

FILE 166

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79-48

THE YPRES LEAGUE

"Lest We Forget"

Patron-in-Chief—H.M. THE KING

Patrons—

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES
H.R.H. PRINCESS BEATRICE

President—

F.M. VISCOUNT FRENCH OF YPRES,
O.M., K.P.

Honorary Treasurer—

LIEUT.-GEN. SIR W. P. PULTENEY

Secretary—

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Bankers—

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CAVENDISH SQUARE BRANCH

Auditors—

Messrs. GEO. DIXEY & CO.,
27, REGENT STREET, W.

23, HENRIETTA STREET,

CAVENDISH SQUARE,

LONDON, W. 1

4th May 1921.

General Sir Arthur W. Currie,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge with thanks your letter of the 18th ult. in which you advise me that you are so kindly responding to the letter sent to you by Lord French with regard to opening a Branch of the Ypres League in Canada. I sincerely hope to hear from you again in due course as to what transpired as the result of your placing the proposition before the gathering of Canadians at the dinner you refer to.

Yours very faithfully,

H. E. Murat Major.
Secretary.

48

April
Eighteenth
1921.

Major Henry E. Murat,
23, Henrietta Street,
Cavendish Square,
London, W.1, England.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 4th, with enclosures as stated.

The previous letters from Lord French and yourself, to which you have referred, have evidently gone astray.

I shall be glad to agree to Lord French's desire that I endeavour to open a Branch of the Ypres League in Canada. It so happens that next Friday night there is a dinner being held in Montreal at which will be gathered many of those who served with the Canadians at Ypres. I shall be Chairman of that Dinner and shall take advantage of the opportunity by placing the suggestion before the gathering.

I shall see that you are informed of what transpires and of any progress which we may make.

Yours faithfully,

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LONDON, W. 1

4th April 1921.

Dear Sir,

On 1st February I had the pleasure of sending you a letter signed by Lord French in which he asked you to be so kind as to endeavour to open a branch of the Ypres League in Canada. As neither Viscount French nor I have received any acknowledgment of this I should be so glad to know whether you received the letter in question and whether, in that case you can see your way to do anything in the matter.

Should the letter have miscarried in the post, I am sending you herewith a copy of Lord French's letter to you of the 31st January.

Yours very truly,

H. E. Murat Major.

Secretary.

Gen. Sir A.W. Currie,
M'Gill University,
Montreal.

COLONEL F. G. POOLE, D.S.O., O.B.E.,

Hon. Secretary, YPRES MEMORIAL CHURCH FUND,

9, BAKER STREET,

LONDON, W.1.

STATION: ECCLES ROAD.
TELEGRAMS: QUIDENHAM.


QUIDENHAM,
NORWICH.

June 15. 27.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie
I am on the Committee of the
Ypres Memorial Church - & am
writing to many persons in Canada
to tell them of this Project. I feel,
Sir Arthur, that you will be
specially interested to hear of
this, the only British Church on the

whole Battle Row. It must be
an Empire Church. This is the

reason I am writing - for so
many Canadians gave their

lives near there. Please tell
anyone you think will be interested

Forgive my troubling you &

believe me Yr truly

Geoffrey Abemall

YPRES

Memorial Church Fund

"Here as at Verdun they did not pass and the glory is that of every one in the ranks."

F.M. THE EARL OF YPRES.



F.M. THE EARL OF YPRES APPEALING FOR A CHURCH TO BE BUILT AT YPRES,
4TH AUGUST, 1924.

President.

FIELD MARSHAL LORD PLUMER.

Committee.

