



NEW IRISH FARM CEMETERY

There were once dozens of small cemeteries in this area. As the name implies, this was the second of two 'Irish Farm' cemeteries. The graves in the first Irish Farm were moved after the 1918 Armistice, leaving only the 'new' cemetery. Large and intimidating, with dozens of ordered plots of graves, it can be hard to know where to start here. The architect, Sir Reginald Blomfield, has given you a route to follow. Head through his imposing entrance building and you will see a stone path leading to a raised platform. Here you will find 73 disordered headstones which mark the war-time graves that remained at the end of the war. Standing on the platform beside the Stone of Remembrance, you will look out across a sea of headstones surrounding you on all sides, just as Blomfield and his assistant architect, Arthur Hutton, envisaged.

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

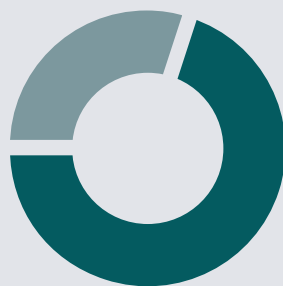


The landscape is recovering and flowers bloom in the cemetery while it awaits permanent headstones



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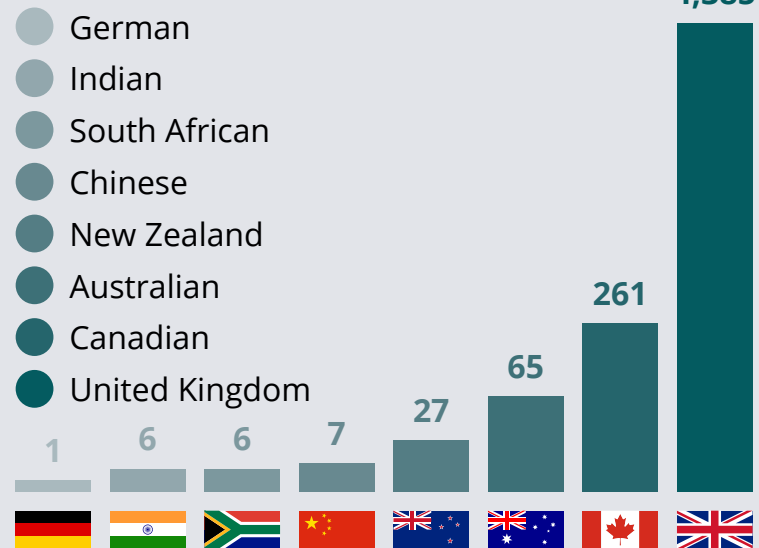
COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES



