



Press Release

Railway Heritage Trust project to document all Railway War Memorials in Great Britain



Midland Railway memorial, Derby (UKNIWM 893)

The Railway Heritage Trust has commenced a project to ensure that there is a full record of all the war memorials erected by railway companies to honour their staff who served or died in war or conflict.

The Imperial War Museum's UK National Inventory of War Memorials (UKNIWM) has supplied the Trust with details of all of the railway company war memorials that it has recorded. The Trust aims to validate the location and ownership of these, and to ensure that this record is complete.

To achieve this, the Trust invites anyone who is aware of a railway company war memorial, including paper Rolls of Honour, to check whether the memorial has been recorded on the UKNIWM at <http://www.ukniwm.org.uk> . If the memorial record needs updating, or you cannot find the memorial in these records, then please email warmemorials@railwayheritagetrust.co.uk , preferably with a photograph of the memorial.

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Andy Savage, Executive Director of the Railway Heritage Trust, said:

‘The rail industry, like most UK employers, lost many staff in the two world wars. It honoured their sacrifice by erecting war memorials, but the contraction and subsequent division of the railway industry has meant that some of these memorials have been lost, whilst it is not clear who is responsible for others. The Trust intends to ensure that all surviving railway company memorials are fully recorded on the UKNIWM, with whom we are working closely.

Note to editors

Imperial War Museum

The Imperial War Museum (IWM) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people’s lives.

IWM’s five branches are IWM London, IWM’s flagship branch with six floors of exhibitions and displays; IWM North, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; IWM Duxford, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain’s best preserved wartime airfield; Churchill War Rooms, housed in Churchill’s secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser HMS Belfast.

The UK National Inventory of War Memorials is a national archive within IWM, holding details of war memorials in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. It records memorials to all wars and includes all types of war memorial. So far, it has recorded over 60,000 war memorials and as well as an archive of paper files it has a searchable online database at www.ukniwm.org.uk

Railway Heritage Trust

The Railway Heritage Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee, which aims to:

- encourage the conservation and enhancement of railway buildings and structures which are listed or scheduled and are of special architectural or historic interest, and;
- act as a catalyst between outside parties and owners in the conservation and alternative use of non-operational property, including the possible transfer of responsibility to local trusts or other interested organisations.

The Trust awards grants to a value of some £2 million a year to achieve these objectives.

For further details or pictures, please contact the Trust as below.

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