



RAILWAY DUGOUTS BURIAL GROUND (TRANSPORT FARM)

The hint is in the name: during the war there was a railway here and, when you visit, you will see that trains still run along the embankment behind the cemetery. In spring 1915 a British Army medical aid post was established in the buildings of 'Transport Farm'; a modern farm on the same site can be seen behind our Cross of Sacrifice. The first burials were made here in April 1915, and many more followed after medical facilities expanded into dugouts made in the railway embankment. Throughout 1916 and 1917, wounded soldiers were brought back from the front line and cared for here.

Today, you will find many disordered rows and isolated burials here. The cemetery grew over the war years to no particular plan as those who died nearby were laid to rest. Located in range of German artillery, the cemetery suffered badly from shellfire and many graves were lost. After the war, Sir Edwin Lutyens and John Truelove transformed this untidy burial ground into a spectacular and fitting place of remembrance.

The cemetery register, plan and visitors' book can be found at the entrance.



Wounded soldiers receiving care at an aid post near Zillebeke, September 1917 © IWM Q 5976



RAILWAY DUGOUTS BURIAL GROUND (TRANSPORT FARM)

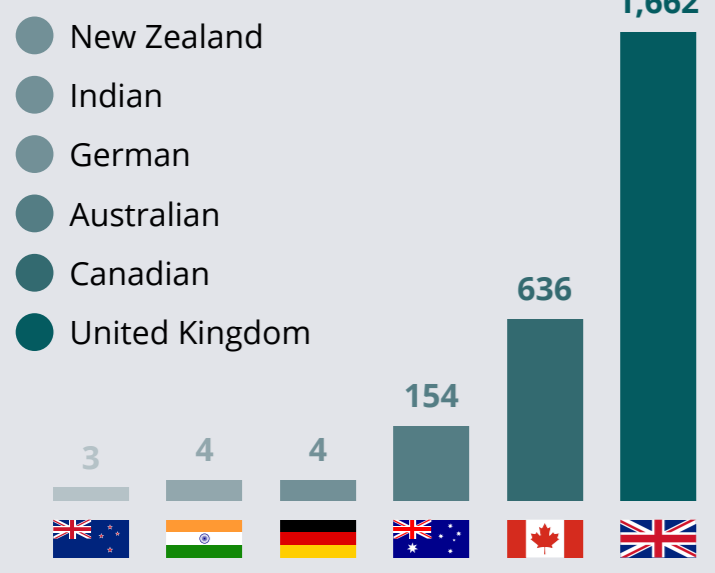
COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES