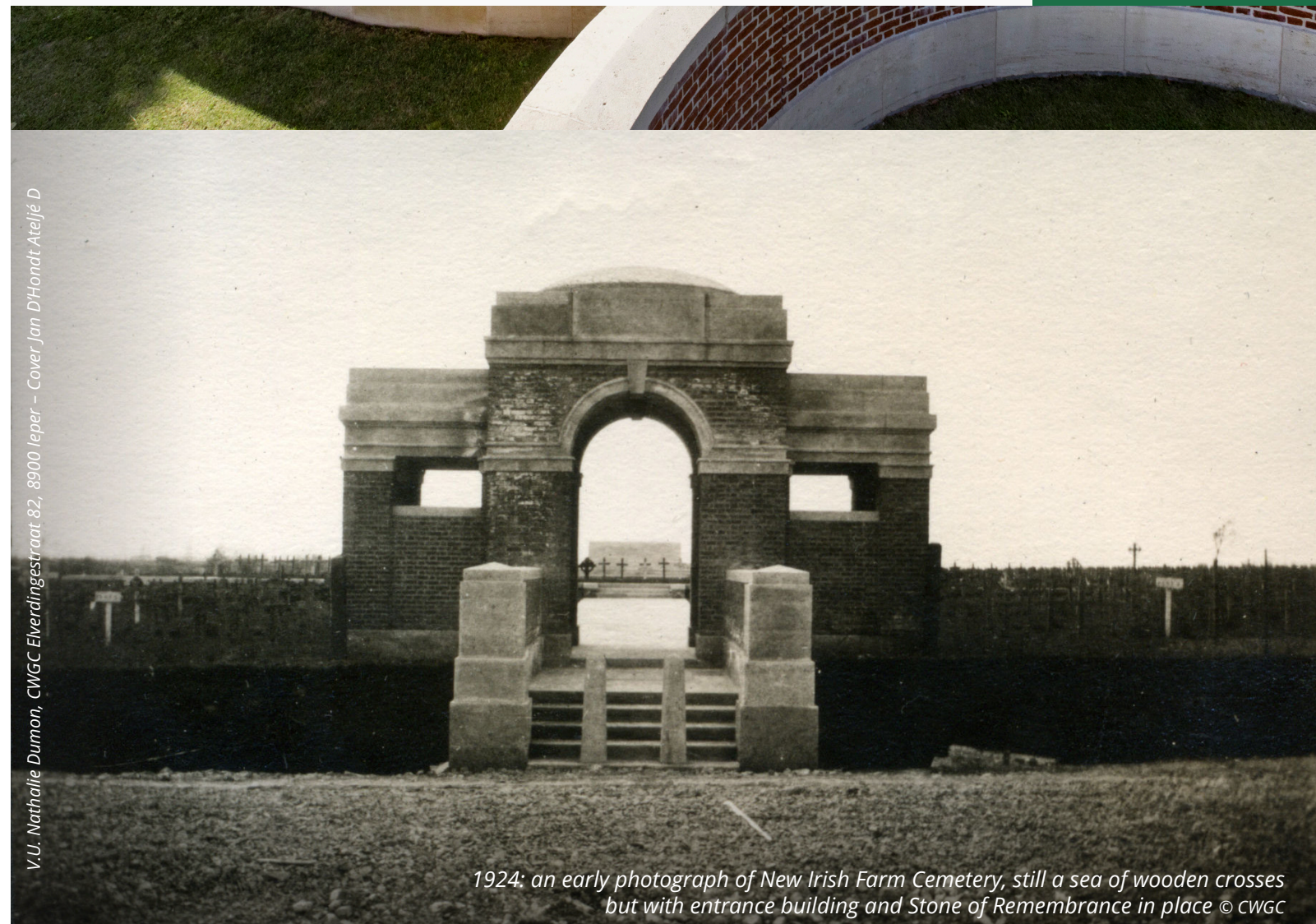
Total number of graves: **4,751**

- Identified
- Unidentified

Force nationalities



For more information please scan here.



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1924: an early photograph of New Irish Farm Cemetery, still a sea of wooden crosses but with entrance building and Stone of Remembrance in place © CWGC





TWICE LOST, TWICE FOUND

In September 1914, New Zealanders Henry and Cecilia Walker received the terrible news that their son Henry had been killed in action with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. To their delight and relief, this message was found to be an administrative error - Henry was actually alive and well. He remained at the front and was promoted to Captain after being twice mentioned in despatches. In April 1915 his parents once again received a telegram informing them of Henry's death. There was no mistake this time, and there was no grave. Perhaps his mum and dad held out hope that once again their 25-year-old son would be found alive and well but it was not to be.

Over a century later archaeologists uncovered seven bodies during an excavation near here. On a binocular case were a set of initials and this led to Henry's body being identified. In 2018 he was laid to rest along with the others, who sadly could not be identified, in Plot IV, Row BB.

