

## OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

### Westfield War Memorial Village

The son of the local architect Thomas H. Mawson was killed in April 1915 with the King's Own and inspired his father to design this village for disabled veterans and their families. The Storey family, who gave the land, played a key role in establishing the community which has continued to expand and cater for successive generations of disabled and necessitous ex-servicemen and women. The village's own memorial, designed by Storey Institute art mistress Jennifer Delahunt, shows an able soldier providing a comrade in difficulty with a drink - thus capturing the settlement's ethos. Westfield highlights the role philanthropy has always played in supporting the wounded of war.

### Caton Road, Carriage and Wagon Works

The 5th Battalion of the King's Own were billeted in the disused Wagon Works for a couple of days in August 1914, within days of their departure, work began to convert the site to a prisoner of war, or internment camp. Germans and Austrians who were in Britain at the time the war started were brought here, some were German waiters from hotels in Manchester and merchant seamen from ships in British harbours on 4 August 1914. The Wagon Works was used as a POW camp well into 1915.

### Bowerham Barracks

The Regimental Depot of the King's Own Royal Regiment, now The Lancaster Campus of the University of Cumbria, was opened in 1880 and many thousands of men were to be trained here. In the First World War it was to here that reservists were called up, where they had their kit issued and headed to camps in the south of England to continue training and then be posted overseas. Whilst new buildings have been added much of the original barracks can still be seen, including the Armoury, Officer's Mess, Barrack Blocks and Married Quarters.

### Site of Dallas Road Drill Hall

No trace now remains of the home of the "Lancaster Gunners" the local Territorial unit of the Royal Artillery. The large drill hall had plenty of space for the guns, but once they'd left for the Western Front the site was used by the Army Remount Service which obtained horses for military use - at both home and overseas.

### Lancaster Military Heritage Group

[www.lmhg.org](http://www.lmhg.org)

[www.lancasterwarmemorials.org.uk](http://www.lancasterwarmemorials.org.uk)

### King's Own Royal Regiment Museum,

Market Square, Lancaster, LA1 1HT

[www.kingsownmuseum.plus.com](http://www.kingsownmuseum.plus.com)

### Lancashire County Council's Archives Service

Lancashire Archives, Record Office, Bow Lane,  
Preston, PR1 2RE

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/archives)

### Regimental Museums

[www.armymuseums.org.uk](http://www.armymuseums.org.uk)

### Lancaster District Family History Group

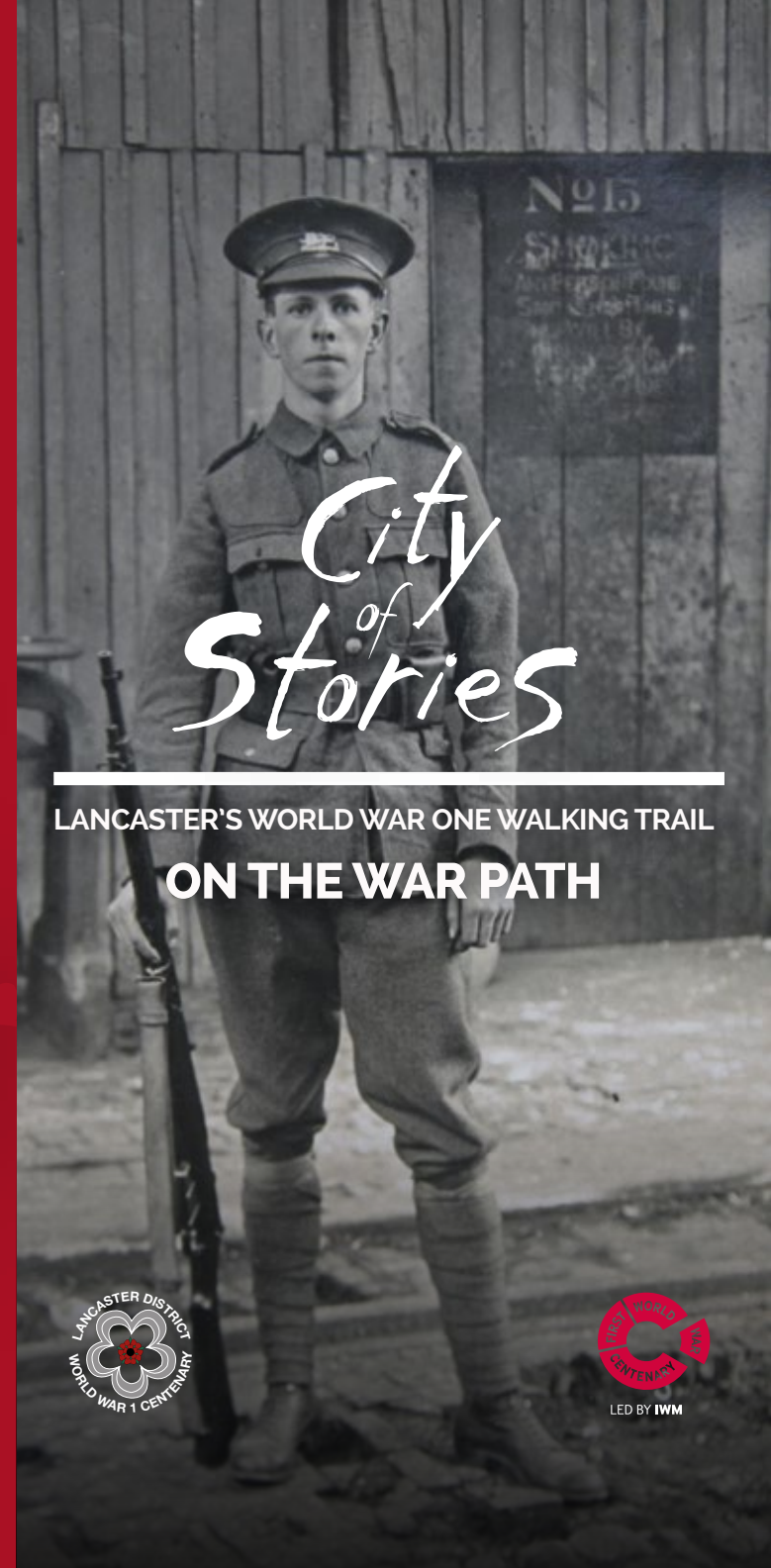
[www.lfhg.org](http://www.lfhg.org)