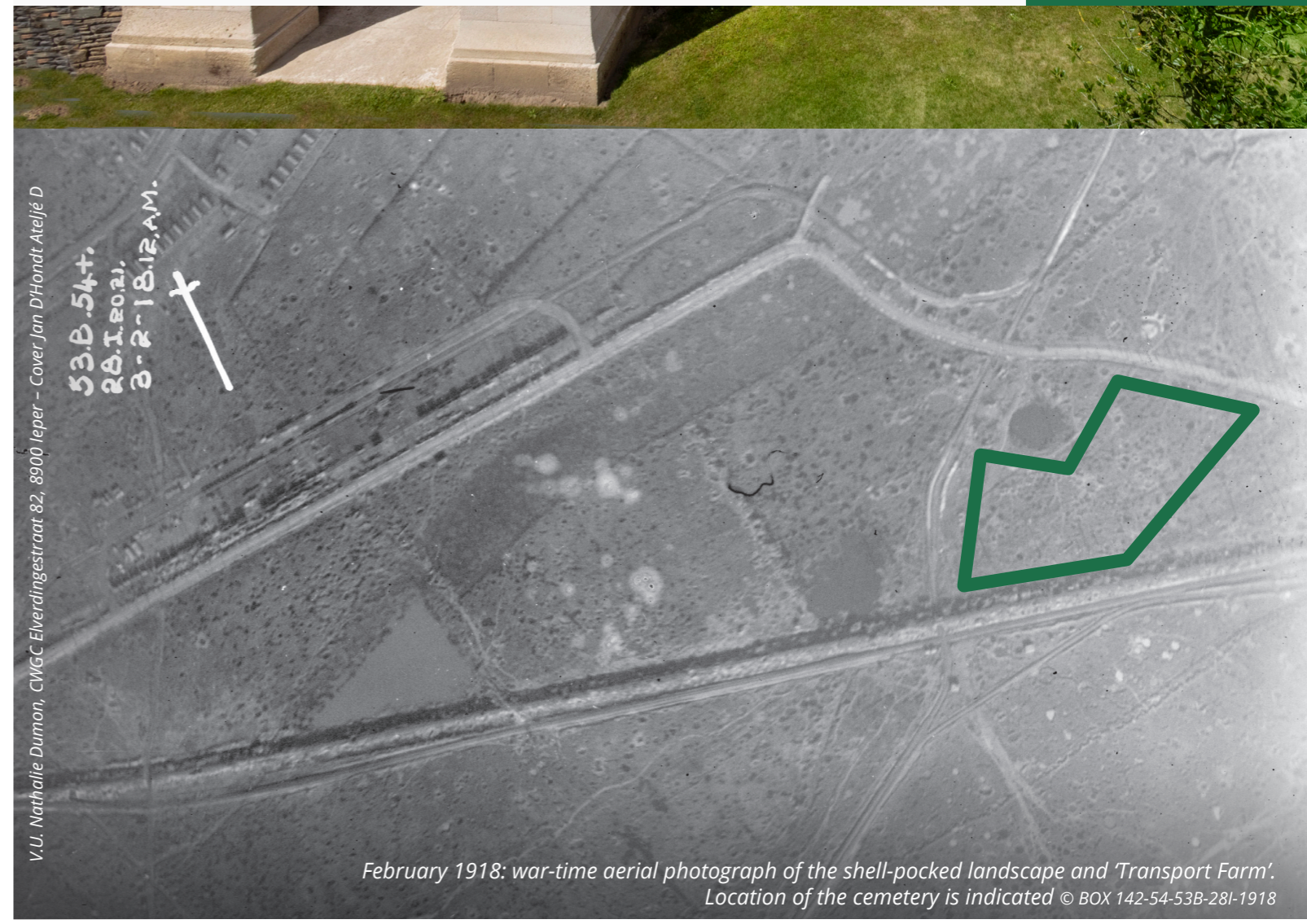
Total number of graves: **2,463**

- Identified
- Unidentified

Force nationalities



For more information please scan here.



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

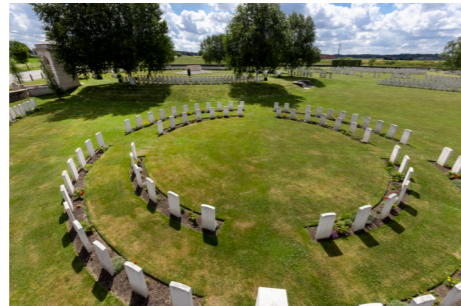
53.B.54+.
28.I.20.21.
3-2-18.12.A.M.

February 1918: war-time aerial photograph of the shell-pocked landscape and 'Transport Farm'. Location of the cemetery is indicated © BOX 142-54-53B-281-1918



SECOND LIEUTENANT FREDERICK YOUENS V.C.

The Victoria Cross is the highest honour for bravery that can be awarded to soldiers of Commonwealth forces. On 31 July 1917, Second Lieutenant Youens of the Durham Light Infantry was badly wounded. Having received rudimentary first aid, he went back out to rally a forward position that had come under fire. The position was almost overrun when he arrived, but he mobilised its defence. In the thick of the action a grenade fell at his feet, but he managed to throw it back at the enemy. A second then fell into the trench - again he grabbed the bomb but before he could hurl it away, it exploded. His men fought off the German attack and then took their wounded officer to the aid post at Transport Farm where he died. He was 24 years old. He was laid to rest in Plot I, Row O, Grave 3.



HIGHLIGHTS

1 Before entering the cemetery pause to admire the entrance buildings.

Designed by Lutyens, the entrance gateways echo the design he used for the Delhi Gate in India, with the same form and details around the top of the arch. It's particularly appropriate as many Indian soldiers fought in this area in 1914-15 and four Indian servicemen are buried here together near the entrance. Can you find them?

2 Head into the cemetery and stop at the Stone of Remembrance.

This cemetery was badly damaged by shellfire during the war and after the Armistice it proved impossible to find some of the graves known to have been made here, or to identify who was buried in others. These men are commemorated by special memorial headstones. Lutyens designed two striking circular plots for these memorial stones which echo the shell holes that once scarred the landscape here. The idea isn't unique to this cemetery, but it's beautiful and well worth pausing to appreciate.

