



Souvenir Programme.



OPENING CEREMONY

OF THE

GATESHEAD
WAR MEMORIAL



Sunday, 14th May, 1922.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

Souvenir Programme.

OPENING CEREMONY

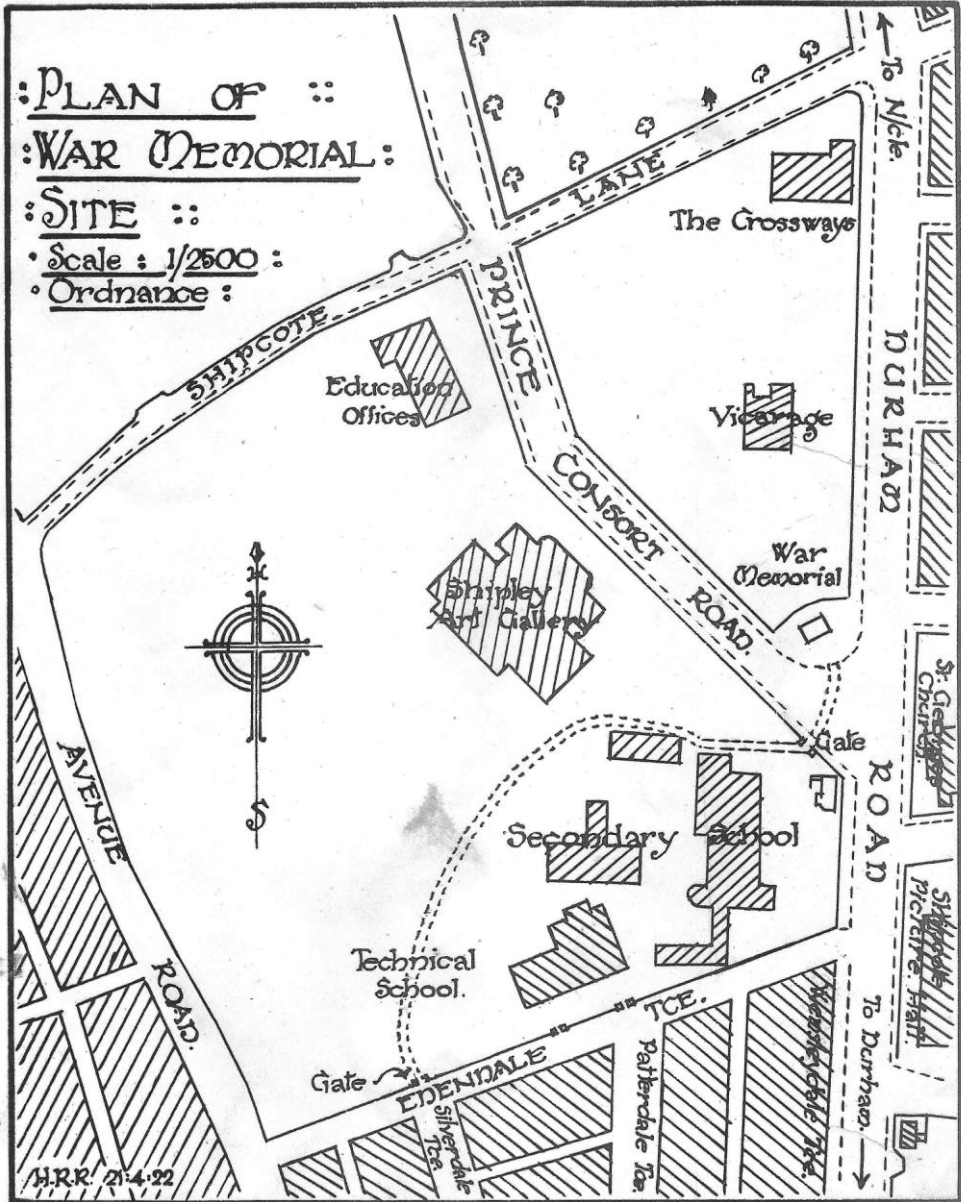
OF THE

GATESHEAD

WAR MEMORIAL.



Sunday, 14th May, 1922.



Programme of Events.

THE RECESSIONAL,—*Kipling.*

GOD of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget!

