

# WAR MEMORIALS AND ROLLS OF HONOUR

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Although individual memorials to soldiers and seamen have been placed in churches for hundreds of years and national memorials were erected at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, in particular to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo (such as at Pule Hill outside Halifax) it was not until the Boer War that these memorials were inscribed with names. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment erected a Boer War memorial in West End Park, inscribed with the names of those who had died, many from fever, during that conflict. In addition, a memorial plaque in Huddersfield Drill Hall lists the names of the town's Volunteers who had embarked with the Active Service Companies to bolster the Regulars in the Field in South Africa. Fortunately, very few of the Volunteers died of disease and only one was killed by enemy action.

However, during the Great War there was a desire to commemorate those who gave their lives, which permeated every facet of society. As a result, War Memorials were established in cities, towns and villages throughout the land during and just after the war. One of the earliest local examples is the Primrose Hill Memorial, unveiled on 20th January, 1917, at the Primrose Hotel, bearing 316 names of local men who had enlisted from the area since 1914, as announced in the *Huddersfield Examiner* on Monday 22nd January, 1917. Military garrisons were quick to commemorate those lost and Rolls of Honour were also placed in churches, work places and in many social venues. The result of this national fervour, headed by Sir Edwin Lutyens with his magnificent memorials, to those unfortunate men who have no known grave, at Ypres, Thiepval and Arras, is that, throughout this book, there are references to local servicemen being commemorated on local War Memorials and, among other places, Churches, Schools, Factories, Working Men's Clubs and Public Houses. The most outstanding example of a local family memorial is, of course, the Tolson Museum, which commemorates the Tolson brothers from Dalton.

In some cases, where there were smaller numbers of losses in local villages, the names are gathered together on one larger memorial such as that in Holmfirth. For example, the Rolls of Honour mentioned in the main text of the following villages and townships are incorporated on the Holme Valley War Memorial, situated in the grounds of the Home Valley Memorial Hospital in Holmfirth: Holme and Holmbridge – Plaques 1 & 2; Underbank – Plaque 2; Cartworth – Plaque 2; Holmfirth – Plaque 3; Upperthong – Plaque 4; Wooldale – Plaques 4 & 5; Netherthong and Thongsbridge – Plaque 5; Fulstone – Plaques 5 & 6; Hepworth and Scholes – Plaque 6; Hade Edge – Plaque 6.

Indeed, efforts are still being made to commemorate the fallen in this 100th anniversary year of the outbreak of the war and those listed on the new memorial at Farnley Tyas have been incorporated into this work.

In some cases servicemen are commemorated in several places but, in other cases, nowhere except in the pages of this book, fulfilling Margaret's wish that all those she was able to trace from Huddersfield and district would be remembered.