



Friends of War Memorials *Bulletin*

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FoWM's Somme Day Commemoration 2004



A record number of friends, members and volunteers gathered at the London's Cenotaph on July 1st for the FoWM's Somme Day Commemoration. This has become a yearly tradition, which is followed by our AGM. The ceremony remembers those who died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme alongside those who have fallen in different conflicts, including the current situation in Iraq.

The guard of Honour was provided by the 28 Training Squadron Royal Engineers with prayers said by Reverend Stephen Kirkham. Wreaths were laid by FoWM's President Winston S Churchill, Vice President Sara Jones with Guest of Honour WWI Veteran William Stone. This was followed by the laying of wreaths by FoWM's members and friends.

We are very grateful to the Metropolitan Police for stopping the traffic in Whitehall for part of the ceremony, The Khaki Chums and all those who helped us organizing this special event.

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RV Seminar 2004

Thank you to all Regional Volunteers who were able to join us for the RV Seminar on 1 July at the Imperial War Museum. Notes from the meeting are available to all Regional Volunteers. Please contact the FoWM if you would like a copy of minutes.

60th Anniversary of D-Day Commemorations

For several years David and Christine Armstrong (RVs of Hertfordshire), together with their grandson Alexander, have attended the annual memorial services at Ranville CWGC in Normandy on the 6th of June. During this year's service, led by the Bishop of London, David laid a wreath at the Airborne Cross on behalf of FoWM.

Many of the men of the 6th Airborne Division who lost their lives on the 6th June 1944, and subsequently, are buried at Ranville.

Norfolk Landmines Clearance Memorial

In 1944 the dangerous job of clearing the British-laid minefields fell to the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Units. In Norfolk, minefields stretched from Great Yarmouth to Wells-next-the-sea and, in order for beaches and cliffs to be returned to public use, thousands of B-Type Cs landmines had to be removed. Some beaches were not open to public until 1966. In total 28 personnel lost their lives clearing the Norfolk coast.

This new war memorial commemorates those men. It was unveiled in May 2004 and FoWM was represented at this ceremony by June Marriage (RV Norwich).

**Collingwood RND Memorial**

Lady Grayson (RV in Dorset) represented FoWM at Collingwood Royal Naval Division Memorial (Blandford Camp, Dorset) on a ceremony commemorating those from the Collingwood Battalion who died at Gallipoli. A wreath was laid.

Victoria Cross and George Cross Association

FoWM continues to collaborate with the VC/GC Restoration Fund and our RVs are an essential part of this project through their fieldwork. Robert Dallas (RV in Glasgow) helped with the erection of a stone plaque to Gunner Hugh McInnes VC, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for "conspicuous gallantry" at the relief of Lucknow in November 1857.

**REGIONAL VOLUNTEERS**

Regional Volunteers are members who act as FoWM's eyes and ears locally and inform us of war memorials in their area that need attention. We very much appreciate RVs assistance in a number of tasks. We may let them know of cases that need local knowledge or they could relay details of war memorial problems and local contacts. We also ask RVs to attend re-dedication ceremonies on our behalf and perhaps to lay a wreath where appropriate. RVs do as much, or as little, as they are able to. In effect, they act as "reservists" to be called upon when needed, as well as being correspondents when they see fit.

We now have nearly 200 Regional Volunteers countrywide and extend a warm welcome to new RVs who have joined us recently. For a full list of RVs by area and to find out about becoming a Regional Volunteer, please contact Frances Moreton at FoWM. We are always delighted to welcome new RVs in any area but would be particularly pleased to hear from potential volunteers in North Wales and Scotland.

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The Objectives of Friends of War Memorials

1. To monitor the condition of war memorials and to take steps to ensure that local authorities and other relevant organisations are alerted to such condition with a view to their undertaking any necessary restoration, essential maintenance, repairs and cleaning.
2. To liaise with secular and ecclesiastical authorities, regiments and other responsible bodies with a view to their accepting responsibility for, and undertaking repairs to and restoration of war memorials.
3. To publicise and to educate and inform the public about the spiritual, archaeological, artistic, aesthetic and historical significance of war memorials as part of our national heritage; to encourage support groups and to inspire young people to cherish their local war memorials and the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom.

