

ELLESMERE PORT WAR MEMORIAL 1925

The Debate Surrounding the Movement to Erect a War Memorial in Ellesmere Port in 1925

The following news articles published during 1925, bear witness to the lengthy discussion and dispute over matters concerning the construction of the original Christchurch War Memorial, plus the determination of a certain minority of local people who were to press ahead, intent to have a war memorial erected in Ellesmere Port by Armistice Day later that same year.

‘Have We Forgotten?’

Rarely has such a crowd assembled in Birkenhead for any function as that which found its way to Hamilton Square on Sunday afternoon to witness the unveiling of the town’s memorial to the men who fell in the war by Lieut-General Sir Richard H K Butler, G.O.C-in-C Western Command.

Something like 20,000 people were on all four sides of the square, the most solid phalanx being near and in front of the memorial faces and the overflow went into Hamilton Street and Argyle Street.

Glorious weather favoured the ceremony and lent colour to the otherwise simple and dignified proceedings.

The above is an heading to an extended report of the splendidly impressive scene at Birkenhead last Sunday as reported by the “Birkenhead Advertiser”. We also give, as a prelude to a few observations of our own, a few extracts from the leading article in the same issue.

“Strangely intermingled were the elements of pride and pathos at Sunday’s memorable function in the Square and they each had their unforgettable influence. Pride was shared between those who had striven, often in circumstances discouraging to even the most optimistic, to fittingly honour the men of the town who had given their lives for home and country, and the relatives of those men, to whom the spectacle of that dignified memorial and all that it conveyed touched a chord of gratification.

Late though it came, to the one it was an achievement and to the other a recognition. Pathos tempered the pride in the poignant memories revived after the softening effect of the passing years and to some people this aspect of the ceremony was more impressive, for who could encounter an aged Father or Mother quietly carrying a laurel wreath through the vast crowd without the lump of sympathy rising to the throat, or see the glittering medals of the lost one on the black apparel of a bereaved relative without an acute, almost oppressive, sense of pity.

Sunday was a day of emotions as pregnant and permanent as the memorial itself.” – Thus the Birkenhead writer in this paper.

Almost seven years have rolled by since the last shot was fired in that awful holocaust.

In the months immediately following leaders in humble hamlets containing their modest hundreds, to huge communities with their tens and hundreds of thousands, thought it right and proper to make an appeal of their townspeople so that they might place on permanent record in some appropriate and tangible form, the great blood sacrifice that their own individual township had made in the common cause.

It is not exaggeration to say that in the years 1919 to 1920 hundreds, yes thousands of those permanent memorials were raised in the most prominent places in the different towns and villages of these islands to remind those left, as well as generations yet unborn, of the price that had been paid during those awful years 1914 to 1918.

Birkenhead, though very much belated, paid tribute in a very handsome manner last Sunday morning to their departed host.

But what of Ellesmere Port. We ourselves in common with numbers of our fellow citizens have that inner feeling that we have not come out, as yet with very much credit in the honouring our own mighty dead.

In the years nearer the war, we heard the question very often put as to what we were going to do in the matter, but as we gradually recede further away and it becomes more and more a vague memory, then the question is in danger of being relegated like many more, to those dim recesses of the brain, there to take its place along with numerous other good intentions that might have been but never is.

Will this latter be the fate and full measure of our regret in Ellesmere Port for those NEVER RETURNED?

Or can we awaken or engender some enthusiasm in the hearts of our prominent townsmen to place our Town in a line and on a standard with other communities?

Finally, can we appeal to our Council as leaders to give the above question consideration?

We are sure of this, that if the Chairman himself, young and virile that he is, would take the initiative in prompting and pushing and bring to a conclusion during his year of office, a memorial worthy of the Town, for what Ellesmere Port did in the Great War, then his year of office would be crowned with a coping stone – if you will allow us the phrase – that will honour even when has come to the sere and yellow leaf.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, Friday 10 July 1925, Page 5

‘Ellesmere Port Parish Church Council’ ‘Public Appeal for War Memorial’

At a meeting of the Parish Church Council held on Friday July 24th 1925, it was unanimously resolved to proceed with a scheme for the erection of a Parish War Memorial.

The scheme as adopted is to erect a memorial about 15ft high in the Church yard facing Station Road, but standing back about 10 feet from the Road, where it will be easily accessible to the public.

The names of all those, whether Churchmen or not who left this Parish and fell in the War, will be inscribed on the memorial.

The total cost of erection and inscribing names on the design will be between £150 and £200, and the Church Council earnestly appeals for funds to allow them to carry out the scheme which they feel has long been desired and which should find favour with every one.

Should the response to this appeal be successful the Council will do all in its power to have the memorial erected by Armistice Day, November 11th 1925 and with that end in view you are asked to place your donations in an envelope and same will be called for during the coming week.

Cheques may be sent to the Honorary Secretary,

For the Parish Council,

A B Sleight, Vicar

J W Darbyshire and T Pritchard, Churchwardens

L Richmond, Hon Secty, "Doiran" Pooltown Road, Whitby, Nr Birkenhead.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, Friday 14 August 1925, Page 3

"WE WILL REMEMBER"

The stirring leading article we published some few weeks ago relative to the remissness of our town in not having in any shape or form, perpetuated the memory of those that fell in the war, has certainly sunk deep in the minds of our leading prominent citizens.

So much so did our writing impress those that read it – and we are well read – that on of the instructions our local Surveyor received from his Council a few days after our article appeared, was, that he prepare a layout for the Whitby Road Recreation Ground, and also to make suitable provision for a WAR MEMORIAL in such a layout.

A week or two after this, and before the Council Minute containing the above instructions had been published, another prominent body in our town, to wit, the Church Council had met and considered the subject of a War Memorial.

This latter body not only considered, but made proposals of a concrete nature to get on with the job of providing for the town, what felt should have been done years ago.

The proposal is for a monument in stone to be erected on the footage of the Parish Church grounds in Station Road with all the names thereon who fell in the war.

If the promoters can raise enough money and we feel sure they can, the Church wall opposite the Memorial will be cut away and taken right round it, which will make it in very truth a Town Memorial.

If there is a ready response to the appeal published in our news columns, the Church Council feel that they could have the monument erected by Armistice Anniversary Day.

Whether this scheme will be accepted by the town and Council fulfilling its desires in this respect is for the town itself, and Council to decide.

For ourselves we like the scheme and the we like enthusiasm, of those that are in charge of it, and we certainly think that those names appended to the appeal are particularly appropriate with their war time record to be in charge and to “see it through”.

It is for the town itself, to now nobly rise for its honours sake, and perpetuate the memory of those of our own local boys that went but never returned.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, 14 August 1925, Page 4

‘The Proposed War Memorial’

The Church council is delighted with the response to the appeal for funds for the erection of a Public War Memorial.

Out of 2,800 envelopes issued to house –holders 2,000 have been returned with donations and all have not yet been collected.

This shows emphatically the desire for a Town Memorial and many have been the expressions of gratitude that the Church Council have taken the matter up. Its shows also how pleased everyone is with the form of Memorial which the Council has chosen.

