

1. Why are there war graves and memorials in Ypres (Ieper)?

From October 1914 to the autumn of 1918, Ypres (now Ieper) was at the centre of a salient held by Commonwealth (and for some months by French) forces. During the war, there were five major battles fought to the north, east and south of the city, but Ypres never fell to the Germans.

The city was bombarded and destroyed more completely than any other town of its size on the Western Front, but even so certain buildings remained distinguishable. The ruins of the cathedral and the cloth hall stood together in the middle of the city.

2. Where are the war graves and memorials in Ypres?

There are CWGC war graves and memorials at six locations close to the centre of Ypres. There are many 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 in Ypres came from.

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

54,500 names

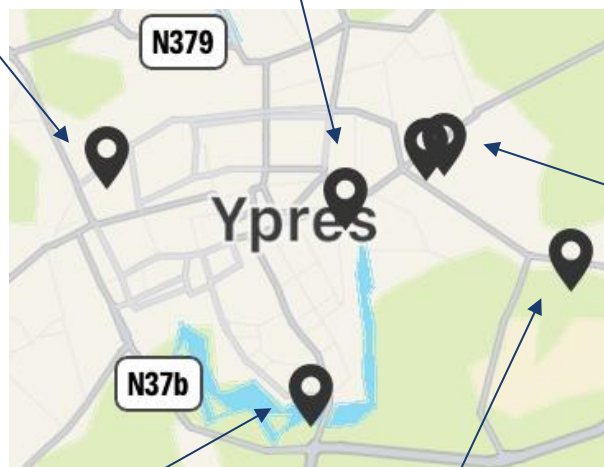
From: Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Denmark, France, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ireland, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA



Ypres Reservoir Cemetery

2,614 war graves

From: Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Malta, Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA



Ypres Town Cemetery and Extension

145 and 673 war graves

From: Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, Jamaica, South Africa, United Kingdom



Ramparts Cemetery

197 war graves

From: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom



Menin Road South Military Cemetery

1,658 war graves

From: Australia, Barbados, Canada, Greece, Ireland, Jamaica, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA



4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Menin Road South Military 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 find 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?

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.



The Tank Corps was created in 1916, to operate a new weapon of war – the tank.



The British West Indies Regiment recruited across the Caribbean. Its soldiers served in Europe and in the Middle East. More than 15,000 West Indians served in the war.



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



The Machine gun Corps was formed in 1915 as there was an increased use in the machine gun on the Western Front.



The Royal Artillery fired the large guns which bombarded the enemy positions. Artillery was the biggest killer in the First World War.



Newfoundland was a British colony in 1914. More than 3,000 Newfoundlanders fought in Gallipoli and on the Western Front.

Discover more at cwgc.org/stories