



## Trooper Potts VC and the Berkshire Yeomanry Memorials

An extract from the report to Historic England

Scheduled Monument Consent

S00100579(Reading Abbey)



### Comment

The Memorial was completed in stages from Mid-August to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015.

It was formally unveiled by The Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire (Mr J Puxley) and Mr Chris Tarrant OBE on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in front of an audience of some 350 invited guests and some 250 members of the public who attended.



### Completion of the Memorials

#### The Suppliers - for the record

- Sculptor - [Tom Murphy](#) from Liverpool.
- Foundry which cast the sculpture in bronze – [Morris Singer Fine Art Foundry](#), Lasham.
- Groundworks by [Francis Construction](#) of Thatcham.
- Stonemasons - [A F Jones Stonemasons](#) of Reading and Ipsden.
- Roll of Honour - [Photocast Products](#) of Liverpool.
- Information Boards - [AJG Wells](#) of the Isle of Wight. **Designed by [Anne-Marie Carroll](#).**

#### Ownership

The memorial was adopted by Reading Borough Council in January 2016.

**Cost.** Construction of the Memorial, filming of the stages of the project and the unveiling event cost £154,000.

## Future Maintenance:

With the help of Chris Tarrant OBE we raised a net of £176,000. This provides a base of funds to cover the annual cleaning and maintenance.

## Communications

**Website:** [www.pottsvctrust.org](http://www.pottsvctrust.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/TrooperPottsMemorialTrust](http://www.facebook.com/TrooperPottsMemorialTrust)

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/TrooperPottsVC>

2 February 2017

Richard Bennett

Chairman Trooper Potts VC Memorial Trust



**Above members of the Trooper Potts VC Memorial Trust who completed the project**

IMAGE CHRIS WIDDOWS – NOVEMBER 2015.

**Back Row (L-R); Richard Duckett, John Chapman, Brigadier Tony Verey, Major Simon Frost, Captain Andrew French, David Card.**

**Front Row (L-R) Richard Bennett, Chris Andrews, Anne Ames, Brenda Tait, Fred Pugh, Alan Overton.**

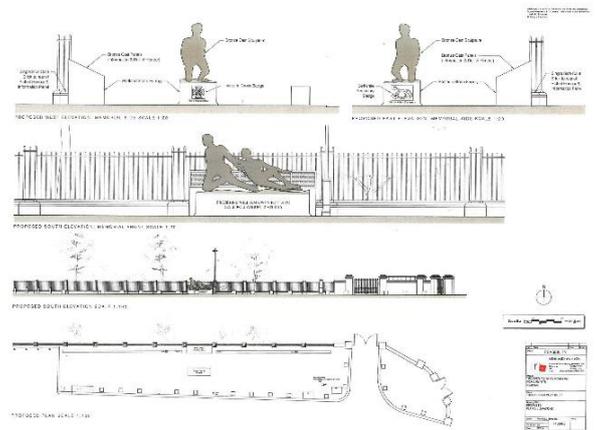
**Site of the memorial, The Forbury, before the start of work.** .

The site was provided by Reading Borough Council, who have supported us all the way.



## The Design of the site

The layout of the site with its various components was drawn up by [Robert Rigby Architects of Reading](#) on a pro-bono basis and we were very grateful for this support. The drawings were then used by the stonemasons and the site contractors.

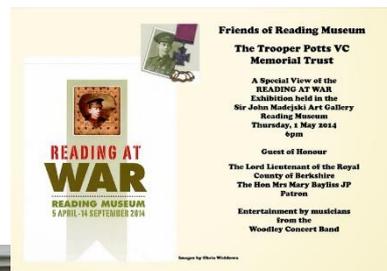


[Haslams Estate Agents](#), Trust Sponsors, guided the drawings needed to be converted to a photo interpretation to assist fundraising, see left by Design Directions

The drawings were displayed for the first time at a Trooper Potts VC at Reading Museum event on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. Fred's medal strip was on temporary loan from the Imperial War Museum.



Left The Lord Lieutenant.



Above descendants of Trooper Andrews and Trooper Potts with the maquette and the drawings.