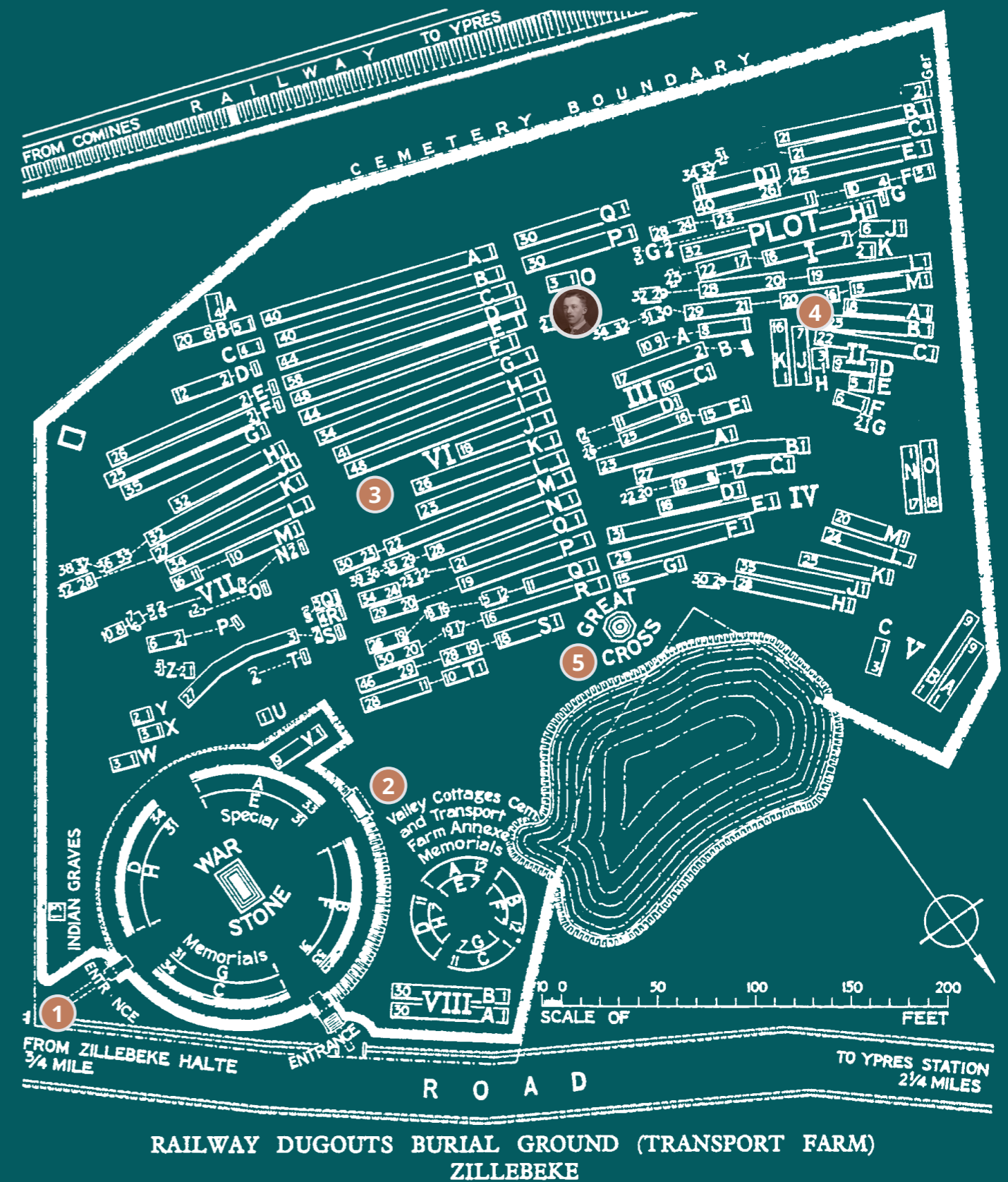
3 Choose a path through the plots and rows and make for the boundary wall near the railway line.

The largest and most ordered plot here is Plot VI. Here you will find burials made in date order. You can see very clearly when the fighting was heaviest and which units were suffering losses. Rows A to K, for example, are almost exclusively Canadians who died during the Battle of Mount Sorrel in July and August 1916. The Canadians were relieved by Australians and Rows L to R are dominated by the rising sun badge of the Australian Imperial Force who were based here from September to December.

4 Head into the disordered headstones that make up Plot I and II.

These disordered graves speak of the terrible destruction that was wrought on the landscape here and the efforts of comrades to lay their friends to rest even in the most dangerous circumstances.

Finish at the Cross of Sacrifice and don't miss the pond that is carefully integrated into the design of this part of the cemetery. It was here during the war (see the aerial photograph on the back cover).



In the area

Close to our Blauwepoort Farm Cemetery, Bedford House Cemetery and CWGC's plot in Zillebeke Churchyard. Two provincial recreational areas are nearby: 'De Verdrongen Weide' and 'De Palingbeek' which includes The Bluff Crater and walking paths through what was once No Man's Land.



Westtoer bike routes nearby

- Frontroute 14-18
- Gent-Wevelgem in Flanders Fields - 128 km



Step free access



Parking space (2 cars)



No seats present in cemetery