

Remembrance – Scotland's National War Memorial

The National War Memorial for Scotland is found in Edinburgh Castle. It was built to remember Scots men and women who died in the First and Second World Wars and in all wars since.



The number of casualties and the huge impact of the First World War meant that remembering those who had died needed to be carefully thought out. The memorial known as the Cenotaph in London became the focus for mourning at a national level. However, a Scottish memorial was also seen as very important by John George, 8th Duke of Atholl. In 1917, he requested that Scotland should have its own memorial and military museum in Edinburgh Castle. He asked for the King's approval for the Scottish memorial, which was of course granted.

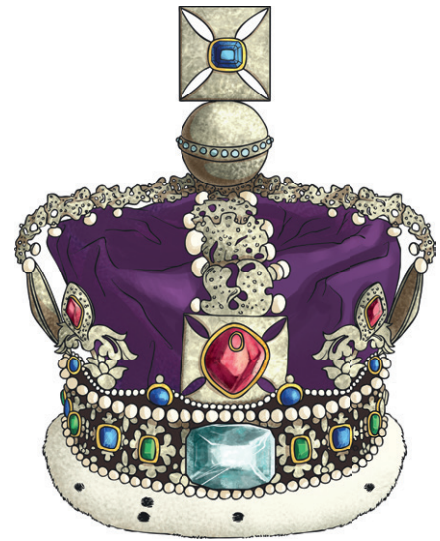
Edinburgh Castle was chosen for the memorial because it had been a main barracks until 1914, when a new barracks had been built on the outskirts of the city. There was space within the castle walls which could be used.

In 1919, architect Sir Robert Lorimer was appointed and in the following years, along with 200 Scottish artists and craftsmen, he created the Hall of Honour and Shrine where the Rolls of Honour are displayed. The memorial consists of more than sixty separate works of art: stained glass windows, reliefs in stone and bronze, woodcarvings, sculpture in steel, carved inscriptions, furniture, wrought iron and more. The Rolls of Honour are books containing the names of all Scots servicemen and women and civilian casualties from 1914 to date.

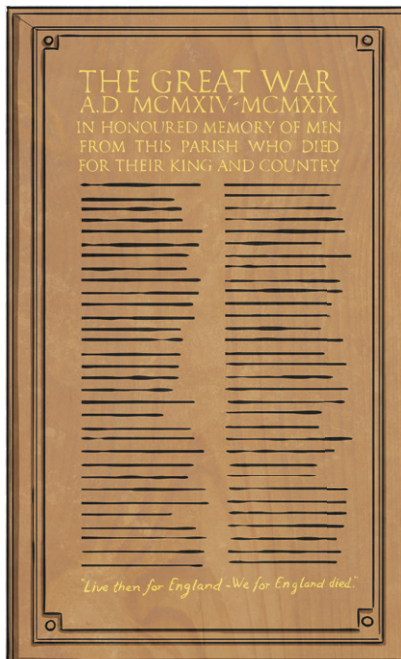


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The opening ceremony of the Scottish National War Memorial took place on 14th July, 1927. The ceremony was performed by the Prince of Wales. Ex-servicemen and women, veterans of war, and families of the fallen came from all over Scotland and the Commonwealth for the ceremony. After the ceremony, many people who had waited on the Esplanade made their way to the memorial. They were carrying wreaths and flowers which they laid outside the memorial in remembrance of the fallen. In February 1929, the Scottish National Naval and Military Museum, was opened; completing the memorial and museum idea first presented by the Duke of Atholl twelve years earlier.



During the Second World War, the Rolls of Honour, the stained glass windows of the memorial and some of the contents of the museum were taken away for safe keeping in case they should be bombed. Following the Second World War, fifty thousand names were added to the Rolls of Honour.



Relatives of the fallen regularly visit the memorial. They are able to open the appropriate Roll of Honour and see their loved one's name. To this day names continue to be added in remembrance of Scots, who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world.



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1. Where is the National War Memorial for Scotland?

2. Why was the National War Memorial for Scotland built?

3. Who first had the idea for the memorial?

4. Which architect was chosen to design the memorial?

5. How many Scottish artists and craftsmen worked on the memorial?

6. What do the Rolls of Honour contain?

7. Who opened the Scottish National War Memorial?

8. When was the Scottish National Naval and Military Museum opened?
