



As the creation of war memorials has traditionally been organised locally, with there being no central government directives or funding, the question of who is or is not commemorated, the form in which their details are recorded and which conflict dates are used is held to be a local matter.

There are no definitive 'rules' for the names included on war memorials or for which war dates are used. 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.

First World War dates on war memorials

1914-1918 are the most common dates for the First World War found on war memorials obviously commemorating the year the war commenced and the year the armistice was declared, on 11th November 1918.

However, it is not unusual to find the dates 1914-1919 on First World War memorials. The 1919 date refers to the year when the Treaty of Versailles was signed. This was the peace treaty drawn up by the nations who attended the Paris Peace Conference and officially ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers when it was signed on 28th June 1919.

Some war memorials also feature the dates 1914-1921, although this is less common. On 25th August 1921 the United States of America signed a separate peace treaty with Germany, the Treaty of Berlin.

As explained above, there are no 'rules' for war memorial inscriptions so any of these dates are correct as the local community decided to use the dates which were most appropriate.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission dates

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was established by Royal Charter in 1917 and commemorates the 1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who died in the First and Second World Wars.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and War Memorials Trust are separate organisations.

The graves and war memorials which are the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorate those who died between:

- First World War - 4th August 1914 to 31st August 1921
- Second World War - 3rd September 1939 to 31st December 1947

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