



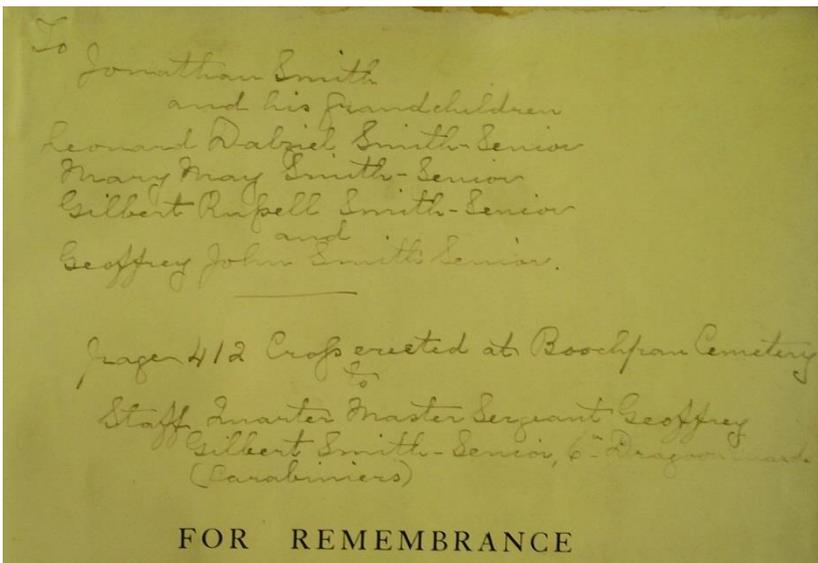
Remembrance: Memorials to the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902

Meurig GM Jones MA

This paper will provide an overview of the war memorials erected for the Second Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902 in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

The figure in the heading is indeed a Roman, this is not an error, more of him later.

What is a war memorial? After over 25 years of studying war memorials I will not attempt definitive answer; war memorials are very personal and take many forms. For example this is the title page from *For Remembrance* (Colonel Sir J Gildea, Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1911). This book is a catalogue of Anglo-Boer War memorials and is itself dedicated *in memoriam* to the men and women of the British Empire who served in the war.



This particular copy of *For Remembrance* was given "To Jonathan Smith and his grandchildren" in remembrance of Staff Quartermaster-Sergeant Geoffrey Smith-Senior, 6th Dragoon Guards who was killed in action at Boschpan on March 31, 1902.

In 2005 the mother of a US Marine killed in action in Iraq had a Hummer vehicle painted as a memorial. The car is painted with images of her son and his colleagues killed in the same incident. The choice of a vehicle was deliberate, she wanted a mobile memorial that went with her and enabled as many as possible to see the memorial.



Mobile memorials, though, are not new. At least two British Army units; Q battery Royal Horse Artillery and the 7th Dragoon Guards had memorial plaques made commemorating their dead from the Anglo-Boer War, that were to travel with their headquarters wherever in the world they served.

Why study war memorials, what can they tell us? The first reason and perhaps the simplest is that they "are there", memorials are a man-made creation; how many are there, where are there, what form do they take. A catalogue of war memorials is required. War memorials can provide genealogical details for a soldier. In the Victorian era service papers for soldiers who died in service were destroyed. A memorial can provide the

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soldier's first name(s), date and place of birth, parents' and/or siblings' names, education and even place of employment. Everything needed to progress research on just a name from a casualty roll.

Names on a war memorial provide a useful cross reference to the official casualty lists. There are names on war memorials not in the official casualty lists; why, who were they and where did they die? are some of the questions to be asked.

War memorials are an expression of the era in which they were created, what do they tell us about Victorian and Edwardian social history, how did society view the military and how did the military perceive itself. In one instance the war memorial shows one unit, the Royal Engineers, being very insular. When discussing the question of fund raising senior officers objected to donations from family of the deceased soldiers; the war memorial was for the corps, not civilians not even the families of the dead.

Prior to 1899 the most common type of war memorial found are to individuals, almost exclusively officers. Memorials erected by those with sufficient wealth for such a discretionary expense. Regimental memorials are less common, where they are found they usually only list officers by name and the other ranks are simply referred to as a number; "230 other ranks died".