A cross of stone inscribed with the names of all in the parish who gave up their lives in the Great War, and erected in the Churchyard facing the main road.

“To quote the words of the vicar’s sermon before the appeal was launched ‘There for all times it will stand in what we sometimes speak of as God’s Acre’, near enough to be easily visible from the road with the Parish Church as a background, the Church in which no doubt many were baptized, some confirmed, others married and in which not a few worshipped, - a silent witness to keep their names in remembrance.

The Church Council is most grateful for the confidence placed in them by the public and regret their inability to acknowledge each individual donation.

They thank all those who have helped in any way, and in return are making every effort to erect the Memorial for Armistice Day this year.

It would facilitate the completion of the work if relatives or friends of those who fell would send in the names of any who are not on the Roll of Honour in the Parish Church to the Secretary L Richmond, Pooltown Road, Whitby’ – Extract from “Parish Magazine”.

Donations towards the above now exceed £180 but the fund is still open for those desirous of showing their appreciation of the scheme. The actual cost will be £225, which sum the Council hope to raise before the work is complete.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, 11 September 1925, Page 3

‘War Memorial’

Mr. Len Richmond, Secretary, the War Memorial that the Parish Church Council are erecting in the parish Churchyard, informs us as a result of the publicity give last week, that he has had a further ten names handed in to him of those that fell in the War and were previously included on the Parish Roll.

Mr Richmond, further informs us that the financial result has quite justified the action of the Church Council in the public appeal that they made.

A big move is now being made to not only have it erected but to have the Memorial completed by Armistice Day.

Mr Richmond asks us to make a final appeal to any and every near relation of those locals that fell in the War to see that their names are given in for inclusion on the Tablets.

To get them in alphabetical order it is necessary for the list to be completed not later than Monday next, so that the Contractor may proceed with this part of the work.

We trust that there will not be any laxity in this direction and that the lists will full and complete.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, 18 September 1925, page 2

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL WAR MEMORIAL

On Monday evening a special general meeting of the Urban District Council was held in the Council Chamber, presided over by Coun. C. Taylor J.P., Couns. Price, Bond, Eyre, McGarva, Rogerson, Lloyd, Upright, Stockton and Breckon being in attendance.

The Clerk read the minute convening the meeting, which was for the purpose of considering a plan prepared by the Surveyor showing the layout of the recreation ground and War Memorial. At this stage the Surveyor repudiated the statement that he had prepared was a layout for a War Memorial, the only thing he had prepared was a layout for the recreation ground and so long as it was understood as such he would be satisfied.

The plan, which showed an entrance from York Road, embodied a comprehensive and complete layout of the whole of the recreation ground with the proposed Cenotaph facing the York Road entrance and also providing children’s playground and a paddling pool 200ft. long by 70ft. wide and 21 ins. deep, together with music kiosk, croquet lawn, bowling green and other features was favourably considered by the Council as a whole exception being taken to the position of the proposed War Memorial.

During the discussion of the Plan, Coun. McGrava wanted to know why this plan had been hurried forward and presented before the special meeting, personally he could not see why there was any necessity for that particular meeting to discuss it.

Coun. Taylor said the matter had been on hand for such a long time that they thought this would be a good opportunity to dispose of it. Coun. McGarva said he held no brief for the effort being made by the Church Council but it seemed strange to him that just when they had launched their scheme and prepared their plans, this thing should be rushed forward.

He had nothing whatever to do with the Church Council but so far as he could understand they had been asking for funds to enable them to carry out their scheme this week and then we have a special meeting to consider a layout for a War Memorial.

It seemed rather a remarkable coincidence to him that the Surveyor could prepare in such a expeditious manner.

Coun. Stockton said the effort being made by the Church Council was purely sectional one, and was a new one in the town, it was precisely on the same lines as the one which had been installed at Queen Street Church, That Church decided they would commemorate their dead by fitting a memorial, but they made no appeal to the public for funds, they set about it and raised the money amongst themselves but they did not call it a public memorial.

Coun. McGrava – “Even if the public subscribe to it”

Coun. Stockton “Even so”

The Clerk said the Surveyor could not be charged with the pushing of this plan with undue haste as he had gone over it with the Surveyor previous to him going to him on holidays which proved that the plan had been prepared in the usual way.

Coun. Stockton contended that a memorial which was being associated with the town should have town behind it.

Coun. McGrava – “What is the attitude of the Council Towards it”.

Coun. Stockton said they were not in a position to carry out the scheme and Coun. Jenkins had suggested that in laying out the recreation ground provision should be made for a war memorial.

The Chairman pointed out that from the evidence that was being brought forward he could not see that it had any bearing on the question.

Two town’s meetings had been called. At the first meeting it had been decided that the memorial should take the form of providing boots and clothing for the children of the fallen and the second meeting was in favour of endowing a cot at the Cottage Hospital and the Council had done their best to establish a memorial.

Coun. Rogerson objected to the position in which the Surveyor had placed the memorial and suggested that it should be placed in a central position in the recreation ground. Coun. Stockton associated himself with Coun. Rogerson’s objection and said the memorial should be placed in the most central position that could be found.

The Surveyor explained in detail the plan and said the Chairman and himself had made a careful selection of the position as being the desirable at their disposal. Heathfield road had also been considered but in his (the Surveyor) opinion the ideal place for the purpose was the Vicarage but of course they had no powers to select it as they did not own it, still in his opinion it was the most desirable place for a War Memorial.

After more discussions the concerns of opinion was against the proposed site, which was not the most effective one that could be chosen and it was moved by Coun. Stockton and seconded by Coun. Breckon that the plans be amended to meet the wishes of the Council and showing a position for the proposed War Memorial in Whitby Road, which was carried in face of a amendment moved by Council. Lloyd and seconded by Coun. Bond that the memorial be placed on the corner at Whitby, which as Coun. Lloyd remarked would be central of the town before many more cars went over.

The matter was then relegated to the Library and Parks Committee.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, Friday 28 August, Page 7

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

PROPOSED WAR MEMORIAL

MR STOCKTON AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL

A GILBERTAN SITUATION

When the members of the Ellesmere Port Council assembled at the Council Chamber for a special meeting on Monday night, the clerk who had come purposely from his holiday in the Isle of Man read the notice convening the meeting.

This intimated that the surveyor would give particulars of his layout plan of the recreation ground, which would include the War Memorial.

The surveyor said he had received no instruction about a war memorial, at least he had not been asked to make any design.

This was soon put right and the surveyor indicating his scheme from a large cartoon hanging on the wall, said he had devised a layout to the land between Whitby Road and Wellington Road.

The frontage land in Whitby Road, it was proposed should be retained by the council to a depth of a 150 feet for sale for business premises and he had provided for entrances from Whitby Road and Yorke Street.

The main entrance would be in the latter street, where he had reversed a site for the proposed war memorial.

The surveyor frankly declared that he did not consider the site suitable for a war memorial, as he thought such a shrine should be placed in a prominent position on the

main road, so that people coming into the town should be able to see it. He suggested expensive gates should be erected at the main entrance in Yorke Street.

