

Meeting of War Memorials Working Party
Tuesday 14 February 2017 at 6 pm
Recommendation of Names to be Added

Summary

1. Information and advice from **Jane Stovell of Cheltenham BC [after their experience]**
2. **Recommendation that we agree a long list at this meeting following** corroborative advice obtained from Cheltenham's historian
3. We then advertise intention to the public via **Tewkesbury Direct** [if in time for March or April] followed by article in Wednesday Echo and Radio Gloucestershire.
 - a. Investment in necessary certificates – death certs @£9.25p each¹
4. A working group member seeks estimates from manufacturers about producing necessary plates.
5. We consider results of consultation as soon as possible so that we can have a definitive proposal for Town Council in September 2017



Additional papers available

1. My own long list of candidates
2. back ground information to this recommendation including discussion **of commemoration anomalies**
3. full advice from Cheltenham Historian
4. Medical advice on causes of death from Dr Andrew Crowther
5. Biographies of newly discovered Tewkesbury War Dead – A E Fletcher and F G Green

¹ Bought 3 at £27.75p

1. Assistance from Jane Stovell, Project Manager, Commissioning Division, Cheltenham Borough Council²

RESTORATION OF CHELTENHAM WAR MEMORIAL

Condition survey and conservation options appraisal

NEW INSCRIPTIONS

The original eligibility criteria, detailed within the Council minutes of 1919 and as designated by CWGC at the time, was as follows:

- Men fallen whilst engaged in active service during WW1
or
- Who lost their life from injuries sustained in active service up until **31st August 1921**

In the case of Tewkesbury the deadlines were:

WWI: 31 December 1925³

WWII: 28 February 1955⁴

- Born or resided within the Borough of Cheltenham

After consultation

project team propose to expand the criteria to include

- **women and those who were born or resided within the current town boundary, unless their names are featured elsewhere.**

Advice received from the War Memorials Trust indicated that the following evidence must be in place:

- A copy of a military record [some military records were lost in the London Records Office fire during WWII].
- A copy of an official birth, death or marriage certificate
- Confirmation that the individual is not commemorated on another local war memorial
- Evidence that the local community has been notified (e.g. local newspapers articles, public notices etc..) we sometimes find that there are other members of the community who have discovered a missing name(s) and it is both cheaper and less damaging to the memorial if missing names are added at the same time.

Initially, it was thought that over 100 names needed to be added but further research Using these criteria has reduced the number to less than twenty.

² Tel: 01242 264367 Mob: 07808 088848 E-mail: jane.stovell@cheltenham.gov.uk

³ 26/12/1925 page 2/col 5 **War Memorial: List Of Names Settled.**

⁴ **Town Council War Memorial: Appeal to be made to public to submit names omitted on War Memorial. 5 names have been added. New list will be closed at end February 1955. Register 23/01/1954 p1/1**

2. Recommendations for Additional Names

Recommendation	War	Name	Comment
To be added	WWI	Pte. Frederick Green	Missed deadline because body not identified until 1925
All Tewkesbury born or migrants		Worker Kathleen Sollis	Died in influenza pandemic while a military nursing worker at Tredington Isolation Hospital
All within deadlines		Pte. F. W. Taylor	Died in influenza pandemic whilst serving in UK
Not commemorated elsewhere on parish memorials		Pte. A. E. Fletcher	Discovered by Cheltenham Historian; disappeared in battle
		Pte. F.G. Green	Discovered by Cheltenham Historian; enlisted London; family breakup and thought wrongly to be from Winchcombe
	WWII	Pte. John C. Cash	Guard at POW camp who died in road accident in service
		Sgt. Arthur Hanlon	Migrant to Tewkesbury; killed on duty in Home Guard Accident in Tewkesbury
total	7	WWI 5	WWII 2
Rejected After advice sought and received	WWI	Pte. Cecil Edgar Cole	Local and within deadline but death cert does not suggest exacerbation by war.
		Pte. T. E. Drinkwater	Local and within deadline but death cert does not suggest exacerbation by war.
		Major Norman C. Healing, DSO	Local and within deadline but death cert does not suggest exacerbation by war. also slightly late
		Flt. Comm. V. H. Robeson, M.C.	within deadline but death cert does not suggest exacerbation by war. also only lived in Tewkesbury after war; buried here; no CWGC
	WWI	Pte. John C. Mayall	Meets all criteria except died of stroke at 54; but death cert does not suggest exacerbation by war.
		Gunner Henry Knight	Only meets date criterion but CWGC grave
	WWII	Sub-Lt. Ian Mackie	Grammar School memorial, father worked for Tewkesbury firm, Hones, but lived in Bredon's Norton and commemorated in Bredon Church [but Abbey Memorial no bar to Town Memorial] c/f Matthew Stuart
		Pte. Ronald E. Collet	<i>fatal accident in High Street, presumably off-duty</i> TO BE REVIEWED
		Sapper W E Portlock	<i>"came home on leave unwell on November the 11th, and was taken seriously ill"</i> TO BE REVIEWED
		Mrs. Florence Davis (nee Ryland) Civilian	Member of Tewkesbury family, killed in flying bomb accident in London; "total war"; however, not a recognised 'civilian death'

Before I comment on specific cases listed in the attached papers I would like to expand upon the official eligibility criteria for War Casualty Status (War Office/IWGC/CWGC) and the local criteria given to me by Cheltenham Council.

Official Eligibility Criteria.

1. Official War Casualty Status. Criteria set by the Government (War Office) as contained in the Royal Charter of May 1917 (as amended) for the establishment of the Imperial War Graves Commission were:

a. **Category One.** Commonwealth men and women who were in military service at the time of their death. These personnel automatically qualify for official commemoration provided they died within the qualifying dates as follows:

First World War - 4th August 1914 to 31st August 1921

Second World War - 3rd September 1939 to 31st December 1947

The location of their death and the cause of death are immaterial to their qualification. They could have been killed in action, died of wounds, died of illness or by accident, died due to suicide or homicide or suffered judicial execution. CWGC treats all casualties equally and all must be commemorated under the terms of their Royal Charter.

b. **Category Two.** Personnel who had been discharged from or retired from the military before their deaths during the same qualifying periods of an injury or illness caused by or exacerbated by their service during the same qualifying period. **These cases qualify only if it is PROVEN to the authorities' satisfaction that death was service attributable.**

c. **Category Three.** War grave status and CWGC commemoration is restricted to personnel serving in a Commonwealth armed force but members of certain civilian organisations may qualify if they meet various additional criteria.

Examples of qualifying civilian organisations are:

First World War – Mercantile Marine, British Red Cross Society, YMCA and Voluntary Aid Detachments.

Second World War – Merchant Navy, Home Guard, War Correspondents and BOAC.

Advice on Causes of Death and Relationship to War

Received from Dr. Andrew Crowther