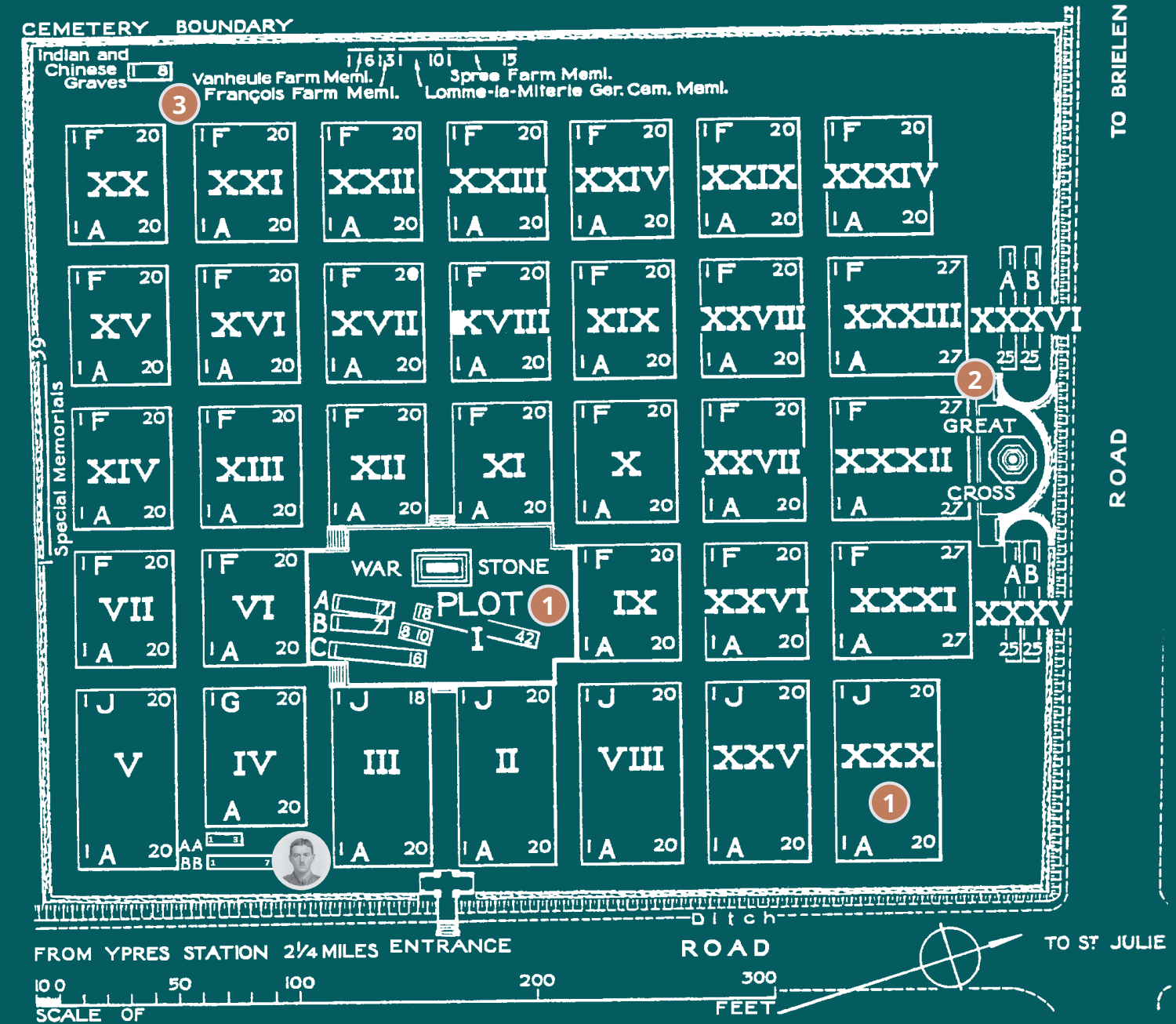


HIGHLIGHTS

1 Start your visit by heading to the Stone of Remembrance, noticing the war-time burials near it. From here head to Plot 30 (XXX) in the corner of the cemetery to the right of the Cross of Sacrifice.
Plot XXX, Row D, Grave 11 is the final resting place of 29-year-old Lieutenant Charles Bowes-Lyon of the Black Watch. He was killed in action during some of the first fighting here at Ypres in 1914. His cousin, Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, was the beloved wife of King George VI and mother of Queen Elizabeth II. Tragically, Charles was one of four members of the Bowes-Lyon family to die during the First World War.

2 Now head to the Cross of Sacrifice.
Look closely at the wall around the Cross of Sacrifice. The perfect semi-circles reflect each other, not out of necessity but because of architectural completeness and beauty. Have a look for yourself and see what you think, there's even a nice stone bench.

3 Make your way to the far right-hand corner of the cemetery.
A critical shortage of manpower during the First World War led to Britain recruiting tens of thousands of Chinese labourers. Men of the Chinese Labour Corps (CLC) worked tirelessly during the war, and many remained after the Armistice to help clear the battlefields. In this far corner, away from the Christian symbol of the Cross of Sacrifice, you will find a small plot where seven men of the CLC lie at rest. They died in 1919, most probably of pandemic flu which swept across the world at this time claiming millions of lives. Craftsmen of the CLC engraved War Graves Commission headstones for their comrades.



NEW IRISH FARM CEMETERY, ST. JEAN-LES-YPRES

MY ONLY CHILD

Inscription on the headstone of Lance Corporal White, XII. E. 16.

In the area

Several other (smaller) Northern salient battlefield cemeteries are closeby. (e.g. La Belle Alliance Cemetery & Divisional Collecting Post Cemetery and Extension towards the industrial zone, and several others towards St Julien). On the other side of the 'Noorderring', one can find 'Wieltje' with Oxford Road Cemetery & the 50th Northumbrian Div British Memorial.



Westtoer bike routes nearby
• Fietsen langs de Korte Keten - Ieper



Step free access



Parking space



Seats present in cemetery