The surveyor then proceeded to detail what he had provided for in the layout of the land which include playing pitch for children, croquet lawn, bowling green, tennis courts (grass and hard) and a children's paddling pool 200 feet long by 70 feet wide and with a shelter along one side.

Whose War Memorial?

Mr J H McGrava referring to the war memorial, asked why it should it be brought before a special meeting of the council.

While perhaps not in full sympathy with the effort made by the Church council but while they had already put forward a scheme for a cenotaph it did seem peculiar to him that they should have the matter sprung upon them now.

The chairman said instruction had been give to the surveyor to prepare a layout of the land and to include a war memorial prior to any announcement being made by the Church Council, when they instructed the surveyor they had no knowledge of what the Church Council intended to do.

Mr McGrava said as far as he understood the appeal by the Church Council closed this week and now they were asked to consider the layout of the recreation ground which included a cenotaph.

The chairman, the surveyor was simply carrying out instruction give to him by the council to prepare a layout to including the war memorial.

Mr McGrava: it seems to me very peculiar that the surveyor should be so very expeditions in his work on this occasion, it is apparent to anyone that something should be done and something was being done now.

Mr William Stockton said the scheme launched by the Church Council was a sectional one and not a public one.

Mr McGrava : They make a public appeal and it belongs to no denomination at all.

Mr Stockton : Where is it to be fixed ?, every determines it as a sectional and

DENOMINATIONAL MEMORIAL

It is precisely in the same form as the Queen Street Memorial, they spent over £400 in a sectional memorial but never made an appeal at all.

They found the money and there is no objection to the Church officials conceiving a sectional memorial and carrying it out but to call it a public memorial – well I think it is altogether wrong.

Mr McGrava, even if the public subscribe to it?

Mr Stockton : Yes

Mr McGrave : I Don't Agree

Mr Stockton : You don't well if it is to be a public memorial, it is a most unworthy one.

Mr McGrava said, if they proceed on proper line they should have a plan of the proposed memorial.

The Surveyor : This layout plan was prepared before the church council scheme was know of.

The Clerk : Yes, I can prove that for it was done before I left for my holidays and before we had any knowledge of the scheme drawn up by the church council. I only knew of the church council scheme for a war memorial last weekend.

Mr Stockton : As a matter of fact,. Mr Peter Jones has corresponded with this council with a view to a memorial being associated with the recreation ground.

At that time we were not in a position to say how we were going to lay it out and therefore we could not accepted a suggestion from him that special gates should be erected in Whitby Road with engraved upon them.

It was that Mr Jenkins brought the thing up and the Mr Jenkins suggested some time ago that in laying out the recreation ground or little park. Provision should be made for the proposed war memorial, which is to be a public memorial.

The Chairman (Mr C Taylor) I quite agree it may seem strange on the face of the evidence put forward but we had no prior knowledge of what any other body was going to do and I don't see that it matters.

The clerk has just pointed out to me that we have already had two town's meetings.

A BANK BALANCE

The clerk said he had a passbook, which however had not been made up-to-date which showed that there was a balance in hand about £250.

At the town's first meeting called to consider the question of a war memorial, it was decided by those present that it should take form of providing Boots and Shoes for the children of the fallen.

Subsequently another town's meeting was called and it was decided to endow a cot at the cottage hospital. He thought that should be stated to show that the council had done their best to try and get a memorial erected.

He was present at both meetings, when Mr Stockton suggested the proper form the memorial should take but those present would not have it under any consideration.

Mr J Rogerson suggested that the proposed war memorial should be placed more in the middle of the layout plan.

The chairman said the surveyor had placed it near the entrance from Yorke Street in his cartoon and its position would enable it to be seen immediately on entering the recreation ground.

Mr Stockton asked it was not possible to have the main entrance from Whitby Road?, it would be better if it could be so, then Mr Rogerson suggestion could be adopted. The surveyor said he had consulted the chairman of the council and they were both agreed that the position on the recreation ground was not a suitable one for a war memorial. People entering the town could not see the memorial.

The council owed land at the corner of Heathfield Road and Whitby Road and they also had the land spacious triangular place at Whitby at the junction of Pooltown Road and Chester Road on both of which pieces they could place the war memorial.

Then they had the land at the corner of Grosvenor Street but the ideal site in his opinion was the vicarage but they had not got that land.

Mr W Upright said the war memorial in the proposed position would be at the backs of houses.

Mr Stockton suggested the council should reserve a sweep of land in Whitby Road so as to form a crescent on which to erect the war memorial and although the surveyor reminded the council that this would leave them less land to sell on the frontage.

The members of the council seemed to think this was the most appropriate site and on Mr Stockton's motion, seconded by Mr McGarva. The surveyor was instructed to amend his plan and submit it to the next meet of the Library and Parks Committee.

War Memorial

A further step towards the erection of the War Memorial was taken on Monday, when an application was made at the Chester Consistory Court for a faculty to the erection on the South side of the Churchyard in the Parish of Ellesmere Port, a cross of Runcorn Stone bearing a memorial inscription and to cut away a portion of the boundary wall at the South end Churchyard so as to give access to the proposed memorial.

The application was made by the Rev. A B Sleight B.A., Vicar. Messrs. J.W. Darbyshire and T Pritchard, wardens and L Richmond (Secretary Parochial Church Council).

The chancellor approved of the application after reference to the Advisory Committee, Sir Phillip Wilbraham Barker Bart, was Chancellor.

The work received the approval of the Parochial Church Council on August 7th last, and will be completed by Armistice Day November 11th.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, 2 October 1925, Page 2

WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILING CEREMONY ARRANGEMENTS

We are able to give below some details with regard to the unveiling of the above.

Lieut-General Sir R H K Butler, K.C.B, K.C.M.G; General Officer Commanding In Chief of Western Command has kindly consented to unveil the memorial at 2.00pm on Saturday, November 7th 1925.

This will be followed by a short service and dedication ceremony by the Vicar.

Sentries and a bugler have been kindly lent for the occasion by the Officer Commanding, The Cheshire regiment at Chester and the church choir and church prize band will be in attendance for the musical portion of the service.

A guard of honour will be provided by the members of the United Services Club.

Space near the memorial has been reserved for relatives of the fallen and the secretary Mr L Richmond will be at the Church Institute on Wednesday evening next from 7.00 to 8.00 for the purpose of issuing tickets to anyone who wishes to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Everyone is, of course, cordially invited to be present at the ceremony.

Ellesmere Port Advertiser, Friday 30 October 1925.

TOMORROW!

TOMORROW, at 2 pm the Unveiling of the War Memorial promoted and carried to a successful issue by the Church Council will take place.

The Memorial and the ceremony will certainly carry with it the sentiment or the bulk of this populace and if we said the whole wish, in our case would be father to the thought.

It is not our intention and it certainly would be out of place for us to argue the point as to whether the Monument is worthy of the town or otherwise.

A sum of money has been subscribed and the Church Council have been true to their promise in erecting a Memorial for Armistice Day. Our Memorial is certainly modest in Design, but even so, there is a chasteness and dignity about it that appeals to ones sentiment and this after all should be the main function of all such works and not that we may point with pride to its ornate or architectural beauty.