The 2nd Royal Irish Regiment erected a memorial in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin for the 1852-55 Burma campaign. Five officers who died are named, the 403 other ranks are just a number. Similarly the 74th Highlanders erected a memorial in 1864 in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh covering four campaigns from 1789 to 1882 and the wreck of HMS Birkenhead off the Cape in 1852. Only the officers are named, not naming the other ranks is not simply a matter of expense. The Royal Irish Regiments' memorial is certainly large enough to list 403 names, the choice to exclude them was deliberate.



All Anglo-Boer War memorials name the other ranks, apart from the Wiltshire County memorial which commemorates the service of a number units and only names the officers. Two regiments used the occasion of commemorating their Anglo-Boer War dead to remember and name the dead of previous campaigns on the same memorial. The King's (Liverpool) Regiment remembers the officers and men from Afghanistan 1878-80 and Burma 1886-87. The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry included their dead from Egypt 1882-86.

Prior to the Anglo-Boer War the largest campaign in terms of men and women and duration was the Crimean War (1853-56). A national memorial was erected in 1857, but not in Britain. Queen Victoria wanted the memorial to be erected close to the men who died and this memorial is in Istanbul, Turkey, in the Haidar Pasha cemetery. Most Britons will never see this memorial or even know its existence.

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The Anglo-Boer War sparked a movement that only lasted until after World War 1 to publicly commemorate all the war dead, why was this? No comprehensive catalogue of Anglo-Boer War memorials in the UK and Republic of Ireland exists, this is a task I am undertaking. The table below shows the number of memorials in Gildea and “Additional”, those not in Gildea that I have catalogued.

	Gildea	Additional	Total
Channel Islands	6	1	7
England	643	833	1476
Northern Ireland	16	1	17
Republic of Ireland	31	4	35
Scotland	58	10	68
Wales	41	15	56
Total	795	864	1659

Gildea deliberately excludes memorials to those who survived the war, the “Additional” count includes them. This is unfortunate, as this facet of war memorials is common (and perhaps a “first”) in Anglo-Boer War memorials. Amongst Gildea’s records are war memorials no longer in existence. We won’t know any volunteer war memorials are missing until they are stumbled upon in a newspaper report or the like.

The only other catalogue to exist is that created by the National Inventory of War Memorials (now War Memorials Archive) run by the Imperial War Museum. In their on-line database (www.ukniwm.org.uk) they list 1,888 memorials for the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902. The

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Inventory excludes the Republic of Ireland and will not contain all the destroyed or disappeared memorials in my “Additional” count.

What is “new” amongst Anglo-Boer War memorials? We have already alluded to the inclusion of names of all ranks who died on the memorial. To date the names of 15,493 fatalities have been recorded on a war memorial (world-wide), this represents 63% of total casualties for the British Empire forces. With further recording to be done this figure will grow. The names of 4,300 who survived have been recorded. The role of women is widely recorded, memorials in schools are widespread, the horses and mules killed and died are commemorated and there are “thanksgiving” memorials for the safe return of individuals and the declaration of peace.

What factors gave rise to this new and expanded remembrance of war dead (and those who survived). At the end of the 19th century Victorian Britain was far richer than before, more people had more money (despite grinding poverty in many places), the middle class was larger, the richer were very rich indeed. All classes had more disposable income, whether it was sixpence or six hundred pounds; more people could donate to a memorial fund.

The Victorians created their own “values” – service to God, Queen (and King) and the Empire (“jingoism” in its extreme expression). The author Marc Girouard in *The Return to Camelot. Chivalry and the English Gentleman* (Yale 1981) wrote about “muscular Christianity” a movement of the mid 1800’s amongst artists and educationalists that had a profound impact on the Victorians who went to war in South Africa and those who remembered them. It was these educationalists who taught the boys who became not only officers in the British Army and Navy, but the rank and file too. Philanthropy, looking after the less fortunate, was common amongst many Victorians; cottage homes for wounded or retired soldiers were used as a war memorial.

The media played a great role in reporting the war and shaping attitudes to the military and the war. Stereotypes emerged of the sailor “jack tar”, the “handyman”, always willing always able. The kilted highlander, Queen Victoria’s favourite, the epitome of soldierly aggression.



More women served in an official capacity (as nurses) in the Anglo-Boer War than any previous British military campaign. Approximately 1,800 women served as nurses, 29 died and they all commemorated on a nurses memorial in Aldershot. Seven who died are commemorated on other memorials and five who returned are remembered on volunteer memorials. No memorial to an individual commemorates a nurse. One nurse, Florence Bell who died in 1900, was not remembered until after the First World War. Her name is found at the bottom of the village’s First War memorial in Banwell, Somerset.