Far-called, our navies melt away ;
On dune and headland sinks the fire :
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Ninevah and Tyre !
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet !
Lest we forget—lest we forget !

The tumult and the shouting dies ;
The captains and the kings depart :
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget !

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard,
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding, calls not Thee to guard,
For frantic boast and foolish word—
Thy mercy on Thy people, Lord !

Opening Remarks by Chairman (Ald. W. CLOUGH, J.P.) who will then ask
The Mayor (Ald. Sir JOHN MACCOY) to accept, on behalf of the
Corporation, the Memorial, to be kept for the inhabitants for all time.

Sir JOHN MACCOY will accept and call upon Major General Sir PERCY
S. WILKINSON, K.C.M.G., C.B., to unveil the Memorial.

Dedication by the Right Reverend THE LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM (Dr.
H. HENSLEY HENSON),

Platoon Fire.

The Last Post.

Interval of Silence.

The Reveille.

Brief Addresses by :—

Rev. CYRIL LOMAX, C.T.F.

Rev. R. H. GUSH, C.T.F.

Rev. T. A. O'SULLIVAN, C.T.F.

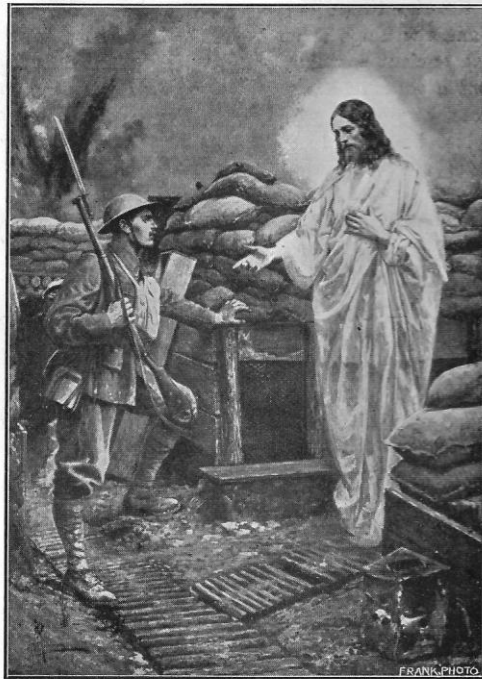
LAYING OF WREATHS.

Mrs. REID, of 67, Fleming Street, who had five sons at the Front, one of whom gained 3 decorations and the youngest two were killed in action, will deposit a Wreath on behalf of the Mothers of Gateshead.

ROBERT NOBLE, of 18, Dorothy Street, whose father was killed on the Somme on November 14th, 1916, leaving a widow and five children, will also deposit a wreath on behalf of the Orphans of Gateshead.

Other Wreaths will include one from the Chairman of the Committee on behalf of the Committee and subscribers to the Fund.

9th Durham Light Infantry Regimental Hymn--



"ABIDE WITH ME."

ABIDE with me! fast falls the eventide ; Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day ;
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away ;
abide ! Change and decay in all around I see ;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, O Thou, Who changest not, abide with me !
Help of the helpless, O abide with me !

I need Thy presence every passing hour ; I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless :
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
power ? Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be ? victory ?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me ! I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold then Thy cross before my closing eyes ;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to
the skies :
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain
shadows flee ;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me ! *H. F. Lytle.*

PRESENTATIONS.

Deed of Conveyance by Ald. CLOUGH, J.P., to Sir JOHN MACCOY, Mayor.

Ald. CLOUGH, on behalf of the Committee, will present Major General Sir PERCY WILKINSON with a Gilt Bronze Key as a Souvenir of the occasion,

Mr. R. DUNN, J.P., late Hon. Recruiting Officer, Gateshead Area, will also present THE LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM with a Gilt Bronze Key.

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

Inauguration of Memorial Fund.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the Inhabitants of the Borough of Gateshead was held on the 11th March, 1920, to consider the question of the provision of a War Memorial, when it was resolved:—

1. That in the opinion of the Meeting, it is desirable that a suitable Memorial of the Great War should be provided.
2. That the Memorial take the form of a Cenotaph, to be erected in such part of the Borough as may hereafter be decided.