Director General's Message by Sir Donald Thompson

I think we are all pleased and perhaps surprised at the amount of media coverage D-Day attracted, some of it poignant. Brave, brave men

I remind you that 2005 will be memorable for at least two reasons. It is the "Year of the Sea" and the 60th Anniversary of the conclusion of WWII. Many of our members marked D-Day in a special way and I am sure the same will happen next year. Do let us know as early as possible of any significant event anywhere in the UK.

The official Day next year will be July 10th 2005 to mark both VE and VJ Days.

By the way, our trustee the Hon Tim Lewin has become involved with the Stewardship of the Crimean War Memorial, which is in need of repair. Tim spends a great deal of his time in the Russian Republics and has tales of war memorials to the British all over the country.

May I thank so many of you for being on parade on the Cenotaph on July 1st again. But to mark the end of WWII, we will parade on Sunday 3rd July 2005 at noon at the London's Cenotaph. No medals, no uniforms just a spring of laurel. We hope to have the A.G.M. on the same day.

As always we need funds to sustain our ever-growing tasks. So why not have a special event of your own to remember the end of the war.

PS: By the way, a slight misprint in my last editorial, which was claiming Russians and not the Prussians as our principal ally at Waterloo. My apologies for this.

We are very grateful to

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For their sponsorship of
the FoWM Bulletin



The 2004 Flora London Marathon by Glen Iceton

As I looked out of the rain-splashed window of the train, I saw the first person of the day to lose a race. As the train pulled away a hapless runner was coming to a stop on the platform. He knows not to worry, the number of trains leaving from the stations to the Marathon are almost at the same regular intervals as the helpful stewards pointing the way for the 32,528 runners who are taking part. It meant that all runners could get on with the business of fretting. Have I got my number, my champion chip, are my trainers too tight, what's that slight ache in my calf?

This being my first marathon I had been placed at the back of the race. This had the advantage of being with the more colourful characters taking part. I counted at least 2 Scooby Do's, a monkey-suited runner and couple of large hearts... Countdown 5... waterproof Macs are being ripped off...4...3... Mobile phones start to bleep. I had a final glance at mine...2... My wife is 5 months pregnant and one of my conditions of running was that I would run with the phone. Lets get started. ..!

A huge cheer from the front cascaded down and we all joined in, more to release tension than anything else. The route bends its way around South-East London, at 6 1/2 miles I reach the Cutty Sark. Knowing the TV cameras will be here I smile through the rain and pound on. Tower Bridge is about the half way marker. Over the bridge I become very conscious of my knees and I realise what a marathon is all about.

The going gets tough, the crowds thin but the rain continues. As I enter the Isle of dogs the crowds build up again. I go under the office block and stacked up on the stairs are thou-

sands of people cheering me on, I need then now. 17 miles gone, 10 to go. On the streets of the Eastend people are coming out of their houses with sweets for the runners. We circle back towards Tower Bridge and people in the crowd are shouting "well done cancer research" "I hope for one cheery" "Get in there Friends of War memorials". Encouraged, I keep going over the evil cobbles that lead into the City. I see the familiar red and whites checked bands of the City police and pass the pain by trying to spot some old friends. I am truly tired but the sun is coming out. My legs hurt but my own personal challenge was not to walk. 3 miles to go I'm not going to "cheat" now.

The route start to narrow and marshals are appearing thick and fast... Desperate to have my finish photo showing sub 5 hours I open my stride to pass Buckingham Palace. Knees now nicely a blaze, lungs tightening I kick on. The crowds continue to shout. It's hard to express what 5 hours of encouragement

We would like to thank all those that run in the Flora London Marathon on FoWM's behalf. This year's runners were:

Gary Arthur
Sara Doughty
Glen Iceton
Sarah Mulhall
David Potter

A special thank you to all our supporters.



is like but it's truly amazing. Then, suddenly there is a man shouting it's all over. He is right," never again "pops into my mind. I find myself ushered into a cue waiting for my medal. My final time is 4 hours 42 minutes. I've done it; I've run a marathon! I collapse under a tree to shelter from the heavy rain and gather myself together. I have an appointment with Sir Donald Thompson at St Stephens's club, which promises a welcome meal and a beer. As I pass the Guards memorial at Horse Guards parade and remember the main reason I have just put myself through such an ordeal. Particularly under my own old cap badge, The Household Cavalry. All around me triumphant runners are meeting up here with their families, receiving congratulatory hugs and pats on the back. Situated as it is at the very end of the London Marathon, today everyone is a friend of this War memorial.