Of the recorded memorials the year of unveiling, if not the actual date, is known for 384 or 23% of recorded memorials. The data shows that memorials began to be erected in 1900 and that most were unveiled in the years 1903-1904, the last being erected in October 1914. Planning for many began during the war years, the Wkyehamists (old boys of Winchester College) first met in December 1900 to discuss a war memorial.

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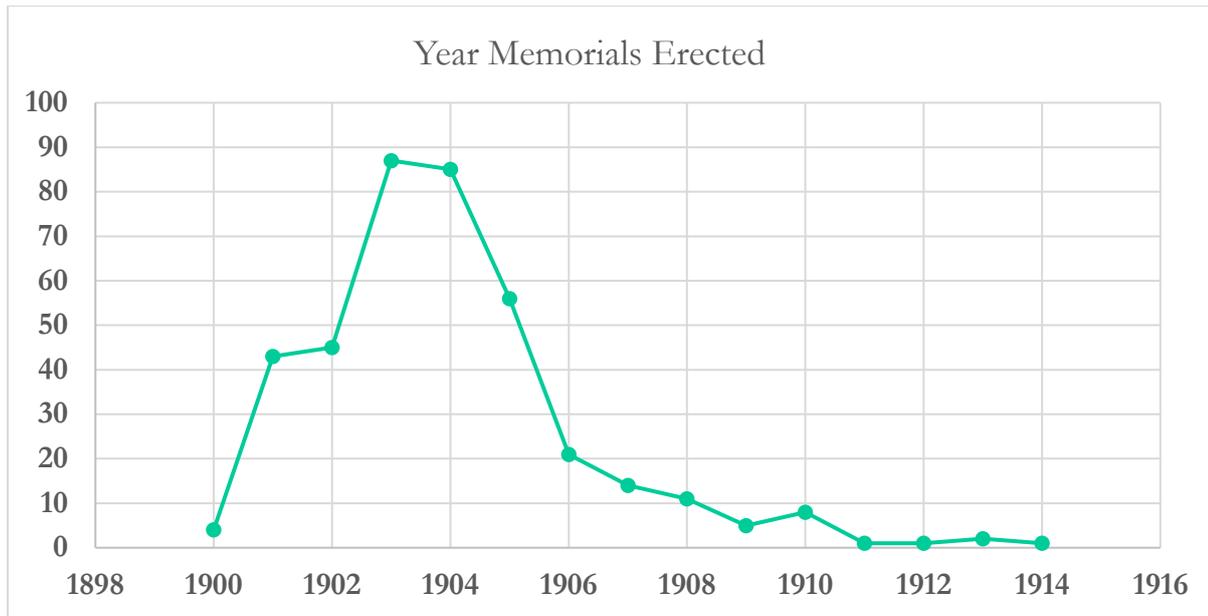
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Most memorials commissioned during the war were to individuals who had been killed, and one for the safe return of Cpt J Knowles, 15th Hussars by his mother. Just because the war had not ended did not prevent some units and towns erecting war memorials – somehow confident there would be no further losses. Examples of such units are HMS Doris, 2nd volunteer battalion The King’s (Liverpool) Regiment, Metropolitan Corps, St John’s Ambulance Brigade (unveiled the day peace declared 31 May 1902) and the 5th company Imperial Yeomanry (unveiled 1 June 1902). The village of Eamont Bridge in Cumbria and the town of Ryde on the Isle of Wight erected memorials to their dead in 1900 and 1901 respectively.



In February 1901 the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry unveiled a memorial celebrating the Army’s achievements that occurred during their annual encampment in May-June 1900. Listed on the memorial were the occupations of Kroonstadt, Johannesburg and Pretoria and the relief of Mafeking.

The one memorial unveiled in October 1914 (this must be very unusual, unveiling a war memorial to a previous conflict during a subsequent conflict) is to the 18th Hussars in York Minster. The reason for the apparent tardiness is explained on the memorial. The regiment had originally built cottage homes but “*since these failed to fulfill their object they were sold and the memorial substituted*”. One wonders what the memorial committee thought of their decision as they read the ever increasing casualty lists from France & Flanders.

