

YPRES RESERVOIR CEMETERY

It's important to remember that virtually every building in Ieper is only a century old. Much of the city was reduced to rubble by German artillery during the First World War, but a careful rebuilding programme returned the city to its former glory. While many of the scars of battle were healed, Reservoir Cemetery preserves an important part of the story of Ypres at War. While fighting raged on the battlefields which surrounded Ypres, the city was alive with activity. Hospitals, headquarters, supply depots, barracks and a multitude of other vital support and auxiliary units called the shell-swept town home. The traces of these service people are long gone but some of their fallen lie at rest here within the arms of the city they defended. Begun by the British army in an area of open land behind the city prison in October 1915, this cemetery was used by the many medical and fighting units that came and went during the war. It grew in a semi structured pattern over the years of conflict, and you can wander the rows of headstones, tracing the course of the fighting based on the dates of death of those lying here.

Designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and Wilfred Von Berg, this peaceful place is ideally located for a morning or evening walk for those staying in Ieper.

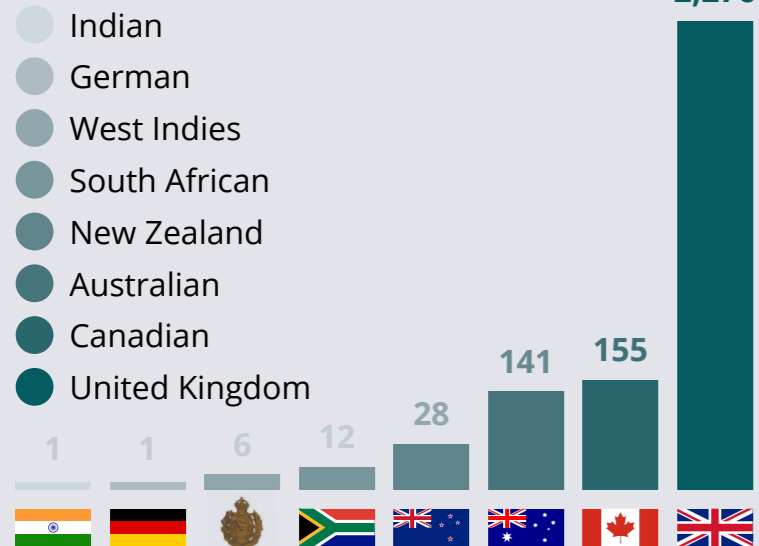
The cemetery register, plan and visitors' book can be found at the entrance gate.



Total number of graves:
2,614

- Identified
- Unidentified

Force nationalities



For more information please scan here.



YPRES RESERVOIR CEMETERY

COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES





CAPTAIN HERBERT SPOOR, MC

On a beautiful September day in 1917, Captain Spoor of the Royal Army Medical Corps went to Buckingham Palace to receive his Military Cross recognising his brave dedication to his work as a medical officer at the front. Outside the palace, a photographer caught the moment his wife and two sons, aged 14 and 8, proudly admired his bright, silver cross in its velvet bed.

Herbert left his medical practice in Kent to serve on the Western Front, arriving there in December 1916. Exactly one year later, and just three months after seeing his family at the palace, Herbert was among those who died in a fire that ripped through the dugout complex in Ypres' ramparts in which they were sleeping. He was laid to rest here in Plot IV, Row B, Grave 26. A senior officer wrote to his widow, 'He was the most generous of men and was always to the fore when there was medical work to be done. He was one of the most gallant souls I ever met.'

© IWM HU 126798



HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Before entering the cemetery, pause at the entrance.

The design of this cemetery preserves its war-time layout. The Cross of Sacrifice and Stone of Remembrance were placed where space was available, and a low wall was built to enclose the graves. For the entrance, an ornate gate adorned with laurel wreaths was designed and it is worth stopping to appreciate. Often missed are the stone benches that are beautifully integrated into the corners of the cemetery boundary wall.

