germany. April 9<sup>th</sup>-May 16<sup>th</sup>. Arras &amp; Vimy Ridge. June: Battle of Messines. July 31<sup>st</sup>. Start of Passchendaele (3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres); 320,000 casualties. August: Sir John Monash advocates new type of warfare with attacking tanks, planes,. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. End of Passchendaele. Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Start of Cambrai. First breakthrough by massed tanks.</p>	ATTACKER USES TANKS & PLANES	MASS CONSCRIPT ARMY	<p>Jan: 1<sup>st</sup> military parachute jump from RFC plane. May: Fleet Air Arm gives cover to convoys. Many U Boats sunk in Western approaches. Nov: RFC has air superiority.</p>	<p>Feb: Germans use unresisted sub. Warfare. April: UK on knees through U Boats; 60,000 tons sunk. May: Convoys reintroduced; 88,000 ships, only 436 losses. Depth charges.</p>	<p>Jan.-March: British in Mesopotamia. Finally retake Kut.</p>
1918	<p>March 21<sup>st</sup>. Ludendorff orders German offensive with troops from eastern front after Brest-Litovsk. April 9<sup>th</sup>. Second German offensive. May 27<sup>th</sup>. Third German offensive. July: Germans driven from Marne. Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>. Allies counter-attack. German front line broken at Amiens. 400 tanks used. Aut'mn: Meuse-Argonne advance. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. Germans sue for armistice</p>			<p>April 1<sup>st</sup>. RAF formed from RFC, parts of RN Air Service, and Independent Bomber Group: 22,000 planes. Aug: 800 fighters and bombers to back up Allied offensive.</p>	<p>April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Zeebrugge raid.</p> <p>Nov: German fleet mutinies.</p>	<p>Dec: Allenby breaks through at Gaza.</p> <p>March: British take Baghdad.</p> <p>Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. Turks defeated at Megiddo. Oct: Fall of Damascus.</p>

# Annex F The British War Effort 1939-45

Date	EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA			AIR			SEA		
1939	Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup> . Germans invade Poland. Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Britain declares war on Germany.  Sept: Start of 'Phoney War'.		PHONEY WAR TO DUNKIRK	Sept: Most of fighter command in France.			Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup> River Plate. Graf Spee sunk.		
1940	April 9 <sup>th</sup> . Germans invade Denmark and Norway. May 10 <sup>th</sup> . Low Countries invaded. June 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Dunkirk. June 11 <sup>th</sup> . Italy declares war. June 22 <sup>nd</sup> . Fall of France. Sept. Italian invasion of Greece and Egypt. Dec.11 <sup>th</sup> . Italian loss at Sidi Barrani.		U. K. v. ITALY IN	May: Coastal command increasingly active over Western Approaches. July: Dowding organizes fighter command to prevent invasion.  Aug. 8 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>  Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup> -Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>		BATTLE OF BRITAIN  LONDON BLITZ	April: German losses over Norway. June: ½ m. tons of Allied shipping sunk. July 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Raids on Oran destroy Vichy fleet.  Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup> . Taranto		ITALIAN NAVY SUNK
1941	Feb. Formation of Afrikakorps.  April. British expelled from Greece. May. British expelled from Crete. June 22 <sup>nd</sup> . Germans invade Russia.  Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup> . Hitler declares war on USA.		DEFEAT IN GREECE	ROYAL AIR FORCE BOMBS GERMAN CITIES	Initial bombing sorties not very successful. Nov: Failure of bombing offensive.		March 27 <sup>th</sup> . Matapan  May 27 <sup>th</sup> Bismarck sunk. July: Start of RN convoys to USSR.		FAR EAST Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> . Pearl Harbour; war with Japan. Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> . Hong Kong falls. Feb.15 <sup>th</sup> . Fall of Singapore March: British out of Burma. May: British build up forces with aim of retaking Burma.
1942	June 20 <sup>th</sup> . Rommel takes Tobruk. Aug. 19 <sup>th</sup> . Dieppe Raid. Montgomery to 8 th Army.  Oct. 20 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> EL ALAMEIN Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup> . Allied landings in French North Africa.		ROMMEL v. 8 th ARMY		Harris new chief of Bomber Command. Summer: Tedder i/c of RAF in North Africa.		March: Germans re-key codes. Apr-June: U Boats' success; in packs.		
1943	Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup> . British enter Tripoli.  May 12 <sup>th</sup> . Germans surrender in North Africa. July 10 <sup>th</sup> . Landings in Sicily. Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Allied invasion of Italy.  Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup> . Ortona falls to 8 <sup>th</sup> Army.		GERMAN LOSS OF N. AFRICA	May 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> Lancasters bomb dams in Germany. Barnes-Wallace's 'bouncing bombs'.		Feb: Ger. codes broken. March: B. of Convoy Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Turpitz sunk		Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup> . First Chindit raids. July: US demands Burma offensive by UK. Oct.25 <sup>th</sup> . Burma-Siam railway completed	
1944	Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup> . Anzio. British defeat.  June 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> . Pegasus Bridge. June 6 <sup>th</sup> . 2 nd Army on Juno, Gold and Sword.  Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> British defeat at Arnhem.		8 th ARMY IN ITALY	Jan: RAF secures control over Channel. June 13 <sup>th</sup> . Start of V1. Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> . Start of V2.		June: Operation Neptune to secure 'D' Day success.		March 8 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> . Slim's victory at Imphal. July 8 <sup>th</sup> . Defeat of Japanese at Kohima.	
1945	March 23 <sup>rd</sup> . British cross the Rhine April 30 <sup>th</sup> . Hitler commits suicide. May 4 <sup>th</sup> . German troops in Northwest Europe surrender. May 8 <sup>th</sup> . German unconditional surrender.		DEFEAT OF THE WEHREMACHT	Feb: Operation Thunderclap on Dresden.		May: R.N. assists US at Iwo Jima and Okinawa		Jan.22 <sup>nd</sup> . Burma Road reopened. May 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Fall of Rangoon.  Aug. 14 <sup>th</sup> . Japan surrenders. Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup> . British in Singapore	