Most memorials were erected in public buildings and spaces where they could be seen and noted by anyone, a church (protestant) being the most popular. Other places of worship included Roman Catholic, non-conformist (protestant), synagogues and a Greek Orthodox Church.

Public Buildings			
Churches	1108	Town Hall/Guild Hall	46



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Museum	13
Hospital	6

Library	5
Court House	1

<u>Public Spaces</u>	
Street	110
Cemetery	61
Park/Green	58
Square	6
Hillside/lakeside	3

<u>Private Buildings</u>	
Schools	170
Barracks/Military	44
Work Place/Association/Institute	15
Other	11

106 individual schools and colleges erected memorials, these are not just the most well-known public schools such as Eton, Marlborough & Harrow. Schools for the poor and disadvantaged also sought to instill the ethos of muscular Christianity and promote the memory of their war dead as proponents of faith, duty, fidelity and sacrifice. The 'Other' buildings includes a Boy Scout hut and the wall of a swimming baths.

Types of war memorial:			
Plaque	748	Obelisk	25
Tablet	272	Wooden Tablet	15
Window	170	Drinking Fountain/Trough	14
Grave	117	Reredos	8
Building	67	Lych Gate	4
Monument	61	Fountain	3
Cross	54	Painting/Drawing	3
Statue	49	Prize/Award	3
Furniture	44	Roll of Honour	1

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The most common types of war memorial are those found in churches, the commonest location. Graves are popular, using a family headstone to remember typically a son killed in the war. One can also find a second son killed in World War 1 named on these headstones. Fitting in the Victorian theme of philanthropy are the utilitarian memorials; buildings (libraries and sports halls (usually in schools) and cottage homes), drinking fountains and animal watering troughs (there are 3 in England). The cottage home was, typically, a substantial three bedroom two storey “house” in today’s parlance with a small but sufficient garden for a vegetable patch, 41 such houses were built. Some cottage homes are still in use by the regiment. Furniture is typically found in a church – chancels, altar screens, pulpits, lecterns and even gas lighting. The more unusual type of memorial, such as gas lighting, could have been co-incidental; the idea, desire for the item was already there and marrying it to a war memorial assisted with fund raising and even acceptance for the structure.

To Whom?		Commissioned By?	
Individual	867	Regiment	382
Regiment	309	Family	365
City/Town/Village	155	School	156
School	141	Association	142
Parish	40	City/Town/Village	129
County	38	Parish	70
District	33	County	44
Association	18	Individual	41
Family	18	District	34
National	14	Friends	21
Peace	13	Borough	10
Borough	9	National	1

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Most memorials were erected to individuals and most memorials were erected by a military unit "Regiment", this is any formation from a company of Imperial Yeomanry to a regiment or ship. The City of London Imperial Volunteers, the most well-funded unit of the war, erected 63 memorials to its 69 war dead, a plaque being placed in the dead man's church. They are found throughout the British Isles. One regiment, the, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, ended up with three memorials; two in Enniskillen and one in Omagh, each with names of the dead.

Families were responsible for the second highest number of memorials and this is a reflection on the wealth of a large number of Britons. Some families commissioned multiple memorials; the Wilson family of County Durham lost three members (all officers) and erected two cottage homes, one lych gate and five plaques. Three brothers from the Rose family served as officers, two died; two cottage homes and a stained glass window were erected by the family.

There is only one national memorial in the British Isles and that was erected by the Welsh nation in Cardiff.



This is the Yorkshire County Memorial, York erected in 1905 with 1,487 names of the dead on the slate tablets. When the first designs were proposed there were to be "warrior saints" in the niches. This was later replaced by contemporary military figures, including a nurse. These would have been more recognisable to the general population who were invited to donate money and many had been bereaved in the war. The figure of the sailor shows him holding rope and chain, the tools of his trade. This is a replacement figure for the first sailor who was holding a rifle – an accurate representation of the Navy's contribution of shore based Naval Brigades during the war. This figure was



rejected, presumably by the individual who paid for it. Happily this figure still exists today in Lichfield, Staffordshire the town where the stone masons were located. The sailor was put on the wall of the town's Carnegie library.

