

FIREMEN WHO FELL IN WORLD WAR ONE



As we approach the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the so called Great War in 1914, a research project has begun to produce a National Roll of Honour bearing the names of all the members of UK fire brigades that were called up to serve in the armed forces and gave their lives in battle. In the early part of the conflict, members of fire brigades were in a reserved occupation but in 1915 with the terrible losses in the trenches beginning to have an impact, the War Office removed the reserved occupation status from all men under 25 including fire brigade members. As a result, it is known that many former firemen went into the army or Royal Navy and laid down their lives for their country.

The research is being carried out by Malcolm Tovey, a man with whom I was privileged to serve in Leicester City Fire Brigade. Malcolm is now regarded as one of the UK's foremost fire brigade historians. Malcolm is being assisted by Alan House, who is, of course, a good friend to our Association. Alan is the archivist of the Fire Fighters memorial Trust as well as being the secretary of the Hampshire FRS Past Members Association.

Any member of the WRFA who has information on this matter is asked to contact Malcom Tovey on malc.tovey@friends-of-fireworld.org.