

## **Commemoration of the War Dead – WW1 – official CWGC policy and how it pertains to the Aston Memorial**

Those men on the Aston WW1 Memorial are the names submitted by parishioners and other associated with Aston. The official inscription on the memorial reads:

*To the Glory of God  
And in grateful memory of the parishioners and  
Other members of this Church who gave  
Their lives for their country in the great war 1914-1919*

As an unofficial memorial, there were no absolute parameters that those who finalised the listing would have had to adhere. But as the Commonwealth and War Graves Commission was used as a key source of information, I thought it important to be clear on its policy for inclusion as War Dead.

### **CWGC policy (May 2020)**

The CWGC policy is to commemorate those who served in the armed forces (land, sea and air) and whose death occurred during the official war period, and was the result of:

- wounds inflicted or accident occurring during active service;
- disease contracted or commencing while on active service; or
- disease aggravated by active service.

In essence, this means that serving military personnel were commemorated irrespective of the cause or circumstances of their death. Military personnel who died post-discharge are only commemorated if it is established that they meet the above criteria.

In addition to the armed forces, men in the Mercantile Marine Services who died, while signed on for a voyage, as a direct result of enemy action or while detained by the enemy are also commemorated.

For the purposes of commemorations, the official First World War period was 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921.

### **Implications for the Aston WW1 memorial**

The CWGC records will only contain those men that meet the commemoration criteria detailed above. Given the unofficial nature of this Memorial it is feasible that names were submitted for men that did not meet these criteria and don't, therefore appear in the CWGC

records<sup>1</sup>. This might be one reason why I have been unable to trace some names as War Dead.

For those men I have identified, the earliest date of death on the Memorial Listing is 14 September 1914, and the latest is 9 November 1920. The latter date is well within the official end of the war period for commemorations, 31 August 1921. The Memorial was erected in October 1921. I do not think it likely that any of the men I have been unable to identify on the Memorial are for deaths post-August 1921, given the nearness of the date to the Memorial being unveiled.

As of July 2022, all but one of the identified men meet the criteria for inclusion as War Dead. One does not, Arthur Barnett; see separate story.

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<sup>1</sup> I am not making a judgment here, as people could have good reason to believe that the person died as a consequence of the war. It is simply to point out that, if this is the case, I would not be able to find their names in CWGC records.