

Front cover photograph: The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the Somme.
Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

“Here are recorded names of officers and men of the British Armies who fell on the Somme Battlefields July 1915 – February 1918 but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death”

Rear cover photograph: The Cenotaph, Victoria Park, Leicester.

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Their Name Liveth

for

Evermore

The Great War Roll of Honour

for

Leicestershire & Rutland

Volume I

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them”.

For the Fallen, September 1915 Laurence Binyon

MICHAEL R. P. DOYLE

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the fond memory of my late father Peter,
in whose company I trod the morning dew in Flanders fields,
“say not goodnight, but bid me good morning in some brighter clime.”

Your son, Michael

Foreward

For more than ninety years, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has been faithfully keeping alive and paying the national debt of honour to those Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two world wars. We have done so, and indeed continue to do so, by maintaining the very fabric on which remembrance of the dead is focussed – the war graves, cemeteries and memorials to 1.7 million individuals to be found at some 23,000 locations in almost 150 countries.

That mammoth undertaking is perhaps the most outwardly visible sign of our work and yet of equal importance is the keeping and publishing of our records and registers of the fallen – for many the first clue or step in a moving commemorative journey that may lead them to some far off corner of a foreign field.

As we move ever further away from the two world wars it is vital, if we are to meet our obligations to those who gave their all in those two terrible conflicts, that we do not allow their names to simply fade into history – that we engage new generations in the achievements and sacrifices of our forbears by encouraging them to put a human face to that name. That is why I commend this book to you, dear reader, for the very fact that it reminds us that these men and women came from our countries, our counties, our towns and villages and streets. They were living and contributing members of our communities and we are all the poorer for their loss. Only by “reclaiming” them as our own can we make them “live” again, put a face and a story to the name.

The Canadian war poet John McCrae spoke of a challenge to each and every one of us in his famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*. “If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep though poppies grow in Flanders Fields.” With the publication of this superb book, Peter and Michael Doyle have risen to that challenge. The rest is up to you.

Peter Francis
Head of External Communication
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

April 2009

Introduction

August 1990 was the memorable date on which my late father and I embarked on a quest to discover more of the background behind sixty six names engraved on a memorial tablet inside St. John the Baptist Church in Enderby, Leicestershire. What began as mere inquisitiveness, turned into almost two thousand A4 pages of what is, today, probably the most comprehensive study of the war dead of Leicestershire and Rutland.

Of course, we little realised the sheer frustration, and time, that this relatively simple quest would involve, but we were determined to proceed. Contact was made with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Maidenhead, and, armed with a basic list of details, we set sail for Belgium and France on the 8th September 1990.

Faced with being in the field for the first time, the enormity of the task we had set ourselves suddenly dawned upon us. The journey was of three days duration and though a vast mileage was covered, it hardly scratched the surface of what was needed in order to build up a picture of facts for each individual casualty.

In the early months, it became apparent that there was a distinct lack of material exclusive to the fallen of Leicestershire, including our own village, and we therefore made a momentous decision at this point, to gather and collate information on all Leicestershire and Rutland casualties.

This research involved visits to the Public Record Office at Kew, the Leicester County Records Office and Bishop Street Reference Library, in order to add as much background information to the growing lists we were building from other sources. Most importantly, though, were the visits to churches, villages and towns in order to gather names from memorials allowing us to cross reference and build on our ever-growing list of the fallen.

It is sad to note, at this stage, that having visited and recorded information from more than three hundred memorials, some are now falling into decay due to location or lack of care. Representations in some quarters were made, and have been responsible for saving at least one large memorial. Unfortunately, though, some have already been destroyed, others are in store rooms in churches whilst a number have simply disappeared.

Whilst on the subject of memorials, some are quite simply, a list of names, but others are reasonably comprehensive in the information given. Most are simple tablets, others are quite detailed with sculpting and decoration, materials used being stone, marble, wood or bronze. Many churches keep written Rolls-of-Honour to their fallen and returned servicemen; these I have found to be most helpful due to the added information available.

The difficulty in visiting churches is access, due to the simple facts of theft and vandalism. There were many that were simply inaccessible, though every effort was made to gain entry even if this necessitated a return journey.