STANDING ORDERS

Joining Friends of War Memorials or renewing your existing membership? Why not consider paying your subscription by standing order? It's easy and convenient for you and also helps FoWM to keep its administration costs down.

Contact Frances Moreton at FoWM for a standing order form!

Friends of War Memorials Small Grants Scheme

Stamford War Memorial (Lincolnshire)

FoWM awarded a £500 grant towards the restoration of bronze plaques and stonework and hard-landscaping repairs. The Stamford War Memorial was erected in 1920 with WWII names and garden area added post 1945. Stamford Ex-Services Organisations added the Memorial Gates in 2002 as part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations.



Friends of War Memorials Small Grants Scheme is able to give grants of up to £250 per project to assist war memorials of all dates and types. Since its creation, the Small Grants Scheme has awarded over £50,000 to 245 projects.

The Small Grants Scheme is primarily targeted towards the conservation and repair of existing war memorials, but related work such as addition of new names, landscaping and the creation of new war memorials are also eligible for assistance. There is no listing requirements or geographical restrictions.

Please contact the Conservation Officer at FoWM for more information, to request an application form or to discuss a potential application.

King's Stanley War Memorial (Gloucestershire)

FoWM awarded a £250 grant for the repair and relettering of this unusual war memorial with lantern cross. The original lantern is lost.

Selsley War Memorial (Gloucestershire)

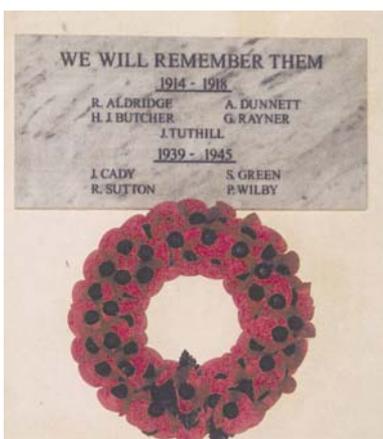
FoWM awarded a £250 grant for restoration work.



Waddington War Memorial (Lincolnshire)

FoWM awarded a £250 grant for the commissioning of a war memorial commemorating local residents who died in the two World Wars.

Walpole War Memorial (Suffolk)



FoWM awarded a £200 grant for the commissioning of a war memorial commemorating those the men from Walpole who died in the two World Wars. The war memorial was erected at St Mary's Church.





Cromer War Memorial (Norfolk)

FoWM awarded a £500 grant for the restoration of Cromer war memorial. This war memorial was created by W D Caroe and dedicated on the 23rd October 1919. It commemorates local residents who died in the two World



The FoWM Small Grants Scheme is one of the most successful elements of our work, which allows us to fund many projects that fall outside the remit of other grant schemes. Our grants and professional advice have been central in helping the restoration of war memorials countrywide.

Your donation is important and will help us assist the many projects we receive each year. Please send your donation to: Sir Donald Thompson, Friends of War Memorials, 4 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0LA

Barford War Memorial (Warwickshire)

FoWM awarded a £500 grant for the restoration of Barford war memorial. This war memorial commemorates the local residents who died in the two World Wars. It is set in St Peter's churchyard's wall.

Longcot War Memorial (Oxfordshire)

FoWM awarded a £100 grant towards the addition of a new inscription onto the Longcot war memorial. This war memorial commemorates the local residents who died in the two World Wars and was unveiled on 5 December 1920.



Ixworth War Memorial (Suffolk)



FoWM awarded a £200 grant towards the cleaning, repair and hard-landscaping work of the Ixworth war memorial. This war memorial commemorates 31 local men who died in World War I and was unveiled on 20 December 1929.

English Heritage Grants for War Memorials

To stem the tide of decay that threatens this unique aspect of our national heritage, and to ensure that they can remain as a reminder to future generations of the price paid by so many for the freedom we enjoy today, English Heritage, in association with the Wolfson Foundation and Friends of War Memorials, is making funds available for the repair of free-standing war memorials in England. There are no listing or conservation area requirements.

The types of work which may qualify for grant aid include:

- repairs to fabric, including works of structural stabilisation
- recutting and recarving of eroded inscriptions and detail
- relettering, releading and regilding
- cleaning where appropriate and clearly beneficial
- reinstatement of lost elements, particularly decorative features
- works to associated hard landscaping, where this forms part of the overall design

This scheme awards grants of up to 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £10,000. Please contact the Conservation Officer - Dr Pedro Gaspar - for further details, application form, advice or to discuss a potential application.

