



Ebenezer Congregational Church

‘Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends’



DEWSBURY SACRIFICES



IN MEMORIAM

SOLDIERS OF EBENEZER CHURCH WHO FELL.

MAJOR WALKER AND THE WAY TO END WAR.

The war memorial to the fallen men of Ebenezer Congregational Church, Dewsbury, was unveiled at an impressive memorial service on Sunday afternoon. The memorial, which has been erected on the left-hand side of the pulpit, is in cast bronze with lettering and ornaments in relief, and has been executed by Messrs. William Morris, Ltd., Westminster, London. The casting has been framed in oak by Mr. Walter West, who has carried out the work of installation. The full inscription is: "To the glory of God. In honour and memory of the men of this church who laid down their lives in the Great War, 1914-1919. Herbert Armitage, Norris B. Batley, Herbert S. Buckley, Arthur Chadwick, Arthur Collins, Harry Cooke, Ernest Crowther, Percy Exley, Percy W. Giles, Harold Hirst, David Lawson, Edgar Russum, Harry O. Southill, Arthur Sowden, Charles Spink, Wilfred Talbot, Frank Taylor, Oliver Walker, S. Harry Walshaw, Harry Walton. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Major P. B. Walker, V.D., J.P., was requested to unveil the tablet, and in doing so he said he felt it a great honour, but though he thought there might have been a more suitable person found to do it he recognised that as one who had known most of those whose names figured thereon it was fitting he should fill the position. From Ebenezer 139 men served, which he thought was very creditable considering their numbers, and of those 29 laid down their lives. Many others returned suffering from wounds or hardship. The graves of the fallen were scattered far and wide, but that memorial served to honour them in the most fitting place—their house of prayer. To their relatives and friends heartfelt sympathy and sorrow were expressed, yet with that sorrow there was a deep feeling of pride. Our sorrow would die with us, but the sacrifices made by the fallen would be remembered for centuries. The courage, tenacity, and endurance of these men won our victory, and it was for us to remember their example. What of the future? Were wars going to cease, or must the horrible race in armaments continue? Were we serious when we spoke of a League of Nations, the most beautiful ideal that had come to us, a closer friendship and fellowship between nations, and the only way to stop war? Unless public opinion backed the league, nothing could come of it. Public opinion was the only thing that could stop warfare.

