

# The Nicholson War Memorial

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80th Anniversary  
Celebrations  
and  
Re-dedication  
Ceremony

25th SEPTEMBER 2005  
AT 2.00 O'CLOCK

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SOUVENIR

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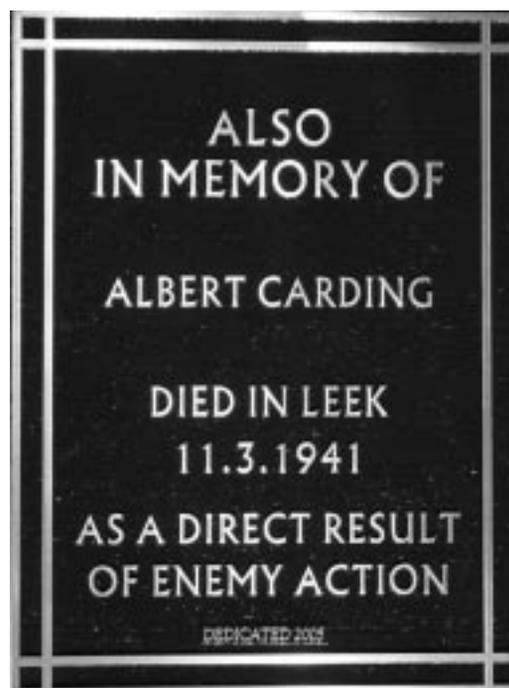
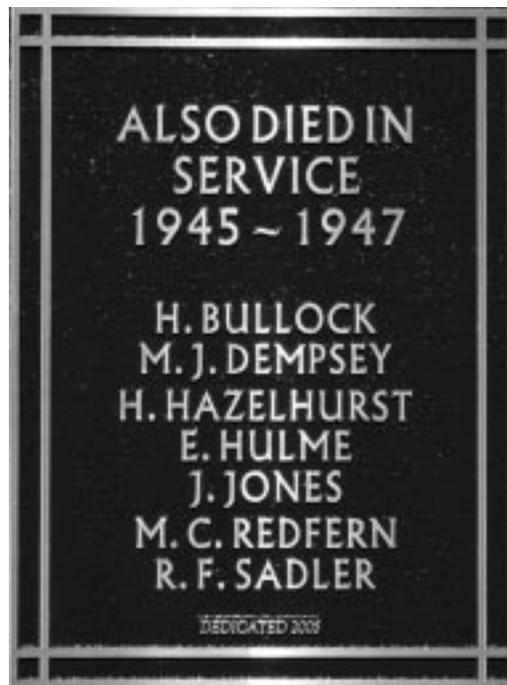
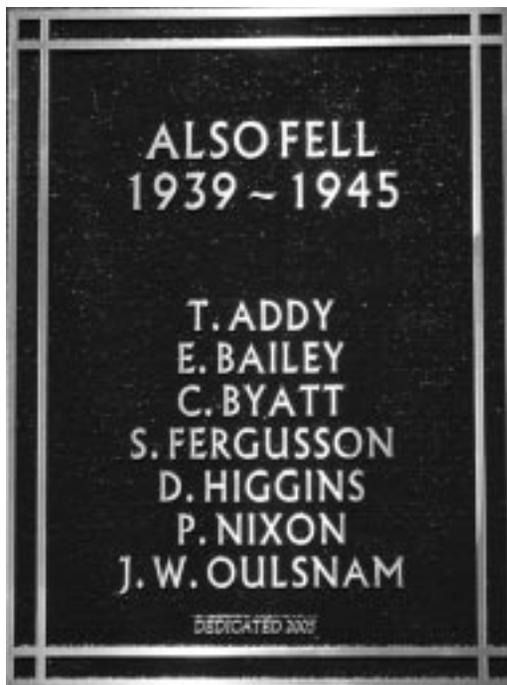


**The Nicholson  
War Memorial**

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80TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATIONS  
AND  
RE-DEDICATION  
C E R E M O N Y  
S U N D A Y  
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**S O U V E N I R**



The three new memorial plaques being unveiled at this service

## The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication

### FOREWORD

On August 20th, 1925, at the unveiling ceremony of the Nicholson War Memorial, Leek, three bronze plaques recording the names of the town's 419 servicemen who died in the First World War, were dedicated.

Twenty four years later, on November 6th, 1949, two more bronze plaques were dedicated, this time listing 101 Leek servicemen who fell in the Second World War.

Today, September 25th, 2005, eighty years have passed since the first unveiling ceremony and it is sixty years since the end of the Second World War. On this special day, we witness the dedication of a further three memorial plaques.