The Meeting appointed the following Committee to carry out the resolutions arrived at, and selected the gentlemen mentioned to act as officers.

Chairman—Alderman W. CLOUGH, J.P., Mayor. *Hon. Treasurer*—Mr. FRANK WINTER, Borough Treasurer. *Hon. Secretaries*—Major E. G. CROUCH, D.S.O., and Mr. GEORGE GILL.

Committee:—Councillor John Maccoy; Lt.-Colonel F. R. Simpson; Lt.-Colonel A. Henderson, C.M.G.; Ald. J. Thubron, J.P.; Ald. L. T. Penman, J.P.; Miss D. Maccoy; Mrs. T. R. Jarvie; Dr. T. M. Clayton; Dr. J. A. C. Scott; Messrs. W. Swinburne, Town Clerk; T. Pike, Asst. Town Clerk; R. Scope, J.P.; Councillor R. Dunn; Adam Dodds; J. Wilkinson; John Oxberry; L. G. W. Scott; James Scott; R. Dick; N. P. Pattinson, Borough Surveyor; Thomas Reed, C.A.; J. G. Shipley, J.P.; R. Cleghorn; M. Coates; J. Bell; J. B. Shinton; W. Douglass; S. Cooper; R. Ogle, Chief Constable; H. Luke and S. Cooper.

Deceased Members—Ald. Hodkin, J.P.; Mrs. Symonds; Mr. William Dixon.

Special Committee for carrying out arrangements:—Ald. W. CLOUGH, (*Chairman*) J.P.; Sir JOHN MACCOY, Mayor; Rev. H. S. STEPHENSON, Rector; COL. A. HENDERSON, C.M.G.; Messrs. W. SWINBURNE, Town Clerk, N. P. PATTINSON, Borough Surveyor; F. WINTER, Borough Treasurer; R. OGLE, Chief Constable; Major E. G. CROUCH, D.S.O.; and GEORGE GILL.

Nearly £900 was promised at the Meeting, and the following appeal was at once issued to the public, with the gratifying result that the sum necessary (£5,500) for carrying out the work was secured.

“ In making this appeal for Funds it is probably unnecessary to specially accentuate the need for providing a Memorial in keeping with the greatness of the occasion. The most terrible War in the world's annals in which were put forth the greatest heroism and self sacrifice ever shown in the history of humanity is now happily ended. For us it has resulted in a glorious and unparalleled victory. All this calls us to make the Memorial of such an impressive character as will keep before the eyes of future generations the knowledge of the great deliverance of their Country from what would have been the most terrible catastrophe to civilisation and mankind. The meeting decided that the Memorial should be in the form of a Cenotaph, and it is hoped that the public of Gateshead will crown their great sacrifices in the War by subscribing in a manner that will make possible the erection of such a Memorial as will show in a fitting way the gratitude and affection of the people of the town for those in whose memory the proposed Cenotaph is to be erected.”

The aim of the promoters of the movement was to make the Memorial a people's tribute in the widest sense of the term, and the Committee gratefully acknowledge that the people of Gateshead nobly seconded them in their efforts to accomplish this. It seems worthy of record in this matter to state that in addition to the general body of subscribers the fund represents the contributions of 9,232 people who subscribed through the House to House collection and nearly 20,000 school children have given to the Fund.



*By kind permission of the Proprietors of
"The Newcastle Daily Journal."*

Description.

THE MEMORIAL, which stands at the junction of Durham Road and Prince Consort Road, is constructed in Heworth Burn Blue Stone, and takes the form of a Cenotaph of Classic design, measuring sixteen feet long by thirteen feet wide at the base, and thirty-three feet seven inches high from pavement level, raised on a rectangular platform twenty-six feet long by twenty-three feet wide, three steps above the ground line.

Above the base of the Cenotaph, on the principal front and flanked by three quarter projecting Grecian Ionic Pilasters, is placed a bronze panel in low relief, three feet six inches wide by ten feet high, with a figure of a Warrior nine feet high, depicting our "Manhood," in an attitude of "Defence," strong, motionless and unconquerable—lightly resting upon the unsheathed sword so lately raised "In defence of Right," and gaining as his reward for the greatest of all self-sacrifice—The Cross—in front of which he stands.