There are many, not in agreement under present social conditions in spending money in such a way and for such a purpose, they arguer that to be true to the living victims of the War is much the better Memorial.

While respecting such feelings we are sure that much the larger bulk of popular sentiment is on the side of the permanent Memorial and it does seem peculiar fitting

that the names of those that went and never came back should be enshrined in some public place as an evidence of what the town did and gave during those awful years.

A Memorial should also have the effect and stand as an awful warning of what War mean and if people in the different towns and hamlets of the various countries that have erected Memorials could only register the vow, NO MORE WAR, every time they passed such a Monument, then in truth the War to end Ware will have accomplished the one and only objective worthy of the great sacrifice.

The Unveiling ceremony as we say takes place tomorrow and we hope and shall surely see a worthy (unable to read) of our people in remembrance.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, 6 November 1925, Page 4.

THE WAR MEMORIAL TOMORROW'S UNVEILING CEREMONY

Tomorrow will witness the epoch making event in the local annuals in the unveiling of the War Memorial, which has been erected as a result of the efforts of the Parochial Church Council and the general response of the Public of Ellesmere Port.

The work will be definitely completed today when the memorial will be covered with the Union Jack in readiness for tomorrow's impressive ceremony.

Lieut-General Sir R.H.K. Butler KCB, KCMG; General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Command will unveil the memorial and as befits the occasion a special place of honour to be accorded to the relatives of those gallant men who's sacrifice in the late war is perpetuated by the memorial which will symbolise all that stands for the sacred fame of sacrifice.

The council have been invited to attend to the ceremony and the members of the Church Council will of course be present while the general public are given a cordial invitation through the press.

It is to be hoped there will be a large attendance at the ceremony and a service appropriate to the solemn occasion has been arranged by the Vicar, who will dedicate the memorial with the following words.

“To the glory of God and in grateful memory of those who gave their lives for King and Country and a righteous cause, I dedicate this memorial in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of Holy Ghost.

May all who look upon it realise the peace of sins forgiven; the joy of faithful service and the power of the endless life, to which may god vouchsafe to bring us all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”.

The opening hymn will be ‘O God Our Help In Ages Past’ and the General will then proceed to unveil the sacred cross.

After the dedication prayers will be offered, to be followed by the hymn ‘O Valiant Hearts who to glory came’ as representing the “Supreme Sacrifices”.

Then will be sounded the "Last Post", after which one of the church officers of the Parish Church will lay a wreath of poppies at the foot of the cenotaph.

The collection at the Parish Church on Sunday night was for the purpose and the splendid sum of £2 10's was raised.

The wreath has been ordered from the Poppy Day Headquarters in London and has been made by disabled Ex-Service Men.

Any public body who contemplate placing a wreath will be invited to lay their tribute at the same time.

The Church Silver Band will proceed to the British Legion shortly after Noon, to escort the Guard of Honour to the scene where it will be inspected by the General prior to the service.

Ellesmere Port Advertiser, Friday, 6 November 1925

MEMORIAL UNVEILING AT ELLESMERE PORT

THE CROSS OF REMEMBRANCE

With favour Lord, this effort crown,
Fulfil our hearts' desire
Upon this cross now send down
A baptism of fire.

In plentitude the Holy Ghost
O'er all this monument pour,
Display a glorious Pentecost
As in the days of yore.

As morning drew fresh life imports
To nature's drooping flowers;
So let Thy blessing cheer our hearts,
In oft repeated showers

Bestow Thy peace, Thy Joy, Thy grace,
May sinners be forgiven;
A Bethel find this hallow'd place,
A very gate of heaven

To young and old who mingle here,
At this sacred spot to meet,
In thy beatitudes appear,
And make them all complete.

Their treasure, talents, bodies take
Thine evermore to be,
As we would now this shrine make
Fit temple, Lord for thee.

Though very belated, the unveiling of the Ellesmere Port War Memorial was attended with the impressiveness that could have marked such an occasion had it taken place years ago.

If there had been a tendency not to forget, but to lose all the emotion which war and its memories stirred in our hearts, the gathering around the Memorial brought vividly in touch once more with all that this simple column symbolised.

A deep feeling of gratitude to those of our fellow men who made the supreme sacrifice and fulsome sympathy with the bereaved.

A sad ceremony at all times, the wretched weather was calculated to rob the scene of its impressiveness and while the elements could have been kinder, it did not prevent the assembling of hundreds of people whose presence at once approved the efforts of the Church Parochial Council and testified to the love borne to our departed.

The relatives of the fallen were accorded a place at the rear of the memorial and similar accommodation was found for members of the Urban District Council, while the general public took up a position behind the guard of honour, which was paraded facing the memorial. The guard marched from the Headquarters of the British Legion in Cromwell Road to the strains of music supplied by the Church Silver Band.

The surplined choir from the Parish Church was in attendance to lead the singing of the hymns and the accompaniment was provided by the Church Silver Band who occupied a stage erected in the churchyard. One regretted the absence from the ceremony of the local Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Buffaloes, Oddfellows and other organisations whose presence in regalia and uniform would have added a little more the distinctive touch to the proceedings.

Mr. John Grace M.P., was present and stood with the councillors.

The guard of honour, under Sergeant Attwater marched smartly to position and performed their parade drill with military smartness. General Sir R. W. K. Butler K.C.B, K.C.M.G., accompanied by Lieut L Richmond inspected the guard and he held conversation with various individuals and inquired of their record and circumstances.

At the close of the inspection the general addressed the men and complimented them on their smartness.

He said he was extremely pleased to have them present and would like to have known them better and if any of them had served under him during the war, he would be pleased if they would come up to him after the ceremony and shake hands with him.

The general then proceeded to the unveiling ceremony.

The column was in view and it was only necessary to remove the Union Jack from the base of the Memorial and to draw the curtain from the wall behind the column on which are inscribed the names of the fallen.

Prior to the unveiling, General Butler, in a short but well chosen address said as they all knew at the time of the country's need this parish was not one whit behind other parishes in providing men for the good of the country.

We sent out 1,600 men to fight on land, on the seas and in the air for the great cause of justice and freedom.

Two hundred and four laid down their lives for their country and this memorial was erected to their honour.

“It is inevitable” proceeded the general “these memories on occasions like this should reawaken grief. We who stand here to-day grieve for the loss of our comrades and we extend our sympathy to their relatives but nevertheless I would like you to remember that it is a public memorial not only to those gallant men to whose memory it has been erected but also for this parish, as it stands as a memorial for duty well done.

It is a long time now since the war it had got dim in the minds of many people. In this country we have not got the scenes of devastation and extensive graveyards with their innumerable crosses to remind us of the meaning of war, but we look on these memorials to remind us and the remind future generations to do their duty as these men did regardless of the cost.

These men died, you should bear in mind, to bring prosperity and peace to this country. During the war each and all of them did their duty to the utmost and all worked together for the common good and the greatest memorial that we can erect to these gallant men is for us all to do the same in peace and so se that they have not died in vain.