The first plaque records the names of seven members of the Armed Forces from Leek and district who died during the Second World War but whose names were unintentionally omitted from the plaques dedicated in 1949.

The second records the names of seven members of the Armed Forces from Leek and district who had served in the Second World War but died after the cessation of hostilities, between 1945 and 1947, whilst still in the service of the Crown.

The third plaque records the name of a civilian who was killed by an enemy bomb falling on his Leek home in 1941.

*'Their Name Liveth For Evermore'*

Chris Sheldon  
(Military Historian, Leek)



**THE NICHOLSON WAR MEMORIAL**  
taken from the original Unveiling Souvenir Programme of 1925



**THE NICHOLSON WAR MEMORIAL**  
Photographic image by Alan Brundrett - September 2005

 The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication

Introduction by the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire  
James Hawley

INTROIT: . . . “Cantata Pro Pace” (Italian item from Este)

HYMN . . . . . “O God, our Help in Ages Past”

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Your throne  
Your saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is Your arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting You are God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Your sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be our defence while life shall last,  
and our eternal home.

*Amen*

## The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication

PRAYERS . . . . . Reverend Roger Woods

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in time of war.

We pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain.

By Your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves anew to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

PRAYERS . . . . . Father Michael Miners

God of our Fathers, great and merciful God, Lord of peace and life, father of all, You have plans of peace, not of affliction, You condemn wars and defeat the pride of the violent. You sent your Son Jesus to preach peace to those who are near and far away, To gather people of every race and nation into a single family. Hear the single-hearted cry of your children, the anguished plea of all humanity.

Stop the “logic” of revenge and retaliation, With your spirit suggest new solutions, generous and honourable gestures, Room for dialogue and patient waiting which are more fruitful than the hurried deadlines of war. Give our era days of peace. War no more.

*Amen.*

## The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication

We all join in the family prayer that Jesus taught us:

*Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that  
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil: For thine is the Kingdom,  
The power, and the glory, For ever and ever.*

*Amen*

Graham Duncan a pupil from Leek High School will read from  
“The lost Voices of World War 1”

Scipio Slataper was born in Trieste on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1888, to an Italian mother and a father of Slavonic origin. By June 1915, he had voluntarily enlisted, taking the precaution of using an assumed name, since he was still officially an Austrian subject, and was on his way to the front:

“Never as in the deathly silence, when the trench is sleeping and 10 metres beyond lies an ambush of darkness and foliage, does one feel the presence of war. War is not in the explosion of grenades or a fusillade nor in hand to hand combat. War is not in what, from far off, one believes to be its terrible reality and which, close at hand, turns out to be a poor thing and makes little impression; it is – as Tolstoy realized – to be found in that curious space beyond one’s trench, where there is silence and calm and where the corn is ripening to no purpose. It is that sense of certain death which lies “beyond”, there where the sun still shines on the age-old roads and the peasants’ houses.

However, it was there, among the trenches and barbed wire on Mount Podgora, that he was shot and killed on 3 December 1915.

Nijmegen, April 1945

## The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication

Steven Sargeant a pupil from Westwood High School will read a poem entitled  
“The Question” by Alexander McKee

Perhaps I killed a man to-day,  
I cannot tell: I do not know,  
But bare three hundred yards away,  
Where weeping willows grow,  
Fell sudden silence on the heels  
Of my last shot, whose echoes rang  
Along the Rhine. A silence steals  
Across the river, save the bang  
Of distant, screaming steel;  
The tapping of the Spandau  
Comes no more; brief quiet fell  
Where weeping willows grow.

Perhaps I killed a man to-day,  
The secret's hid, forever laid  
Among those willows o'er the way;  
Here, beneath the quiet shade  
Of a heeled, abandoned tank,  
I fired across the river,  
Made water ripples shiver,  
And perhaps I killed a man  
Upon that distant bank.

Who am I to play at fate,  
To aim, and fire and arbitrate  
‘Tween life and death; not knowing hate,  
To send with sad, departing whine  
Irrevocable death across the Rhine.  
The willows answer not, The scent  
Of clover lingered while I went  
Between the fields where ruins stand;  
Dead horses lie along the land,  
Who died, and did not understand  
Why this should be; no more may I  
Explain why any man should die.  
And still I fired; and wonder why.

## The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication

Christopher Barker from Painsley High School will read the Lesson from  
**Revelation Chapter 7 Verses 13 to 17**

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?”