COUNTESS OF ALBEMARLE
VISCOUNT BURNHAM
COLONEL STANLEY BARRY
RT. REV. BISHOP STAUNTON-BATTY
RT. REV. BISHOP BURY
REV. P. B. CLAYTON (Toc. H.)
REV. ARCHIBALD FLEMING, D.D.
RT. REV. BISHOP FURSE
VISCOUNT HAMBLEDEN

REV. A. C. E. JARVIS (Chaplain-General)
LADY PLUMER
LADY PULTENEY
GENERAL SIR W. PULTENEY
MRS. E. WAGGETT
RT. HON. STEPHEN WALSH
REV. O. S. WATKINS (Deputy Chaplain-General)
KATHERINE DUCHESS OF WESTMINSTER

Member of Committee resident at Ypres, CAPTAIN W. J. PERROTT.

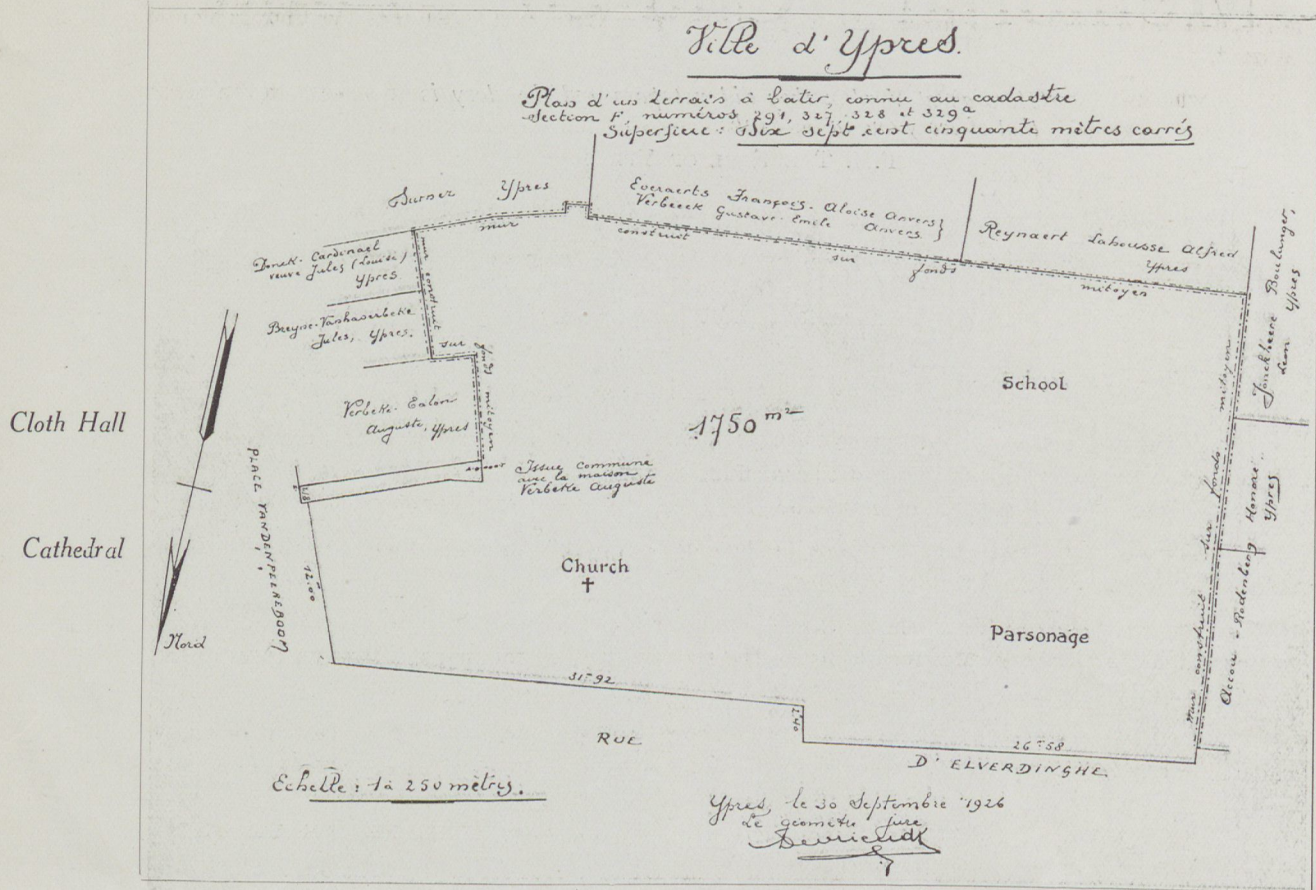
Hon. Secretary.

