



YPRES TOWN CEMETERY AND EXTENSION

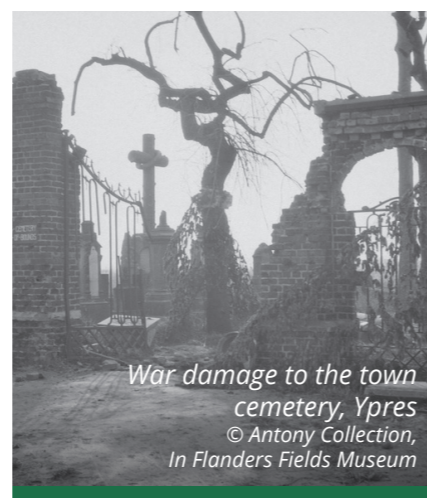
This cemetery is easily missed as it is hidden behind a high wall, but it is worth seeking out. Located just a few minutes' walk from the Menin Gate it is a perfect place to pause and discover part of the story of Ypres (now Ieper) at war.

Soldiers are not always laid to rest in military cemeteries, even during war time. When the British Army went to war in France and Belgium in 1914, each individual unit was responsible for their fallen comrades and at first the most obvious burial places were civilian cemeteries and churchyards.

The British Army arrived at Ypres in the autumn of 1914, and the first burials were made in the town's existing cemetery. Knowing that more space would be required, an extension was made beside it, and service burials continued regularly into both the civilian cemetery and the military extension until late Spring 1915 and then again in 1918. Some 350 more burials were then made here after the Armistice.

You will need to explore this large site if you want to find all the graves here - remember to look out for the distinctive CWGC headstones amongst the civilian markers. While the civilian cemetery has no additional CWGC architectural features, our extension was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and Wilfred Von Berg, who added the set-back entrance gate and the stone walkway from the road. It feels like a secret garden of remembrance.

The cemetery register, plan and visitor's book can be found in the entrance feature.



War damage to the town cemetery, Ypres
© Antony Collection,
In Flanders Fields Museum



YPRES TOWN CEMETERY AND EXTENSION

COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES



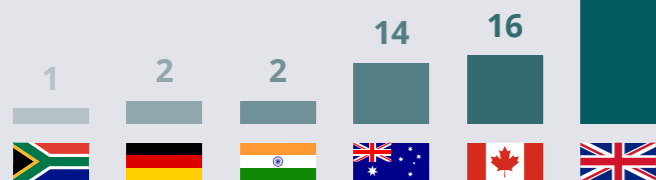
Total number of graves: **818**

- Identified
- Unidentified

Force nationalities

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

783



For more information please scan here.



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

Wartime aerial photograph of Ypres shows damaged buildings and shell holes. Town Cemetery and Extension location indicated © IWM Q 60602



A ROYAL CONNECTION



His sister, the Queen of Spain, visits his grave in 1923
© Antony d'Ypres collection

Lieutenant H.H. Prince Maurice Victor Donald of Battenberg, the youngest son of Prince Henry of Battenberg and The Princess Beatrice, was born in October 1891 at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. He was the youngest grandchild of Queen Victoria and was destined for a military career. He attended the Royal Military College Sandhurst and in March 1911 was commissioned into the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Following the outbreak of the First World War his battalion was sent to Belgium and he fought at Mons and then on the Aisne in France. On 27 October 1914 he was in action at Zonnebeke during the First Battle of Ypres when he was killed by shell fire. Word of his death was passed through army command until the news was given to his parents by Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War. His parents declined an offer to have their son's body brought home and this decision influenced later discussions about not repatriating the fallen.

Prince Maurice's grave is in the town cemetery, just outside the military extension. Entering the town cemetery via steps from the extension, his grave is immediately on your left.

1



2



3



HIGHLIGHTS

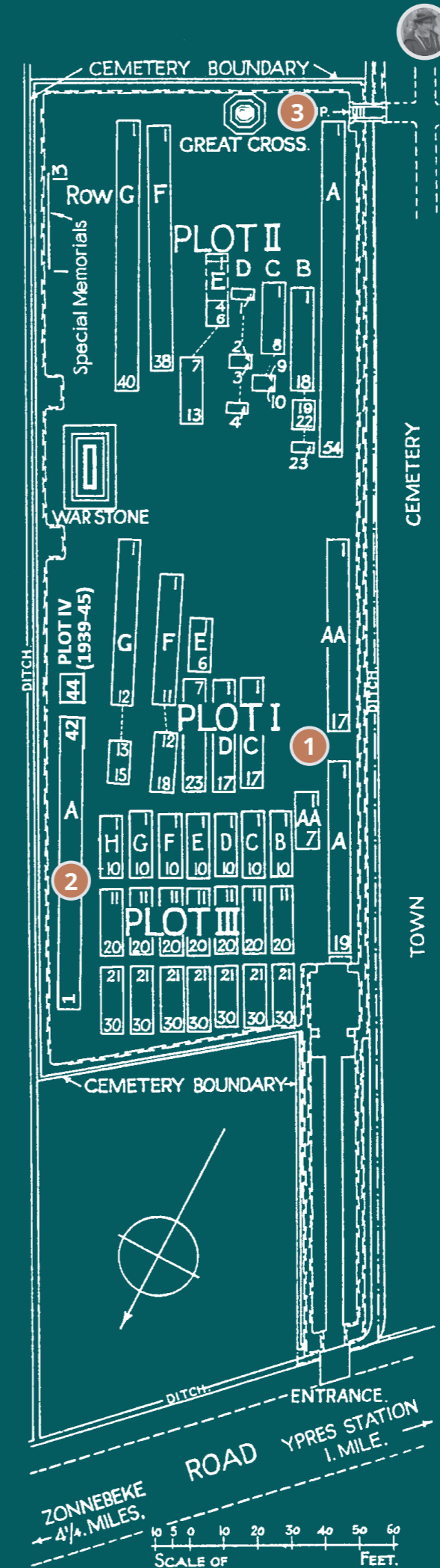
- 1 Upon entering the cemetery visit the graves along the right-hand hedge row.

Several headstones here are engraved with the seal of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. These former Commission staff spent a lifetime tending the graves in the Ypres Salient and were themselves often service people who had fought here. Upon their death they were honoured with a burial here.

- 2 Now find the long row of headstones along the far side wall of the cemetery.

In May 1940, Ypres was briefly on the front line again during the Second World War, and German and British forces fought nearby. Buried here are over 40 servicemen who died during the fighting.

- 3 Head to the Cross of Sacrifice. To the right you will find a set of stone steps which provide access to the civilian cemetery. It's worth heading though to see the CWGC graves here and to explore the town's large cemetery.



YPRES TOWN CEMETERY EXTENSION (MENIN GATE)

LET THOSE
WHO COME
AFTER SEE
TO IT
THAT HIS
NAME
BE NOT
FORGOTTEN

*Inscription on the headstone
of Serjeant Daniel Smith, I. E. 2.*

In the area
This site is a 10 minute walk from the centre of leper and six minutes' walk from the Menin Gate Memorial

Westtoer bike routes nearby

- Vredesfietsroute
- Frontroute 14-18
- Gent-Wevelgem in Flanders Fields - 128 km
- Crossen door de bossen met Jaek en Nink (kid friendly cycle route)

Westtoer walking routes nearby

- Stadswandelroute leper
- Vestingroute

Step free access from street into Extension

Parking space

Seats present in cemetery