The task in hand was now taking on enormous proportions, and so a further visit to France and Belgium was arranged for the beginning of September 1991. This time we were more organised and methodical in our approach, and it was at this juncture that the seeds were sown of compiling a reference work that any researcher of casualties with regard to Leicestershire and Rutland would benefit.

Once home the mammoth task of collating photographs and listing details began again, together with the continual addition and updating of facts as collected.

A further trip was arranged for September 1992 in order to build on our records, but sadly in early April my father Peter became ill and the task almost ground to a halt. At my fathers insistence however, I made the trip alone. This was a most difficult time for me and, although I did obtain the information I had hoped to gather, it was not worked upon due to the circumstances of the time.

On the 18th January 1993 sadly, my father passed away, leaving me with the legacy of what had been our dream.

Through the difficult aftermath of my loss, I felt less inclined to continue with the work, but as time passed I came to realise that it had been a joint dream and it would be fitting to my father's memory to complete the task.

On Armistice Day 1994, my wife, Margaret and I attended the remembrance service at the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium and the following day, on a misty November morning, in accordance with my late father's wishes his ashes were scattered at Passchendaele, Belgium.

We then set out on a journey to the Asiago Plateau in Italy where our soldiers had fought alongside their Italian comrades against the might of the Austro Hungarian army. Having driven through some very inhospitable mountain terrain to reach the cemeteries, I found it hard to believe how heavy artillery and soldiers were ever able to make any headway. This they achieved, however, sometimes against seemingly insurmountable conditions. So I managed, seventy seven years later, to visit the last resting places of the men of Leicestershire and Rutland who made the supreme sacrifice in those mountains.

On then we journeyed into Germany in order to visit Cologne Southern Cemetery, where further information was assembled together with a photographic documentary, in order to assist my research upon return to England.

At this stage, a turning point was arrived at, that would forever make life so much easier for my research: the personal computer had arrived in my life. Many months were then spent in collating all the research into Data-Base form, adding all the known information to each individual's personal record, the total being completed, finally in the early part of 1996.

I had now reached a figure that was in excess of eleven-thousand names and was still being added to. The following years were spent in building on the information already known. Many means were used: personal meetings with survivors, of which there were very few, recollections of relatives and friends, letters to small local publications asking for information, and by visiting libraries to consult old newspapers.

In March 2008, I flew to Istanbul, Turkey, proceeding then by motor coach and finally hire-car to the Gallipoli Peninsula. During a period of four days, I managed to visit and photograph every grave and memorial that bore the name of a Leicestershire or Rutland casualty, and at the same time, I was able to walk much of the terrain which had been fought over at Suvla Bay and at Cape Helles.

Today the Data Base stands at twelve thousand, and ninety eight, which I am sure will grow further. What is available today, though, is, I believe, the most comprehensive reference work that will be found for Leicestershire. Though Rutland is included in my work, it enjoyed the benefit of an extremely informative volume of work, which receives mention in the Bibliography.

No work as extensive as this could ever be created without inaccuracies, and I am sure that anyone who has completed an in depth research, and has first hand knowledge of an individual, will surely find errors and omissions in my contribution. For this I apologise unreservedly in advance, and would add that any corrections would be gratefully received so that I may amend errors for any future re-publication.

In conclusion, I admit to having gained immense pleasure during the twenty years of research that this book has taken to create, and it is with a sense of deep satisfaction that the years of reading, writing, visiting, photographing, and then collating all the facts, has finally seen the completion of this work of reference. The one regret I have is that the dream was one I shared with my dear late father, and sadly he is not here today to share with me the pleasure of its completion and publication.

All proceeds from the sale of this publication will be donated to the
Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

In appreciation of their unending task of caring for all the fallen.

Acknowledgements

No reference work can ever be researched without meeting many people who give of their time with helpful advice, and make offers to share information and facts, which they themselves possess.

It would be appropriate to commence with The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Maidenhead whose staff have always been extremely helpful, when it is considered that I have requested on loan every Cemetery and Memorial Register covering the Great War, and added to this the many letters of enquiry that have always received courteous and prompt responses over a nineteen year period.

Many thanks must also go to the staff of the National Archive at Kew, who in the early days had a less than simple system that meant the staff were constantly being asked for assistance, something that was always freely and helpfully given.

