

POPERINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY

Known before the war for hop production and brewing, from the autumn of 1914 Poperinge became an important transport hub for supplies and troops destined for the battlefields of the Ypres Salient. Direct rail and road links between Poperinge and Ypres (leper), ten kilometres to the east, meant that military infrastructure came to dominate the area: depots and stores for munitions and equipment, casualty clearing stations for medical treatment, camps for thousands of soldiers on their way to and from the front line. Poperinge suffered occasional bombardment but remained relatively unscathed for much of the war and provided many rest and recreation facilities for Allied troops, the most famous of which is Talbot House.

During the First Battle of Ypres in the autumn of 1914, what is now known as the Old Military Cemetery at Poperinge (now Poperinge) was created and used until the New Military Cemetery was established in June 1915. This cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and Noel Rew. The Stone of Remembrance is raised above the level of the headstones on a platform, while the Cross of Sacrifice is carefully integrated into the design of the entrance feature along with the cemetery shelter buildings.

The cemetery register, plan and visitors' book can be found at the Cross of Sacrifice.



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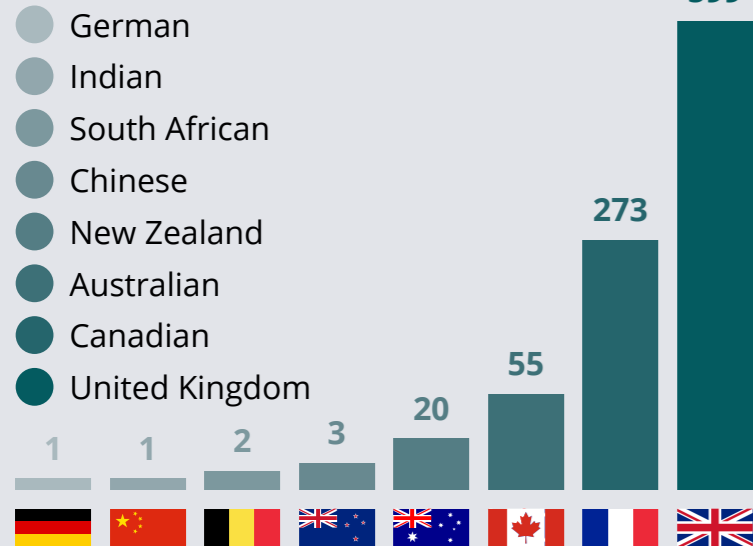
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES



Total number of graves: **953**

- Identified
- Unidentified

Force nationalities



For more information please scan here.





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SHOT AT DAWN

Among those laid to rest here during the war are 17 Commonwealth soldiers who were executed between July 1916 and October 1917. In the British army, the most common capital offence was desertion, but not every man condemned was executed. In all, 89% of death sentences were commuted by the Commander-in-Chief.

A total of 306 individuals were executed for 'battlefield offences' during the war. Among them were men convicted of repeated desertion, and those previously given death sentences which had been commuted. Many of those executed were suffering from physical and psychological conditions which in later years would have been considered mitigating factors at trial.