In the base of the Cenotaph, approached by a teak door on the stone portal of which is inscribed "Mors Janua Vitae" (Death is the Gate of Life) is contained the "Room of Remembrance," measuring eleven feet by eight feet, with vaulted ceiling eight feet high, in the centre of which stands a stone Lectern, and around the top of which is carved the inscription: "Their Bodies are Buried in Peace but Their Name Liveth for Evermore," and upon this Lectern rests the volume in which is for ever inscribed the names of the fallen. Immediately above, suspended from the ceiling is an Everburning Lamp, emblematical of our undying memory.

Around the back, partly enclosing the space around the Cenotaph is erected a curved stone wall, flanked by massive piers, and upon the centre panel of which runs the Dedication Inscription: 1914—1919. "To the Glory of God and to the Immortal Memory of the Men of Gateshead who Fell in the Great War This Memorial is Erected by their Grateful Fellow-Townsmen."

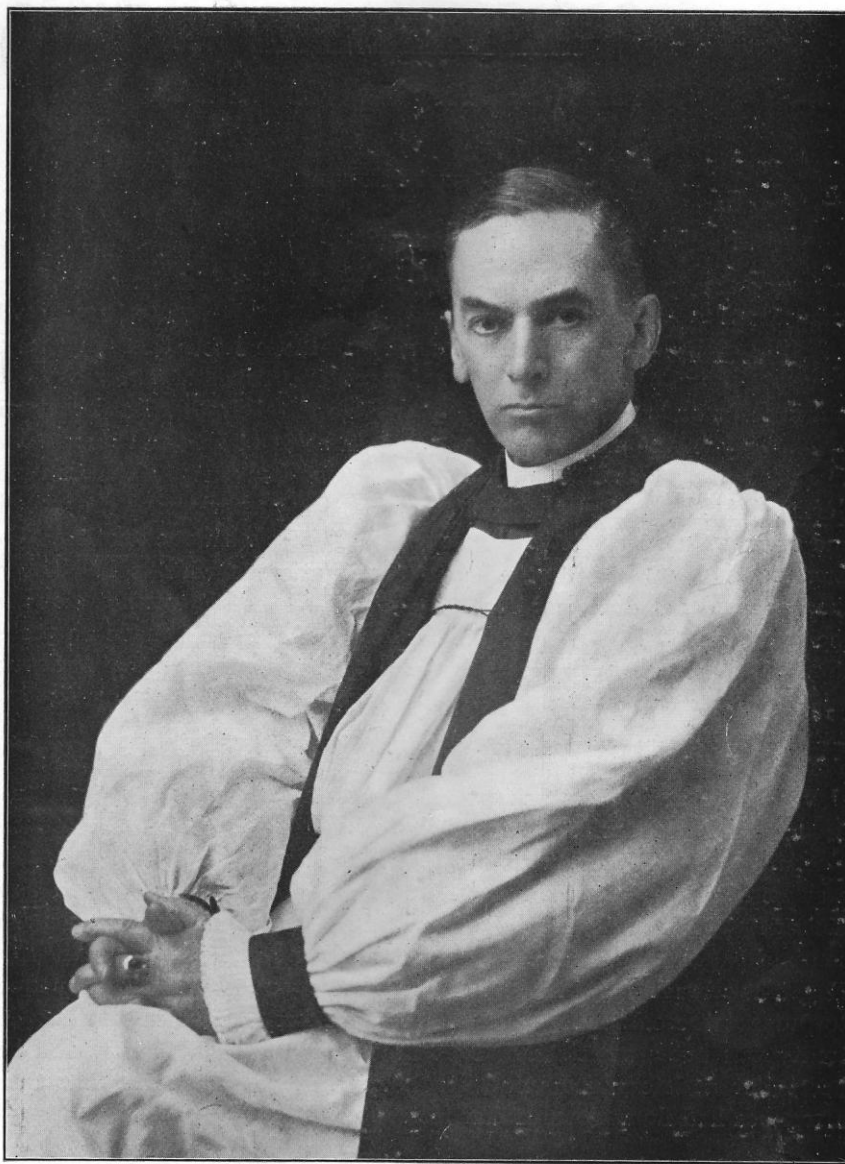
The Memorial was designed by Mr. JOHN W. SPINK, of Kingston-on-Thames, and erected under his supervision by Messrs. ALEX. PRINGLE, LTD., of Gateshead and Newcastle.

