

## WAR MEMORIALS

The UK National Inventory of War memorials consider a war memorial to be any tangible object which has been erected or dedicated to commemorate those killed as a result of war, conflict or peacekeeping; who served in war or conflict; or who died whilst engaged in military service.

This includes memorials to civilians and animals. It also includes memorials to those who died in service as a result of accident or disease. They also record peace and thanksgiving memorials. See the next page for further clarification.

Church			
Record Date		Town/Village	
Parish		County	

Details (as in Record)

Photograph(s) attached: (please select) Yes ☐ No ☐

Name of Church Recorders Group		Date
Recorder's name	Recorder's email	
Recorder's Address		

**When completed email this form with jpeg image/s to [memorials@iwm.org.uk](mailto:memorials@iwm.org.uk)**

Or post with photographs to UK National Inventory of War Memorials  
Imperial War Museum  
Lambeth Road  
London SE1 6HZ

## Definition of a war memorial

We consider a war memorial to be any tangible object which has been erected or dedicated to commemorate those killed as a result of war, conflict or peacekeeping; who served in war or conflict; or who died whilst engaged in military service.

This includes memorials to civilians and animals. It also includes memorials to those who died in service as a result of accident or disease. It does not include gravestones which are situated on the site of burial of the casualty, but it does include additions to gravestones which commemorate a casualty buried elsewhere. We also record peace and thanksgiving memorials.

### To help clarify this definition:

- To be **erected or dedicated** there must be, or have been, some clear statement, such as the wording on the memorial, in a printed document, in a newspaper announcement or similar, that defines the commemorative purpose of the feature and reports its erection. A formal unveiling ceremony need not have taken place, although these are very common.
- **Conflict** includes civil wars, rebellion and acts of terrorism whether or not war was formally declared.
- **Military service** refers to all the armed forces. The commemoration can refer to service during war or conflict or service during peacetime. Commemorations of those who died in service as a result of accident or disease are included, as are commemorations of those who died after the end of the conflict as a result of wounds or of the affects of war. The commemoration can refer to the death, war service, or return home of those who served.
- **Civilians** whose death occurred as a consequence of war or conflict are included. This includes those who died as a result of enemy action or in a war related accident, eg: from an air raid or an explosion in a munitions factory. Civilians who served in wartime non-combatant services are included, eg Merchant Marine Service, Red Cross, Home Guard, Air Raid Wardens, Fire Watchers and similar groups involved with a war effort.
- Commemorations of **animals** which were killed, or gave assistance or companionship, in war or conflict are included.
- A **casualty** therefore includes military personnel, refugees, civilians and animals.

### Types of war memorial

Any object can be created or adapted to be a war memorial. We estimate that there are over 100,000 war memorials throughout the UK. These take a number of different forms from the frequently-seen community cross, obelisk and plaques, to sculpted figures, lychgates, gardens, hospitals, organs, books of remembrance, chapels, windows and paintings.

You can find a list of types on our website. However, due to the variety of war memorials this list should not be considered to be definitive as we specifically name types of war memorial when we have 10 or more examples. The following are examples of some of the types that we have identified:

- Sculpted figures, crosses, obelisks, cenotaphs, columns, etc
- Boards, plaques and tablets (inside or outside a building)
- Roll of Honour or Book of Remembrance
- Utilitarian memorials, such as community halls, hospitals, endowed hospital beds, bus shelters, clock towers, streets etc
- Tapestry, flags or banners, including laid-up regimental colours which have been dedicated as war memorials
- Church fabric or fittings like bells, pews, lecterns, lighting, altars, screens, candlesticks, etc
- Trophies and relics like a preserved gun or the wreckage at an aircraft crash site
- Land including parks, gardens, woodland and even an island
- Ephemera in the form of a stuffed animal, a bird bath, painting, print or photograph, sundial, shrine, tree
- Additions to gravestones which commemorate a casualty who has no known grave or who is buried elsewhere

Our collection area covers England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, which make up the United Kingdom, plus the Crown Territories of the Isle of Man, the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Bailiwick of Jersey.

**Please note:** due to their importance the Inventory also records graves to VC or GC winners, although these are **not** defined as war memorials.

### Examples of features which are not war memorials

- War graves and memorials on the grave of the casualty commemorated
- Commercial products