COL. F. G. POOLE.

Trustees.

RT. REV. THE BISHOP OF FULHAM (North and Central Europe) (*ex-officio*).
THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL TO THE FORCES (*ex-officio*).

Site of Church.



This site has been purchased by the Committee, the one on the Ramparts not proving satisfactory.

The present site is easy of access to residents, pilgrims and visitors. It adjoins the Grand Place.

The cost of the foundations on the other site were found to be prohibitive, owing to presence of "Dug Outs."

To meet the necessities of the 200 British residents at Ypres it has been decided to build a Church, Parsonage and School.

The present site, owing to its surroundings, demands a new design for the Church, and Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A., has kindly undertaken to draw up a scheme for all the buildings on the site.

There are now 200 British children at Ypres, who have no opportunities of an English education. Most of these children belong to residents who are employed by the Imperial War Graves Commission, and always will be, in looking after the 70 beautiful cemeteries which surround Ypres. These children must have opportunities of learning the English language and of receiving religious instruction.

Eton College has kindly undertaken to open a fund to build this School and full particulars are being sent to Old Etonians.

A quarter of the Empire's casualties in the Great War occurred round Ypres. In memory of the fallen, and of the Great Field Marshal who took his title from Ypres, it is hoped that this Church should be built.

All who feel that the erection of a Church on so historic and commanding a point in the battle area would be appropriate, are invited to contribute towards the necessary funds.

Ten thousand pounds are wanted.

Five thousand five hundred pounds of which have already been received.

Please see full particulars of the appeal for Funds on the last page of this circular.

"THE VERY CATHEDRAL OF DEATH."

"The very Cathedral of Death itself"—that is how Mr. Rudyard Kipling once described Ypres. There more than at any other point of the far-flung battlefields that lie scattered, world-wide from the Channel to the Tigris, the glory and the tragedy of the Great War may be remembered.

Ypres rises in the centre and forefront of the old western line and it is ringed about with names famous in the chronicles of trench warfare.

Poperinghe and Passchendaele lie closely on its flanks; eastwards from it runs the road to Menin and southwards over Messines Ridge to the spot marked on the maps, "Bois de Ploegsteert," and in all our hearts as "Plugstreet," stands Armentieres.

No German soldier ever set foot in Ypres except as a prisoner. But a succession of titanic battles, each in itself on a scale to make Waterloo seem a skirmish and the Alma an affair of outposts, was waged round it. Concerning the first, when the Channel Ports were threatened, Lord Ypres himself has written: "The stakes for which we were playing were nothing less than the safety—indeed, the very existence—of the British Empire."

At the second, our armies performed their "month's miracle of naked endurance against the long-planned and coldly thought-out horror of gas" employed for the first time in military history.

At the third, which raged for three and a half months, under terrible conditions of weather, the enemy had to use up no less than 78 Divisions, of which 18 had been engaged a second or third time in the battle after having been withdrawn to rest and refit.

From 1914, when the old Regular Army barred the way to the coast at the price almost of annihilation, to the autumn of 1917, when the New Armies went gallantly into their huge offensive, the Salient was unceasingly the stage on which the most intense drama of the war was being enacted.

Such a corner of foreign soil which, by reason of its closely resting dead, will be for ever England, demands a worthy and a permanent memorial.

