

# Tribute shines again

## WE REMEMBER



A WAR memorial which has remained hidden for more than 20 years has been restored to its former glory in time for Remembrance Sunday.

The bronze plaque, dedicated to former employees of the Kenmir Brothers Factory in Spennymoor, was given to the town council to restore.

It was first displayed in the office of the factory building in Flora Street and was designed and commissioned by company founder Ernest Cawthorne Kenmir.

Before the Second World War the factory was the town's biggest employer, apart from the mines, and in 1948 the plaque was unveiled to remember former employees who had given their lives in both world wars.

When the firm's last director Frank Kenmir died in August of this year, his son and daughter found the memorial in the garage of his Spennymoor home.

Made of cast bronze on an oak base, workers and employees of the firm subscribed to the 4ft by 3ft tablet which was engraved with the names of eight former colleagues.

One of those remembered is Frank Kenmir's cousin Frederick Kenmir, who died during the First World War in January 1917.



■ With the restored plaque, from left, Coun John Kitson, town clerk Terry Robson and Mayor Peter Welsh

Mr Kenmir's daughter Adrienne Hopper, who lives in Richmond, said her father had rescued the memorial from the factory building before it was demolished in the early 1970s.

She said: "He had hoped that some day it would find a suitable home but sadly he died before he could do anything about it."

Mrs Hopper contacted Spennymoor Town Council which arranged for the plaque to be cleaned and polished. It will now hang in the memorial room.

### THE ROLL OF HONOUR

**THE following workers at Kenmir who died during the two world wars and are recorded on the plaque are:**

- 1914-1918:** W Coulthard, died May 27 1918, J Cowens, died August 16, 1916, B R Graham, died November 18 1916 and F Kenmir, died January 15, 1917.
- 1939-1945:** R E Barker, died July 27, 1940, H Burnip, died June 19, 1940, H I Ferguson, died July 29, 1944 and T L Roberts, died July 12, 1942.

## WAR MEMORIALS

### Kenmir Memorial

Kenmir Bros. Factory Spennymoor,  
Durham

Formerly in the Kenmir Brothers Factory in Flora Street, Spennymoor and now  
resited in  
Memorial Room, Town Hall, Spennymoor

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