“To the Glory of God and in everlasting remembrance of those gallant men in whose honour it has been erected.”, the general unveiled the memorial.

One of the most impressive and touching scenes in the connection with the ceremony was the posting at the four corners of the memorial of a sentry standing with arms reversed.

From the time they took up their positions to the end of the proceedings they remained with bowed heads.

A bugler sounded “Last Post” and the “Reveille” and during the singing of the hymn “O valiant hearts who to your glory came” wreaths were laid at the cenotaph.

On behalf of the congregation of the Parish Church, Mr J H Darbyshire placed a beautiful wreath of poppies inscribed “Their name liveth for ever”, Ex-Sergt-Major Councillor J Rogerson on the behalf of the National Reserve laid a lovely tribute with the following inscription.

Not once or twice
In our island story
The path of duty
Was the way to glory.

On behalf of the Cement Football Club, the Secretary Mr H Simcox laid a wreath with the following message “In Memory of those who played the game”.

Affecting scenes were witnessed as the relatives of the fallen deposited their tributes.

The Vicar in his uniform, covered with vestments conducted the ceremony and dedicated the memorial.

Birkenhead & Cheshire Advertiser and Wallasey Guardian
Wednesday 11 November 1925, Page 2

OUR APPRECIATION

Saturday was perhaps the most fitting day we could have chosen on which to show in some humble form, our appreciation of the two hundred and four brave men who gave their lives for their country.

Even the climatic conditions joined with us in our sorrow and went copiously through out the whole of the day and it speaks volumes of the earnest desire on the part of the townspeople to commemorate the memory of our glorious dead, in a fitting manner that so many turned out to see the Memorial unveiled.

The scenes around the Monument were at once solemn and touched with a dignity which was most marked throughout the brief ceremony.

One could hear amongst the crowd, a stifled sob or sigh of one, who even after the lapse of time have not ceased to mourn a loved one.

General Butler, who honoured our town on this occasion, previous to unveiling the Memorial, he inspected a guard a of honour composed of members of the local branch of the British Legion.

Amongst whom were men who had seen some of the hardest fighting on land and sea, General Butler addressing the Guard of Honour, eulogised the part which Ellesmere Port had played in sending nearly 2,000 men to the fighting forces, many of them distinguished themselves and 204 had laid down their lives, for the cause of justice and freedom.

He desired to emphasise the fact that the Memorial was not a Memorial of duty well done, but a token of our appreciation that they died, that we might enjoy the fruits of the sacrifice and it was the duty of the living to see that those men did not make the sacrifice in vain.

The General then with a few simple words unveiled the Memorial. During the Ceremony, hymns were sung by the assembly, the singing being ably led by the Parish Church Choir who wore their surplices.

The Vicar performed the ceremony of dedication and offered up the prayers suitably for the occasion, which were entered into by the crowd with bowed and bared heads.

After the ceremony of dedication had been performed, those who has lost love ones in the war, laid their tributes at the foot of the memorial and some splendid wreaths were sent by prominent people in the neighbourhood.

Notwithstanding the inclement weather the onlookers seemed loath to go away, many lingering around the stone until the rain expelled them to reluctant depart.

It was indeed an inspiring moment when the bugler sounded the Last Post and the Reveille and I had a fleeting thought that even though those whose memory we were honouring could not be with us in the flesh.

We have every confidence that they were with us in sprit at that moment.

Our Brave Boys

They are not dead, but sleeping
Heaven's portal open wide
Safe in their Father's keeping
They rest, for Christ hath died

The sun will rise tomorrow
Though vanishing at eve
And faith will banish sorrow
And hope the heart relieve

The Flowers fade and perish
Yet ever cometh Spring
And God his own will cherish
And soul to soul will bring

Though dust to dust returneth
The sprit soars above
And to its source returneth
The Lord of Light and Love

They are not dead, but sleeping
Our loved ones are at rest
Safe in their Fathers keeping
They rest – He knoweth best.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, 13 November 1925, Page 2

ARMISTICE DAY

The celebrations of Armistice Day was carried out in a fitting manner at the War Memorial, Station Road and also at the British Legion Club, Cromwell Road. Around the War Memorial where the Vicar conducted the service, there was congregated nearly 1,000 people who previous to the two minutes silence, sand the hymn's 'Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow' and 'Oh God Help in Ages Past'.

The beginning of the silence was signalled by the sound of the works steam whistle and also by the ringing of the church bell, the big company standing with bowed and bared heads during the interval which seemed more like an hour.

The Vicar offered the appropriate prayers and the singing of God Save the King brought an impressive to an end.

Mr Percy Davies, a member of the Church Band sounded the Last Post and the Reveille and also led the singing.

After the ceremony a number of relatives and friends of the fallen placed wreaths and other tokens of remembrance at the foot of the Cenotaph.

A simultaneous service was held at the Temporary Cenotaph, at the British Legion Club, where between 300 and 400 assembled.

The service was conducted by the Revs. J Hughes Welsh Church; B D Morris Congregational and W Upright.

The Hymn 'O God Our Help In Ages past' and 'Lead Kindly Light' were sung with feeling.

Mr Upright gave a short address and Mr Morris offered prayers, Mr Hughes reading the appropriate passage of Scripture.

The Last Post and Reveille was sounded by David Traill, Mr Beresford Jones J.P. was present as the ceremony. Numerous wreaths were deposited at the foot of the cenotaph at the conclusion of the ceremony.

SALVATION ARMY MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Sunday afternoon last, the local corp of the Salvation Army under the conductorship of Major King held a short service at the War Memorial in Station Road.

A guard of honour was provided by the 1st Ellesmere Port Boy Scouts, A..S.M W Robertson in charge and a platoon of Army Sunbeams in charge of Miss Gilbride being also in attendance.

Mr David Traill sounded the Last Post and Reveille and also placed a magnificent wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph.

In the evening the army held a mass Memorial Service in the Queens Cinema, kindly lent for the occasion by the directors of the St Georges Cinema Co.

The service opened by the assembled company singing 'Rock of Ages', prayer by offered by Lieut Evens. The Rev B D Morris and the Rev J B Woodford also took part in the proceedings.

Mr J Hackerly who presided presented Mr Smith the manager of the Queens Cinema with a book containing the names of those who had fallen while serving in the Liverpool Scottish in which regiment Mr Smith had served during the war.

On Accepting the gift Mr Smith said he wished to say on behalf of the directors that the hall was from a business proposition as an act of duty.

Ellesmere Port Pioneer, Friday, 13 November 1925, Page 5

ELLESMERE PORT THINKS OF THE FALLEN UNVEILING OF WAR MEMORIAL IMPRESSIVE SCENES

THE CROSS OF REMEMBRANCE

With favour Lord, this effort crown,
Fulfil our hearts' desire

Upon this cross now send down
A baptism of fire.

In plentitude the Holy Ghost
O'er all this monument pour,
Display a glorious Pentecost
As in the days of yore.

As morning drew fresh life imports
To nature's drooping flowers;
So let Thy blessing cheer our hearts,
In oft repeated showers

Bestow Thy peace, Thy Joy, Thy grace,
May sinners be forgiven;
A Bethel find this hallow'd place,
A very gate of heaven

To young and old who mingle here,
At this sacred spot to meet,
In thy beatitudes appear,
And make them all complete.