1



3

HIGHLIGHTS

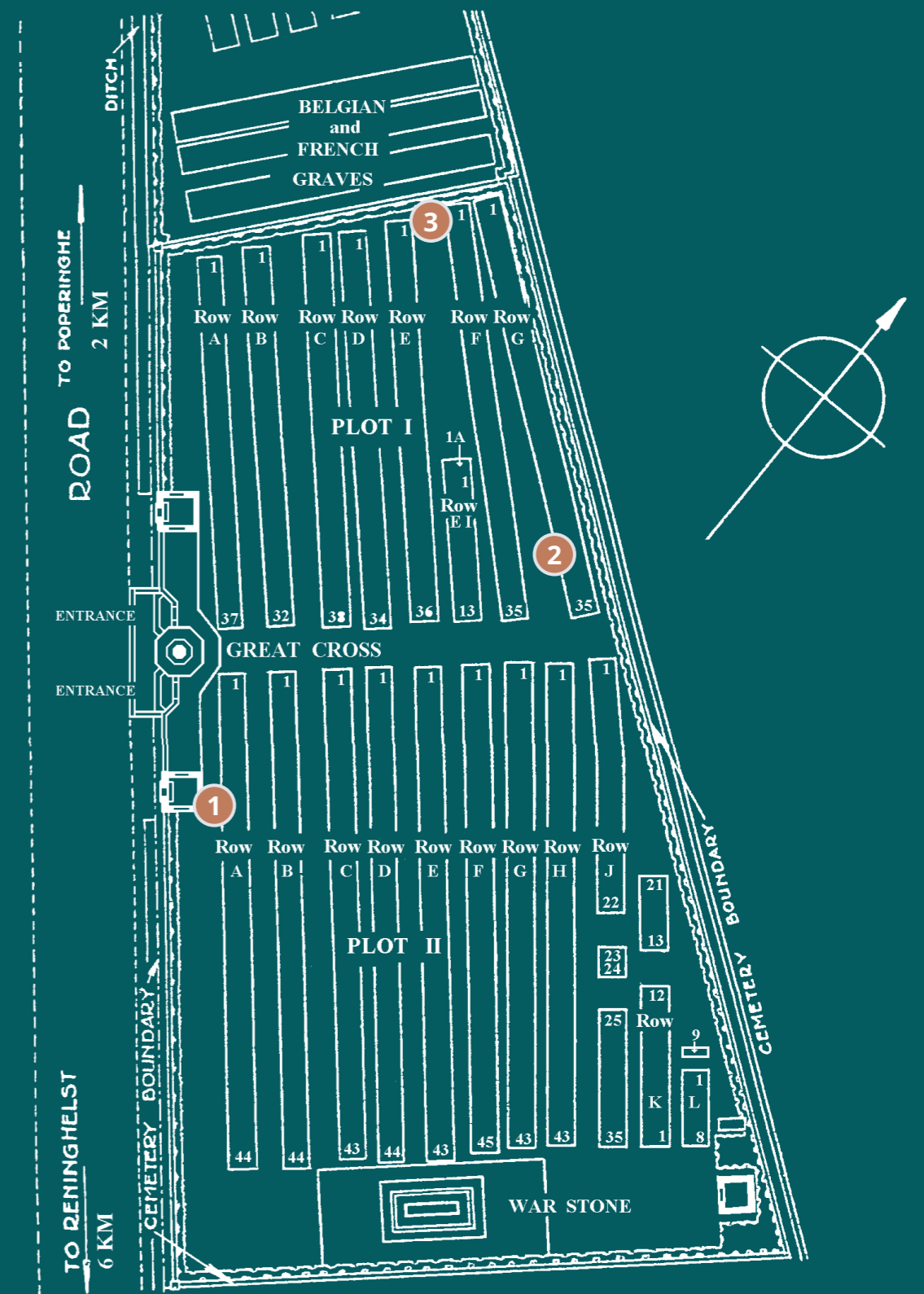
- 1 This is a cemetery of two halves, a Commonwealth half and a French half - both are worth exploring. Start at the Cross of Sacrifice. With the cross behind you, to your right is Plot II. Walk along the front row of this plot.

Only two British officers were executed during the First World War. Second Lieutenant Eric Poole of the West Yorkshire Regiment deserted his platoon and was found dazed and confused sometime later. He had previously been treated for shell shock and his court martial found him to be not of sound mind and therefore not responsible for his actions. The Army Commander disagreed, however, and Eric was executed on the morning of 10 December 1916. He is buried in Plot II, Row A, Grave 11.

- 2 Wander through the cemetery towards the French and Belgian graves at the far end. Stop by Plot I, Row G, to visit the row of graves depicted in the war-time funeral photograph on the opening page.

- 3 Visit the French and Belgian graves.

Poperinge was a hub for military medical care. You will find French, German and Belgian graves here alongside the Commonwealth burials of those who succumbed to wounds or illnesses. The two Belgian graves are of local civilians, while the Germans were soldiers taken as prisoners, wounded, dying later. The French graves all date from 1914, 1915 and 1918, when the French army was heavily engaged in the defence of Ypres. Look out for the distinctive grave of a French Muslim soldier.



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In the area

15 min walk to Poperinge city centre & Talbot House, passing by Poperinge Old Military Cemetery. It is worth visiting Talbot House Museum with 500 unique objects or having a cup of tea with the British wardens in the authentic ToCH. An unforgettable experience. Children will love the tour with Duchess the cat!



Westtoer bike routes nearby

- POP
- Hoppelandfietsroute
- Bierfietsroute Poperinge - (Vleteren) - Ieper
- Vive le Vélo fietsroute - Paars



Westtoer walking routes nearby

- We wanen ons in Parijs



Step free access



Parking possible



Seats present in cemetery