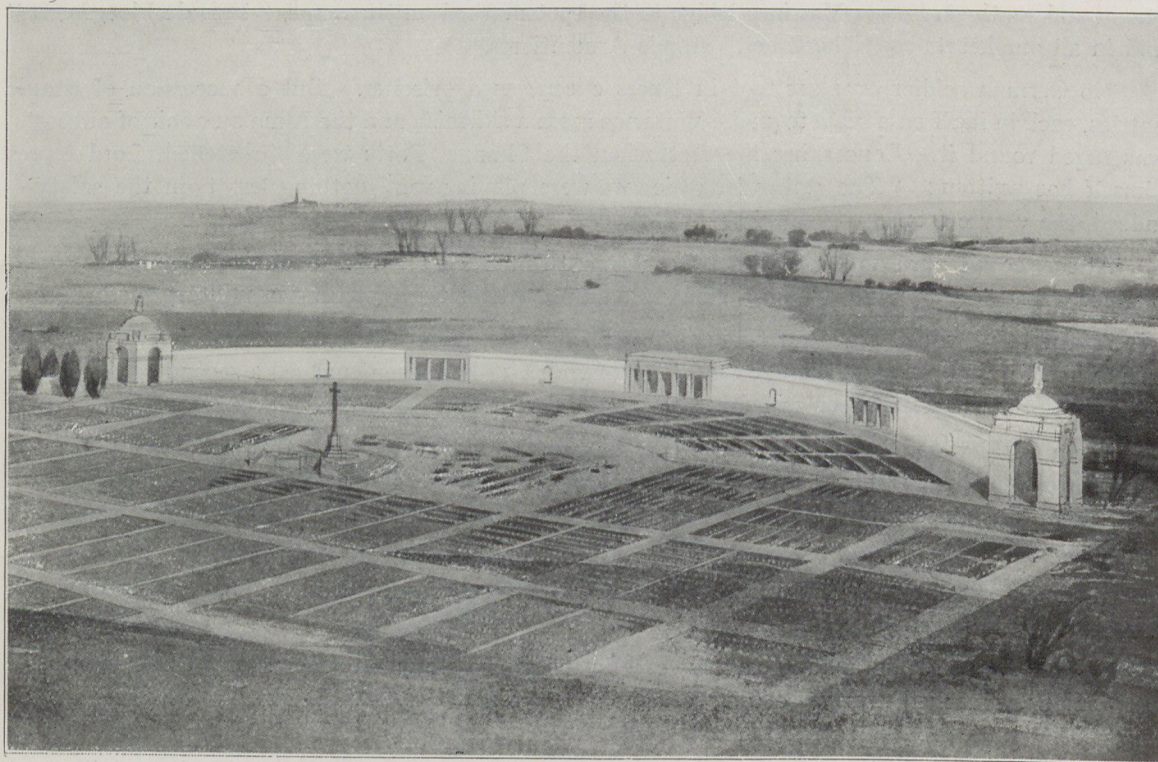
English-speaking pilgrims and visitors come in increasing streams to Ypres; for three months of last year they reached nearly 1,000 a week.

For them and for those who follow them in future generations the Church will be built, and all who cherish memories of the Great War either as combatants in any area or as anxious civilians at home may, by helping the building fund, find some expression for the honour and affection in which they held their fallen comrades and relations.

Seventy cemeteries, the last resting places of 260,000 dead, show with sad yet splendid emphasis the extent of the sacrifice made at Ypres.

As only one example, we publish photographs of the beautiful Tyne Cot Cemetery and its Cross, now nearly completed by the Imperial War Graves Commission from the design of Mr. Herbert Baker, R.A., who has kindly given permission and written this stirring description.

Tyne Cot was the name given to a German stronghold of block houses just under the crest of the Passchendaele Ridge, which overlooks the "promised land" of the plains of Flanders. Grouped round and focussing on the highest of these block houses are the bodies of 14,000 British soldiers, 6,000 of which are alone "known unto God." On the great apse-like enclosing semi-circular wall will be inscribed the names of 25,000 missing of the Salient. In the centre of this "apse" is a smaller sanctuary consecrated to the names of all the New Zealand missing of the surrounding battlefields. The wall is flanked at either end with an arched shelter on the domes of which will be stone figures of the Angel of Peace. On the central axis of the "apse" down the nave of the open air church, as it were, are the great War Stone as an altar and the great Cross as the flag of sacrifice raised on a pyramid of stone steps built over the conquered block house. One small square of the actual concrete is left in view, being framed in the stone work and covered with a wreath in bronze. The Cross will thus be seen silhouetted against the sky and the full range of the battle ground of the Salient; and on a clear day the hills from Kemmel to Cassell and the sand dunes of Dunkirk and the sea.