Their treasure, talents, bodies take
Thine evermore to be,
As we would now this shrine make
Fit temple, Lord for thee.

Though very belated, the unveiling of the Ellesmere Port War Memorial was attended with the impressiveness that could have marked such an occasion had it taken place years ago.

If there had been a tendency not to forget, but to lose all the emotion which war and its memories stirred in our hearts, the gathering around the Memorial brought vividly in touch once more with all that this simple column symbolised.

A deep feeling of gratitude to those of our fellow men who made the supreme sacrifice and fulsome sympathy with the bereaved.

A sad ceremony at all times, the wretched weather was calculated to rob the scene of its impressiveness and while the elements could have been kinder, it did not prevent the assembling of hundreds of people whose presence at once approved the efforts of the Church Parochial Council and testified to the love borne to our departed.

The relatives of the fallen were accorded a place at the rear of the memorial and similar accommodation was found for members of the Urban District Council, while the general public took up a position behind the guard of honour, which was paraded facing the memorial. The guard marched from the Headquarters of the British Legion in Cromwell Road to the strains of music supplied by the Church Silver Band.

The surpliced choir from the Parish Church was in attendance to lead the singing of the hymns and the accompaniment was provided by the Church Silver Band who occupied a stage erected in the churchyard. One regretted the absence from the ceremony of the local Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Buffaloes, Oddfellows and other

organisations whose presence in regalia and uniform would have added a little more the distinctive touch to the proceedings.

Mr. John Grace M.P., was present and stood with the councillors.

The guard of honour, under Sergeant Attwater marched smartly to position and performed their parade drill with military smartness. General Sir R. W. K. Butler K.C.B, K.C.M.G., accompanied by Lieut L Richmond inspected the guard and he held conversation with various individuals and inquired of their record and circumstances.

At the close of the inspection the general addressed the men and complimented them on their smartness.

He said he was extremely pleased to have them present and would like to have known them better and if any of them had served under him during the war, he would be pleased if they would come up to him after the ceremony and shake hands with him.

The general then proceeded to the unveiling ceremony.

The column was in view and it was only necessary to remove the Union Jack from the base of the Memorial and to draw the curtain from the wall behind the column on which are inscribed the names of the fallen.

Prior to the unveiling, General Butler, in a short but well chosen address said as they all knew at the time of the country's need this parish was not one whit behind other parishes in providing men for the good of the country.

We sent out 1,600 men to fight on land, on the seas and in the air for the great cause of justice and freedom.

Two hundred and four laid down their lives for their country and this memorial was erected to their honour.

"It is inevitable" proceeded the general "these memories on occasions like this should reawaken grief. We who stand here to-day grieve for the loss of our comrades and we extend our sympathy to their relatives but nevertheless I would like you to remember that it is a public memorial not only to those gallant men to whose memory it has been erected but also for this parish, as it stands as a memorial for duty well done.

It is a long time now since the war it had got dim in the minds of many people. In this country we have not got the scenes of devastation and extensive graveyards with their innumerable crosses to remind us of the meaning of war, but we look on these memorials to remind us and the remind future generations to do their duty as these men did regardless of the cost.

These men died, you should bear in mind, to bring prosperity and peace to this country. During the war each and all of them did their duty to the utmost and all worked together for the common good and the greatest memorial that we can erect to these gallant men is for us all to do the same in peace and so se that they have not died in vain.

"To the Glory of God and in everlasting remembrance of those gallant men in whose honour it has been erected.", the general unveiled the memorial.

One of the most impressive and touching scenes in the connection with the ceremony was the posting at the four corners of the memorial of a sentry standing with arms reversed.

From the time they took up their positions to the end of the proceedings they remained with bowed heads.

A bugler sounded "Last Post" and the "Reveille" and during the singing of the hymn "O valiant hearts who to your glory came" wreaths were laid at the cenotaph.

On behalf of the congregation of the Parish Church, Mr J H Darbyshire placed a beautiful wreath of poppies inscribed "Their name liveth for ever", Ex-Sergt-Major Councillor J Rogerson on the behalf of the National Reserve laid a lovely tribute with the following inscription.

Not once or twice
In our island story
The path of duty
Was the way to glory.

On behalf of the Cement Football Club, the Secretary Mr H Simcox laid a wreath with the following message "In Memory of those who played the game".

Affecting scenes were witnessed as the relatives of the fallen deposited their tributes.

The Vicar in his uniform, covered with vestments conducted the ceremony and dedicated the memorial.

Ellesmere Port Advertiser, Friday 13 November 1925

ARMISTICE SUNDAY

VICAR'S INSPIRING SERMON

A Service of 'Memorial and Thanksgiving' was held at the Parish Church on Sunday morning. There was a good congregation and hymns appropriate to the occasion were sung, including 'The Supreme Sacrifice' and 'O valiant Sons, who to your glory came'.

The Vicar, the Rev R B Sleight who during the War was a chaplain to the Forces preached a splendid sermon which could not but help to bring comfort to those who had lost friends.

He took his text from Revelations xii, 11. 'They loved out their lives unto death', 'throughout the greater part of Europe' said the Vicar, November is the month of the dead and thus there is certain appropriateness that our annual service in memory of those who laid their lives in the Great War should be held this month.

These live we commemorate we laid down for us, he processed 'it is difficult for the people in England, excerpt perhaps those who lived in the air raid zone to realise the horrors of war and it is possible to over estimate the suffering of the civilian population of Belgium, Flanders and Northern France.

That no invading army landed on our shores, that the din and turmoil of battle was left far away, we owe to those who heard and responded to the call of duty and jeopardised their lives under the in the high places of the field and died without counting the cost.

We thank them, we thank God for them, they died for us
To keep the home unharmed
Their fathers built so fair,
De endurance armed
Better then dark despair
They found the scent of the word that saith
Service is sweet, for all true life is death.

OUR PRAYERS

But this service has a deeper significance. We have not come simply to remind ourselves of what we owe to the men who give their lives to defend us, through we do well to do that. We have come to speak about them to God, to commend them to his gracious keeping.

The preacher continued ‘They are still alive, they are still members of the family; they have no more ceased to belong to us than our than our friends who left us to live in Canada or Australia.

They still remember us, as we remember them, they still love us as we love them, they still pray for us as we pray for them. Oh that mere of us could realise the meaning of the ‘communication of saints’.

Sometimes as I come to church on a Sunday morning I see people tending the graves of the people they love and the thought often comes into my mind, why is it that some of these people seem to think they have finished their duty to their dead when they have cared for their graves?

Why is it they do not come to join is remembering them before God in the Church’s great intercession. ‘We bless the Holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear. Beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good example, that with them we may be partakers of Thy Heavenly Kingdom.

Death is really not the end but the beginning of life – it is the birth unto life under new conditions and though we know nothing of those conditions, yet any rate we may commend our departed to God and pray as the Church always prayed the He will grant them forgiveness of all their sins and mercy in the day of the Lord.

