

thiepval memorial

overview

Thiepval was one of the fortress villages that was held by the Germans during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The houses in the village, although flattened, had deep cellars where the Germans held out, and their machine gun posts were not destroyed by the bombardment.

After the War ended, Thiepval was chosen as the location for the "Memorial to the Missing" (designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens) to commemorate those who died in the Somme sector before the 20th of March 1918 and have no known grave. In this sense it serves the same purpose as the Menin Gate, which does the same thing for soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient.

independent tasks

the visitor centre

The visitor centre was opened in 2004. Choose two key features within it and explain why you found them particularly noteworthy.

| Feature | Explain why you found it interesting / informative / effective |
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the memorial

Q. Take the time to explore the memorial. How many Commonwealth soldiers do you think are commemorated here?

Q. What percentage of these do you estimate died during the Battle of the Somme (July-November 1916?)



the visitor center

Q. What was your favourite feature of the visitor center, and why?



British soldiers advancing on Thiepval on the first day of the Battle of the Somme