

NOTES RE WAR MEMORIAL:

First meeting of the War Memorial Committee was held on 30.1.1919, with the Chairman of the Cockermouth Urban District Council, Mr J R Bleasdale, in the Chair. The purpose of the meeting was to 'consider the question of raising a fitting memorial to local men who have fallen in the war'.

An appeal for public subscriptions was launched in February 1919. By September 1922 the amount raised was £2,120 7s 11d.

It was resolved in February 1919 that the names inscribed on the monument would be 'all men who had made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War who were natives of Cockermouth or Papcastle, or who immediately before enlistment resided in Cockermouth or Papcastle, or whose homes were, in any of the years 1914-1919 inclusive, situate in Cockermouth or Papcastle'. The first proposal was for a memorial in Harris Park. However, following a lot of dissent and a petition from townspeople against this location, it was agreed that a site next to the railway station would be chosen for the memorial, since the Cockermouth, Keswick & Penrith Railway Company agreed to offer such a site, at a cost of £400. It would also be subject to the Committee doing the necessary work in moving back walls at the north and south sides of the approaches to the Station, and making up the necessary roadway and footpaths. Trees were to be retained on the north side of the site.

After submission of various architects' plans, the design of Mr J W Doyle Jones (of Chelsea, London) was accepted in January 1920. The base required for the monument would be 40 feet. His proposal was for a granite column, surmounted by a bronze figure, 'The Victory of Peace', 25ft high, with names of the men cut in stone on side pilasters, or alternatively bronze panels on the side and back. The total cost would be £1,500.

In May 1922 the architect asked for the names of the men, since the bronze was finished at the foundry and the stonework was nearing completion. A list

of names of men was sent to the press, with a request for any omissions to be notified before the end of May. The inscription on the monument would read:

Our Glorious Dead

Who fell

In the Great War

1914-1919

Let those who come after see to it

That their names be not forgotten

In September 1922, following a request from Miss Waugh, the following words were to be inscribed in the space above the Roll of Honour: *They found death in the path of duty*

In the same month the architect's sketch and estimate of proposed barrier of granite posts and solid bronze bars was discussed. The proposal of 12 granite pillars fixed on concrete and 24 solid drawn bronze bars, 1 ½" square, at a total cost of £165, was accepted.

The unveiling of the memorial took place on Sunday 24th September at 3 o'clock, with Colonel Hubert Dykes DSO unveiling the monument and giving an address.

Newspaper account of the ceremony:

"A 25 ft 6" high, symbolical bronze figure, the Angel of Peace, holding aloft the laurel wreath of triumph in the right hand, and bearing the palm of peace in the left, looks steadfastly across the town to All Saints' steeple, and the distant Hay Fell in the north. And so it gazes for all time upon scenes fondly recalled by the brave men whose memory it has been wrought to perpetuate. Its feet rest upon a large globe, which surrounds an oblong stone pedestal 17 ft high,

whose base forming 2 steps, suitable for floral tributes, is 8'6" by 7' 6". The stone, though at present of a yellowish hue, is Darley Dale (Derbyshire) silver grey, and it is understood, will harden with age. It is considered next to granite in quality and durability. The total weight of the memorial is 22 tons. At the front of the pedestal is the inscription: 'Our glorious Dead, who died in the Great War 1914-1919. Let those who come after see to it that their names be not forgotten'. At the back of the pedestal is a list of 132 dead. Cockermouth has had to wait a long time for this memorial, and now that it has got it, it follows that it is one of which it can be proud. The firm responsible is Messrs Kirkpatrick Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester, who have erected the largest number of memorials in the UK. It is interesting to note that the veil used at Sunday's ceremony, which was lent by them, has been handled by many royal and noble hands. The memorial has cost £1,500."

In March 1923 the memorial barrier was completed, and £169. 10s 0d sent to Mr Doyle Jones for the railings. As far as the future of the memorial was concerned, it was resolved that the memorial and site should be vested in the Cockermouth Urban District Council and that Miss Waugh, the Chairman, the Secretary, and Mr Thompson, be appointed Trustees for the purpose of carrying such vesting into legal effect. A photograph of the site was supplied to the Imperial War Museum. Messrs Walkers were to submit a tender to lay out the space inside the barrier, and to supply special marble adamant terrazzo blocks to be put in a concrete foundation.

In April 1932 a letter was sent to Mr Sutor, Clerk to the Cockermouth Urban District Council, stating that land given by the C K & P Railway Co. would be transferred from the London Midland and Scottish Railway Co. (London) to Cockermouth Urban District Council by deed of gift – leasehold 999 years from 1761.

N.B. In addition to the monument, it was also agreed by the Committee to establish a Benevolent Fund scheme for the benefit of former soldiers and their families, assisting in a wide variety of ways, and also to endow a bed in the Cottage Hospital; the bed would bear a tablet with the inscription:

'This bed is endowed by public subscription to perpetuate the memory of men of Cockermouth and Papcastle who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War'.

The bed was to be 'for the exclusive use of the sick and hurt of the wives, widows and children or dependants of men belonging to Cockermouth and Papcastle who have served or are serving in H.M. Forces, priority being given to the widows and children of the men who have fallen in the war'.

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