THE WAR MEMORIAL

But though we remember with thankfulness and ‘pride all those who loved not their lives unto death’ yet as in private duty bound, we remember especially those from the parish and we meet together this morning animated with feelings of great satisfaction that at last we have in our midst for everyone to see, a War Memorial which has been in a very true sense the gift of the people of the parish.

On Sunday evening August 16th, I asked the congregation of the parish church and through them the people of the town ‘whether they wished the names of their fathers, husbands, sons, brothers, sweethearts and friends who fall in the Great War to be remembered, to be perpetuated by the erection of a memorial cross in the churchyard’.

A leaflet was sent to every house in the parish, setting forth what was intended and containing a sketch of the proposed design.

Thus everyone knew for what their support was asked and what was the response to that appeal.

There have been about 2,000 subscribers and their donations have ranged from 1/2d to £50.

The result has been that within three months of the issue of that appeal the scheme had been carried through and yesterday our Parish War Memorial was unveiled and dedicated.

It is on a somewhat larger and more imposing scale than was originally intended. The plan of placing the Roll of Honour on the wall at the back, was most happily conceived.

This and several other minor details have enhanced somewhat the cost and the sum of £35 is still needed.

The cross itself is lofty and of graceful proportions and being made of Runcorn Stone, harmonises with the church white form such a suitable background.

It would have been impossible to choose a better site for it faces the main road and being on an open place can be seen from every direction there for all time it stands, the gift of the parishioners of this place and as I said in the sermon in which I first outlined the scheme which the Church Council had approved.

“The friends and relatives of the fallen will come to look upon it as their loved one’s place, to keep his name in remembrance.”

The service closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

WAR MEMORIAL

UNVEILING AND DEDICATION

VISIT OF LT.GENERAL SIR R BUTLER

The unveiling and dedication of the Ellesmere Port parish War Memorial standing on a semi-circular site, enclosed from the Churchyard and fronting Station Road, took place on Saturday, in presence of a representing crowd.

The ceremony of unveiling the memorial and tablet, inlaid in the wall in the rear, bearing the names of the non-commissioned officers and men belonging to the parish who fell in the war, was performed by Lt.General Sir Richard H. K. Butler K.C.B., K.C.M.G. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Command and the dedication service was taken by the Vicar, the Rev. A B Sleight, B.A.

There was little improvement in the weather which had been wet all day, at 2 o’clock the time fixed for the proceedings to begin but despite the inclement conditions the programme arranged was impressively carried out though excusably under the

circumstances hats were kept on by most of the men in the crowd during the singing of the hymns but were removed while the dedication prayers were being said.

The choir stood bare headed in their surplices, which got sadly damp during the quarter of an hour or twenty minutes the ceremonies lasted.

At each of the four corners of the memorial, the base of which was covered with a Union Jack was posted a sentry with bowed head and hands resting on rifles reversed as a sign of mourning.

About 60 ex-Service men assembled under Sergt-Major Attwater at the British Legion Club, Cromwell Road and marched headed by the Church Silver Band to the memorial where they lined up facing the it a pace or two in the roadway.

To the right of the memorial, inside the churchyard were gathered the surpliced choir with the Rev. C G Richardson B.A. (Curate) and Mr F Derbyshire (Choirmaster), the Church Silver Band occupying a temporary bandstand.

Mr John Grace M.P. and Miss Grace and members of the Ellesmere Port Urban District Council, the Councillors assembled were Mr Cyril Taylor (Chairman), Messrs J Rogerson, W D Jenkins, J Lloyd, C Breckon, T H Bale and J Dean, Mrs Boud and Miss Eyre.

The Churchwardens, Messrs J W Derbyshire and T W Pritchard, Dr Gerrard and Lieutenant Richmond D.S.O (Hon Secretary of the War Memorial Committee) were among others present.

On the corresponding side to the left were relatives of the fallen, many of them carrying wreaths and floral emblems which after the dedication they placed at the base of the memorial. A large crowd occupied the road and the opposite pavement.

Lt-General Sir Richard Butler, accompanied by this Aide De Camp Capt H C Lonsdale, Lancs Fusiliers passed along the line of the ex-service men, briefly addressed them and said if there were any of them who had served under him, we would be glad to see them after the ceremony was over.

ADDRESS BY THE GENERAL

The service began by the whole assembly led by the band, heartily singing ‘O God our help in ages past’.

Lt-General Sir Richard Butler, before the unveiling said as they knew in the time of the country’s need that parish was not one whit behind any other parish in providing a quota of men for the good of the country.

They sent out 1,600 men from the parish to war to fight on sea and land and in the air for the great cause of justice and freedom.

Of those 204 gave their lives for King and country. This memorial was erected in their honour, it was inevitable these memorial should awaken great emotions’

“We who stand here” said the General “grieve for the loss of our comrades and extend our sympathy to their relatives but nevertheless I should like to remember that this is a

permanent memorial, not only to those gallant men to whom this memorial has been erected, but also for this parish as it stands up as a memorial of

DUTY WELL DONE

It was a long time now, continued the General since the war which was getting dim in a great many people's minds, and in this country we had not got the scenes of devastation and those extensive graveyards with innumerable crosses to remind us of the meaning of war, and we looked to this memorial and many hundreds of others in the country, to remind us and future generations to do their duty as these men did, regardless of cost.

These men died, they must bear in mind to prosperity and peace to this country. During the war each and all worked together for the common good.

"The greatest memorial that we can erect to these gallant men." The General remarked, in concluding "is for us all to do the same in peace and thus ensure that they have not died in vain.

I now unveil the memorial to the glory of God and in everlasting remembrance of those gallant men to whose honour it has been erected.

Lt-General Sir Richard Butler then pulled aside the Union Jack, which had enveloped the pedestal of the memorial and the similar flag which had veiled the names on the tablet.

The Vicar in dedicating the memorial said "To the Glory of God and in grateful memory of those who gave their lives for King and Country and a Righteous Cause, I dedicate this Memorial in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

May all who look upon it realise the peace of sins forgiven; the joy of faithful service and the power of endless life to which may God vouchsafe to bring to us all; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

The Lord's Prayer, and prayers for the departed, the bereaved and for the living to "enable us to be worthy of those who have died for us" followed. Then with the inspiring hope of victory which the hymn give 'O valiant hearts' to the accompaniment of the band was effectively sung.

The 'Last Post' succeeded by an interval of silence and the awakening 'Reveille' were followed by the Blessing, pronounced by the Vicar and the singing of the verse of the National Anthem which brought a service, which will live long in the memory of those who were present to a close.

The sentries (Sergt Steele and three privates) and bugler (Drummer McColouglin) were from Chester Castle and attended by the kind permission of the O.C. Cheshire Regiment.

Before he left the General was introduced to some of those prominently associated with the promotion of the war memorial and greeted ex-service men he had formerly known.

THE WREATHS

During the singing of the last hymn, relatives and friends of the fallen placed many beautiful wreaths and floral emblems in remembrance of the glorious departed on the memorial.

