



TODMORDEN
AND
THE GREAT WAR
1914 — 1918.

A Local Record.

By JOHN A. LEE.

Todmorden :

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Dedication



TO THE MEMORY OF THE MEN OF
TODMORDEN WHO GAVE THEIR
LIVES FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE IN
THE WAR OF 1914-1918, AND TO ALL
FROM THIS BOROUGH WHO SERVED
AND SUFFERED IN THE SAME GREAT
CAUSE TO SAVE THIS COUNTRY AND
THE WORLD FROM THE DOMINATION
OF AN ARROGANT DESPOTISM.

*See ye to it that their service and
sacrifice are ever remembered in
honour and gratitude.*

Foreword.

THIS volume recording the part which Todmorden has taken in the Great War of 1914-1918, has been compiled at the request of members of the Local War Memorial Committee. The task which the writer has undertaken is to tell a plain unvarnished story of the war efforts and achievements, the sufferings and sacrifices, of the inhabitants of a comparatively small town of 25,000 inhabitants, and to reflect as faithfully as may be the impression which the stupendous, world-shaking events arising out of the War made upon the mind and imagination of the people who lived through those anxious times.

Many things which might have been of interest to some have had to be omitted owing to limitations of space, and probably many things which ought to have been included have been inadvertently overlooked. As in all such compilations the difficulty has been to decide just what to include and what to exclude. The mass of material available has been so considerable that the difficulty has been what to leave out rather than what to put in. In a compilation covering so many different phases of activity it is hardly possible for one writer to avoid many mistakes, both of omission and commission, and for any defects which may be found in the record the writer can only offer his apologies.

It might be thought by some that a record of events which occurred so recently, and which are so painfully impressed upon the mind of this generation, was somewhat unnecessary; but the compilation has been made mainly for the benefit of future generations, that they may know what Todmorden did and suffered in this greatest of all wars. Much of the material from which the record is compiled will be found embedded in the files of the local Press published during the years of war; but it was felt desirable that the story should be put into a more concise and accessible form while there were those still living who had been in actual contact with the events.

FOREWORD.

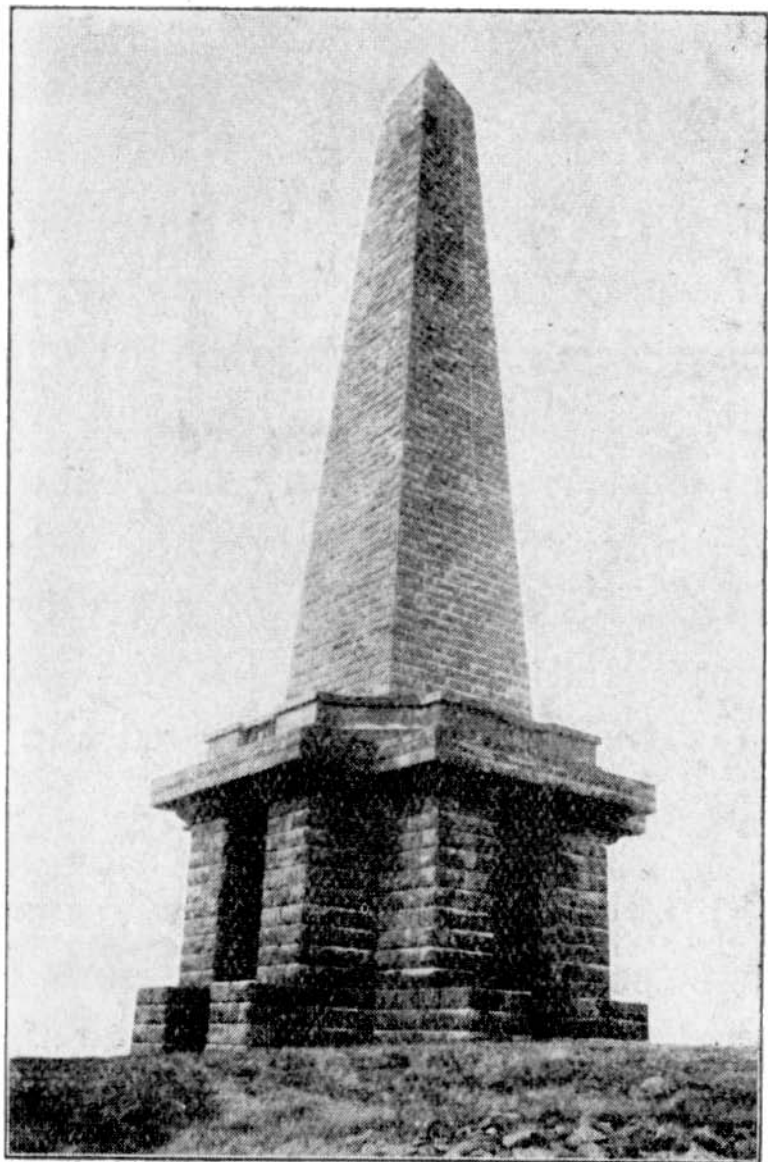
The writer is indebted to many friends for help and suggestions in the compilation of the volume, especially to the officers of the local detachments of the 6th Batt. Lancashire Fusiliers, for details of their various campaigns not hitherto published. It has not been found possible in all cases to acknowledge the author's indebtedness to the writers of the verses quoted, or to the photographers whose pictures have been used, the sources in many cases being unknown. It is hoped that this general acknowledgment will suffice, but exception should be made in the case of Mr. Enoch Horsfall, Mr. E. Clapham, Mr. Norman Pyre, and Miss Westerman, who have kindly allowed the free use of many local views and photographs. To all who have assisted in any way the writer extends his grateful thanks.

J. A. L.



Stoodley Pike.

A PEACE MONUMENT Erected by Public Subscription.
Commenced in 1814 to commemorate the surrender of Paris, following the Napoleonic Wars, and finished after the Battle of Waterloo, when Peace was established in 1815. The first Pike fell on the day the Russian Ambassador left London before the declaration of war with Russia in 1854, and was rebuilt when peace was restored in 1856.



Stoodley Pike.