The inscriptions on war memorials tell us much about what people were remembering about the individual, how they thought the soldier died and about the cause for which they died. Here are some examples:

WHO IN THE FAITH WHICH THEY
LEARN'T AS BOYS WITHIN THESE WALLS
LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR ENGLAND
Cranleigh School, Surrey

LEAVING AN EXAMPLE OF OBEDIENCE
TO THE CALL OF DUTY
Lt RF Flowers IY Hamman's Kraal 20 Aug 1900

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A BOY OF UNSULLIED CHARACTER AND FINE ASPIRATIONS

“FROM HIM I LEARNT HONOUR: HE TAUGHT ME ALL THE GOOD I HAVE”

IN HIM HIS FATHER AND MOTHER HAVE GIVEN TO OUR COUNTRY THEIR ONLY CHILD: BUT NOT IN VAIN PURE, GENTLE, BRAVE. HIS EXAMPLE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN AND HE WILL STILL BE LOVED.

Lt FH Raikes KRRC Wagon Hill 6 Jan 1900 – School of Handicrafts, Chertsey, Surrey

In an address at the unveiling of a memorial destroyed by enemy action in 1941, the Vicar remembered Pte WM Johnson, Imperial Yeomanry:

[he] took his departure..to fight under the old flag and gave his life for the cause of his country.

[He] would be remembered for his manliness. Nobody ever saw him do an unmanly thing:

he could look the world in the face. Besides being manly, he was brave and absolutely sincere.

Wilfred Johnson was a volunteer officer in the Lancashire Volunteer Artillery who ignored the step down in rank in order to fight, he was killed at Hameelfontein 17 December 1900. All that remains of this man's memorial is the Order of Service and newspaper reports.

A wide range of people were invited to unveil the war memorials, the list includes; King (Prince), Princess, Field-Marsals, Generals, Bishops, Lord Lieutenants, Mayors and assorted nobility. The most popular person who performed the most unveilings was Britain's favourite soldier, Field-Marshal Lord Roberts VC who unveiled 22 memorials. Second was Edward as Prince of Wales then later as King with 13 and Lieutenant-General Sir JDP French unveiled 12. Other famous personalities of the war were not so popular, General Sir Redvers Buller VC unveiled four, Colonel RSS Baden-Powell the defender of Mafeking unveiled two and Winston Churchill, war correspondent, soldier and politician unveiled just one.

There was some opposition to war memorials. The local Quakers in Darlington felt the statue of a soldier charging with rifle and bayonet too aggressive and war like. One correspondent wrote regarding the Yorkshire County memorial that it would be better to get jobs for the men (volunteers) returning from the war rather than create war memorials.

Since 1914 war memorials have fared quite well, only 54 of those recorded have been destroyed, lost or are not where they should be (i.e. in private hands). Petty vandalism is a constant threat, especially where metal is concerned. In 1968 the bronze statue of a soldier in Hartlepool was sawn off at the ankles, for many years just the boots remained on the plinth. Institutions can also be accused of vandalism, notably the Church of England. In 1948 the Dean & Chapter of Winchester Cathedral decreed that the memorial tablets to the King's Royal Rifle Corps and Rifle Brigade were "in poor artistic taste" and should be removed. The regiments complied with the request and these memorials have been lost, they were replaced with tablets listing senior officers.

Eighteen memorials have been destroyed, most to enemy bombing during WWII. The CIV lost 12 with another five not located after being removed from damaged churches.

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In the last 20 years the UK has been fortunate to see a great interest amongst the general public for war memorials and the need to preserve and conserve. Charities such as Friends of War Memorials have been set up to record, monitor and provide funds and advice for restorations. The War Memorials On-line website (www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk) was created to encourage monitoring of war memorials by local people. There are a number of regional and local groups actively recording memorials whose work is on the internet; North East War Memorials Project (www.newmp.org.uk), The Scottish War Memorials Project (www.scottishmilitaryresearch.co.uk) and the Irish War Memorial Project (www.irishwarmemorials.ie).

The Roman – this is Augustus Caesar, first Roman Emperor. The 4' statue was commissioned by William and Mary Simpson of Lancashire from the well know Barbedienne Foundry in Paris. It is a copy of a statue dating from 20BC. The Simpsons lived on “their own means”, they were wealthy. On the base of the statue is a plaque dedicating the statue as a thanksgiving for the services of Lords Roberts and Kitchener and the sailors and soldiers “who maintained ... their country’s cause”. Not satisfied with this they also commissioned a replica of a 9th century runic cross with a similar inscription.



**I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT.
I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE
Lt CW Hulse, IY Braklaagte 4 June 1901**

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