The whole of the base of the column was quickly transformed into a beautiful bank of flowers, many of which bore touching inscriptions. Among the many choice wreaths was one laid on the memorial by Coun. John Rogerson on behalf of the National reserve, in memory of those of them who made the supreme sacrifice. This bore the inscription,

Not once or twice, in our rough island story.
The path of duty was the way to Glory

There was another beautiful tribute from the Cement Football Club placed in position by Mr Harry Simcox, the club secretary "To memory of those whom played the game".

Mr J W Nichols president of the Ellesmere Port and District Co-Operative Society laid a wreath of Flanders Poppies from the congregation of the Parish Church was inscribed "Their name liveth for evermore."

In spite of the continuous heavy rain, crowds of people were present to do homage to the glorious dead until nightfall.

DESCRIPTION OF MEMORIAL

The memorial cross is placed in a prominent position, a pavement's width only from the main road. The site as already mentioned had been taken from the churchyard and given by the Vicar and churchwardens.

In shape the ground is a half circle, surround by a new wall having two gates leading into the churchyard behind. Upon the centre of this piece of ground stands the memorial, constructed of local red sandstone, placed upon a graduated base, the lower step the drum and the plinth, from which the shaft of the cross springs.

Being worked with a series of simple mouldings, suited to both to the nature of the material and its exposed position.

The head of the cross is designed as a cross-fleury, decorated upon both sides with a laurel wreath entwined round a sword, the joint of which runs down the shaft of the cross.

Immediately behind the cross, on the face of the new sandstone wall, has been inserted a large panel of Woodkirk, Yorkshire freestone, framed round with a simple moulding of the same material.

Upon this panel are inscribed in sunk lettering, the names of those who fell in the war, connected with Ellesmere Port.

The Memorial was made to the design of Mr. F. H. Crossley F.S.A. and erected by W. Mansley and Son of Chester.

It had long been felt that a permanent memorial to the honoured dead was needed in Ellesmere Port, but any move in the matter seemed to hang fire until the Parochial Church Council headed by the Vicar, took it up in earnest.

On July 24th, a meeting of the Council was held, at which it was decided to go ahead and appeal to the public for subscriptions. There was a ready response and the whole scheme was launched and completed in a short space of fourteen weeks.

The original aim was to raise £200 to meet the cost, but after application to the Consistory Court, some alterations were found desirable which made it necessary to spend a further £120.

The total cost of the memorial has thus been £320, which has been secured with the exception of about £35.

There were about 2,000 subscribers, the amounts ranging from 1/2d to £50.

The Chester Observer, Saturday 14 November 1925, page 10

Ellesmere Port War Memorial

The Names of the Fallen on the War Memorial Panel

F Adaey	A Bousfield	E Broughton	I Catton
S Adey	B Bousfield	W Broughton	J Catton
J E Allen	P Bousfield	W L Burgess	W Challiner
S Amer	S Bowker	W Burke	W T Chapman
W Y Amer	G Bradshaw	W Burrows	A Chesters
W Ashbrook	E Bristol	C H Cadwallader	A Cobbe
H Ashton	W J Bristol	J H Caldicott	S Collings
J Bartley	A Brooks	W F Caldicott	T Cooper
R Bellingham	W Brown	R Cartwright	E Corns
W J Biggs	T Brown	W Caton	J Cox
John Dacey	A A Dodd		J W Green
James Dacey	E Dowie	J Farrington	H Griffiths
A Davenport	W Dunn	C Fife	W Griffiths
S Davenport	A C Dutton	E Filgate	J Gwilt
F Davies	J Edwards	J W Foulkes	W A Hadley
F T Davies	N A Edwards	L France MM	R Hall
T Davies	W Evans	W J P Fraser	H Hamer
J T Davies	J Ellis	H G George	S Hardwick
E Dawson	G Elwell	J Gilbride	G Harper
H Dentith	T Farrington	H Godbold MM	H Harris
F Henstock	H Humphries	G J Jones	W H Loveless
J Hickman	J Jackson	H E Jones	I Lowe
S Higgins	W R Jackson	J Jones	W Lowe
J Holder	E S Jarvis	R E Jones	G Marshall
J Howell	W R Jefferies	I King	J E McCormack
J T Howell	B Johnson	W D Knight	A Millington
G A Hudson	J Johnson	R W Lane	A Moody
E Hughes	J Johnson	J Large	T C Moore
J Hughes	A Jones	G Ling	J W Mort
W Hughes	E Jones	W J Lock	T Mounsey
A Nesbitt	T Pattin	W A Phillips	W Richards
A H Nixon	F Pearson	T W Piercy	D G Roberts
F L Nixon	E Percival	E Platt	E I Roberts
W Oakley	G Percival	W Pollard	J Roberts
H Oakley	J Perrin	E Powell	J Roberts
S Onions	R Perry	A Pratt	W Roberts
E Pace	A Phillips	W Price	G Robinson
J Parker	C F Phillips	E Pritchard	A Rochall
R Parker	P Phillips	F Pulford	W Rogers
W Pattin	L Phillips	R Richards	I Rose
S Rowe	J W Taylor	H Weaver	A Woodward
J Rowlands	T Taylor	E Weeks	R M Woodhouse
J H Rubery	A Thomas	B Whitby	S Wrench
J Rue	R Thomas	W Wilbraham	G Wright
W Sandland	W Thompson	J Wilday	
W Shore	T S Thorne	H Wilkinson	
J Simcox	J Tompkins	J Wilkinson	
H Slawson	S Trevenan	A Williams	
G W Smith	A T Tunstall	B Williams	
E Southern	E Tushingam	J E H Williams	
G H Spicer	A Venables	J H Williams	
W A Stanway	F Venables	J W Williams	
J W Steadman	H M Walls	J Wolverson	

The articles above were researched and transcribed by WW1 researcher Alan Gregson from Stoak, who also made the following observations;



As you will note, the number of names in the above list do not match the number given in the General's speech. There are 202 names in the list and the General mentioned 204 men.

So who are the other two missing men?

As you can see below, a list of 18 further names have been added, this is because, as you will gather from reading the articles, that metal plaques on the Christchurch memorial, have covered over the original memorial panel in which the names are engraved on Woodkirk, Yorkshire freestone.

I believe that the missing two men are George and William Peers. Why would their parents put his details down as 'C Peers', when they christened him George?

Over the years the memorial has weathered and the lettering has been unreadable in places, consequently D G Roberts appears as D C Roberts, and R Perry is now R Terry.

Names now on the Christchurch War Memorial that were not on the original memorial roll of honour;

W J Allen	T W Hill	W Peers
W Broom	W Hill	M Price
M Brown	R Kenzie	G Roberts
W A Carruthers	W I Lloyd	H Sheargold
F Davidson	A McCulloch	T J Thomason
E W Hill	C Peers	L J Wall

Names on the Christchurch War Memorial but not on the new civic war memorial between the library and the civic hall

W Broom	
M Brown	
N A Edwards	- On Original Memorial
J Gilbride	- On Original Memorial
W Hill	
G Roberts	

Added to the New Civic War Memorial but not to the Christchurch Memorial;

Hunt, D (2007)
Lilley, Albert (2014)

Alan Gregson