My thanks to the staff of the Bishop Street Reference Library in Leicester (in the early years, prior to the majority of the material being relocated to the Records Office). I spent many quiet hours poring over information and adding to my collection of material. It is also appropriate to thank the staff of the Leicester County Records Office in Wigston, who also became a source of much information and were most accommodating to me.

A big thank you to all the church wardens, sextons, vicars, priests, key holders, together with anyone else who has been pestered over the years in order to allow me access to their respective churches, chapels, memorial halls, cellars, store rooms, churchyards and cemeteries, special thanks also to the Bishops office in Leicester for trusting me with the keys, allowing me access to churches that were closed.

I am indebted to so many individuals who I have met in passing over the years, many whose names now escape me. However I wish to make it known, that I am extremely grateful to you all. Of course special mention must also be accorded to longer-term friends who have, over a period of many years, been extremely helpful and willing to offer and share information from their own areas of research:

Gregory Drozd who has been most helpful with the Hinckley and District memorials, especially in the gift of a draft copy of his own research entitled, "Nobody told us", together with the many photographs, newspaper cuttings and notes he has posted to me during his own travels.

Michael Kendrick who has produced two superb books entitled "Greater Love" and "Fifty Good Men and True", two excellent records relating to the men from north-west Leicestershire. These have proved invaluable in providing background supporting information for this publication.

Pamela Ward, who penned the book "Wigston at War", again the information contained therein was invaluable to my own research.

Brenda Watts and the Friends of Belgrave Cemetery, for the use of their excellent publication "Belgrave Cemetery", covering the burials and commemorations in that cemetery.

I must not forget the late centenarian Bill West (Leicestershire Regiment) of John Street, Enderby who served and returned. His help in the early days with his tremendous recollection of village and wartime events was invaluable.

The late Harry Harrison (Coldstream Guards) who sat as doorman of the ex servicemen's club in Enderby, and whose 21 year old son James (Grenadier Guards) fell in the second world war just north of Rome, and is buried in the British Military Cemetery in Florence.

The late Bob Hall (Royal Army Medical Corps.) of Cornwall Street, Enderby, one of the founder members of the Enderby village ex servicemen's club, again a source of invaluable memories.

And last but not least the late Fred Woods (Royal Field Artillery) of Narborough who's amusing tales of life at the front, and rendition of "It's a long way to Tipperary" outside the Narborough Hotel, Leicestershire, in company with my late father, will ring forever in my ears. It was indeed my privilege to have walked in such grand company as these old soldiers.

It is also fitting that Jacques Ryckebosch and the staff of Talbot House in Poperinghe receive mention for the excellent work they do in the maintenance of such a fine building, and memorial to those far off days, and for the warm welcome that is extended to all visitors.

Finally from my more distant travels a big thank you to Eric Goosens and his wife Ozlem for the very personal care they took of me during my time on Gallipoli. Without the help of Eric and his four wheel drive vehicle I would never have made it to Lala Baba and enjoyed the vista of Suvla and the Salt Lake.

In any work of such enormity and complexity there are times when my family has had to endure my absences, and, when at home, the late nights of my burning the proverbial midnight oil. Therefore I wish to record my thanks to my wife Margaret and daughters Vittoria and Angelina, and tender my apologise for all the late nights that I spent engaged in collating and transcribing gathered information, and of course for their understanding and patience over the many years, whilst I have been away from home engaged in travelling around Leicestershire, Rutland, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Gallipoli in my quest for information.

My thanks also must go to my brother Martin, and sister in law Susan who have provided me with regular cuttings from the local newspaper, these have been invaluable in adding further material to my database, and in other instances, has made it possible for me to make contact with new sources of information.

And finally I wish to put on record my thanks and appreciation to all the Commonwealth War Graves Commission staff who tend the cemeteries and memorials throughout the world for the magnificent job that they do in keeping our fallen in such beautiful and peaceful surroundings; we have every reason to feel proud that they are in such tender and caring hands.

May I apologise in advance for any omissions of which there are bound to be some. Unfortunately this type of work is not exhaustive by any stretch of the imagination. Also for any incorrectly recorded facts, I accept full responsibility. After such a long time some of these errors are unavoidable, as I have often found contradictions in source documents and where known I have made this clear and given all the facts, drawing attention to minor discrepancies in the last entry.

