

lijssenthoek cemetery

cross-laying exercise
to take place here

Lijssenthoek cemetery is the second largest Commonwealth cemetery. At Tyne Cot most of the burials are unidentified. But at Lijssenthoek, almost all the 9,901 graves are for named individuals of 30 different nationalities. The reason there are so few anonymous graves here is explained by the circumstances in which the cemetery was established. In contrast to Tyne Cot (which is the resting place of men who died in an intense, horrific, chaotic battle), Lijssenthoek was the location of a casualty clearing station away from the front lines just outside of Poperinghe. The casualties were being treated for their wounds and would have been evacuated from the Front Line area wearing their identity tags.

staff nurse nellie spindler

Nellie is one of only two British female casualties of the First World War to be buried in Belgium. She was aged 26 when she died and was from Wakefield, Yorkshire. In August 1917, during the first three weeks of the Third Battle of Ypres (Paaschendaale), her Clearing Station was hit by German artillery shells. Five nurses were concussed, but Nellie also suffered a chest injury from which she died 20 minutes later. Over one hundred officers, four generals and the Surgeon-General attended the funeral. The grave reference is Plot XVI, Row A, grave 3. From the main entrance on the road, turn immediately right and follow the southern cemetery boundary for about a hundred metres. The grave is in Row A, the row closest to the cemetery boundary near the stone of sacrifice.



discussion point

There are also 35 graves of Chinese people here. China was neutral in World War One. Why do you think these men were here?

independent task

After the war, families had to pay the British government to have an inscription placed on a gravestone at the cost of 3.5 pence per letter. Some of these brief messages are very personal and moving. Take the time to read the inscriptions on a number of headstones for named soldiers. Write here an example of **one** inscription that you found particularly powerful ready to discuss later. **You may be given a memorial wooden cross from the CWGC to place on the grave of your chosen person.**