YPRES
(MENIN GATE)
MEMORIAL

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Arthur was a professional soldier before the 1914-18 war. In 1910 he was elected as an Ulster Unionist Member of Parliament for Mid-Antrim. He was recalled to the forces in 1914 and served with the Life Guards. He was killed during the First Battle of Ypres in 1914. Arthur was the first standing MP to be killed in action during the War.

His sons Shane and Bruce were killed in action during the Second World War. His youngest son, Terence, was Prime Minister of Northern Ireland from 1963 to 1969.

Commemorated on Panel 3.
Brigadier General
Charles FitzClarence

Born in Ireland, Charles fought at Mafeking in 1899 where he was awarded the Victoria Cross. During the war he led the 1st Guards Brigade at Ypres. He was killed on 12 November 1914. He is often referred to as the General Officer Commanding the Menin Gate, as he is the highest-ranking officer commemorated.

Commemorated on Panel 3.

Lieutenant Colonel
Edgar Mobbs

Edgar “Mobbsy” Mobbs was a professional Rugby Union footballer. He captained Northampton RFC and played for England. In 1914 he raised his own company, known as the ‘sportsmen’, as part of the 7th Northampton Regiment, and went on to lead the battalion at Ypres. He was killed in action on the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres.

Commemorated on Panel 43.
More than 200,000 British and Empire service personnel died in Belgium during the First World War. Half have no known grave: they lay undiscovered; their graves went unrecorded or their remains could not be identified. They are known as ‘The Missing’. In the aftermath of the war, Britain faced the challenge of how to honour these individuals.

Across Belgium memorials were built to commemorate them all by name. By far the largest in Belgium, the Menin Gate bears the names of 54,000 British and Empire servicemen.
The Menin Gate Memorial is perhaps the most famous war memorial in the world. During the First World War thousands of soldiers marched through the original gate to fight in the notorious Ypres Salient. Many never returned.

Construction began in 1923 and took five years to complete. Visitors enter through a triumphal arch, inscribed in Latin, ‘For Country’ and ‘For King’. The names of the missing are inscribed on stone panels inside the memorial.

The memorial was unveiled on 24 July 1927. 6,000 people attended and the ceremony was one of the first live outdoor international broadcasts by the BBC.

Since the unveiling, the memorial has been a place of pilgrimage and remembrance. Every evening since 1928 the Last Post has been sounded at 8pm beneath the gate. Only during the Second World War was this remarkable tribute to the men who fought and died at Ypres interrupted.

1. Triumphal Arch
2. Hall of Names: lists over 54,000 names of the missing
3. The Lion: a symbol of both Britain and Flanders
4. ‘Pro Patria’ and ‘Pro Rege:’ the Latin phrases ‘For Country’ and ‘For King’ either side of the Arch
5. Memorial Inscription: written by Rudyard Kipling, Literary Advisor to the Commission
6. Sarcophagus: a tomb that symbolises the dead
7. Wreaths: featuring hand-carved laurel and oak leaves symbolising victory and endurance
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.

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 is a unique new visitor attraction at the centre of the First World War battlefields in Beaureains, France. 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.

Email: cwgcexperience@cwgc.org

Ieper Information Centre

Located only metres from the Menin Gate, drop in and our friendly team will help you find out more about our local sites or undertake research on our casualty database. You can also pick up a souvenir or join our CWGF Supporter scheme.

www.cwgc.org