Left The Mayor of Reading

**Site caged off before work starts**



**Work on plinth for the Sculpture, by [Francis Construction](#)**

**this shows the surface under the paving**





**Images above show the maximum depth of excavation**



**Work on plinth for the Roll of Honour showing the depth of the excavations**



**Rubble extracted from the base of the plinths**



**Installed Plinths ready for cladding in Portland Stone - 21 August 2015**

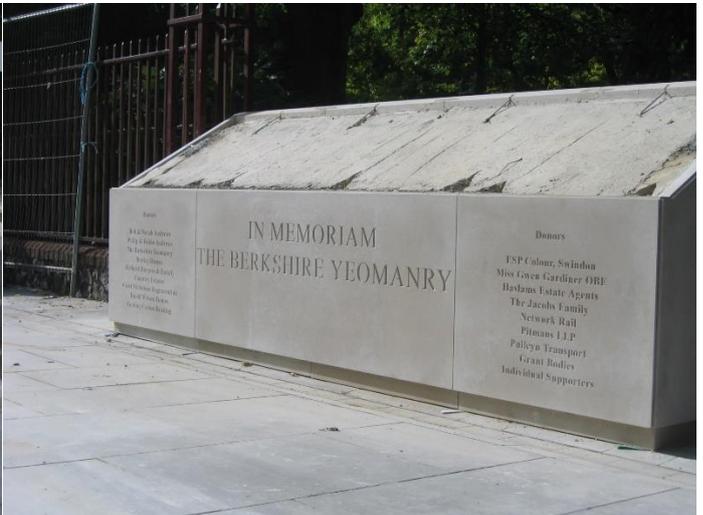


**Plinth for the sculpture being clad in 100mm Portland Stone 26-28 August 2015**



All the stone work was added by [A F Jones Stonemasons](#)

**Plinth for the Roll of Honour being clad in 50mm Portland Stone 26-28 August 2015**



IN MEMORIAM  
THE BERKSHIRE YEOMANRY

Donors

- FSP Colner, Swindon
- Miss Govea Gardiner DBE
- Hastings Estate Agents
- The Jacobs Family
- Network Rail
- Pinnas LLP
- Pulley Transport
- Local Bodies
- Individual Supporters

**Completed ready for the bronze Roll of Honour Panels**



**Installation of the Bronze Panels of the Roll of Honour by [Photocast Products](#)**

**16+17 September 2015**







**Completed plinth ready for the installation of the sculpture of Trooper Potts VC and Trooper Andrews**



**The stonework was undertaken by A F Jones Stonemasons**



Working from scale drawings by Robert Rigby Architects



**David Callaghan (former Director of Hancocks Jewellers) guided on the detail of the VC. above left with Anus Jones**

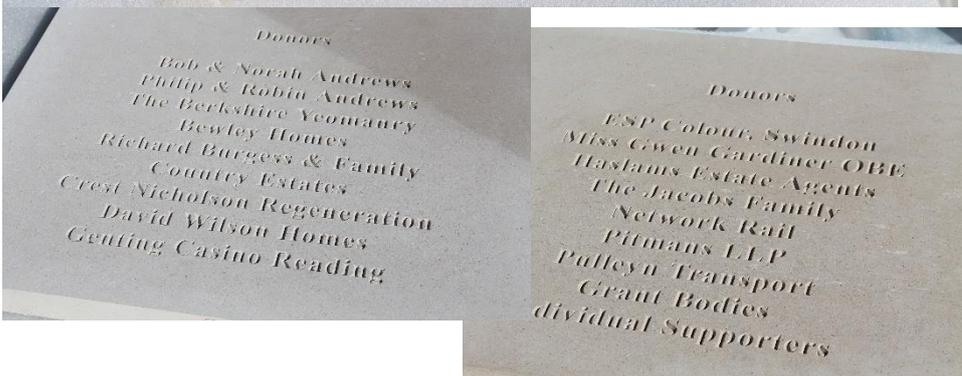
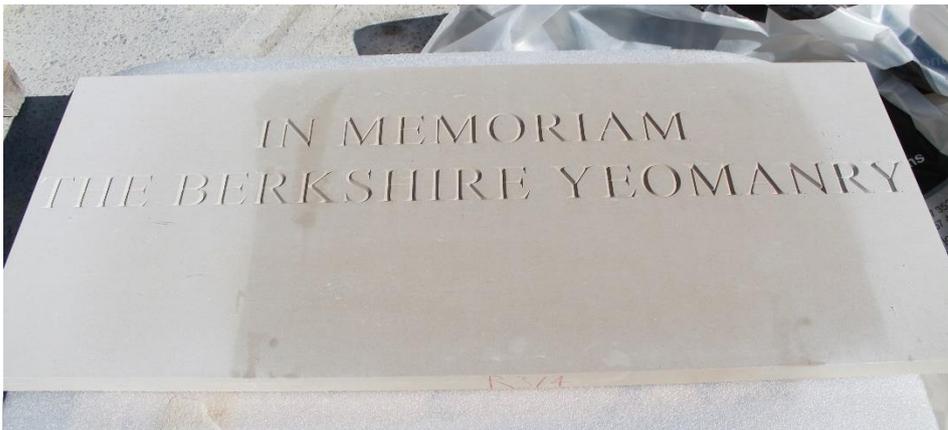


