

BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY

This cemetery is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful in the old Ypres Salient. The graves here are divided into five distinct areas, or enclosures, each with a unique layout. This unusual cemetery occupies what were the grounds of a chateau which was used by the British during the First World War, with headquarters and medical facilities based here. Over time the chateau was destroyed by shelling while the groups of graves grew ever larger. After the 1918 armistice many additional burials were made, making this one of the largest CWGC sites in the leper area.

Designed by Wilfred Von Berg, the cemetery has kept the feeling of a chateau estate garden, complete with driveway and moat. Finishing touches include two elegant pavilions and a tree-lined walkway which frames the Cross of Sacrifice.



War-time visit to a grave at Bedford House



LAND SCAPES
FEEL FLANDERS FIELDS



BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY

COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES



Total number of graves:
5,210*

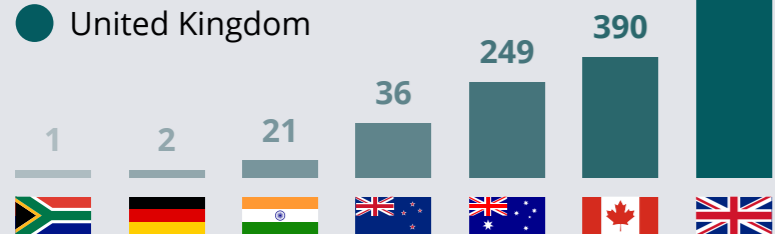
- Identified
- Unidentified

*Included in these numbers are 69 Second World War servicemen of United Kingdom forces (Enclosure 6. Plot 5. Rows A-B-C.)

Force nationalities

- South African
- German
- Indian
- New Zealand
- Australian
- Canadian
- United Kingdom

4,491



For more information please scan here.



V.U. Nathalie Dumon, CWGC Elverdingestraat 82, 8900 Ieper - Cover Jan D'Hondt Ateljé D

March 1915: a small group of graves at Bedford House. Only eight months into the war, the landscape is not yet devastated by shellfire © IWM Q 61655





CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY

Second Lieutenant Rupert Hallowes was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on and immediately before 30 September 1915. 34 years old and serving with the Middlesex Regiment, he was at Hooge, not far from Bedford House Cemetery, when he displayed selfless courage and devotion to his comrades over several days of desperate fighting. Even when mortally wounded, he continued to cheer on those around him. Visit his grave in Enclosure No.4, Plot XIV, Row B, Grave 36.

© National Army Museum



HIGHLIGHTS

1 Follow the tree-lined driveway into the cemetery. When you see the Cross of Sacrifice perfectly framed by trees ahead of you, stop.

Amongst the graves in this enclosure (No.2) there are six headstones that bear the distinctive badge of the British West Indies Regiment. Can you find them all?

2 Head through the plot towards the Cross of Sacrifice but pause to seek out Plot IV, Row A, Grave 26 in Enclosure No.2.

Michael Morpurgo was inspired to write his now classic children's First World War novel *Private Peaceful* after visiting the grave of Thomas Peaceful here.

