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**WAR MEMORIALS**

A war memorial is a building, monument, statue or other built to celebrate a war or victory, or to commemorate those who died in a war.

War memorials can differ in type and composition. Many war memorials often take the form of a traditional monument or [statue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statue), while others consist of entire buildings, containing a museum, while others are simple plaques. War memorials can take a variety of other forms, commemorative gardens, eternal flames, urban plazas, fountains, military equipment and parks.  
They often serve as a meeting place for commemorative services and they are often found near the centre of town, or contained in a park or plaza to allow public access.  
Many war memorials have a label listing the names of those that died in battle. Some war memorials are dedicated to a specific battle, while others are more general in nature and have inscriptions listing various theatres of war.  
Many war memorials have [epitaphs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epitaph) relating to the unit, battle or war they commemorate.  
In the years following the end of World War 1 it was decided that memorials should be a sort of "living memorials." These consisted of bridges, parks, libraries, playgrounds, community centers, civic auditoriums and athletic fields.   
A tank monument or armoured memorial is a [tank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tank) withdrawn from military service and displayed to commemorate a [battle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle) or a military unit.   
Many cemeteries tended by the [Commonwealth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations) [War Graves Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_War_Graves_Commission) have an identical war memorial called the [Cross of Sacrifice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_of_Sacrifice) designed by Sir [Reginald Blomfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reginald_Blomfield). A Commonwealth cemetery contains a [Stone of Remembrance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stone_of_Remembrance), designed by Sir [Edwin Lutyens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Lutyens) with words from the [Wisdom of Sirach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisdom_of_Sirach).

In modern times the main intent of war memorials is not to glorify war, but to honor those who have died. Sometimes they may also serve for increasing understanding between previous enemies.  
Using modern technology an international project is currently archiving all Commonwealth war graves and [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_War_Graves_Commission) memorials to create a virtual memorial.

During the [First World War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_World_War) 1914-1918, many nations saw massive devastation and loss of life.  
Varied memorials were erected to preserve the memory of the people involved in the fighting.   
Some towns often lists the names of each local soldier who had been killed in addition to their names being recorded on military headstones.  
Memorials to the First World War are many and varied. Official and private memorials are founded on the battlefields of the various theatres of that war and in the home nation of those who foughti in it.  
There were official tokens of Remembrance in the form of memorial plaques tought by relatives of the fallen and commemorative “Peace” medals. Memorial rolls of honour were put up in factories, sports clubs, railway stations, schools and universities. Church windows were designed and dedicated to military units or individuals. Memorial buildings were constructed to provide “living memorials”, for example places for worship.

In the United Kingdom during the years following the 1914-1918 war public monuments were put up with public funding or by private and public subscription.

The Cenotaph in central London is the national War Memorial for the United Kingdom which originated as a memorial to the British losses.  
It was originally made from wood and plaster, but after the Peace Parade for a national Peace day it was decided to build a permanent structure and it became a focal point of national grief for all those many thousands of people who had lost loved ones in the war.  
The Cenotaph was again the focus of a ceremony of Remembrance on the anniversary of the Armistice on 11th November 1921. Subsequently it became the location for the United Kingdom's national annual national ceremony of Remembrance each November.  
Some public war memorials, therefore, do not necessarily commemorate those who died in the Great War, but they commemorate those from the locality who served and who did return. these places became known as “Thankful Villages”.  
A monument to the role played by animals in war and the sacrifice that so many thousands of them made is to be found in central London at Brook Gate, Park Lane.  
The National Memorial Arboretum is located in the heart of England. It is a living memorial of trees and plants dedicated to the concept of Remembrance. Memorials are the Armed Forces Memorial, monuments to military units and associations, the police, fire brigade and ambulance services, civilian societies, charities, associations and individuals.  
The War Memorials Trust is a charity working to preserve and care for over 100,000 war memorials located across the United Kingdom.

After World War I, some towns in France set up pacifist war memorials. Instead of commemorating the glorious dead, these memorials denounce war with figures of grieving widows and children rather than soldiers. The most famous is at [Gentioux-Pigerolles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentioux-Pigerolles) in the department of [Creuse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creuse). Below the column which lists the name of the fallen stands an orphan in bronze pointing to an inscription 'Maudite soit la guerre' (Cursed be war). Another such memorial is in the small town of [Équeurdreville-Hainneville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89queurdreville-Hainneville) (formerly Équeurdreville) in the department of [Manche](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manche). Here the statue is of a grieving widow with two small children.

In many cases, World War I memorials were later extended to show the names of locals who died in the [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) in addition. Similar historically and architecturally significant memorials are also designed and constructed.