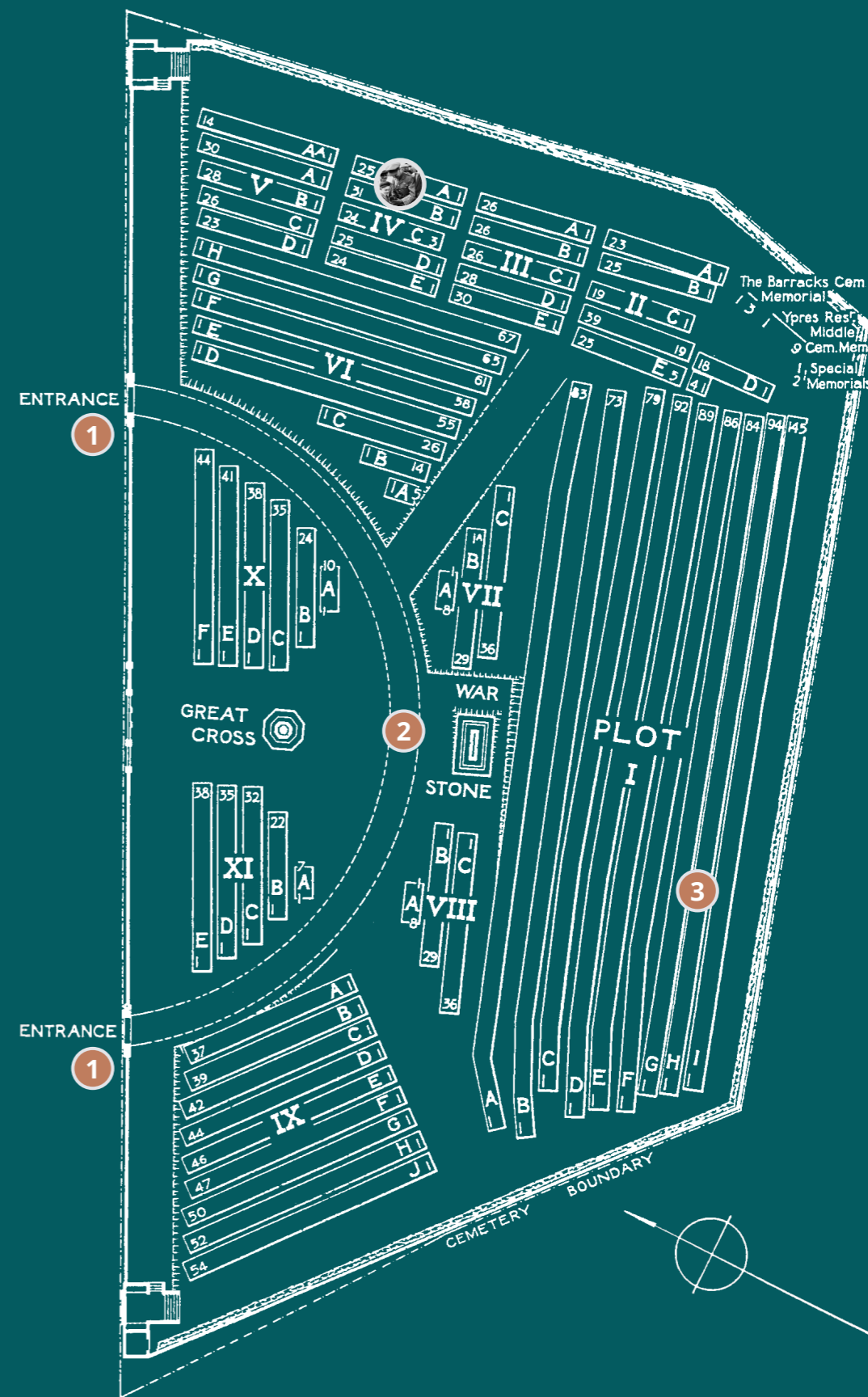
- 2 Go into the cemetery and walk towards the Stone of Remembrance.

Throughout the war, heavy guns of the Royal Garrison Artillery were hidden amongst the rubble of the city to fire shells out into the Salient. Distance from the front was no protection for the men who manned

these weapons as German long-range artillery fired back, and you will see many Royal Artillery headstone badges here as well as those of other support units such as the Royal Engineers, the Royal Army Medical Corps, the Pioneers, and the Labour Corps.

- 3 Head past the Stone of Remembrance and walk to the back wall.

Buried in Plot I, Row H, Grave 28, is a beloved New Zealand Officer. Lieutenant Colonel George King was the commanding officer of the New Zealand Māori (Pioneer) Battalion. George and his men undertook vital support work, digging trenches, moving supplies, repairing roads and many other tasks. George was killed on 12 October 1917 during the Third Ypres Offensive. When he was laid to rest, his Māori soldiers performed a waiata tangi in his honour.



YPRES RESERVOIR CEMETERY

In the area

At a walkable distance from Ieper city centre & St George Memorial Church.



Westtoer bike routes nearby

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



Westtoer walking routes nearby

- Stadswandelroute Ieper



Step free access



Parking space



Seats present in cemetery