

# PROWSE POINT MILITARY CEMETERY

This cemetery feels closely connected to the surrounding landscape. It lies on the crest of a gently falling hill and the rows of wartime burials drop away from you as you enter. It was designed by William Cowlishaw who placed the Cross of Sacrifice at the highest point of the cemetery beside a pool. A hedge softens the boundary between the cemetery and landscape, and there are views from here out over the dark trees of nearby Ploegsteert Wood.

There was fighting in this area throughout the First World War. In October 1914, the powerful German advance here was halted by the 1st Somerset Light Infantry, commanded by Charles Prowse. This location was forever known as Prowse Point from that time on. The first burials were made here in November 1914 by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and the cemetery remained in use by units holding the line nearby until April 1918.

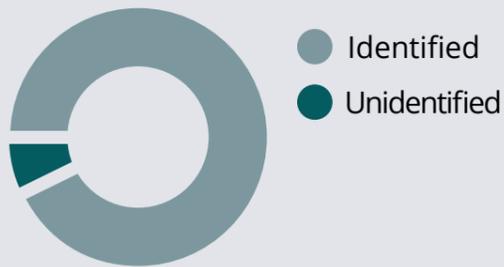
The cemetery register, plan and visitors' book can be found at the entrance.



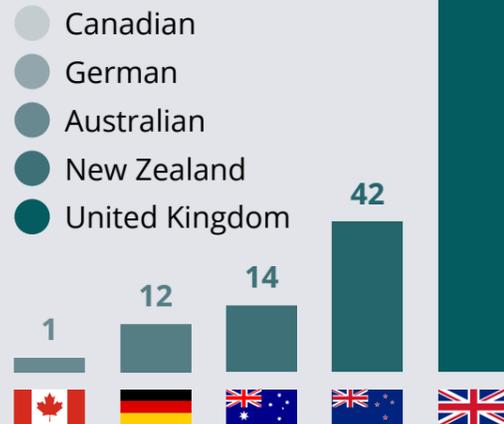
## PROWSE POINT MILITARY CEMETERY

COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES

Total number of graves: **243**

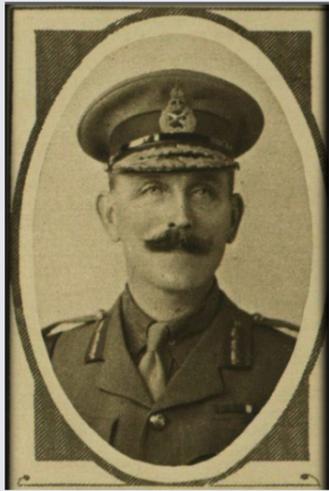


Force nationalities



For more information please scan here.





## MAJOR CHARLES PROWSE

This is the only CWGC cemetery in Belgium named after a person. Charles Prowse was a career army officer from the age of 20. He served in the South African War (1899-1902), taking part in the Relief of Ladysmith in 1899. When the First World War broke out in 1914, he was sent to France with the 1st Somerset Light Infantry and fought in the brutal early battles of the war. Charles received the Distinguished Service Order for his actions near here in October 1914 and was later promoted to Brigadier General. He was badly wounded in action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916, succumbed to his injuries and is buried in Louvencourt Military Cemetery, France. We also commemorate his elder brother, Captain Cecil Prowse of the Royal Navy, who went down with his ship *HMS Queen Mary* in the Battle of Jutland. He is named on our Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

1



2



3



## HIGHLIGHTS

**1** Head to the plot directly in front of the entrance. This cemetery is actually four tiny cemeteries grouped together. Each plot contains burials from specific periods and units. Visit each group clockwise from the entrance and you will journey through the story of this area.

**Plot II.** This very small plot was the first to be made here and you will find almost all these men died in November 1914, just a few months into the war, when British and German forces first fought here.

**2** **Plot I. In front of the Cross.** Here you will find men of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who died in spring 1915 holding the line nearby which as always dangerous work.

