

The Memorial Plaque was issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war. The plaques were made of bronze and were popularly known as the "Dead Man's Penny" because of the similarity in appearance to the somewhat smaller penny coin. 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of 450 tonnes of bronze.

The plaque shows an image of Britannia holding a trident and standing with a lion. In her left outstretched left hand Britannia holds an oak wreath above the rectangular tablet bearing the deceased's name. The name does not include the rank because there was to be no distinction between the sacrifice made by different individuals. Two dolphins swim around Britannia, symbolizing Britain's sea power, and at the bottom a second lion is tearing apart the German eagle. Around the picture the legend reads "He died for freedom and honour". For the six hundred plaques issued to commemorate women it reads, "She died for freedom and honour".



The plaque on display here commemorates Oswald Alfred Kerridge of the Durham Light Infantry. He was mortally wounded at the Battle of the Somme and died of his wounds on 23rd July 1916.

He was 25 years old.



WW1 Memorial Death Plaque

