

William Clark



William Clark was born at Bolton, Westmorland on 29 May 1897 and was the only son of John and Alice Anne Clark (nee Waring). He served as a Private (service number 25757) with the 1st Battalion, Border Regiment.

William died during the Third Battle of Ypres on 16th August 1917 aged 20 and is remembered with honour at the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient

William is also remembered on his grandparents' grave stone in Bolton Churchyard. He had a younger sister Maggie who married Richard Fothergill in 1929. William's grandparents were also Bolton people, William and Christiana Clark (nee Johnstone) 1832 – 1895 and 1839 – 1915 respectively. William's grandfather was descended from a long line of corn millers at mills throughout north Westmorland.

Extract from 1st Battalion Border Regiment in Belgium – The Third Battle of Ypres (1917)
“The battle they had endured was a challenging one for several reasons, but simply owing to the nature of the ground they crossed, as well as fighting a formidable well-trained enemy, ensured they had a difficult time advancing to their objectives and reaching a successful outcome. The ground by its very characteristic, swampy yet “touch and direction were admirably kept throughout and endurance displayed by all ranks was beyond all praise, as the “going” was in appalling state, and during the previous three days the Battalion held the firing line for forty-eight hours and carried out two reliefs under shell fire.” There was no escaping casualties even with the successful outcome. Those who became casualties up to week ending 17th August 1917 amounted to 26 killed, 108 wounded and in addition 23 listed as missing.”

Extract from Commonwealth War Graves Commission Site:
There was little more significant activity on this front until 1917, when in the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge The Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele.

Relatives:

Bryan Clark, Saltmoor Barn, Ashford Carbonel, Ludlow, Shropshire – distant cousin

In Memory of
Private
William Clark

25757, 1st Bn., Border Regiment who died on 16 August 1917

Remembered with Honour
Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Location Information

Tyne Cot Cemetery is located 9 Kms north-east of Ieper town centre, on the Tynecotstraat, a road leading from the Zonnebeekseweg (N332).

Visiting Information

There are two separate registers for this site - one for the cemetery and one for the memorial. The cemetery register will be found in the gatehouse as you enter the cemetery, and the memorial register will be found in the left hand rotunda of the memorial as you face the memorial.

SCHOOL GROUPS: TEACHERS - PLEASE CLOSELY SUPERVISE YOUR STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY AT THE TYNE COT CEMETERY CROSS OF SACRIFICE

Wheelchair access to this cemetery is possible via an entrance at the rear and is signposted from the car park.

For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on 01628 507200.

Historical Information

'Tyne Cot' or 'Tyne Cottage' was the name given by the Northumberland Fusiliers to a barn which stood near the level crossing on the Passchendaele-Broodseinde road. The barn, which had become the centre of five or six German blockhouses, or pill-boxes, was captured by the 3rd Australian Division on 4 October 1917, in the advance on Passchendaele.

One of these pill-boxes was unusually large and was used as an advanced dressing station after its capture. From 6 October to the end of March 1918, 343 graves were made, on two sides of it, by the 50th (Northumbrian) and 33rd Divisions, and by two Canadian units. The cemetery was in German hands again from 13 April to 28 September, when it was finally recaptured, with Passchendaele, by the Belgian Army.

TYNE COT CEMETERY was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when remains were brought in from the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemarck, and from a few small burial grounds, including the following:

IBERIAN SOUTH CEMETERY and IBERIAN TRENCH CEMETERY, LANGEMARCK, 1,200 metres North of Frezenberg, close to a farm called by the Army "Iberian". These contained the graves of 30 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in August-September 1917, and March 1918.

KINK CORNER CEMETERY, ZONNEBEKE, on the road to Frezenberg, containing the graves of 14 soldiers from the United Kingdom, nine from Canada and nine from Australia, who fell in September-November 1917.

LEVI COTTAGE CEMETERY, ZONNEBEKE, near the road to Langemarck, containing the graves of ten soldiers from the United Kingdom, eight from Canada and three from Australia, who fell in September-November 1917.

OOSTNIEUWKERKE GERMAN CEMETERY, in the village of Oostnieuwkerke, containing the graves of 20 soldiers and 2 airmen from the United Kingdom and two soldiers from Canada who fell in 1915-1917.

PRAET-BOSCH GERMAN CEMETERY, VLADSLOO, in the forest on the road from Kortewilde to Leke. Here were buried six officers of the R.F.C. and R.A.F. who fell in 1917-18.

STADEN GERMAN CEMETERY, on the South-East side of the road to Stadenberg, containing the graves of 14 soldiers from the United Kingdom and ten from Canada who fell in 1915-1917.

WATERLOO FARM CEMETERY, PASSCHENDAELE, 650 metres North-East of 's Gravenstafel, containing the graves of ten soldiers from Canada, seven from the United Kingdom and two from New Zealand, who fell in 1917-18.

ZONNEBEKE BRITISH CEMETERY No.2, on the road between Zonnebeke and Broodseinde, in which the Germans buried 18 men of the 2nd Buffs and 20 of the 3rd Royal Fusiliers who fell in April 1915.

It is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials. At the suggestion of King George V, who visited the cemetery in 1922, the Cross of Sacrifice was placed on the original large pill-box. There are three other pill-boxes in the cemetery. There are now 11,961 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Tyne Cot Cemetery. 8,373 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to more than 80 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate 20 casualties whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. There are also 4 German burials, 3 being unidentified.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker. The TYNE COT MEMORIAL forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16 August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

The memorial was designed by Sir Herbert Baker with sculpture by F V Blundstone

	
	<p>Gravestone in Bolton Churchyard</p>