I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

This is the word of the Lord

“Lacrimosa” . . . . . Combined Choral

## **Dedication**

**by the Lord Bishop of Stafford Rt. Rev. Godon Mursell**

In the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life, who by his death has destroyed Death, and by his rising to life again has restored to us everlasting life. We bless, hallow and re-dedicate this Memorial to the greater Glory of God, and in proud and thankful memory of the men of Leek and district who gave their lives for us in two World Wars, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Amen*

## The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication

**A commemorative wreath will be laid by the Lord Lieutenant,**  
assisted by a member of the ATC and ACF.

Leek Mayor Cllr. Barry Cowie and Madam Chairman of SMDC Cllr. Hilary Corby will both unveil the plaques whilst Leek deputy Mayor Cllr Povey reads out the names of the additions to the Memorials Roll of Honour:

**Private Thomas Addy**, The South Staffordshire Regiment

**Private Elvira Bailey**, Auxilliary Territorial Service, attached to the Royal Artillery

**Private Cyril Byatt**, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment

**Driver Stanley Fergusson**, Royal Corps of Signals

**Private Dennis Higgins**, The Durham Light Infantry

**Private Percy Nixon**, The Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment)

**Sergeant John William Oulsnam**, The Irish Guards

**Mr Albert Carding**, a civilian resident of Leek

**Driver Harry Bullock**, Royal Army Service Corps

**Able Seaman Michael Joseph Dempsey**, Royal Navy

**Sergeant Harold Hazelhurst**, Royal Mechanical and Electrical Engineers

**Private Enoch Hulme**, Pioneer Corps

**Corporal John Jones**, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

**Private Mary Christine Redfern**, Auxilliary Territorial Service

**Private Raymond Frederick Sadler**, Royal Army Medical Corps

Cllr. Povey            We will remember them.

**All:                    *WE WILL REMEMBER THEM***

## The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication

HYMN . . . . . “Abide with me”

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see:  
O thou, who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou 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.

**The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication** 

**“We pray for Peace” . . . . . Composed by Ashley Thompson  
and sung by the Combined Choral**

The laying of candles and crosses will now take place

**The Last Post**  
played by the Bugles of the Band of the Light Division

**ONE MINUTES’ SILENCE**

**Reveille**

**“God shall wipe away all tears” . . . . . Combined Choral**

## Blessing

by The Right Reverend Monsignor Pat McKinney,  
R.C. Episcopal Vicar for Staffordshire

### National anthem

God save our gracious Queen,  
long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen.  
Send her victorious,  
happy and glorious,  
long to reign over us;  
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store  
on her be pleased to pour,  
long may she reign;  
may she defend our laws,  
and ever give us cause  
to sing with heart and voice  
God save the Queen.

## The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication

The parade will be led by, and the music for the Service provided by -

### **The Band and Bugles of The Light Division (Light Infantry and Royal Green Jackets)**

Formed in August 1994 from the Corunna and Salamanca Bands of the Light Infantry and the Normandy and Peninsula Bands of the Royal Green Jackets, The Band of The Light Division upholds traditions that date back as far as the Napoleonic Wars. Instead of using the cumbersome drum, the earliest Light Division soldiers used bugles to communicate orders on the battlefield. They were also able to react rapidly to orders by marching at a quickened pace or even marching at the double.

There are two particular traditions that are maintained by The Light Division Musicians to this day: the use of the Silver Bugle and the distinct speed at which they march – 140 paces to the minute. Their abandonment of the drum in favour of the Silver Bugle enables them to carry out their unique style of marching display and audiences around the world have thrilled to their spectacular performances.

Although a world-renowned marching band and symphonic wind band, the musicians also perform in a variety of ensembles such as: Woodwind and Brass Quintets, the Fanfare Team, the Dixieland Jazz Band and the Dance Band.

The Band provides musical support for all manner of military and civilian events, ranging from Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace to County Shows and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The Band makes regular trips overseas and has visited much of Continental Europe, Cyprus, Kenya, the Falkland Islands and Azerbaijan.

In fulfilling their operational role, the Band provided support to the Army Medical Services in Kosovo over a twelve-week period in early 2000. Furthermore, members of the Band were dispersed across the country in the early months of 2003 on Op FRESCO, providing vital cover during the firefighters' strike.

The Band and Bugles of The Light Division appear by permission of the Colonel Commandant of The Light Division, Lieutenant General Anthony Palmer CB CBE.

## The Nicholson War Memorial 80th Anniversary Rededication

This Souvenir Programme as been produced  
with financial supports from the following local companies

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