

# BOER WAR

## SOUTH AFRICA 1899-1902

RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN BY MEMBERS OF THE ASHINGTON MEMORIAL GARDEN WORKING GROUP

The Anglo Boer War was fought by Britain and her Empire against the Boers. The Boers were the combined forces of the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

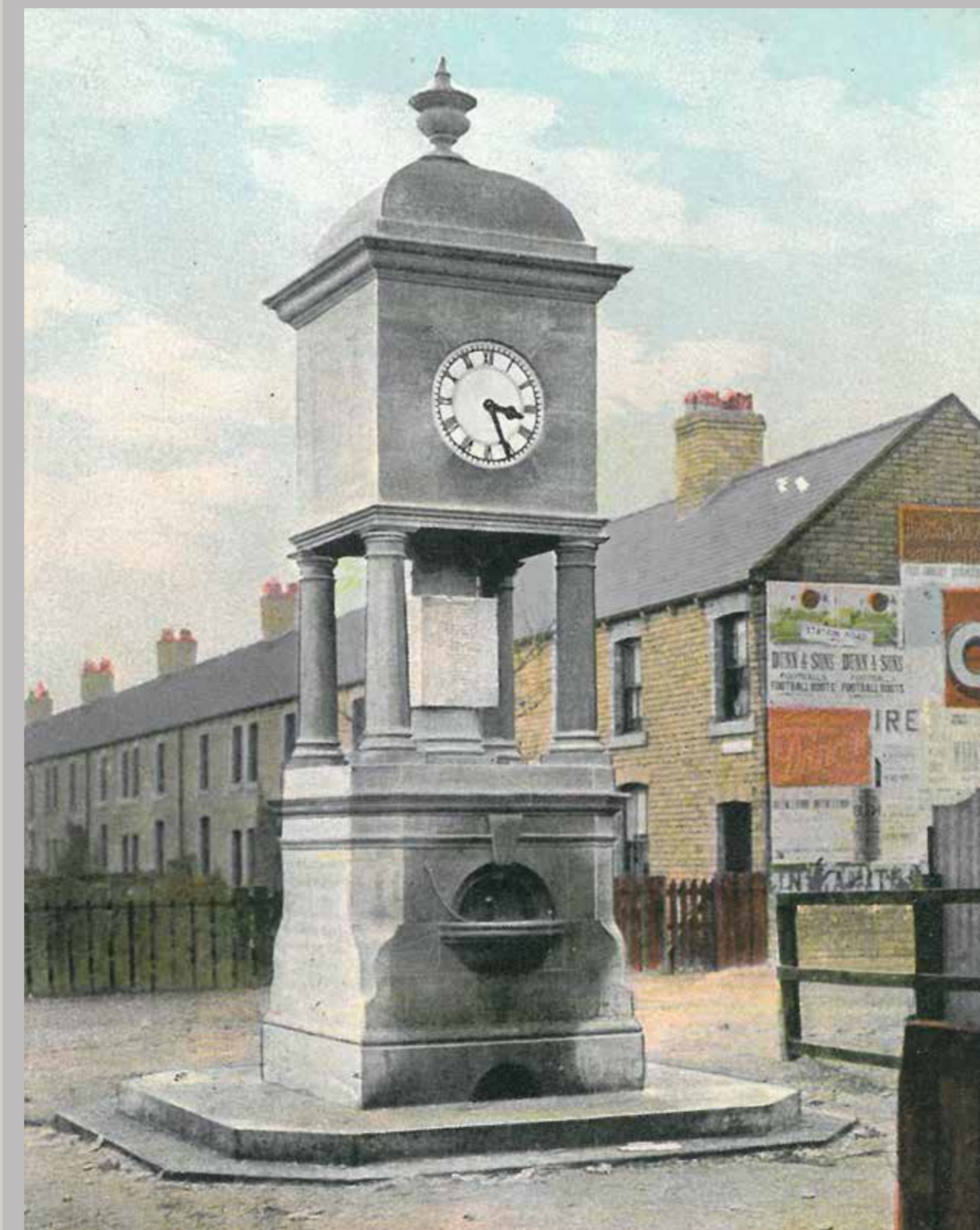
At least 64 men from the Ashington area served in the Boer War.

Six of these men were either killed in action or died of disease:

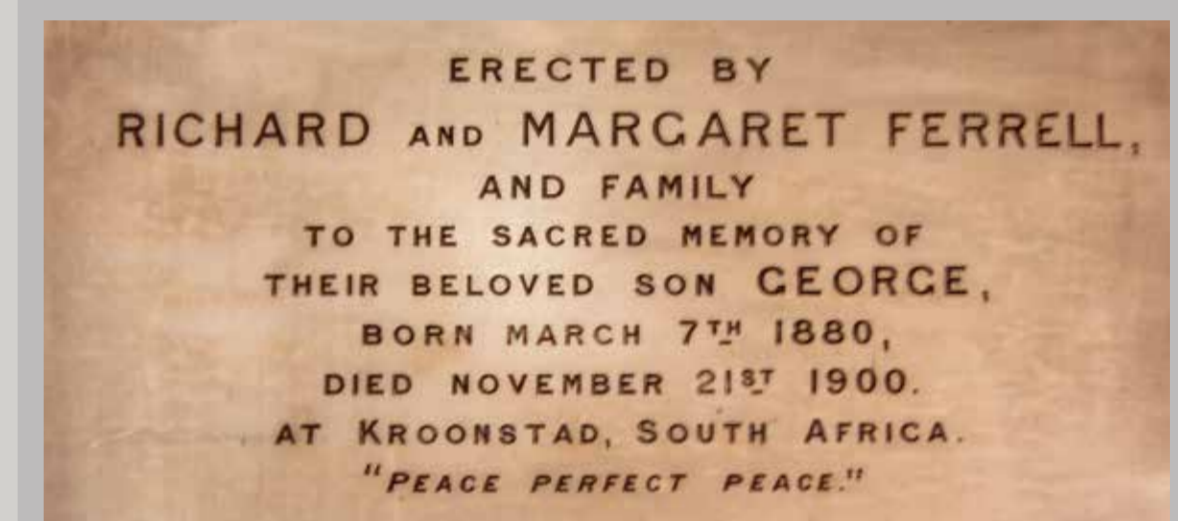
- Robert Cole, Coldstream Guards
- George Ferrell, Coldstream Guards (see photo)
- Charles Gillespie, Royal Field Artillery
- Frederick Osborne, Northumberland Fusiliers
- Arthur Octavius Shortt, Imperial Light Horse
- John Young, Imperial Yeomanry

A memorial to honour all 64 men was unveiled in Station Road, Ashington on 25 October 1902. However by 1943 the monument was in poor condition and considered unsafe.

The Council, at the time, decided to demolish it and also undertook to 'suitably record' those named on the memorial with a bronze plaque, but this never happened.



Boer War Memorial  
Station Road, Ashington before it was demolished in 1943.



Memorial for George Ferrell, Trinity Church in Ashington. George died from typhoid fever in Kroonstad, South Africa, 21 November 1900.

This is probably Ashington's oldest war memorial.

### Sergeant Booth, Distinguished Conduct Medal

Sergeant Booth from Ashington fought in both the Boer War and First World War. In 1915 he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, at that time Britain's second highest bravery award, for:

*"conspicuous gallantry and resource when he left the advance trench under destructive fire, collected men, and with great coolness brought them into a position where there was every prospect of the enemy breaking through."*



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