A template from the VC & GC memorial in Westminster Abbey, provided by David, helped get the detail right on the stone



Jonathan Rayfield carved the VC and the Berkshire Yeomanry badges by hand.

Below; all other parts of the memorial were cut and carved by machine.



**Above Jonathan Rayfield with the completed work.**

## From the maquette to the finished sculpture

Sculptor [Tom Murphy](#) was commissioned in 2012 to design a memorial. He developed a Maquette which we used at media and fundraising events.



Tom with the maquette September 2013



L-R; Patron Chris Tarrant OBE, with Chris Andrews (Grandson of Arthur Andrews) and Anne Ames (Granddaughter of Fred Potts)

By November 2014 all the required funds had been raised and Tom was commissioned to start work. Below are images of members of the trust viewing the completed full size sculpture in clay in the sculptor's studio in Liverpool, March 2015.



Above L-R; Fred Pugh, Tom Murphy, Brigadier Tony Verey.



Moulds of the clay maquette were taken and turned into wax versions of the sculpture at the [Morris Singer Foundry](#), Tom then fine tuned them in May, below: .



To turn the wax versions of the sculpture into bronze the lost wax process was used for the parts of the bodies and sand casting for the base.



The separate parts were then welded together, the welds chased and the whole sculpture was sandblasted before being given the final finish, below.



Above Assembled and welds chased



Left after sandblasting

Below; after colouring and waxing the sculpture was ready to be installed



Above the completed sculpture with the Morris Singer team who made it.



Above L-R; John Berelowitz (Owner Morris Singer), Tom Murphy, John Chapman, Richard Bennett, John Harding (Foundry Manager)

