



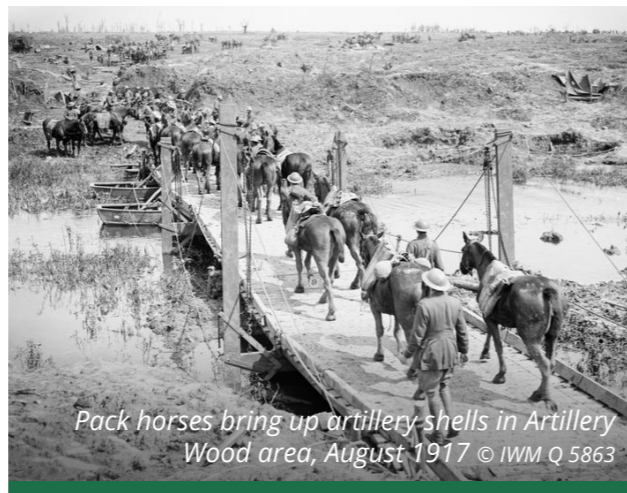
# ARTILLERY WOOD CEMETERY

Names are so important for helping us to understand the landscape of the First World War. What was here then is often not here now, but the old places live on in many of the names given to the cemeteries by the soldiers themselves. A wood that was once in the fields behind today's cemetery hid the guns of the Royal Artillery from sight, earning the name 'Artillery Wood'. Although the wood is gone, the name remains thanks to the cemetery, as a reminder of what was here more than 100 years ago.

The ground where the cemetery stands was captured in 1917 and burials begun. 141 men were laid to rest here in the months that followed in what is today Plot I. After the 1918 armistice the shell-torn battlefields nearby were searched and over 1,100 additional burials were made here.

Designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and Major George Goldsmith, a low wall of red brick surrounds the carefully ordered rows of graves. You enter through a substantial brick entrance building and will find the Cross of Sacrifice standing sentinel with a Stone of Remembrance at the front of the cemetery.

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



Pack horses bring up artillery shells in Artillery Wood area, August 1917 © IWM Q 5863



## ARTILLERY WOOD CEMETERY

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

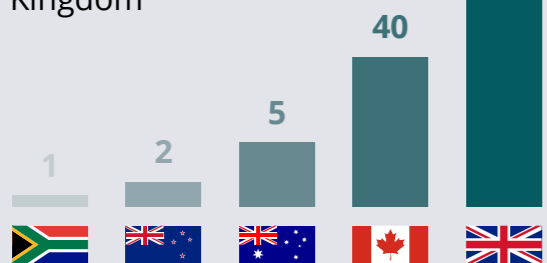


Total number of graves: **1,300**

- Identified
- Unidentified

### Force nationalities

- South African
- New Zealand
- Australian
- Canadian *incl. 11 Newfoundland*
- United Kingdom



For more information please scan here.



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

Building the Artillery Wood railway spur during the First World War © IWM Q 46615



Ledwidge in Row B, Grave 5



Evans in Row F, Grave 11

## SOLDIER POETS

Two famous Celtic poets are buried in this cemetery: the Welsh poet, Private Ellis Humphrey Evans, better known by his bardic name Hedd Wyn, and the Irish poet, Lance Corporal Francis Edward Ledwidge. Both were killed by shellfire, separately, on the first day of the 3rd Ypres Offensive and laid to rest here after the war. Both can be visited in Plot II.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Head through the entrance building. To your right and left are the Stone of Remembrance and Cross of Sacrifice. At the heart of the ordered plots of graves you will find Plot I. Head there now. Plot I is the original war-time cemetery, where men were buried during the First World War. Stop by Company Serjeant Major Rolfe (Plot I, Row B, Grave 10), who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for actions in 1915 at Gallipoli.
- Walk towards the back of the cemetery. As you walk amongst the graves look out for the headstones of soldiers of Guards regiments. This area was captured by the Guards Division on 31 July 1917, the first day of the 3rd Ypres Offensive. You will see the graves of many Guardsmen who died that day here.

- At the back of the cemetery, you will see a group of headstones against the back wall. There are twelve Special Memorial headstones along the back wall of the cemetery for men known or believed to be buried here but whose resting places couldn't be accurately marked at the end of the war.
- Head back towards the entrance building and pause in Plot III which is located directly in front of the building. Seek out the grave of 21-year-old Private Ashcroft of the Machine Gun Corps in Plot III, Row A, Grave 5. The headstone bears a simple but heart-breaking inscription chosen by his parents, William and Fanny.



## OURS THE BITTER LOSS HIS THE GLORIOUS GAIN

*Inscription on the headstone of Lance Corporal Everitt, IV. D. 4.*

**In the area**  
On the same road as the cemetery is the Francis Ledwidge Monument and Carrefour des Roses. Yorkshire Trench & Dugout (in Ieper's industrial zone) is near here as well, along with several small battlefield cemeteries of the northern Ypres Salient.

**Westtoer bike routes nearby**

- Ieperboog
- Gifgas
- Vredesfietsroute
- Pittige Ronde van de Westhoek

**Step free access**

**1-2 parking spaces**

**Seats present in cemetery**