The Stone is the best selected Heworth Burn Blue Stone from the quarry of Messrs. TATE, BROWN & Co., and the carving was executed by Mr. J. W. OGLEBY, of Newcastle.

The Sculptor for the Bronze Panel was Mr. RICHARD R. GOULDEN, of London, by whom it was designed and modelled, and cast at the Foundry of Mr. A. B. BURTON, at Thames Ditton, Surrey.

The Electric Light Supply Co., laid in the electric cable, and Messrs. EMBLETON & BARKER, of Gateshead, carried out the wiring—both free of charge. The Committee are deeply indebted to them for this and to Capt. A. S. MAITLAND also for his voluntary services in writing up the Book of the Dead.





THE RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM
(DR. H. HENSLEY HENSON)

Gateshead and the Great War.

A RETROSPECT AND A REMINDER.

BY JOHN OXBERRY.

Introductory.

No resident of Great Britain, who lived through the experience, is likely to forget the tense expectancy of every passing hour in the early days of August, 1914. The nation waited and wondered what was to happen, while a feeling of hushed seriousness seemed to diffuse itself through the very atmosphere and sink into the souls of men. It permeated every household, and in the streets people appeared to walk and talk rather less noisily than usual. For in the closing days of July, in spite of England's earnest and unceasing efforts as peacemaker, war had broken out on the Continent; Germany had launched the bolt she had been preparing for a generation, and several European nations were at death grips with one another. Could England escape being dragged into the murderous whirlpool? This was the question that dominated the thoughts of all, and it was not alone from the pulpit and the pew, but from the hearts of men who made no pretence to religion, that the fervent prayer welled upwards to heaven that our country might be able, without sacrificing her honour to evade participation in the horrors of the conflict. It was willed otherwise. Our statesmen's impassioned, almost beseeching appeals fell on deaf ears. "The Day" had come; "The Day" that a nation had been trained and drilled for as never a nation had been trained and drilled before. England's allusions to the sacredness of a pledged word, and the sanctity of a signature were flouted as airy nothings; a solemn treaty, if it stood in the way of the schemes and ambitions of a Kaiser and his military advisers was held not to be binding. It was a mere scrap of paper, and to men without honour a mere scrap of paper it proved. Belgium was ruthlessly invaded. Protest and appeal had alike been ineffective to prevent the crime, and England, because her conscience told her that a treaty was not a mere scrap of paper, very reluctantly, and with a heavy heart but a determined mind, took up the gage of battle that German arrogance had flung down at her feet.

A Retrospect.

It was on Tuesday, August 4th, 1914, that England entered the conflict. The possibility of Germany's repudiation of her own sacred pledge, though not easy of belief, was not deemed incredible by those who knew the men



MAJOR-GENERAL SIR PERCY S. WILKINSON, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

that ruled her, and for a few days prior to the final stroke which snapped all hope of peace, our military authorities had been taking precautionary measures for ensuring—if the worst came to the worst—that no bar should be placed in the way of a speedy mobilisation of troops. Bridges on main routes were carefully watched and guarded, and Tynesiders saw, what surely they had never dreamt of seeing, soldiers in khaki, with guns on their shoulders walking sentry on the bridges across their native river, and elsewhere in their streets where danger to through traffic lay.

As a contribution to the history of these days of strange experiences, a few lines from the diary of a Gateshead man may be quoted here. The scenes he witnessed and describes mark the beginning of a time when unfamiliar sights and sounds grew to be common and of everyday occurrence, when khaki became the predominating colour wherever men congregated, and when the civilian population gradually fell into the way of accepting situations and restrictions that in a less dangerous period would have roused into activity whatever spirit of rebellion there was within them.

