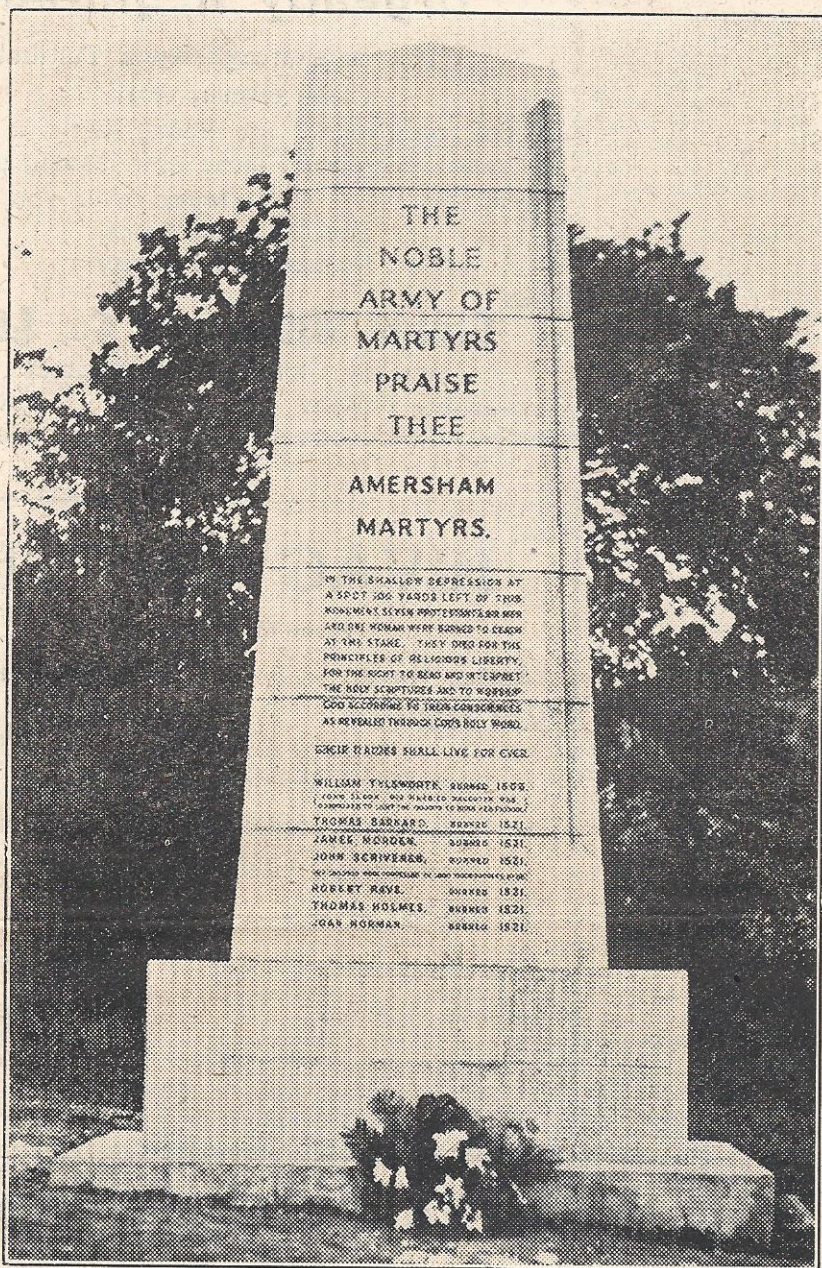


A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY FOR NEWCOMERS



A short time ago we reported a service held at the foot of the Martyrs Memorial which stands on an eminence in Amersham. Some of the new residents were surprised. They had not seen this monument, and were curious to know where it was and how you got to it. The approach to the monument is by way of Westmount - avenue (on the right-hand side of the road going down Station-road) or by a path a little lower down. At the top of the avenue you turn left and pursue the path which brings you to the monument; when you take the path lower down you turn right at the top. In any case it is a considerable climb, as you can imagine when you are told that you command an almost unrivalled view of valley and hill.

On a sunny Summer's day, standing with your back to the memorial and looking across the

valley, one is compelled to muse upon two things: the glory of the Creator's handiwork, and this evidence in stone of man's inhumanity to man. On this day the sun lit up hill and valley and both, sun-crowned, with trees in leafiness and the growth of field and farm showing well, formed a very heartening spectacle. Turning to the monument you reflected on man's inhumanity to man, done in this case in the name of religion, as so many inhuman acts have been done by many men of many creeds—man's inhumanity to man which has made countless thousands mourn.

This monument was erected in 1931 by the Protestant Alliance, and by the generosity of Miss E. M. Rowcroft. The inscription records that, at a short distance from the spot on which the monument is erected, seven Protestants, six men and one woman,

were burnt at the stake. It is added: "They died for the principles of religious liberty; for the right to read and interpret the holy scriptures and to worship God according to their consciences as revealed through God's holy word. Their names shall live for ever." These martyrs were of the early sixteenth century—1506, 1521, and so on. It is recorded that the children were compelled in the case of John Scrivener to light their father's pyre. There is, on the monument, a list of other worshippers at Amersham who were martyred at other places, including Thomas Harding, the Chesham martyr. As in the sunlight you looked across at the beautiful valley and hills, in all their comeliness and inspiration to you, and then turned to this monument, a feeling of sadness pervaded you, and you were depressed by what man has done to man.