**Installation of the sculpture 2 October 2015.**



**Andrew Peach did his whole morning show as an outside broadcast to cover the intallation.**



**Above: supporters of the trust, Morris Singer Foundry staff and committee members**



**Items incorporated into the base of the bronze sculpture**



**The Reading Lion**



**Turkish Army buttons and belt buckle and Yeomanry buttons**



**Bandage, Iodine ampule and bullets**



**Helmet worn by men from the Yeomanry at Gallipoli**



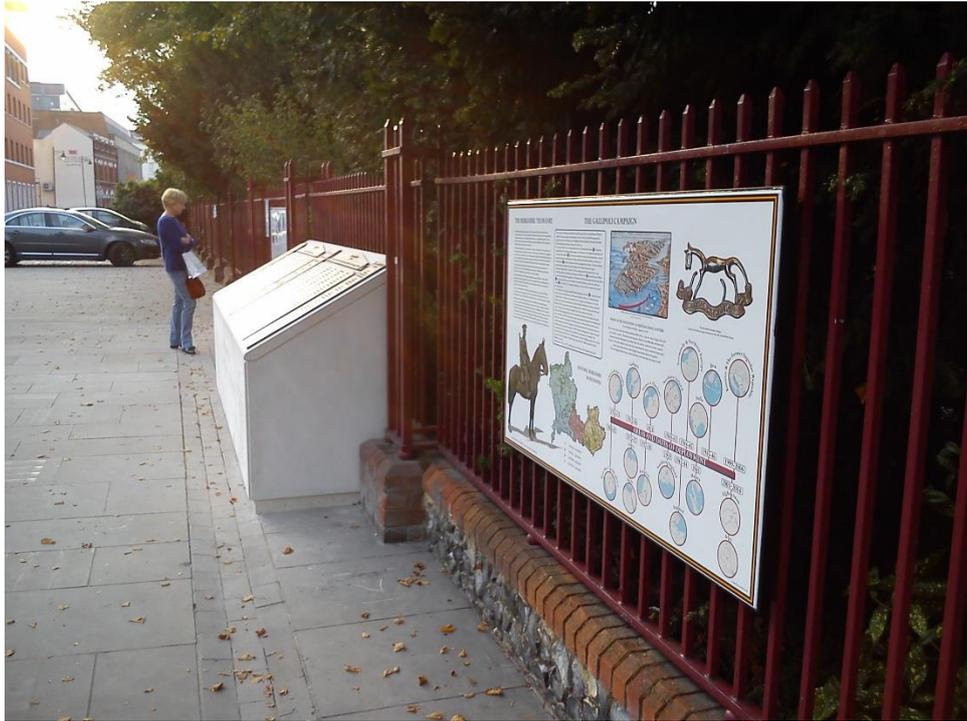
**Huntley and Palmer ration biscuits and the SMLE Rifle**



**Bullets, and uniform buttons. To the right Arthur Andrews' pipe and tobacco tin.**

Views of the completed memorial 4 October 2015

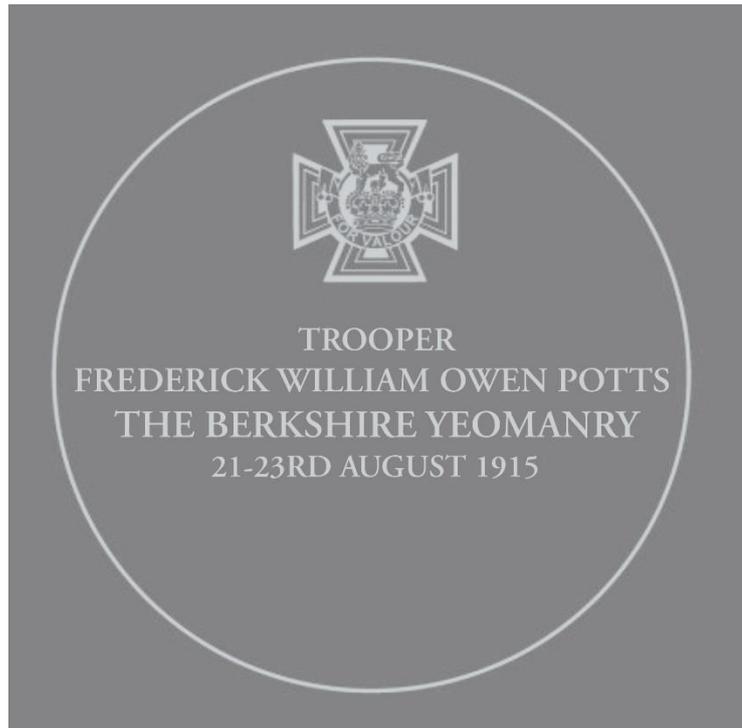






**The Potts VC Paving Stone by the War memorial at the corner of Forbury Gardens**

This was unveiled on 20 August 2015 at 5pm, 100 years from the start of the attack on Scimitar Hill. It was during this battle that Fred and Arthur were wounded.



## Unveiling of Trooper Potts VC Way 5 April 2014 Bus Interchange north of Reading Station



L-R Richard Bennett, Stacy Williams (Student at Reading College), Brenda Tait (Finance), Tim Jones (Student at Reading College), Anne Ames, Richard Duckett (lecturer Reading College) Fred Pugh (former Mayor of Reading) John Chapman, Michael Naxton (Patron and Curator of Lord Ashcroft's VC Collection), Chris Andrews, David Card