“On Thursday, July 30th,” says our diarist, “soldiers were guarding the bridges across the Tyne. At each end of the High Level men in khaki were posted. In the centre of the bridge, as I crossed it in the afternoon, two were standing on the roadway with their rifles in their hands. On the vacant ground beneath the land arches of the High Level at both ends, above Pipewellgate and above the Close, soldiers were to be seen, and on the upper part of the bridge reserved for railway traffic, a soldier with his gun on his shoulder was pacing to and fro. On the wooden platform of the Swing Bridge sentries were placed, and the King Edward VII. Bridge, I am told, is being similarly watched. As my wife and I came home from Newcastle on Friday afternoon we saw—and this was a thing I never contemplated witnessing—an armed soldier walking sentry between the Gateshead end of the High Level and the foot of West Street.”

On the night of August 3rd, our diarist records that “the rumour is afloat that the neutrality of Belgium as well as Luxembourg has been violated by the Germans. If that is so, war is certain.” The rumour proved correct, and on the following day, as we all know “a Declaration was issued against Germany, whose contemptuous refusal to limit the area of the conflict she is waging against humanity and civilisation left His Majesty’s Government no choice but to obstruct her aggression and violence.”

A Reminder.

All this, it may be urged, is ancient history, and that it is so may be readily admitted. But it is ancient history that is well worth repeating in a publication like this, because it shows that the men to whose memory Gateshead is tendering the tribute of her gratitude for the sacrifice they made, were fighting when they fell for the honour of their country, and for the



MAYOR OF GATESHEAD (ALDERMAN SIR JOHN MACCOY).

safety of her people, and not for any selfish aim, or ambitious purpose on the part of her rulers to domineer over other nations. England, as we have seen, would have kept out of the fight if she could, and it was because she had striven for peace, because they knew that the things she stood for were just and righteous things, that the flower of her youth rallied to her help with a spontaneous and eager solicitude that is probably without a parallel in the noblest and most heroic of the narratives that figure in the annals of patriotism. The story of how, in the hour of peril, the manhood of the Empire sprang forward and offered its services; and how women, their hearts overflowing with affection, stifled their own desires, and, smiling through their tears, bade their loved ones good-bye and God-speed, then turned and set to work to do what they could as partners in the struggle—the remembrance of all this is a precious possession, and must for ever remain enshrined amongst the unforgettable events of our people's history. The wave of devotion was common to all classes and all places, and of Gateshead's answer to the call it may with perfect truth be said that in quantity, in quality, and in the promptitude of its reply it was equal to the best that other districts had to show. As an example of Gateshead's promptitude, one other brief extract may not inappropriately be taken from the diary which, because it furnishes a contemporary glimpse of what was going forward, has been already laid under contribution. Writing on the evening of Wednesday, August 5th, 1914, less, be it noted, than twenty hours after England's ultimatum to Germany had expired, our Gateshead diarist tells us, "The streets are alive to-day with Territorials. The Drill Hall, in Burt Terrace, was the scene of great activity all this morning, and about 2-30 p.m. the men who had reported (they numbered, I am told, about a thousand) marched off to entrain. I went over to the Central Station at Newcastle, after tea, and saw two small parties leave. It is all too sad and solemn for words."

As a footnote to this extract it may be stated, in the interests of historical truth, that the actual strength of the battalion, when it left the Drill Hall, fifteen and a half hours after the ultimatum had expired, was 30 Officers and 1,005 other ranks. This is a noteworthy record, and, as even the uninitiated must recognise, represents an enormous amount of preparatory work on the part of those responsible, and a morning task that would have been impossible of accomplishment but for the ardour and enthusiasm of everyone concerned.

One other circumstance connected with this subject, of which Gateshead may justifiably feel proud, is worthy of mention here—a circumstance not, probably, peculiar to Gateshead. Other towns may have exhibited an equal readiness, and practical unanimity of response, when the call came; but, be this as it may, it is a fact that not only deserves but ought to be placed on record, that every member of the Gateshead battalion of the Durham Light Infantry was accounted for on the morning of August 5th, with the exception of one man, and he, being in the reserve forces of the regular