Work which has begun before a formal grant offer has been made and accepted is not eligible for grant aid.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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WOLFSON
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The Port Sunlight War Memorial (Wirral)

A grant of up to £10,000 has been awarded for cleaning trials on the Port Sunlight War Memorial. This study will investigate the suitability of different cleaning treatments for the treatment of the bronze sculptures.

The Port Sunlight War Memorial (The Defence of the Home) was designed by William Goscombe John by invitation of Lord Lever. It is the focal point of the Port Sunlight Village, a model of civilised urban Planning of the Edwardian era.



Boxford War Memorial (Suffolk)

A grant of £300 has been awarded for cleaning the Boxford War Memorial (erected in 1919).

The UK National Inventory of War Memorials has estimated that there are over 60,000 memorials throughout the United Kingdom

Moreton-in-Marsh War Memorial (Gloucestershire)

A grant of £1,200 has been awarded for cleaning and restoration. The Moreton-in-Marsh was designed by Sir Edward Guy Dawber ARA and unveiled in 1921.



Knockholt War Memorial (Cambridgeshire)

A grant of £1,200 has been awarded for the cleaning of the Knockholt War Memorial., erected in 1923



Flamstead War Memorial (Hertfordshire)

A grant of £925 has been awarded for the cleaning and re-lettering of the Flamstead War Memorial.



Hatfield Heath War Memorial (Hertfordshire)



A grant of £380 has been awarded for the cleaning and restoration of the Hatfield Heath War Memorial (erected in 1920).

Hints War Memorial (Staffordshire)

A grant of £1,635 has been awarded for a condition survey to investigate the structural stability of the War Memorial. The war memorial was erected in 1921 on a 1153 stone base.



Mystery of the Lost War Memorial

Mystery hangs over the whereabouts of a large war memorial, once the focus of a large open air Mass each Remembrance Sunday.

Two old residents of St Mary's school, a Catholic orphanage in North Hyde, Middlesex, have launched an appeal this year to find the monument commemorating many of their fallen comrades.

More than 14 feet high, with a life-size cross, and figures of a soldier and sailor above a stone inscribed with more than 80 names, the memorial stood for many years on the roadside at the front of St Mary's School, Southall Lane, Middlesex. The school was run by Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary and Jesus and supported by the Crusade of Rescue (now the Catholic Children's Society). Although the regime was spartan, the school was quite progressive for its time, with a swimming pool, a farm with livestock and a choir and band who were sometimes recruited to play for special occasions at Westminster cathedral and Spanish Place.

Remembering the grounds in front of the school, ex-pupil Walter Adams said: "They were beautiful. There was a statue of the Sacred Heart and the war memorial looked like something you would see in Rome. A real work of art. Two of the names had the Military Medal and one had the Legion of Honour."

"Some things in life are printed in your memory forever," said another St Mary's old boy, Arthur Gaubert, 80, who attended the school from 1924-1933. During the inter-war years, each Remembrance Day, 600 boys, staff and local parishioners would assemble on the lawn in front of the monument, for a memorial service. "The school band would play, the choir sang hymns and then there was the last post," said Arthur. "By that point the atmosphere was electric. Many of the nuns would be weeping."

Casualties from St Mary's were high. Several young men died during the Boer War and during the First World War many more were killed or went missing in action. In November 1917, the Mother Superior, Reverend Mother Attracta wrote: "I wish it would all end because our losses have been grievous. We've already lost 48 boys."

Many more boys from the school were to give up their lives during World War Two. Arthur and Walter became lifelong friends. During the Second World War they ended up on the same beach at Dunkirk on 28 May 1940. "The boat I was on, the Queen of the Channel, was sunk during the evacuation," recalls Arthur. I can still see the Junkers circling round overhead shooting at us."