### The Quakers

[www.lancsquakers.org.uk](http://www.lancsquakers.org.uk)

### SUPPORTING PARTNERS:

Catwalks Guided Walks, Drama Factory, The Dukes Theatre, Global Link, King's Own Royal Regiment Museum, Lancashire County Council, Lancaster Castle, Lancaster City Council, Lancaster Civic Society, Lancaster District Family History Group, Lancaster Guardian, Lancaster Military Heritage Group, Lancaster Priory, Lancaster University, Poulton Heritage Group, The Quakers, Westfield Memorial Village.





# *The First World War*

## **WHY REMEMBER?**

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From August 2014 the world began to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. But why should we remember?

The First World War was a turning point in world history. It claimed the lives of over 16 million people across the globe and had a huge impact on those who experienced it.

The war and its consequences shaped much of the twentieth century, and the impact of it can still be felt today.

Now, over one hundred years after it began, the centenary events are ensuring those who lived, fought and served during the years 1914-18 will be remembered.





# LANCASTER WW1 WALKING TRAIL

## ON THE WAR PATH

### 1 City Museum

We begin on the steps of the **City Museum** in **Market Square**, known as the **Old Town Hall**. In 1914 it was a major recruiting office where many locals joined up. Buses used to line up in Market Square to take workers to the munitions works at **White Lund** and **Caton Road**. Take a look around the museum of the **King's Own Royal Regiment** inside, notice the Unitarian Church and Royal Albert Hospital **memorials** too. As buildings change over years, these memorials are now kept safe in the King's Own Museum.

### 2 22 Penny Street

**22 Penny Street** - Now The Pound Bakery. In 1914, this was Happold's Pork Butchers owned by one of many German families who had settled in Britain in the latter part of the 19th Century. Whilst anti-German feeling sometimes ran high, families like the Happolds were by no means pro-German. Frederick Happold actually left his studies to enlist in the King's Own, one of the **"Lancaster Pals"** and was later commissioned and awarded the **Distinguished Service Order**.

### 3 39 Penny Street

**39 Penny Street** - Now The Cornish Bakery - was another business affected by anti-German feeling. Owned by Frederick Kramer, the pork butcher's shop was attacked by Lance Corporal Joseph William O'Brien, of the 2nd Battalion, King's Own. A veteran of the Boer War, who had served in France from 25 January 1915, O'Brien was dealt with by Lancaster's Police Court and then returned to service.

### 4 Royal Lancaster Infirmary

**A6 - Royal Lancaster Infirmary**. In September 1914 the **Committee of the RLI** agreed to offer bed spaces to the government for wounded soldiers. The first of many arrived in November 1914, twelve British soldiers and two Belgians. At the old entrance to the RLI can be found **two memorials** commemorating individuals who fell in the First World War - Spencer Ellwood Barrow and Captain Frank Millar Bingham, who, whilst **a doctor**, and much in demand by the military, served as an infantry officer with the 5th King's Own. Unfortunately, he was killed by a sniper on 22 May 1915 and the memorial bronze was unveiled in December 1915. This may be **Lancaster's first memorial of the war**.

### 5 Springfield Barracks

**South Road - Springfield Barracks (White Cross)**  
Across the road from the RLI is the site of **Springfield Barracks**, which accommodated the **Royal Lancashire Militia** between 1854 and 1883. The site was acquired by the Lancaster firm of Storey's and during the First World War accommodation was made available by them for **Army Cadets**.

### 6 The Town Hall.

**Dalton Square - The Town Hall**. Opened in 1909. The then Mayor and Mayoress William and Mary Briggs did much to support the war effort. The King's Own regiment was welcomed home in 1919 with parades in Dalton Square.

