

Hendon Cemetery & Crematorium

History and Heritage

Hendon Cemetery and Crematorium sited on the North West side of Holders Hill Road NW4. Access to the cemetery is via Holders Hill Road entered through a Tudor style gatehouse. The Cemetery was developed by the Abney Park Cemetery Company Ltd and opened in 1899. The Crematorium was added in 1922, built within cloisters that adjoined the chapel. At that time the word 'Crematorium' was added to the Gothic stone lettering at the entrance.

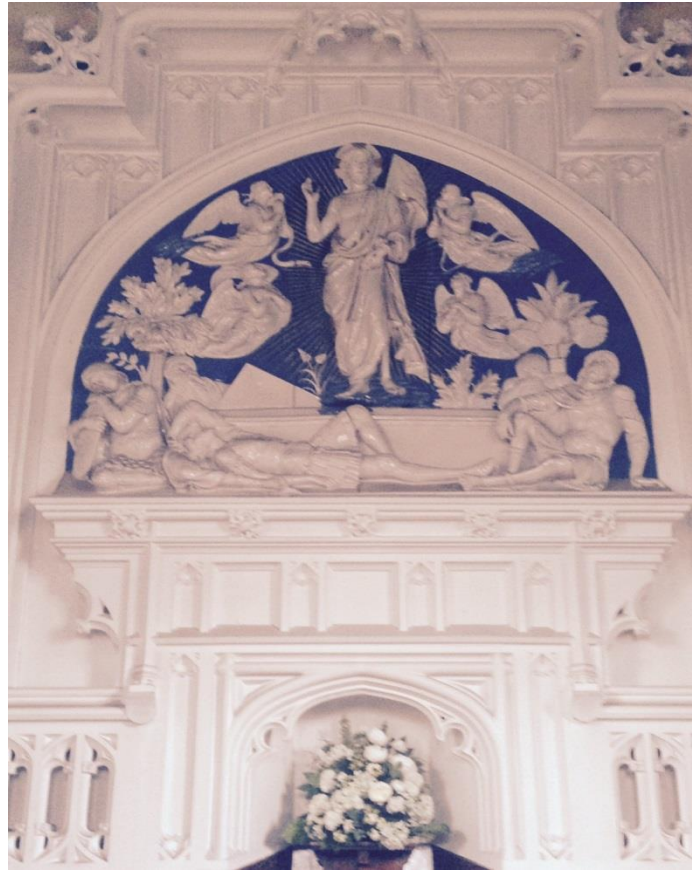


Entrance Gatehouse

In 1956 the Cemetery and Crematorium were purchased from the Company by Hendon Corporation, and transferred to the London Borough of Barnet following the reorganisation of Local Government in 1963. The management of the site is now under the control of Re (Regional Enterprise) Ltd.

The Cemetery and Crematorium sit in 42 Acres of parkland and contains one of the largest collections of mature trees in the Borough of Barnet.

Alfred Bonella designed the flint-faced chapel in the centre of the cemetery, which opened in July 1903, and was 'inspired by old Hertfordshire churches' according to the cemetery brochure of 1903. The chapel has an archway beneath a tower with corner turret and spike; inside is a terracotta reredos by Cantagalli, a copy of Luca Della Robbia's 'Resurrection' in Florence Cathedral.



Copy of Luca Della Robbia's 'Resurrection' in Florence Cathedral. North Chapel

The Hendon Cemetery Chapel (below) is a locally listed building, part of the Hendon Crematorium complex lying within the Hendon Cemetery



North and South Chapels

Greek Orthodox Section

Within the cemetery there is a plot of land which has been sold on a long-lease to St Sofia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral based in Moscow Road, Bayswater.

Whilst the section is controlled and managed by St Sofia's, all interments are booked and undertaken via the cemetery office.

The section contains some of the most impressive and striking memorials in the Borough.



Large marble memorial Greek Section

Japanese Section

There is a small plot of land near to the Cemetery Office that is owned by the Japanese UK Residents Association which is laid out in a traditional manner. Over the years, there have been a small number of burials in this plot, but it remains a popular site for the Japanese community for scattering of cremated remains.

Military Graves



The Cemetery contains a Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintained memorial to the fallen in both world wars and has a significant number of military graves throughout the site. The most notable being those of DMR Dudley Stagpoole VC DCM and Isaac Lodge VC.