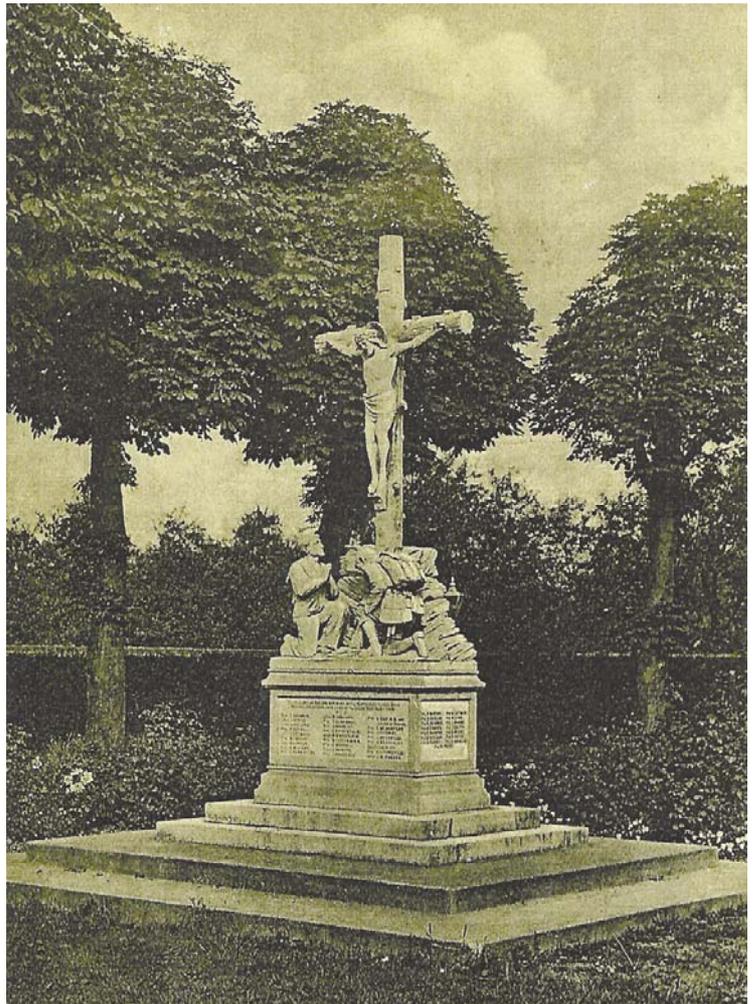
Both Mr Gaubert and Mr Adams got married and started families after the war. Mr Gaubert moved to Essex and ended up as a school headmaster. Mr Adams became a bandleader working on cruiseliners. He now lives in Cambridge-shire.

In the years just after World War Two, together with other St Mary's old boys, they would visit the school to reminisce and pay their respects at the monument. However, in 1953, the building was demolished, and the memorial disappeared.

Its whereabouts is a mystery. During the war, the building had been requisitioned by the Air Ministry. Afterwards, for a few years, BOAC had offices at the school, while the grounds were being considered as a site for the new Heathrow airport. When the building was pulled down, Mr Gaubert, Mr Adams and a number of other friends made extensive efforts to trace the memorial. Ex-pupil Patrick MacManus, grandfather of singer Elvis Costello, spent several years trying to find it. After leaving the school MacManus was a bandleader and worker on the SS Olympia, sister ship to the Titanic. But he never forgot his old school. His son, the bandleader Ros MacManus (who worked with Joe Loss) said: "My father kept in touch with everyone and he never gave up his search for the monument. It is as if it had vanished into thin air." Mr MacManus died in 1963, but his son Patrick would still love to know what happened to the memorial.

This year Mr Adams and Mr Gaubert decided to redouble their efforts to find the missing monument.

"Those boys were already dealt a very bad



hand ending in an orphanage," said Mr Adams. "They ended up losing their lives in the trenches of the First World War before they had a chance. Most of them were under 20. I feel it is the least we can do for them."

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster, Hounslow Council, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary and the War Graves Commissions were all contacted. None had any record of the memorial, although they would like to know any information that is discovered.

"We don't know who made it, who paid for it, or where it is now," said Mr Adams. But the information must be somewhere. It can't have just disappeared."

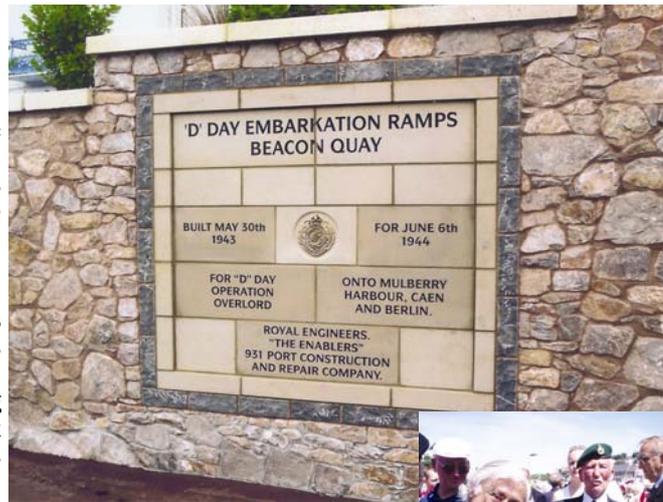
If you have any information about the St Mary's war memorial, please contact Jim Richards, director of the Catholic Children's Society at 73 St Charles Square, London W10 6EJ tel: 020 8969 5305. Alternatively, please contact FoWM.