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### Useful References including web sites.:

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission:

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FAX 01628 771208

email [general.enq@cwgc.org](mailto:general.enq@cwgc.org)

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National Inventory of War Memorials (NIWM)

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[www.warmemorials.org](http://www.warmemorials.org)

Channel 4 in conjunction with The National Inventory of War memorials:

Web site: [www.channel4.com/lostgeneration](http://www.channel4.com/lostgeneration).

### **Map References**

Each of the War Memorials has a map reference. These are from the Ordnance Survey Landranger Series Map Sheets 97 (Lancaster) and 102 (Blackpool). A very useful facility is the web site of the OS: [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/getamap](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/getamap). At this site click on “Get a Map” and insert the Grid Reference given with the prefix SD; eg SD1234546 (no gap between SD and the numbers). A map will then be presented with your Grid Reference at the centre. The scale can be altered and the screen map printed off. Well done OS and thank you.

## WAR MEMORIAL INDEX

### Chapters 2-6

Abbeystead Village Cross	105	Co-op WW2	21
Albert Halton VC Memorial Room	79	Crimean War	21
Alexandra Barracks Bks	13	Crook J E - Individual	66
Animals Memorial London	7	Davies H (Boer War) - Individual	83
Applegarth W B - Individual	114	Dolphinholme Memorial Hall	107
Arkholme Church WW1	94	Dolphinholme Village Cross	107
Armed Forces Memorial	8	Ellel Memorial Hall WW1	109
Armer J - Individual WW1	108	Ellel Village Cross	108
Barrow S E - Individual	39	Forton Village Cross	108
Battle of Britain London	8	Gaulter E J - Individual	74
Bilewycz C - Individual	45	Geo Hamsbrow - Individual	36
Bingham F M - Individual	39	Glasson Dock Ch ROH WW1	111
Boer War	63	Glasson Dock Ch ROH WW2	111
Bolton Le Sands	73	Glasson Dock Memorial Hall	110
Bolton Le Sands Church - Organ	75	Greaves Meth Ch Window	24
Bolton Le Sands Church WW1	73	Greaves Meth Ch WW1	25
Bolton Le Sands Church WW2	74	Greaves Meth Ch WW2	25
Bolton Le Sands Church-Doors	75	Green J D - Individual WW1	104
Borough Club	15	Green St Methodist WW1	61
Borwick Church	75	Gressingham Church - Organ	95
Borwick War Memorial Hall	75	Gressingham Church ROH WW1	94
Bowerham Cong Church	16	Gressingham Church ROH WW1	95
Bowerham School	16	Gressingham Church Tablet WW2	95
Brannon J - Individual	40	Halton Village Cross	82
Bulk District	42	Halton Village Institute	84
Burma Star Assn Cross	61	Halton Village Institute - Casket	118
Burma Star Assn ROH	62	Harrison Family Tablet	106
Burma Star Memorial Garden	60	Hastings G H - Individual	83
Carnforth Cenotaph	76	HMS Lancaster	37
Carnforth Church - Patriots	79	Hornby Memorial Playing Fields	96
Carnforth Church Window	79	Hornby Village Cross	96
Carnforth Church WW1	79	Howson G P - Individual	63
Carnforth Church WW2	79	Hyland D (Boer War) - Individual	49
Carnforth Cong Ch Window	vi	Individual Memorial	114
Carnforth Cong Ch WW1	78	Irving R - Individual	17
Carnforth Cong Ch WW2	78	Jackson G W - Individual	62
Carnforth Conservatives	80	John O'Gaunt Rowing Club	39
Carr P - Individual	67	John O'Gaunt Rowing Club WW1	40
Caton Village Cross	81	King's Own Museum Boer War	32
Cenotaph London	3	Lancaster Cemetery WW1	26
Centenary Church	50	Lancaster Golf Club	23
Central Lancaster High School	17	Lancaster Lads Club	54
Christ Church Carnforth WW1	78	Lancaster War Memorial	11
Christchurch Cross	19	Lansil Works	27
Clarence St Church Parchment	61	Leck St Peter's Church ROH WW1	97
Clarence St Church ROH	60	Leck VillageCross	97
Clarke J B - Individual	105	Lees E B - Individual WW1	102
Cleopatrs Needle London	3	LNWR Memorial Book	81
Cockerham Ch ROH WW1	106	Lowgill Village Cross	98
Cockerham Ch ROH WW2	106	LRGS	29
Cockroft J W -Individual	20	Marsh Church	25
Co-op WW1	20	Mashed J S - Individual	74