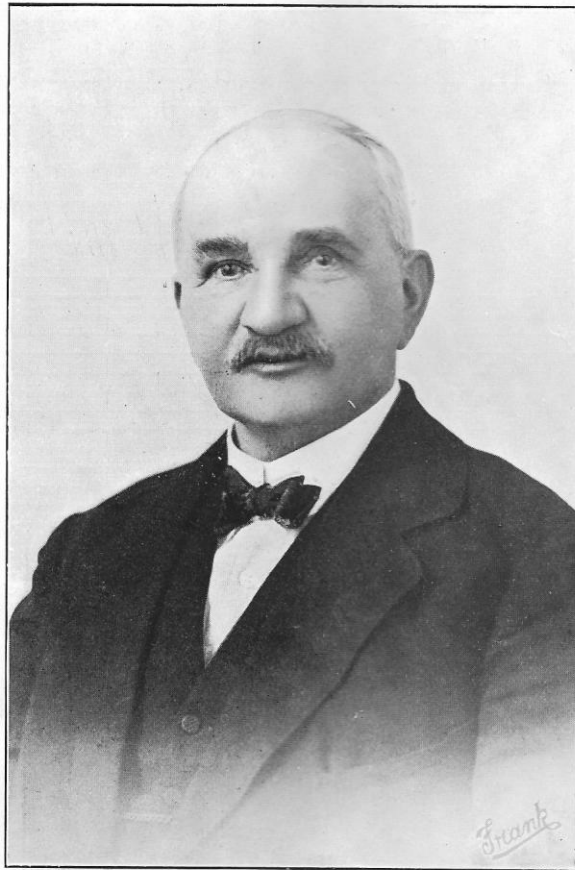
ALDERMAN W. CLOUGH, J.P., EX-MAYOR OF GATESHEAD.
(CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE.)

army, had, as was afterwards discovered, already joined up. As a mere matter of history it would be manifestly unjust to the men of 1914, if so striking an experience as this were permitted to pass unchronicled in a publication which, it is hoped, will enable future generations of Gateshead people to understand and appreciate the superb loyalty and patriotic spirit that animated all classes of the community when the war clouds broke over Europe and England's life was threatened.

Statistics are sometimes needful, but seldom interesting. It is fortunate, therefore, that not many are required to illustrate the part that Gateshead played in the Great War. A native of a small town on the Borders, settled on Tyneside, spent his holidays, in 1916 or 1917, in the place of his birth. He made the statement when he returned that he found there was not a single male of military age in his native place who had not enlisted. This was a fine tribute to both the health and patriotism of the young men of the town. Gateshead cannot claim so proud a pre-eminence as this. She had her shirkers who managed to dodge the call. She had even her conscientious objectors. But the enormous majority of her sons were sound in their allegiance to the best traditions of our race, and recognised clearly what their duty was if England had to remain unconquered and free. At the census of 1911, the number of young men in Gateshead between the ages of 18 and 45 years, was 28,720. This figure, we may safely say, had increased to, at least, 30,000, when the war broke out, and of this 30,000 it is calculated that from 18,000 to 20,000 entered one branch or another of H.M. Forces. The Durham Light Infantry naturally got the largest share of Gateshead men, but the Northumberland Fusiliers, especially the two battalions popularly known as the Tyneside Scottish, and the Tyneside Irish, came in a good second. But every arm in the services, and every regiment in the British Army except one, had Gateshead men in it. The Navy had its quota, so had the Air Force and the Tank Companies, and even the ranks of the Bantams were not without representatives from the Borough.

Turning from the numbers who joined up to the numbers who gained distinctions for services of outstanding heroism, we are faced with a return that is highly creditable to the courage and sense of duty of our Gateshead men. And we are fortunate in being able to claim that the statistics given on the point are, through the voluntary work of the Gateshead War Honours Recognition Committee, of a fairly reliable character. If the estimate errs at all, it errs in understating and not in overstating the numbers. The Committee referred to consisted of a group of Gateshead citizens, organised for the purpose of raising funds, in order that there might be presented to all the non-commissioned officers and men who were awarded military or naval distinctions, a slight token of the gratitude entertained by their fellow-townspople for the services they had rendered. A register of cases was kept in which the distinction awarded, with the name and home address, and

regiment, or vessel, of the recipient were entered up. This register it is intended to hand over to the care of the Gateshead Public Library, where it will be preserved, so that posterity may not remain ignorant of what it owes to the splendid examples of courage and hardihood that were displayed by the men of Gateshead in England's gigantic struggle against Prussianism. It



MR. GEORGE GILL.
(JOINT HON. SEC.)

is from the carefully kept pages of this Gateshead War Honours Book that we learn that there were awarded to men of the Borough :—

- 237 Military Medals.
- 36 Distinguished Conduct Medals.
- 34 Meritorious Service Medals.
- 3 Military Crosses.
- 3 Distinguished Service Medals.
- 1 Merchant Service Medal.

