Alnwick District in the Great War
Alnwick Memorials

There are 55 memorials in Alnwick, not all of them commemorating the First World War. The most significant of these is the war memorial at the Denwick Lane/Bondgate Without Junction. There are 189 First World War casualties named on this memorial, but of the 19 men who are buried in Alnwick Cemetery only 7 of them are named on the war memorial. The war memorial was unveiled on 11 November 1922 by the Duke of Northumberland and dedicated by the Bishop of Newcastle.

Casualties of later wars were added, the Second World War, the Korean war. The name of Terry O’Neil was included when he was killed whilst attempting to defuse a bomb in Northern Ireland.

The other significant memorial is in the Northumberland Hall although this is a roll of honour, listing 1200 men from Alnwick who served in the war. The plaque was commissioned by the women who ran the rest room for soldiers in the Northumberland Hall it cost £25-2-6d and was paid for with money left over from the rest room fund.

OTHER MEMORIALS

St Michael’s Parish Church has 3 rolls of honour. 4 of the men buried in Alnwick cemetery are listed on this. Others are commemorated in a book of service and separate plaques placed in the church by private subscription.

St James’ Church has a roll of honour to those who served and a plaque to the fallen. There were also 4 chairs bought and dedicated to the dead.

Oddfellows’ Lodge had a roll of honour. One of the men buried in Alnwick Cemetery is listed on this, although it is not known where this memorial is now.

Clayport Presbyterian Church is now a private residence. A plaque to the fallen included Robert Mack whose grave we visited this year. I believe that this memorial is now in St James Church.

Crown Public House, now closed, housed a roll of honour to the House Painters of the town who served. This memorial is now lost.

Duke’s School, Alnwick, has a roll of honour to all past pupils who served in the war.

St Paul’s Church, which was until recently C. of E. has several plaques placed by private individuals, and also a chapel dedicated to one of the Carr-Ellison family who was killed in 1918.

The Mechanics’ Institute in Percy Street had a roll of honour to its members. This is now
Lloyds Bank, Bondgate, has a photograph of the original roll of honour which is in the bank’s headquarters in London. The plaque includes two names of Alnwick employees who perished.

The Drill Hall in Fenkle Street had a cross commemorating the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers. This cross was originally erected on the Butte de Warlencourt in 1916/17. It was then transferred to Walker Drill Hall, then to Alnwick Drill Hall. The present location of this memorial is uncertain since the drill hall in Fenkle Street is now closed.

Royal Northumberland Fusiliers Museum, Alnwick Castle, has a Book of Remembrance including the Tyneside Scottish men who perished.

Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Sgts. Mess, Drill Hall, Fenkle Street plaque is now missing.

Northumberland Estates Office Roll of Honour of all estate workers who served in the war. I have a copy of this.

The Seat in the column adjacent to the war memorial in Alnwick was also dedicated to the men who fell in the First World War. The description on the newmp website describes it as the seat set into the wall overlooking the war memorial although the photograph accompanying the entry shows the first seat on the left through the column entrance. The seat was constructed using timber from HMS Lion.

Compiled by Joyce and Neil Brison.