# Index

Maxwell M Individual	45	St Johns WW1	41
Melling ROH WW1	98	St Joseph's R C Ch WW1	43
Milestone Memorial	65	St Joseph's R C WW2	44
Moor Hospital WW2	31	St Lawrence Church WW1	64
Moor Lane Primitive	25	St Peter's Church	67
Morcambe Memorial Hall	64	St Wilfrid Church Halton WW1	83
Morecambe Cenotaph.	57	St Wilfrid Church Halton WW2	83
Morecambe Church WW1	62	Standfast Barracks	47
Morecambe Roll of Honour	59	Storeys ROH	47
Morecambe High School	66	Sulyard St Methodist	25
National School	38	Tank Trophy	48
Newby H E - Individual	94	Tatham Fells ROH WW1	99
North L A - Individual 1901	102	Tatham Fells School ROH WW1	100
Oddfellows ( Lincoln Lodge)	33	Tatham St James ROH WW1	100
Oddfellows (Duchess Lodge)	32	Thiepval	4
Ormerod Brothers	113	Thurnham Memorial Hall	115
Over Kellet Village Cross	85	Thurnham ROH WW1	116
Overton Ch Window	111	Tomlinson F R J - Individual	74
Overton Memorial Hall	112	Trajan Column	3
Overton Village Cross	111	Trimplell Sp Club	70
Parkinson G W - Individual	68	Trinity Presbyterian WW2	50
Peace Stone Nether Kellet	87	Tunstall Ch - Organ Plate	101
Phoenix St WMC	34	Tunstall Ch - Organ WW2	101
Post Office	34	Tunstall Church ROH WW1	101
Primmer O G - Individual	42	Tunstall ROH WW1	102
Priory (Regimental)	35	Tunstall ROH WW2	102
Quernmore Ch WW1	112	Tunstall Village Cross	100
Quernmore Ch WW1	112	Unitarian Church	48
Redmayne L -Individual	36	Unknown Blackpool	70
RFA 10th Lancaster Battery	14	Unknown Warrior	53
Ripley School	37	Vale of Lune RUFC	56
RNLI	9	Vodullus, Lucius Niscus	55
Roman Catholic Cathedral	17	Waring and Gillows	22
Royal Albert Hospital	40	Warton Church ROH	91
Scorton ROH WW1	113	Warton Village Cross	90
Scorton ROH WW2	113	Wesleyan Church WW1	72
Scorton Village Cross	113	Wesleyan Church WW1	71
Sharpe R 2Lt RFC - Individual	36	Wesleyan Church WW2	72
Shot at Dawn	10	West End Primary School	72
Silverdale Church - Standard	89	Westfield Cottages	53
Silverdale Church WW1	88	Westfield House WW2	52
Silverdale Church WW2 - Doors	898	Westfield Memorial	51
Silverdale Village Cross	87	Whittington Church WW1	103
Skerton Liberal Club	45	Whittington Church WW1	103
Slinger F - Individual	96	Whittington Church WW2	104
Slyne/Hest Memorial Hall	89	Whittington Village Cross	103
Slyne/Hest WW1	89	Williamsons ROH	54
St Anne's Church	41	Womens War Memorial London	7
St Christophers Church Bare	67	Woods J - Individual	45
St Cuthbert Church	86	Wray ROH WW1	104
St George's Mission	46	Wray ROH WW1	104
St George's Mission	46	Wyton F - Individual	68
St John The Divine Church	69	Yealand Church ROH WW1	92
St John's Amb Bde	36	Yealand Church ROH WW2	93
St Johns Window WW1	42	Yealand Conyers Village Cross	91