TYNE COT MILITARY CEMETERY, PASSCHENDAELE (MR. HERBERT BAKER, A.R.A.).

ERECTED BY IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION,

*"Tell ye your children of it and let your children tell
their children and their children another generation."*



THE CROSS. TYNE COT CEMETERY.
ERECTED BY IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

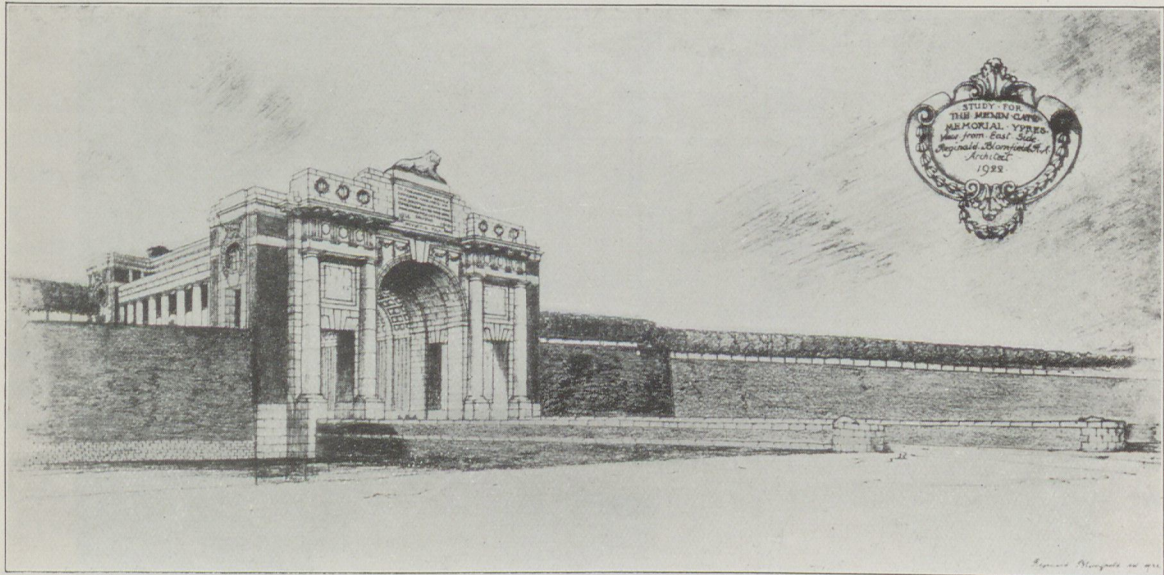
Our photographs of one cemetery built by Imperial War Graves Commission may serve to show with what befitting reverence those who died at Ypres are being treated.

Statistics of burials in another (the Lijssenthoek) cemetery may be added to prove how the Empire and her Allies fought here side by side.

Australian	...	...	...	1,128	Newfoundland	...	...	...	5
British	...	...	...	7,304	India	...	...	...	2
Canada	...	...	...	1,051	Chinese Labour Corps	...	...	...	32
New Zealand	...	...	...	291	American Army	...	...	...	54
South Africa	...	...	...	28	French graves	...	...	...	689
British West Indies	...	...	...	22	Unknown	...	...	...	3

GRAND TOTAL.—10,609.

In our great sympathy for the next-of-kin of the "Missing," we reproduce by permission of Sir Reginald Blomfield a photograph of his drawing of the Menin Gate Memorial, together with a description of what it will be when completed.



HALL OF MEMORY. MENIN GATE.
IN COURSE OF ERECTION BY WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

The materials used are Enville Marbrier Stone, small red Belgian bricks and reinforced concrete in the foundations and vault.

