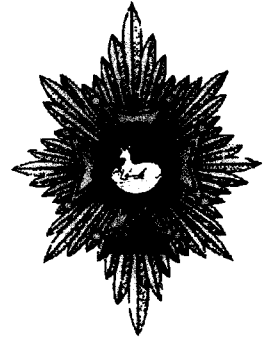




**The Sherwood Foresters
Western Front Memorial Committee,
Chairman Major J.H. Cotterill M.B.E.**

**In Co-operation with
The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters
Regimental Association
Foresters House, Chetwynd Barracks,
Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 5HA
Telephone 0115 – 9465415**



Patron H.R.H. The Princess Royal

Aug 2008

Dear Councillors,

The Sherwood Foresters have been connected with Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire since 1742. The Regiment's greatest contribution without doubt, came during the Great War of 1914-18, when they raised 32 Battalions, 17 of which saw active service on the Western Front in France and Flanders. During this period some 140,000 men served in the regiment (*a greater figure than the whole of the British Army to-day*) the majority coming from each and every Parish in the Counties. Of the number who served 11,409 gave their lives, while many more died at home after the end of the war, as a result of their wounds or ill treatment as Prisoners of War.

Of the many hundreds of Great War Memorials to be found in France and Belgium, not one is currently to be found to the memory of the Sherwood Foresters. The country is about to mark the 90th year since the ending of hostilities (*11th November 1918*), surely it is time (*before we reach 100 years*) that a memorial stone be placed on the Battlefield to mark the sacrifice made by so many of our local men.

To this end a committee has been formed to look into the placement of a memorial to these men of the regiment, which we feel will become a focal point for the many thousands of local families who visit the battlefields in remembrance of the sacrifice made by their relatives.

A prime location has already been secured near the Tyne Cott Visitors Centre, Passchendaele, Ypres, in Belgium. The Ypres Salient and the Battle of Passchendaele saw the regiment's greatest losses, and so it is a fitting location looking out over the Salient towards Ypres.

The Memorial is to be manufactured in Derbyshire Stone (*a local stone for the local regiment*). All that remains now is to raise the sum of £14,000 to pay for its manufacture, transportation to Belgium, erection and unveiling ceremony by a prominent personality.

We feel that the memorial should have the involvement of the people of the County's thus giving them a sense of belonging to the project, and to this end we are asking each Town and Parish Council in the Counties of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to kindly donate the

minimum sum of £30-00p towards the costs of the memorial, we would of course be delighted if you feel you could manage a little more, (*most probably under Section 137*). If every Parish Council joins with us and makes this honourable gesture in remembrance of Sherwood Foresters of their Parish, we will be able to complete the project in record time. Any surplus money accrued will be placed into a Memorial Maintenance Fund, held by the Regimental Headquarters, to be used for the future cleaning and maintenance of this memorial.

Please help us to mark the significant sacrifice made by these men, by forwarding a **cheque made payable to RHQ MERCIAN** with a covering letter/slip stating "**For Western Front Memorial**" to the address as shown above.

Where possible we have enclosed a list which shows some of the men who served with the Sherwood Foresters who were Killed in Action or Died of Wounds that we know had connections with your Parish (*it is not necessarily a complete list just an outline*).

Thank-you for your consideration of
and hopefully your involvement in this project

Major J.H. Cotterill M.B.E.
Chairman
Sherwood Foresters
Western Front Memorial Committee

John Cotterill