

CEMENT HOUSE CEMETERY

To protect themselves from the storm of steel that rained down in the Salient day and night, both sides built hundreds of concrete bunkers around Ypres. One constructed inside an abandoned farm building just to the east of this cemetery became known as Cement House. It's still there today. In August 1917, a cemetery was begun here in the wasteland of overlapping shell holes and smashed buildings, and some 200 men were laid to rest by their comrades in what is today Plot I. After the 1918 Armistice, thousands of additional burials were made here, most of them men who died in the Autumn of 1917. Unusually, this cemetery remained 'open' for burials from both world wars from across Belgium until relatively recently.

Designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and Arthur Hutton, two imposing shelter buildings stand in the corners of the cemetery, while the Cross of Sacrifice is framed by the arched entrance feature.

Originally some 500 French soldiers were buried at the back of the cemetery, but these were removed in 1922. The space has been filled over the years and is today occupied by Plots 16 (XVI) to 21 (XXI), testament to the number of recoveries that continued long after the war and do so to this day.

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



CEMENT HOUSE CEMETERY

COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES

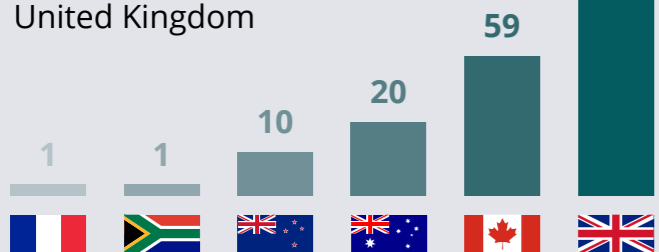


Total number of graves:
3,615

- Identified
- Unidentified

Force nationalities

- French
- South African
- New Zealand
- Australian
- Canadian incl. 20 Newfoundland
- United Kingdom



For more information please scan here.



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CAPTAIN JONATHAN KNOWLES

In the back row of Plot 18 (Plot XVIII, Row D, Graves 1-16) you will find a row of headstones that, on close inspection, seem out of place. These men died during the first weeks of the First World War in August 1914. They were part of the original British Expeditionary Force and fought at the Battle of Mons, the first British battle on the Western Front, not here in the Salient. So why are they buried here? They were originally buried at Mons by the Germans, near where they died, but in 1967 it became necessary to move their graves. As Cement House was the only 'open' cemetery in Belgium at that time, they were reburied here, 100kms from where they fell, to ensure their continued care.



1

2



3



HIGHLIGHTS

1 Walk through the entrance archway and head for the Stone of Remembrance.

The war-time burials are easy to spot here, in what became Plot I. Graves and rows are out of sync with the carefully laid out post-war burials that make up the rest of today's cemetery. Many of these original burials of September, October and November 1917 are men of the Royal Field, Garrison, and Horse Artillery. Look for the artillery's distinct broad cross containing the regimental badge upon their headstones.

2 Wend your way towards the Cross of Sacrifice.

To the right and behind the Cross, in Plot 7a (VIIA), Row D, look for a headstone with an unusual layout.

3 Spend some time walking amongst the many plots of graves and then head towards the far corner of the cemetery near the road.

In Plot 21 (XXI) and 18 (XVIII) you will find the graves of 21 servicemen of the Second World War, many of whom died during the German invasion of Belgium in 1940 or were shot down during air raids.

You are visiting the grave of Duncan Cunningham-Reid of the 29th Lancers and Royal Flying Corps. His mother was granted an extraordinary 13-line personal inscription – find it to find out more about Duncan and his death. His grave was moved here in 1980 from his initial burial place in Oostkamp, 40kms northeast of here.



In the area

On this road, back towards Ieper, one can find the Welsh National Memorial Park and turn off to visit CWGC's Artillery Wood Cemetery with the grave of the Welsh poet, Hedd Wyn.



Westtoer bike routes nearby

- Vredesfietsroute
- Bakelandtfietsroute
- Pittige Ronde van de Westhoek



Step free access



On road parking



Seats present in cemetery