In addition to these British decorations Gateshead men had bestowed upon them by our Allies :—

- 4 Croix de Guerre (French).
- 2 Croix de Guerre (Belgian).
- 4 Medaille Militaire.
- 1 Italian Medal.
- 1 C.G.M.



MAJOR E. G. CROUCH, D.S.O.
(JOINT HON. SEC.)

The War Honours Recognition Committee kept no record of the honours won by Gateshead Officers. The figures given above refer only to non-commissioned officers and men. But about thirty Officers gained decorations for war services, among the more noteworthy of them being Lieut.-Colonel Henderson, who was made a C.M.G., and Major Crouch, who from the position of Drill Instructor at the Burt Terrace Drill Hall when the War broke out,

attained the rank of Colonel in command of his batallion, and was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal and a Distinguished Service Order. But the crowning compliment, perhaps, that was paid to his ability and devotion to duty, was the bestowal upon him by the French Government of the much-coveted ribbon of the Legion of Honour.



MR. FRANK WINTER.
(HON. TREASURER.)

Many other Officers displayed qualities worthy of the best traditions of English valour and self-sacrifice, but it is impossible to particularise further in the limited space at our disposal here, unless we may be permitted merely to mention that two of "the men who go down to the sea in ships," Captain Gofton and Chief Engineer H. Suddes, were each presented with a gold watch by the Government, for the courage and adroitness they showed in dealing with an attack by enemy submarines, on the vessels aboard which they were serving.

Conclusion.

Within the narrow limits of a Souvenir handbook it is not possible to tell the story of the part that Gateshead played in the Great War with any approach to completeness. And no attempt has been made here to do so. All that this narrative pretends to present to the reader is a brief reference to a few of the more prominent incidents of a trying period in the history of our generation, and, above all, to remind him of some things that were done for England by Gateshead men, that ought not to be forgotten. Necessarily only the fringe of the subject has been touched. The patriotic exertions of private citizens—too old to fight abroad, but not too old to do good at home—in promoting and supporting whatever movements were likely to benefit the men at the Front, or were intended to bring England nearer to victory, were great and constant. Here these exertions must be left unrecorded; except to say that all classes of the inhabitants from the Mayors of the Borough to the humblest members of the community, were alike in their willingness to back their country's cause, and in their readiness to rejoice when success crowned the efforts of her fighting men. The dweller in the low street was as sensitive to the varying fortunes of the War as the villa or suburban terrace resident, and when good news came was more openly demonstrative and picturesque in his jubilation. Crude and quaint as the decorations of some of the lower streets of the town were when the report of a victory came, they were sincere expressions of joy and satisfaction; and the "Welcome Home" that was formed out of coloured calico or paper, and fixed over the front door, when a husband or a son was expected back from the fighting line on furlough, lends a pathetic touch to the memories of those eventful days that will not readily pass away.

It happened all too frequently that the "Welcome Home" greeting was not needed. Men left and came home no more. At least 1,700 Gateshead soldiers and sailors made the great sacrifice, and found a final resting place in foreign soil or on the ocean bed. But they helped to save England; they helped to save us—and by "us" is meant you who read, as well as him who writes—from a foe who had no mercy, from a fate, when we recall the Belgian shambles, that we cannot think of without horror. Some there are amongst us who do not seem to realise the debt that we owe these men, but we thank God that there are many who do, and it is to their generosity and appreciation that there stands in a Gateshead thoroughfare to-day, a noble memorial, a Cenotaph which shall enshrine the names and deeds of those who fell in the Great War, and which shall endure for centuries to come as a visible token of Gateshead's gratitude for their services, and of her sorrow for their loss.



HOWE BROS.
PRINTERS,
GATESHEAD.