

FRIENDS OF WAR MEMORIALS

Patron: The Countess Mountbatten of Burma CBE CD JP DL

President: Winston S. Churchill Esq.

Director-General: Sir Donald Thompson

Founder: Ian Davidson Esq.

Autumn 1997

Moravian House
Lightcliffe
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX3 8AL

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend,

Developments have moved quickly since the inception of the charity, Friends of War Memorials. We consider it important to produce a newsletter to help bring you up-to-date with progress of the Charity, and its growing sphere of activities, all over the country.

Next year and in subsequent years we intend to make July 1st the pivotal point of our activities. It is sad but apposite that this date is also the anniversary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme when over 20,000 British Soldiers gave their lives, the most terrible casualty list in our history. It has been suggested this becomes Friends of War Memorials Founders Day. All appropriate ideas of ways to make this significant are welcome.

Attention will be focused during this Autumn in bringing to everyone's notice the fact that 1998 will be the 80th Anniversary of the end of The Great War and the following year, 1999 will be the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War. Friends of War Memorials is working together with The Royal British Legion, The Royal British Legion Scotland, the Imperial War Museum and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to bring to the attention of the country the essential need to preserve our heritage.

At Risk

Friends of War Memorials was set up to protect memorials all over the UK. As you will imagine, with over 50,000 memorials, many of which are thankfully in good repair, there is a considerable number which have been either vandalised, neglected or just plainly forgotten. Her Majesty The Queen Mother, The Royal British Legion plus other organisations, Friends and concerned people have all played their part in bringing to our attention those Memorials which are at risk. Consequently we have already had some measure of success in putting the necessary, but mostly gentle, pressure on Local and Church Authorities with good results.

Negligent Disposal

Will you keep us informed? Friends of War Memorials, along with the other organisations, have been increasingly concerned about a ghastly practise, which has recently been highlighted, of the negligent disposal of Memorials, especially Rolls of Honour Boards which have been taken from abandoned churches and chapels. It is a serious priority that such dishonour to those lives given in the service of their country should be stopped immediately. Whenever memorials are at such risk the relocation in local schools, chapels or churches must be a priority.

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Added Names

A growing number of people, realising that Friends of War Memorials has been formed, have asked the question about what is the situation when names of those who have lost their lives in the service of their country need to be added to existing memorials. Usually, the names to be added to memorials of The Great War 1914-1918 are those from the Second World War. Unfortunately, further conflicts have to be remembered. It is now acknowledged and accepted by all responsible Local Authorities that it is not necessary for an actual declaration of war to have been made for a state of war to exist, so this circumstance should be included when making representations to include the names of those fallen in the service of the country. I have attached a brief note about Local Authority powers with this Newsletter.

Young People

Young people are being encouraged to take a leading role in looking after the nation's heritage, and to develop their skills and employment prospects as a result. Our founder, Ian Davidson would like Companies, interested in sponsoring local young volunteers, from schools, the Scouts, Guides and Cadet Forces to take on the fulfilling task of looking after War Memorials, to get in touch with him on :- 0181 205 1693.

But all this desperately needs funds and we appeal to all for help to preserve our precious heritage.

HELP US SAVE IT

You will find below a tear-off coupon inviting you to donate again, or perhaps make an initial contribution, to help us with this vital work. Perhaps you may be in a position to encourage a firm or a charity to take us on board. We will keep in touch with you over the coming significant years. Meanwhile we are most grateful for your encouraging response for the efforts which are being made to preserve the memory of those who have gone before. We will remember Them.

Thank you.

Sir Donald Thompson

FRIENDS OF WAR MEMORIALS

Find enclosed the sum of £..... to be used exclusively for the aims of the Friends of War Memorials.

Name.....

Address.....
.....
.....

Send post to:- Sir Donald Thompson, c/o Friends of War Memorials, Moravian House, Lightcliffe, Halifax, West Yorkshire. HX3 8AL

Bankers: Royal Bank of Scotland. Elgin Road Branch

Our thanks are due to individual donors, J P Kennedy Construction Ltd., G.N.E.R., ScotRail, Virgin Trains, The Robertson-Ness Trust, The Gosling Foundation, B.A.T. and Charity

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Let me remind you of the names of the officers and trustees:-

Our Patron:	The Countess Mountbatten of Burma CBE CD JP DL
Trustees:	Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin KG GCB LVO DSC The Rt. Hon Lord Molyneux of Killead KBE Winston S Churchill Esq.
President:	Winston S Churchill Esq.
Vice Presidents:	The Earl Nelson, Josefina de Vasconcellos MBE, Spike Milligan Esq. CBE
Director General:	Sir Donald Thompson
Founder:	Ian Davidson Esq. (Royal Marines Retired)
Secretary:	Douglas R Johnston Esq.
Newsletter Editor:	Nicholas J D Morse Esq.

The Adding of Names to War Memorials

It is generally the accepted policy and agreed by many interested parties that the adding of names, to War Memorials and Rolls of Honour Boards, of those who gave their lives in the service of their country is definitely to be encouraged and recommended.

The policy covers both of the circumstances of the necessity to add names of those who were killed in subsequent conflicts to the creation date of the memorial; and the names of those who were previously omitted in error at the original date of the memorial.

Also, it is now acknowledged and accepted by all responsible Local Authorities that it is not necessary for an actual declaration of war to have been made for a state of war to exist; so this circumstance should also be included when making representation to add names of those fallen in the service of their country.

Indeed, Local Authorities are empowered by law to pay for such work to be carried out on a War Memorial whether the memorial is their responsibility and vested in them or not.

No Local Authority has ever been reported, as far as it is known, for refusing to add the names of those killed or omitted in such circumstances as the above; but naturally the representation of the particular case of the adding of names has to be properly and correctly made.

For more information, please call Tel. No. 0181 205 1693