D-Day Slipways—Beacon Quay

The Torquay harbourside holds two very famous and historic slipways, which took an important role on the embarkations on D-Day and the Normandy landings. Built by the Royal Engineers of the 931 Port Construction and Repair Company, this was the place from which thousands of men, particularly American troops, embark for the Normandy Landing in June 1944.

Threatened by redevelopment to the harbour area, the slipways became the object of an international campaign to preserve this important War Memorial. The Normandy, Veterans Association, FoWM and the local community took a central role in the listing of the slipways as grade II* (reserved for particularly important buildings) and honouring those who left these shores 60 years ago.

On the 60th Anniversary of D-Day a new plaque was dedicated to commemorate the construction of these slipways in ceremony with some of the veterans from the original embarkation. It stands proud next to the protected and restored slipways. Sir Donald Thompson represented FoWM on this occasion and had the opportunity to meet some of these veterans who shared their experiences and memories.



Mystery of Sandhurst's Gentleman Cadet

Barnack British Legion and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst would like information gleaned from readers' recollections of the story behind the death of 'Gentleman Cadet' George Ayscough Booth, who is commemorated in the magnificent Indian Memorial Room at Sandhurst and lies buried in a unique and somewhat neglected grave in Barnack village churchyard. As can be seen from the photograph, the grave is most unusual and is carved from local stone in the shape of a fallen palm tree, perhaps suggesting that the cadet was cut down in his prime.

The Royal Military Academy confirms that Cadet George Ayscough Booth joined the college on 1st February 1867 aged 19 and died fifteen months later in circumstances unknown. An exhaustive search of all public and ecclesiastical records has produced no information on cause of death, albeit the Sandhurst archivist says there is a rumour that Cadet Booth drowned in the College lake or may even have died from cholera, of which there was an epidemic at the time. Did he perhaps die recuperating from some illness abroad, which might partly explain the absence of a British death certificate?

Research has revealed that the cadet's father was curate of Barnack in the 1850s and then moved on to take over the living of Clandown near Radstock in Somerset. Afterwards it seems the family went to live in Brussels and possibly France, but no further trace of them has emerged.

In memory of their son, the parents donated an outstanding stained glass window that still stands in the college's Indian Memorial Room, at one time the chapel. For some unknown reason the window contains a panel depicting blue uniformed French Officer Cadets from the St. Cyr academy. The Royal Military Academy holds copies of interesting correspondence between the father, the college and the War Office regarding the intended design of the window, which apparently required the approval of the Commander in Chief, the Duke of Cambridge, who took a personal interest in the project for some reason.

Any information would be welcomed. Please contact FoWM if you can help us.



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War Heroes & Heritage Sold off to highest bidder

Melton First Launches National Appeal

In the week of the 60th anniversary of D-Day, Melton First launched a national appeal to discover the number of war memorial hospitals that are being sold off around the country, and to lobby parliament to change the law in order to prevent a sale where there is community interest.

The appeal is the result of Melton First's own attempts to keep the Melton & District War Memorial Hospital, set in 15 acres of natural parkland, in community hands. The voluntary group seeks to turn the site into a regional designs arts centre, and prevent it becoming a housing estate.

The war memorial hospitals, generally bequeathed by a local benefactor in memory of the town's fallen, were operated privately in large country houses or purpose-built residences until they were taken over by the newly formed National Health Service in 1948.

Over the past few years the country's old hospitals, many of which have been run down, have become unsuited to modern health provision, and are being sold off as new hospitals are being built elsewhere. The new capital builds are not dependent on these sales.

Many of the NHS's old hospitals are listed, although according to the NHS, less than 5% are grade II* or grade I, which means that English Heritage has limited involvement in their future. Instead, it is up to community groups to put together bids that equal or better the open market value of housing developers, currently the highest paying option.