DMR Dudley Stagpoole VC DCM



Stagpoole was about 25 years old, and a Drummer in the 57th Regiment of Foot (later The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), British Army during the Second Taranaki War campaign of the New Zealand land wars when the following deed took place on 2 October 1863 at Allan's Hill near Poutoko in Taranaki, for which he and Ensign John Thornton Down were awarded the VC and a separate incident at Kaipakopako for which he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

For their conduct at Pontoko, on the 2nd October, in rescuing a wounded comrade from the rebel Maoris. They succeeded in bringing in the wounded man, who was lying at about fifty yards from the bush, although the enemy kept up a very heavy fire from the bush at short range, and also from behind fallen logs close at hand.

The man had been wounded during an engagement with the rebel natives, and Ensign Down, and Drummer Stagpoole, responded to the call of the Officer commanding the detachment of the Regiment for volunteers to bring him in.

The Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field has already been conferred on Drummer Stagpoole, for the energy and devotion which he displayed on the 25th September, 1863, at the affair near Kaipakopako, in having, though wounded in the head, twice volunteered and brought in wounded men.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and Queen's Regiment RHQ, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent.

Isaac Lodge VC



Lodge was 33 years old, and a gunner in "Q" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC. On 31 March 1900 at Sanna's Post (aka Korn Spruit), South Africa, "Q" and "U" batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery were ambushed with the loss of most of the baggage column and five guns of the leading battery.

When the alarm was given, 'Q' Battery went into action 1150 yards from the spruit, until the order to retire was received, when Major Edmund John Phipps-Hornby (VC) commanding the battery ordered the guns and their limbers to be run back by hand to a safe place. This most exhausting operation was carried out by, among others, Gunner Lodge, Sergeant Charles Parker (VC) and Driver Horace Glasscock VC. When at last all but one of the guns and one limber had been moved to safety, the battery was reformed. The citation reads:

On the occasion of the action at Korn Spruit on the 31st March, 1900, a British force, including two batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery, was retiring from Thabanchu towards Bloemfontein. The enemy had formed an ambush at Korn Spruit, and before their presence was discovered by the main body had captured the greater portion of the baggage column and five out of the six guns of the leading battery. When the alarm was given Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was within 300 yards of the Spruit. Major Phipps-Hornby, who commanded it, at once wheeled about and moved off at a gallop under a very heavy fire. One gun upset when a wheel horse was shot, and had to be abandoned, together with a waggon, the horses of which were killed. The remainder of the battery reached a position close to some unfinished railway buildings and came into action 1,150 yards from the Spruit, remaining in action until ordered to retire. When the order to retire was received Major Phipps-Hornby ordered the guns and their limbers to be run back by hand to where the teams of uninjured horses stood behind the unfinished buildings. The few remaining gunners, assisted by a number of Officers and men of a party of Mounted Infantry, and

directed by Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys, the only remaining Officers of the battery, succeeded in running back four of the guns under shelter. One or two of the limbers were similarly withdrawn by hand, but the work was most severe and the distance considerable. In consequence all concerned were so exhausted that they were unable to drag in the remaining limbers or the fifth gun. It now became necessary to risk the horses, and volunteers were called for from among the drivers, who readily responded. Several horses were killed and men wounded, but at length only one gun and one limber were left exposed. Four separate attempts were made to rescue these, but when no more hordes were available the attempt had to be given up and the gun and limber were abandoned. Meanwhile the other guns had been sent on, one at a time, and after passing within 700 or 800 yards of the enemy, in rounding the head of a donga and crossing two spruits they eventually reached a place of safety, where the battery was re-formed.

After full consideration of the circumstances of the case the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief in South Africa formed the opinion that the conduct of all ranks of Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was conspicuously gallant and daring, but that all were equally brave and devoted in their behaviour. He therefore decided to treat the case of the battery as one of collective gallantry under Rule 13 of the Victoria Cross Warrant, and directed that one Officer should be selected for the decoration of the Victoria Cross by the Officers, one non-commissioned officer by the non-commissioned officers, and two gunners or drivers by the gunners and drivers. A difficulty arose with regard to the Officer because there were only two unwounded Officers — Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys — available for the work of saving the guns, and both of these had been conspicuous by their gallantry and by the fearless manner in which they exposed themselves and each of them nominated the other for the decoration. It was ultimately decided in favour of Major Phipps-Hornby as having been the senior concerned.

Lodge was one of the two gunners or drivers elected as described above.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the National Army Museum in Chelsea, England