The Memorial consists of a Hall of Memory 120 ft. long by 60 ft. wide covered in by a coffered arch in a single half-elliptical span. At either end are two archways 30 ft. wide by 45 ft. high with straight arches over openings for the pavement on either side 11 ft. wide by 12 ft. high.

Between the central and side arches are engaged columns carrying a Doric entablature and over the central arch is a large panel for the dedicatory inscriptions.

Over the side entrances are enriched panels. Above the inscription panels on the outer side there is a large recumbent Lion; on the side facing the town a Sarcophagus with flag and wreath.

In the centre of the two sides, broad staircases lead up to the top of the ramparts and to loggias running the whole length of the building. On the other side the Memorial rises directly out of the moat and a broad causeway, 70 ft. wide, carries the road running through the archway across the moat into the town.

The names of the fallen (about 55,000 missing) will be cut in Portland stone panels fixed to the walls of the Hall of Memory:

}	40,665 United Kingdom
	7,024 Canadians
	6,221 Australians
	567 South Africans
	417 Indians
	54,894

The inscription beneath the Lion above the soffit of the arch is: "To the Armies of the British Empire who stood here from 1914-1918 and to those of their dead who have no known grave."

In the same position at the other end of the arch is the inscription: "Here are recorded names of officers and men who fell in the Ypres Salient, but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death."

This Memorial will be unveiled in July this year by Field-Marshal Lord Plumer,

Appeal for Funds.

The original appeal for a Church to be built at Ypres was made by the late Field Marshal The Earl of Ypres on the 4th August, 1924. Since that appeal was made it has been decided that the Memorial to his memory should be placed in the Church at Ypres.

We appeal with confidence to all branches of the Christian Church to join us in this effort. The Memorial Church (as in the case of Garrison Churches) will be available for use by all religious denominations, and it is believed that the privilege is one that will be both valued and used. It is felt that the scheme will at once commend itself to the religious instincts of all. The Ypres Salient, where no less than 260,000 British men lie sleeping (one-fourth of our total British casualties in the Great War) is the place above all others where there should be a Memorial of a definitely religious character, especially as it will provide a deeply felt need.

The Church will be used of course by the thousands of "Pilgrims" and tourists who pass through the city, but this is by no means the only or the greatest reason for its erection. In connection with the care and upkeep of the British War Cemeteries, there are a large number of British families living in and around Ypres, forming a British Colony of over 600 souls, many of whom are children. Surely it is a national duty to provide for the spiritual care of these who watch over the graves of our dead. There could be no better Memorial to those who gave their lives for England, than to secure for the British children who in consequence are living in the Salient, that they be brought up in the faith of their fathers, and trained in the ideals and loyalties for which so many gave their lives.

Further, we feel very strongly that, if only as a matter of National honour, we should forthwith pay this fitting tribute to the memory of the thousands to whom we owe our all.

**Cheques can be sent direct to the Ypres Memorial Church Fund, at Lloyds Bank, Ltd., 6, Pall Mall,
London, S.W., or any other branch of that Bank,**

or

to the Honorary Secretary, Colonel F. G. Poole, 9, Baker Street, London, W.

N.B.—This circular is being sent to all those who have already subscribed as it contains a good deal further information and some corrections.

A list of Subscribers up to the end of 1926 has been issued to all concerned.

Appeal for Funds.

The object of this Appeal is to raise a fund of £100,000 for the purpose of providing a permanent fund for the maintenance of the Church of England in the Diocese of London. It is hoped that the Appeal will be successful and that the fund will be available for the use of the Church in the future.

The Appeal is being made on behalf of the Church of England in the Diocese of London. It is hoped that the Appeal will be successful and that the fund will be available for the use of the Church in the future. The Appeal is being made on behalf of the Church of England in the Diocese of London. It is hoped that the Appeal will be successful and that the fund will be available for the use of the Church in the future.

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