**INDEX****Chapters 1 and 7**

Acorn Project	126	Family History, Lancaster Society	117
Adams, Harry	124	Firing Party	124
Addison, Clementina	9	Forms, Town Hall WW1	117
Advertising	117	Garden, of Remembrance	5
Africa, South	116	Gill, Eric	2
Airey, Billie Jean	131	God Blocks	2
Amazon	2	Google	2
Animals, War Memorial	7	Grob, Aircraft	122
Arboretum, National	8	Guardian, Lancaster	127
Archives	118	Guides	121
Armed Force Memorial	8	Habbaniya	9
Armfield, Jimmy	122	Handbook, War Memorials	7
Auhority, Local, 1923 Act	5	Headstone	4
Austin, & Paley	4	Heritage, Lancaster Military Group	116
Awards for All	121	Heysham, Hospital WW1	118
Backhouse, David	7	Higginson, Lt	125
Baker, Herbert	3	Hislop, Ian	9
Battle of Britain	8	Holden, Charles	3
Beatson, Lt Col	122	Hyde Park	7
Bent, Baldwin	118	Imperial War Grave Commisssion	3
Binyon, Laurence	124	ImperialWar Museum	2
Blomfield, Sir Reginald	3	Internet	118
Boer War	3	Inventory, National, War Memorials	5
Books, of Honour	118	Kipling	3
Borg, Dr Alan	2	Lancaster Central High	127
Bowland, Denise,Piper	123	Lancaster, HMS	121
Butterworth, Brothers	9	Longworth, Philip	4
Cadets	121	Lutyens, Edwin	3
Canham, Robert	124	Mawson, Thomas	4
Cardwell	3	Media	132
Cavanagh, Peter	124	Memorial Chapel, King's Own	5
Cemeteries, Local	117	Memorialisation	2
Cemeteries, Local	133	Menin Gate	3
Cenotaph, London	2	Midland Hotel	116
Census, Data	117	Mills, John	7
Channel 4	9	Morley, J D Captain	122
Cleopatra's Needle	3	Morrison's	117
Conflict, All, Memorial	8	Museum, Victoria and Albert	3
Cowper, Colonel	118	Names, adding	7
Craghill, Air Cdr	122	National Arboretum	8
Cross of Sacrifice	3	Navy and Army Press	117
Dalton Square	3	New Voice of Youth	124
Data Base	133	Newspapers, Local	117
Data Disc	118	Not Forgotten	9
Dawn, Shot at	9	Obelisks	3
Day, John	122	Our Lady's School	127
Day, Paul	8	Paley, & Austin	4
Definition, War Memorial	5	Pearsons	4
Denwood, Cllr Sheila,	125	Police	121
Dobson, Sgt MM	125	Port Sunlight	3
Ecclesiasticus	3	Presentations	118
Embankment, Thames	8	Queen's Jubilee	116



Repatriation, Principle of "No"	3
Ripley, School	116
RNLI	9
Rules, adding names	7
Runnymede	118
Schools, participation	126
Scouts	121
Seymour, Jack	131
Sheild, Stephen	124
Shot at Dawn	9,10
Shrigley and Hunt	4
Spitfire	122
Spratling, Emma	132
St Bernadettes	124
St George	3
St John's Ambulance	121
St Paul's School	126
Thiepval	3
Time Capsule	116
Town Hall, Forms WW1	4
Trafalgar, HMS	121
Trajan Column	3
United Reformed Church	119
VE 2005	121
Victoria, Queen	3
Victory	3
War Memorial Trust	5
War Memorials Hanbook	2
War stone	3
Ware, Sir Fabian	3
Waring and Gillow	116
Westfield, Memorial Village	5
Westminster Abbey	8
Wilkinson, Harold	117
Women, War Memorial	7
York, Duke of	3
Zaltowski, Nytasha	131