

## INTERNATIONAL FAME FOR SELFLESS LYNNE

Last updated 13:14, Monday, 26 January 2009

**A PENSIONER has achieved international fame for maintaining the graves of 19 war heroes.**

By Sam Walker

Selfless Lynne Wilkinson has appeared in two newspapers and on live radio in Australia for looking after five of the country's fallen soldiers buried at St Luke's cemetery, in Haverigg.

The reluctant celebrity has given up her time and money to polish and maintain the headstones for the last 17 years.

Every November she even forks out her own money to decorate the memorials with poppies for Remembrance Sunday.

As a result of the coverage, four out of five families of Australian soldiers buried at the site have made contact to say thank you.

A tearful Mrs Wilkinson said: "I can't believe what has happened in the last two weeks.

"All I know is a journalist from London heard about it and wrote an article for the Telegraph in Australia.

"I was then asked to do a live radio show which I said no to at first, but I eventually gave in.

"I am so protective and proud of every one of the soldiers.

"It isn't about me, it is about my guys, as I call them.

"I don't have internet access. This has all happened through word of mouth, I haven't done anything to publicise it.

"I don't want any recognition but if this is the only way for me to find the families of the rest of the soldiers then it is a good thing.

"It is incredible what has happened. I feel like a celebrity."

There are 19 named soldiers in the cemetery and one unknown grave. All the memorials are marked by the Commonwealth war headstone.

There are nine Englishmen, five Canadians and five Australians, all who died in various training exercises during the Second World War.

Mrs Wilkinson first began attending to the graves after her brother died.

She said: "My brother died and he told me that he wasn't afraid of dying but was frightened of being forgotten.

"It is a feeling of massive loss and I started to relate to what the families of the soldiers must have felt.

"Some of them didn't even know where they were buried. So I started taking care of them.

"I have found four out of five of the Australian families now. I also had a visit from the brother of one of the Canadian soldiers who I look after."



ACT OF KINDNESS: Lynne Wilkinson with the war graves she maintains at St Luke's churchyard, Haverigg. Now the pensioner has become known internationally for given up her time and money to tend to the graves

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An advertisement for 'click in2 compare'. It features a woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue top, holding a CD/DVD case. In the background, there is a living room with a sofa and a man sitting on it. Below the woman, there are several CD/DVD cases, including one for 'WANDA WALKER'. The text 'find the best price now!' is written in large, bold letters at the bottom.

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An advertisement for 'finesse' magazine. The cover features a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a red top and a white scarf, sitting on a chair. The magazine title 'finesse' is written in large, bold letters at the top. Below the cover, there is a list of categories: 'CARS • HOLIDAYS • FOOD • FASHION • ANTIQUES'. At the bottom, the text 'VIEW OUR LATEST DIGITAL PUBLICATION' is written in red.

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