Mitch de Faria, Melton First founder said: "Melton First is offering more than £1.5m for the grade II listed Melton War Memorial Hospital and grounds, but housing



© Melton First

In the previous issue of the FoWM Bulletin, we published an article describing the campaign to save Melton & District War Memorial Hospital. This showed how a group of local residents, concerned with the likelihood that the land would be sold to become a large housing development, got together to fight for the preservation of their local war memorial hospital. This article is a follow-up on the Melton First project. If you would like to receive a copy of the previous article, please contact FoWM.

developers have much deeper pockets. The NHS is selling our heritage to the highest bidder, and paying scant regard to those who laid down their lives and had marvellous sites like ours bequeathed in their name. And this is happening all over the country".

If the Melton Hospital had been covenanted, Melton First may have been able to prevent a sale. Mitch says, "Melton War Memorial Hospital has already been left to the townspeople once. Now, despite the community's strength of feeling and the fact that we are going to lose a much used and loved local resource, the Melton, Rutland & Harborough Primary Care Trust is ignoring the community completely".

Melton First is launching a national appeal asking for details of old hospitals

that have been or are being sold, particularly, war memorial hospitals. The group then intends to lobby to have the law changed.

"Where there is no community interest, then the sale of an old hospital for housing may be the most sensible option" said Mitch, "but where there is strong community support and a workable plan for the future of the site, then we believe that these old hospitals should remain in the hands of the community. The NHS may have the legal right to sell, but they clearly do not have the moral right; these buildings and landscapes are our heritage and in caring hands can also be our future.

For more information on Melton First visit the website www.MeltonFirst.co.uk

Would you like to develop a similar project? Campaign for the preservation of a local war memorial? Research the history and lives of those who died during conflict?

FoWM can help you by giving advice, guidance and grants.

Contact the Conservation Officer for information.

To Advertise in the FoWM Bulletin contact the Conservation Officer on

Tel 020 7259 0403
for rates and availability

Cambridgeshire's Newest Memorial

On Sunday 30th May 2004 Cambridgeshire's latest war memorial was unveiled by veterans of the United States Army Air Force.

The Memorial is dedicated to the memory of the airmen of the 457th Bombardment Group (H), part of the 94th Combat Wing, 1st Air Division of the U.S. Army Eighth Air Force, who gave their lives during operations over occupied Europe.

The ceremony, which took place in the presence of 25 veterans of the 457th BG, the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, local dignitaries, officers of the United States Air Force and some 300 - 400 people from all parts of the country, began with a flypast by the Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster.

Named Glatton, so as not to confuse it with other established airfields, Station 130 was situated between the villages of Holme and Conington. The much reduced airfield still operates as Peterborough Conington airfield. The Memorial is situated adjacent to the A1(M), at the junction of the B1043 and Conington lane, which into the village at what was the communal living area of the 750th Squadron of the 457th Bomb Group. The three other Squadrons, 748th, 749th and the 751st all had domestic areas within the boundaries of Conington village.

Made from marble by local stonemasons, the Memorial was paid for by members of the 457th Bomb Group (H) Association and it is hoped to establish a group called the British Friends of the USAAF 457th Bomb Group (H) to cope with the inevitable cost of the upkeep of the Memorial.

The front of the Memorial bears the dedication 'We who have survived dedicate this monument to our fellow Airmen who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.' and the reverse records that '237 COMBAT MISSIONS WERE FLOWN FROM THIS FIELD OVER ENEMY OCCUPIED EUROPE BETWEEN FEBRUARY 21, 1944 & APRIL 20, 1945' '16,915 TONES OF BOMBS WERE DROPPED WITH A LOSS OF 86 B-17s & 739 AIRMEN KILLED, MISSING OR PRISONERS OF WAR'

In 1945 before they left England the 457th placed a memorial, in the form of the helmeted head of an airman on a stone plinth, in Conington Churchyard overlooking the airfield. That memorial remains to this day and has been the focal point for return visits by veterans over the years.



The Walter Taylor Memorial



At the beginning of WWI the 1st Highland Brigade RFA was stationed in St Neots (Cambridgeshire). On 31st August 1914 one of its members, Gunner Walter Taylor was drowned in the river Ouse while rescuing a girl from drowning. He was buried in St Neots Cemetery and the local inhabitants, officers and men of the brigade subscribed to provide a memorial to him.