In 1924 Lancaster's **War Memorial** in the Remembrance Gardens by the side of the town hall was unveiled. It is dedicated to just over one thousand Lancastrians who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Look out for members of the same families who are bracketed (). Notice that the Corless Brothers are not as they are separated by another Corless unrelated. Not everyone listed on the memorial fell in action. Sergeant Richard Dixon was run over and killed on 12 September 1915 by a motorcyclist on Caton Road, a George Taylor of Hornby, whilst he was guarding the **Prisoner of War Camp** at the old Wagon Works. Dixon, a veteran of the Boer War, is buried in **Lancaster Cemetery**. The **Waring & Gillow and Co-operative Society Memorials** are located in the Town Hall. These were placed here for safe keeping as buildings changed over the years.

### 7 Phoenix Street

**Phoenix Street** (now) **The Old Rifle Volunteer Drill Hall** had in 1908 become the home to the **5th Territorial Force Battalion of the King's Own**. On 6 August 1914, the battalion left for its first duty of the war to guard the docks at Barrow. Returning to Lancaster for only a couple of days before heading to the south of England on 14 August, within 6 months they were on the **Western Front**. The Phoenix Street Drill Hall was used until 1991.

### 8 North Road

**North Road - Waring and Gillows**. Now retail and leisure businesses, the Waring and Gillow furniture factory was used to **produce wings for the DH9 aircraft** and **wooden ammunition boxes**. With so many men called up for military service, women replaced the men, doing jobs which only a few years earlier would have been unthinkable.

This walking trail includes sites of both military and civilian significance to tell the story of the Great War in Lancaster. The Trail highlights sites of relevance to the war including memorials, both public and lesser known ones, and some where only the observant eye would notice evidence of its former wartime use.



### 9 King Street

**King Street - YMCA (opened in 1908)**  
During the war the YMCA welcomed thousands of soldiers and provided a place for rest and recreation away from military training. In 1916, amidst rising fears of inappropriate drinking especially among women, the YMCA formed a club for munition workers.

### 10 Priory Church

**The Priory Church and the King's Own Royal Regiment's Chapel**. It was in this Chapel that the **Colours of the 5th Battalion** were laid up on 6 August 1914, for not since 1881 had Colours been taken on active service. When the war was over the **Regiment's War Memorial** was located here, and many individual plaques record soldiers of the regiment including those awarded the **Victoria Cross**. Outside the **Regimental Chapel** and in the main body of the church can be found additional memorials to the **Lancaster Gunners, St. John Ambulance and to the 7th Battalion of the King's Own**. The 7th's request for a memorial in the Regimental Chapel was declined by the Regiment so still remains outside the Chapel. The nurse Muriel B. Ogilvy is listed on the plaque dedicated to members of St John's Ambulance, a rare inclusion of a woman on a Lancaster memorial.

### 11 Giant Axe Field

You can see the Giant Axe field from the rear of the Priory Church. Used for military parades for many years, in September 1914 the **Lancaster Pals** or 'Gallant 200' as the local press called them, gathered here before leaving for the south of England for training. On 14 February 1915, many of the Pals went to the **Western Front** with the rest of the **5th Battalion of the King's Own**. The finale of the peace celebrations in July 1919 assembled on the Giant Axe Field, after a parade through town.

### 12 Lancaster Railway Station

It was from here that on 6 August 1914 the 5th Battalion departed to **Barrow in Furness** to guard the docks. It was again from here that on 14 August 1914 the 5th Battalion departed to the south of England and would eventually end up on the **Western Front**. Throughout the war thousands of soldiers of the Regiment and of other units passed to and fro through **Lancaster Castle Railway Station**. It was here that the first 14 wounded soldiers arrived for admission to the **Royal Lancaster Infirmary** in November 1914, the first of many.

### 13 The Friends Meeting House

A Quaker meeting house has stood in Meeting House Lane since 1677. Since declaring its commitment to peace in 1660, the Religious Society of Friends has opposed all wars. In WW1 whilst a small number of young male Quakers enlisted, many resisted the call to arms. Some joined the Friends' Ambulance Unit working close to the frontline - unarmed - in ambulance convoys and medical stations. Others wanted nothing to do with the war and were known as Absolutists. Many came to this Meeting House to find mutual support and practical advice from others struggling with their consciences.

### 14 Lancaster's General Post Office

**Lancaster's General Post Office** displays a **war memorial** for the postal workers who served and fell in both World Wars, and can be found just inside the ramped entrance from Fenton Street. Many memorials have been moved from their original locations as buildings change and are now housed elsewhere. Look out for the **Unitarian Church** and **Royal Albert Hospital** memorials in the **King's Own Museum** and the **Waring & Gillow and Co-operative Society Memorials** in the Town Hall.

### 15 1A High Street

**1A High Street** is the birthplace of poet **Laurence Binyon**. On 21 September 1914, before the full horror of the war was to be realised, he wrote the poem **"For the Fallen"** which has been described as the "the most beautiful expression of sorrow in the English language". The verse most known, and used in **Remembrance Day** services across the world, is:

**"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."**