

# fricourt german cemetery

## overview

The German military cemetery at Fricourt is the resting place for 17,027 German First World War soldiers. They died on the Somme battlefields over the four years of the Great War, from late September 1914, when the German Second Army established a defensive front line in this sector, to the spring and summer Battles of the Somme in 1918.

Approximately 1,000 of the soldiers lying here were killed during the early weeks of the war from late August to the late autumn of 1914, and during the trench warfare from that time through 1915 and up to June 1916.

From the beginning of the British and French Allied Somme offensive of 1st July 1916 to the close of the battle in mid-November 1916 approximately 10,000 German soldiers lost their lives on the Somme battlefields.

A further 6,000 German soldiers were killed during the large-scale German Spring Offensive of 1918 and in the battles which followed it up to October 1918.

## Manfred von Richthofen

The famous German pilot Baron Manfred von Richthofen, known as the Red Baron, who was shot down and died on 21st April 1918, was first buried in a plot at the civilian cemetery at Bertangles behind the lines southwest of the Somme battlefields. His body was later moved to Fricourt German Military Cemetery but again in 1925 he was exhumed and the body was taken to Berlin for reburial.



## discussion point

How does the style of this cemetery differ from Notre Dame de Lorette cemetery, and why do you think it does so?

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