THIEPVAL MEMORIAL & ANGLO-FRENCH CEMETERY

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One of the most promising English composers of his generation, George Butterworth was known for works such as The Banks of Green Willow. Awarded the Military Cross for his actions during the Battle of the Somme, he died on 5 August 1916 after being shot by a sniper near the village of Pozières. George was 31 years old.

*Commemorated on Pier 14, Face A*
David Griffith Williams

From the village of Trawsfynydd in North Wales, David G. Williams served with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers during the Battle of the Somme. On 3 September 1916, his battalion attacked German lines near Delville Wood, suffering enormous casualties from machine gun fire. David’s body was never identified. David was 30 years old.

Commemorated on Addenda panel 10

Frederic Arthur Cooke

Born in London, Rifleman Frederic Arthur Cooke enlisted in The Middlesex Regiment in August 1914. He served in Gibraltar, Belgium and France with 1/5 Battalion The London Regiment. Shortly before his 20th birthday, outside the village of Ginchy, his battalion came under heavy German fire. Following the assault Frederic was found to be missing and remains so to this day.

Commemorated on Pier 9, Face D

Alan John Trinder

Alan John Trinder was known in the family as Jack. He enlisted in 1914 and was sent to France where he sent many postcards back to his family. Jack won the Military Medal on 26 August 1916 and the following day was killed by shellfire. Jack was 20 years old.

Commemorated on Pier 5, Face B
The Thiepval Memorial is the largest CWGC memorial to the missing in the world.

The Battle of the Somme in 1916 was one of the bloodiest battles in human history. In 141 days of fierce fighting over one million men on both sides were wounded or killed. Today the Thiepval Memorial stands as a testament to those lives cut short and is a must-see for everyone visiting the Somme.
The fighting devastated Northern France, creating a churned-up wasteland of mud and shattered trees. Tens of thousands of people were unaccounted for: they lay undiscovered, their graves were unrecorded or their remains could not be identified. They became known as ‘The Missing’. In the aftermath of the war, Britain faced the challenge of how to honour all these individuals.

Thiepval was chosen as the location to build a monument to ‘The Missing’ because it lay at the heart of the battlefield.

Construction began in 1928 and took four years to complete. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens (who also created the Cenotaph in London), the towering structure is 45 metres high and takes the form of a series of interlocking arches. All around the sixteen supporting piers are Portland stone panels inscribed with the names of ‘The Missing’. Look up to see stone wreaths surrounding the names of important parts of the battlefield, and delicately carved oak leaves which symbolise peace and remembrance.

On the west side of the memorial you will see the Anglo-French Cemetery containing 600 Commonwealth and French graves. Many of the CWGC graves bear the inscription “A Soldier of the Great War; Known Unto God”, while the French crosses simply state “inconnu” – “unknown”.

Between May and November our CWGC interns are on hand at Thiepval to lead free tours.

8 rue de l’Ancre, Thiepval 80300
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) commemorates the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died in the two World Wars. It operates at 23,000 sites worldwide and in more than 150 countries and territories.

commonwealth war graves foundation keep their stories alive

The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation (CWGF) is our charitable foundation highlighting the work the CWGC does by telling the stories of those we commemorate.

Find out more at www.cwgc.org/support-us

THE CWGC EXPERIENCE
Take a tour behind the scenes at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The CWGC Experience is a unique new visitor attraction at the centre of the First World War battlefields. Take a look behind the scenes at the work of the CWGC, who care for the fallen of the two World Wars around the globe.

CWGC Experience, 5-7 rue Angèle Richard, 62217 Beaurains, France.
Tel: +33 (0)321 21 52 75
Email: cwgcexperience@cwgc.org

www.cwgc.org

Front cover: Thiepval Memorial, France