

The blog entries for Armistice90 are dedicated to the memory of Sgt Arthur Ashby RAMC, grandfather of our editor. Gassed during the Great War, he succumbed to his weakened chest, was demoted by his post-War employer and died at the age of 40, unmourned and unremembered by any except his family.

His son Sydney Ashby joined the Royal Air Force as a volunteer, served throughout World War II, including at RAF Manston in the front line of the Battle of Britain, and retired after 36 years service.

None of his grandsons or greatgrandsons were forced to join up or fight - a consequence of a Western Europe without war for over 60 years.

Sacrifice of blood
For long forgotten quarrel
Now only grass grows

The Battle of Britain memorial on Embankment was unveiled in September 2005, the 65th anniversary of the Battle, by the Prince of Wales. It pays tribute to those who took part in the Battle of Britain during World War II.

The idea for the monument was conceived by Bill Bond, founder of the Battle of Britain Historical Society, who was later awarded the MBE for his services to heritage. The sculptor of the monument is Paul Day and the architects are Donald Insall Associates. The pictures are by Jude.

The statute was cast by Morris Singer Ltd, the oldest established fine art foundry in the world and has cast many prominent statues and sculptures in London and around the world, including the lions and fountains in Trafalgar Square.

A walkway was cut obliquely through the middle of the structure, and is lined with panels of high relief sculpture in bronze depicting scenes from the Battle of Britain. The centrepiece is an approximately life sized sculpture of airmen scrambling for their aircraft during the battle. The outside of the monument is lined with bronze plaques listing all the airmen who took part in the Battle on the Allied side.