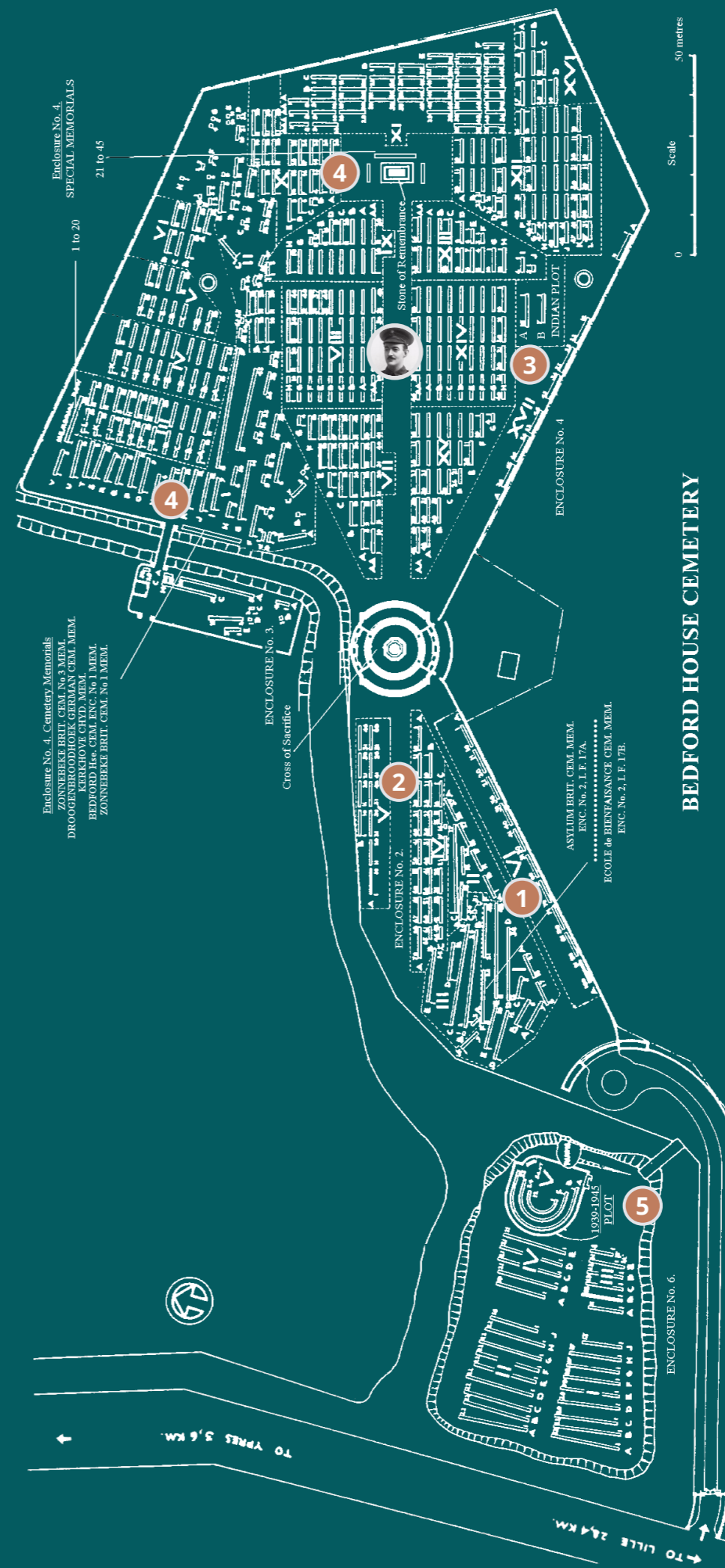
3 Head past the Cross of Sacrifice and into the largest enclosure here, No.4. Walk towards the right-hand shelter building and you will find several graves a little apart from the majority.

Indian soldiers played a vital role holding the line at Ypres through the autumn and winter of 1914-1915. Most who died are named on the Menin Gate, but the largest group buried in Belgium can be visited here.

4 It is worth spending some time wandering this large enclosure. Look out for the arrangement of headstones surrounding the Stone of Remembrance, and the bridge which leads to the small Enclosure No.3.

5 On your way out of the cemetery head into the enclosure near the road and visit the plot raised above the others.

In 1940, war returned to Belgium. 69 British soldiers who died during the Second World War are buried here.



WE LITTLE THOUGHT WHEN WE SAID GOODBYE HE WOULD GO TO A FAR AWAY LAND TO DIE

Inscription on the headstone of Private Freeman, Enclosure No.4, XIV. H. 14

In the area
Close to Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm) and 'Provinciaal domein De Palingbeek', a recreation area on the former front zone (a.o. The Bluff). Several CWGC cemeteries can be found here as well (e.g. Hedgerow Trench Cemetery). The St Eloi mine Crates are at the roundabout down the road (towards Lille). The village of Voormezele is closeby as well. Here are another 2 CWGC cemeteries (Voormezele Enclosures No.1 and No.2 & Voormezele Enclosure No.3).

Westtoer bike routes nearby

- Ieperboog
- Vredesfietsroute
- Frontroute 14-18
- Gent-Wevegem in Flanders Fields - 128 km

Step free access

Good parking

Seats present in cemetery