Though this book was initially created as a means of research, it is my wish that it is primarily considered as a lasting tribute from my late father and I to all the men and women contained within its pages. Let us never lose sight that theirs was the supreme sacrifice, and that their ultimate and enduring gift was to give us the freedom that we today all enjoy.

Michael Doyle
Billingborough
Lincolnshire.

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Loughborough Echo
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Rutland Mercury
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How to use this book

Due to the enormity of information that has been gathered and from the variations, both in the quality and clarity of the source material it has been necessary to use abbreviations quite extensively throughout, I have attempted where possible to use complete descriptions.

Of important note are the extracts from the Battalion War Diaries of which there are many throughout this work, unfortunately due to the fact that they are at least eighty years old, and many were written under extremely trying circumstances not all have survived in clearly legible condition, many were, I have no doubt written in haste, and equally, many are written in pencil, which of course has faded considerably, the handwriting of some has also been a matter of particular concern, and has presented me with many challenges and even using every modern aid available I have quickly realised that it takes an extremely practiced eye to decipher a very faded pencil written word that due to the passage of time has not only faded, but was written in a very difficult to discern handwriting style.

In the cases of hard to define words I have substituted the following for each word that is illegible, -?-.

The work is in strict alphabetical order, and commences with the Surname, followed all Christian names where known.

Additionally in some cases there may be an alias, this will be shown as “served as” or “the true family name is.” Under these circumstances two entries will appear, under the real and the assumed name.

The main information commences with the rank, service number, and any gallantry award if applicable, this is followed by the unit in which the casualty was serving at the time of death, and details of any former units either attached to, or served with.

Cause, date of death and age where known, followed by abbreviated letters shown here in bold type with their explanation.

BC. Buried or commemorated, the place of burial, or if no known grave the Memorial where he/she is commemorated.

C. The place of commemoration, church memorial, family grave, village or town memorial.

B. Date and place of birth.

E. Date and place of enlistment.

R. Place of residence at the time of death.

PD. Personal details, this is where the main additional information is collated. It normally begins with family details where known, this may be followed by additional information obtained from various sources, and finally where a War Diary entry has been traced the entry will appear for the date of the recorded death, it was often the case that exact dates were assumed, this was for men identified as missing in action, when an action may have lasted for a number of days. Under these circumstances a number of entries may appear covering the whole of the action the casualty was engaged in at the time of death.

Please refer to the abbreviations page for a glossary of terms most commonly used throughout the book.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACTING	A/
BATTALION	Bn. - Battn
BATTERY	Bty
BOMBARDIER	Bdr
BORN	B
BRIGADE	Bde
BRIGADIER	Brig
BURIED/COMMEMORATED	BC
CAPTAIN	Capt
CEMETERY	Cem
COLONEL	Col
COLOUR SERGEANT	C/Sgt
COMMEMORATION	C
COMPANY	Coy
COMMUNAL	Com
COMPANY QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT	CQMS
COMPANY SERGEANT MAJOR	CSM
CORPORAL	Cpl
DIED OF WOUNDS	Dow
DIVISION	Div
DRIVER	Dvr
ENLISTMENT	E
EXTENSION	Ext
GENERAL	Gen
GUNNER	Gnr
HEADQUARTERS	HQ
KILLED	K
KILLED IN ACTION	Kia
KILLED WHILE FLYING	Kwf
LANCE CORPORAL	L/Cpl
LANCE BOMBARDIER	L/Bdr
LANCE SERGEANT	L/Sgt
LIEUTENANT	Lt
LIEUTENANT COLONEL	Lt Col
MAJOR	Maj
MEMORIAL	Mem
MILITARY	Mil
PERSONAL DETAILS	PD
PIONEER	Pnr
PRIVATE	Pte
QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT	QMS
REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR	RSM
RESIDED	R
RIFLEMAN	Rfn
SAPPER	Spr
SERGEANT	Sgt
SERGEANT MAJOR	SM
STAFF SERGEANT	S/Sgt
TEMPORARY	T/
2 nd LIEUTENANT	2/Lt
2 nd CORPORAL	2 nd Cpl