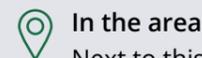
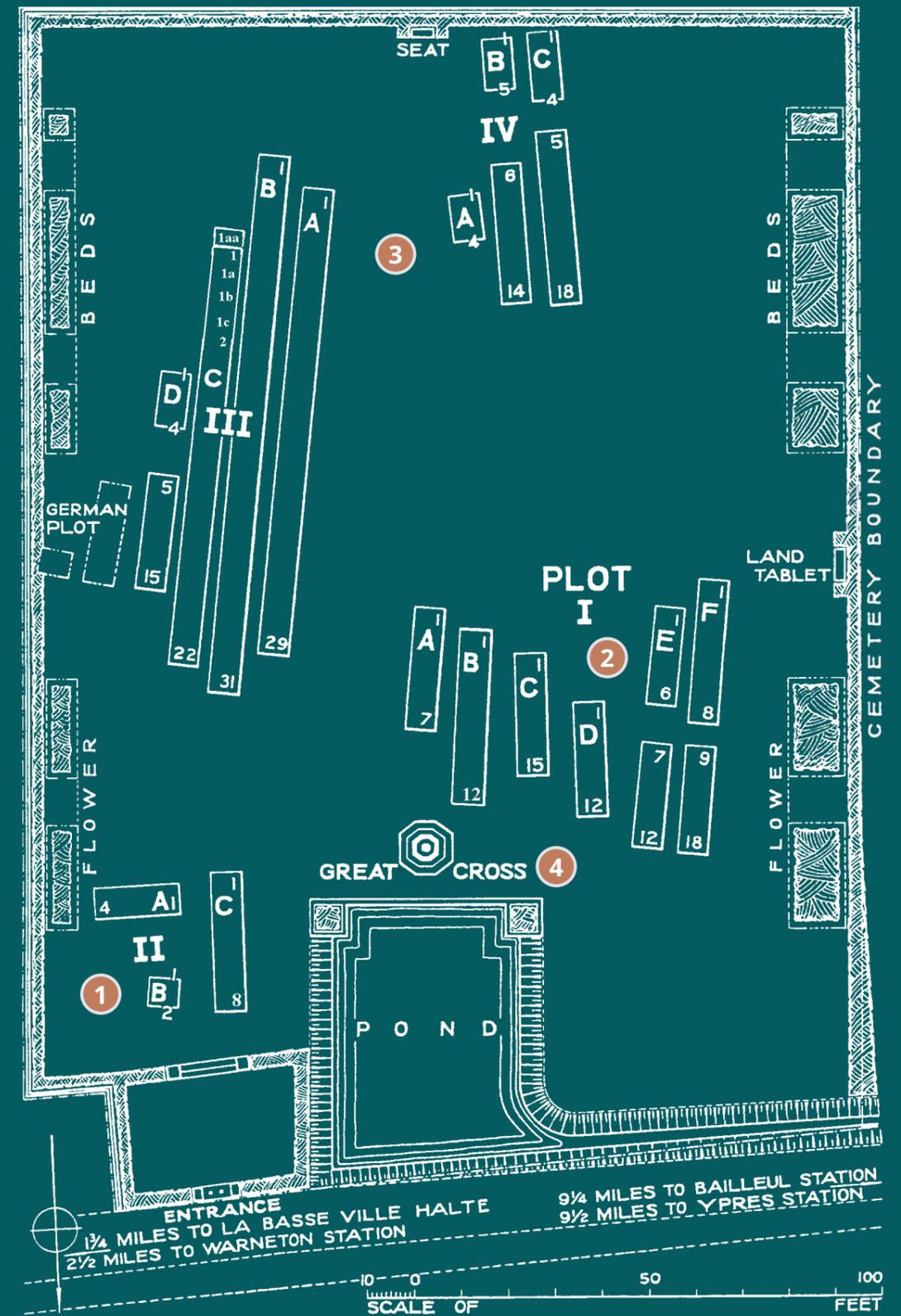
**3** **Plot IV.** The men buried in this plot fought with New Zealand forces and this almost exclusively New

Zealand plot was made in the Summer of 1917 when the New Zealand Division fought near here before going into action at Passchendaele.

**Plot III.** This is the largest of the plots here. Burials date from mid to late 1917, and you will find many New Zealand, Australian and British servicemen in this plot. Look out for the German headstones here. In Spring 1918 this area was lost to the Germans who buried these men here.

**4** **Head to the Cross of Sacrifice and take in the view across the landscape.**

Directly in front of the cemetery across the fields you will see a small CWGC cemetery. Mud Corner Cemetery is the final resting place of 85 servicemen, almost all of whom served with Australian and New Zealand forces. Behind the cemetery is Ploegsteert Wood, the major feature of this sector during the war.



**In the area**

Next to this cemetery, at the left-hand side, one can find the Christmas Truce Memorial. Ploegsteert Wood, and its CWGC cemeteries are within walkable distance as well.



**Westtoer bike routes nearby**

- Gent-Wevelgem in Flanders Fields - 128 km
- Gent-Wevelgem in Flanders Fields - 100 km
- Hellingenroute Heuvelland
- Unieke vergezichten over de Westhoek



**Step free access**



**Parking space**



**Seats present in cemetery**