About twenty years ago this memorial was knocked over and has lain in a fallen and neglected state until this year. Two council workmen, hearing the story and largely working in their own time (lunch hours, etc), reset and restored this fine memorial. A ceremony was held on the 31st August to mark the 90th anniversary of Walter Taylor's Death.

FoWM would like to thank all those who responded to the restoration appeal of the St James' Church War Memorial window.

This extremely rare memorial depicts a soldier and a sailor standing guard by the Lusitania (The Cunard liner that was sunk with the loss of 1100 lives in May 1915).

Restoration costs have been estimated at £30,000 and your help is very much welcomed. FoWM will keep its readers informed of the progress with this project.

Listing Reports

FoWM campaigns for the protection of our War Memorial Heritage and, as part of our work, we encourage the listing of War Memorials. The list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest is the statutory registers recording the best of our heritage. It includes a wide variety of structures, from castles to village pumps. Not all the items on the lists are what we might conventionally think of as beautiful or attractive - some are included purely for their historical value. For this reason, Friends of War Memorials believe that all freestanding War Memorials should be listed and we participate in this process by preparing reports and submit listing requests, when appropriate. This is central in the preservation of our heritage.

Below, we present the latest additions to the list.

Greengates War Memorial

The Greengates War Memorial is a first World War memorial, erected in 1921, designed and executed by E Wright of Greengates and L F Roslyn of South Kensington, London. The memorial was unveiled by Lord Mayor of Bradford, Lieutenant-Colonel A Gadie and dedicated by the Archdeacon of Bradford, Canon Stanton Jones. The Vicar of Greengates, Revd J G Foster, gave the blessing and the Revds E M Bright and W E Goodreid (Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists, respectively) also took part in the service.

Anthony Gadie had served in the First World War and been mentioned in despatches. He went on to become the Conservative MP for Bradford Central and was knighted in 1925.



In 1923, when the Prince of Wales was visiting the West Riding, The British Legion branch at Greengates asked that he might lay a wreath at the memorial, as his route would pass through the crossroads. No firm answer was received and no provision was made for it in the official programme for the visit. However, when the Prince's car approached, it stopped and the Prince laid a wreath of laurel, palm and poppies and inspected a guard of honour of local ex-servicemen. In 1928, the Duke and Duchess of York's programme of events included a visit to a local textile factory. On leaving, their car was flagged down by three British Legion representatives, one of whom has served in both the Boer War and the First World War, as it approached the crossroads. They persuaded the couple to leave their car and lay a wreath of laurel and poppies. The Duke was shown the plaque commemorating his brother's

Billericay War Memorial

The War Memorial is situated at the apex of the triangle formed by the junction of Chapel Street and High Street and consists of two main parts. The Portland stone cross stands on a plain base and commemorates 62 men who fell in the First World War. This was unveiled on 16th October 1921 by Major General William Thwaites with a Guard of Honour of 40 ex-servicemen. It was formerly handed over to the Parish Council by Mr W J Cottis on behalf of the Memorial Committee. In 1957 the WWII War Memorial (wall with Roll of Honour) was added with the seats being donated by the Women's Institute.



Carmarthen (Prior Street) War Memorial

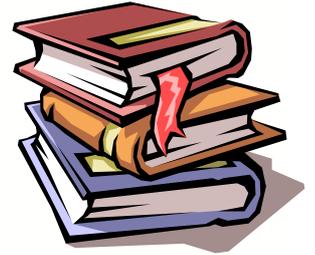
Originally situated at Carmarthen Infirmary, this War Memorial was relocated to Priory Street. It is a First World War Memorial designed by Sir William Goscombe and E V Collier. It is dedicated to the 1610 nurses officers and men of all ranks who fell. This is a fine example of a War Memorial designed by a leading Welsh sculptor of the earlier C20.

Carmarthen War Memorial

Situated in the centre of Guildhall Square, the Boer War Memorial was designed by E V Collier, W D Jenkins and W Lewis & Sons. It was unveiled by Major-General MacKinnon on the 27th April 1906.



FoWM Bookshelf



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FoWM Christmas Cards

Christmas is approaching fast and FoWM, with admirable forethought, is giving you the opportunity to buy your Christmas Cards now!

Continuing with our very special tradition, this year's card shows the bright colours of xxxxxxxxxxxx. A special War Memorial illustrating the seasonal spirit.

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