

1. Why are there war graves and memorials close to Poperinge?

The town of Poperinghe (now Poperinge) was of great importance during the First World War. Although occasionally bombed or bombarded at long range, it was the nearest place to Ypres (now Ieper) which was both considerable in size and reasonably safe. Many units and depots were based around the town and medical units were established in the town and the surrounding area. The village of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication and transport line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the battlefields around Ypres. Close to the Front, but out of the extreme range of most German artillery, it became a natural place to establish several casualty clearing stations to treat the wounded.

2. Where are the war graves and memorials in this area?

There are CWGC war graves and memorials at five locations close to the town of Poperinge. There are more cemeteries and memorials in the surrounding area. Study the map below to see where they are.

3. Discover where these people came from

Use the flags to discover where some of those who are buried and remembered near Poperinge came from.

Nine Elms Cemetery

1,617 war graves

From: Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Germany, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Netherlands, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, St Christopher, United Kingdom, USA



Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

10,786 war graves

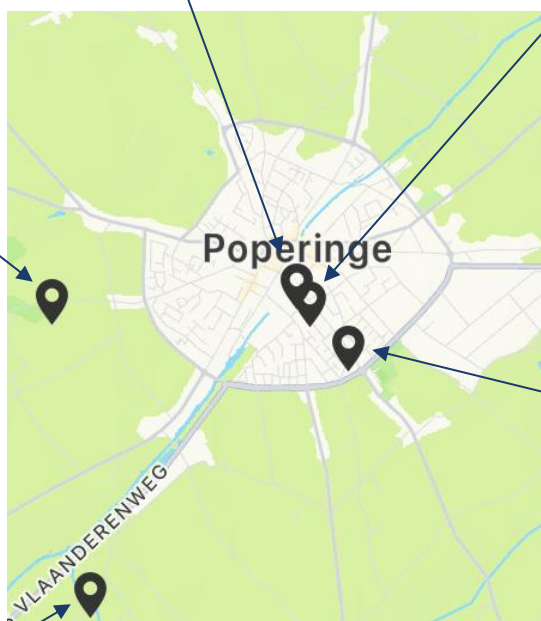
From: Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, China, France, Finland, Germany, Grenada, Ireland, India, Italy, Jamaica, Montenegro, Norway, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, South Africa, St Lucia, St Vincent, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA



Poperinge Communal Cemetery

29 war graves

From: United Kingdom



Poperinge Old Military Cemetery

432 war graves

From: Canada, China, Germany, Ireland, United Kingdom, USA



Poperinge New Military Cemetery

953 war graves

From: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Jamaica, Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom



4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Lijssenthoek Cemetery

4.1 Each headstone in the cemetery tells a different story.

As you explore the cemetery see what you can learn from the headstones. See if you can discover the following;

- 1. Who is the **youngest** soldier you can find?
- 2. Who is the **oldest** soldier you can find?
- 3. How many **different countries** did they come from, based on the information you can discover on the headstones?



4.2 There is just one headstone which has this medal engraved on. It is the Victoria Cross, awarded for supreme bravery. Who was awarded it? It is in Plot 19.

4.3 As you explore the cemetery, look at the different badges on the headstones. These will give you a clue as to the role the soldier had in the army and maybe where they came from. As you find each badge, write down the name of the soldier who served with that unit in the box next to the badge.



More than 100,000 troops, including native Māori's left New Zealand for service overseas in Samoa, Gallipoli, the Middle East, Belgium and France.



More than 650,000 people served in the Canadian forces in the First World War. They fought in the Middle East, in Greece and on the Western Front.



More than 320,000 Australian troops fought in Egypt, Gallipoli, in the Middle East and on the Western Front.



The British West Indies Regiment recruited across the Caribbean. More than 15,000 West Indians served in the war. Can you find the soldier in Plot 24?



Soldiers from South Africa fought in many campaigns in East and South West Africa and on the Western Front.



Newfoundland was a British colony in 1914. More than 3,000 Newfoundlanders fought in Gallipoli and on the Western Front. Who is the soldier buried in Plot 14?

Discover more at cwgc.org/stories