


Matthew Savage



Matthew Savage was born on 28 September 1879 at Bolton, Westmorland, and was the son of John and Agnes (nee Scott) Savage. He was married to Edith Ellen (nee Armory) Savage. He was the uncle of Arthur Savage.

Matthew served as a Private (service number 32560) with the 8th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment. He was killed in action, in Flanders 7th June 1917 aged 37 and is remembered with honour at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial where the large Hall of Memory contains names of 54,896 Commonwealth soldiers who died on the Salient but whose bodies have never been identified or found.

	<p>He was one of twins, his brother Robert John having been born 15 minutes earlier. They were christened at All Saints Church on 9th November 1879. Before the war, he was a policeman at Gateshead – number 110G. His family at the time of his death was living at 212 Eastbourne Avenue, Gateshead. They had three daughters Evelyn, who married Jack Douglas and they had no children; Elsie who did not marry and Nelly who married Bill Stevenson who had children and grandchildren</p>
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Extracts from 2nd Battalion War Diary, October 1917

6th October 1917: By the evening of the 6th it had become clear that the two companies of the 2nd Gordon's and 2 Lieutenant Little were not going to be relieved by the Australians. Further a message from 20th Brigade showed that the relief of two companies of the Gordon's was imperative as they were to become counter attack Battalion. It was therefore decided that they must be relieved by 2 Lieutenant Harrison's party and the remainder of D company. The term two companies of Gordon Highlanders was rather misleading, as when arrangements were made for their relief it was found that they had been so reduced in numbers that the relief was effected by 2nd Lieutenant Harrison with 12 men. Touch was gained with the Australian Battalion on the left and it was hoped that by extending 2nd Lieutenant Little's sector to the left and asking the Australians to extend slightly to the right the line could possibly be consolidated. It was found however that the company of the Australian Battalion which was on the left of 2nd Lieutenant Harrison consisted of only one officer and 24 men. It was therefore arranged that each party should send patrols across from post to post during the night. Another platoon of D Company had to be used to replace 2nd Lieutenant Harrison's party on the left of "B" subsector. The relief was somewhat tardily completed owing to the fact that the officer who was sent to make the arrangements for the relief with the Company Commander of the right Company 2nd Highlanders was mortally wounded while making his arrangements (Presumably 2nd Lieutenant Harding) and afterwards a heavy barrage delayed it. Relief was completed at 6.45 am.

Relatives:

Mrs E A Page (Nee Bell and born at White House, Bolton), Avalon, Gilberts End, Hanley Castle, Worcestershire

Mrs M J Williams, Crossfell View Barn, Langwathby, Penrith CA10 1LW

Rt Rev James Bell, Stone Croft, Bolton



Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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Telephone 0628 34221 Telex 847526 Comgra G Facsimile 0628 771208
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Mr R J Woolfall
156 Perth Road
Ilford
Essex
IG2 6EB

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 30/JS/6

Date: 10 JUN 1993

Dear Mr Woolfall

Private Matthew Savage, 32560, serving with 8th Basttalion, York and Lancaster Regiment, died on 7 June 1917, age 37. Sadly he has no known grave, and therefore he is commemorated by name, on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Members of the York and Lancaster Regiment are commemorated on Panels 36 and 55 of this memorial. He was the son of Agnes Savage of Penrith, Cumberland, and the late John Savage, and husband of Edith Ellen Savage of Gateshead.

Ypres (now Ieper) is a town in the Province of West Flanders. The Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town on the road to Menin and Courtrai, and it commemorates over 55,000 of the Forces of the Commonwealth and Empire who fell in the Salient and who have no known graves.

I hope this information will be of help to you.

Yours sincerely

J McKelvey-Smith

J McKelvey-Smith (Mrs)
Enquiries Section

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On 19th April 1996, Matthew's grand-niece, Mary WOOLFALL, and her husband visited Ypres and located Matthew's name near the bottom of Panel 55.

In Memory of

Private

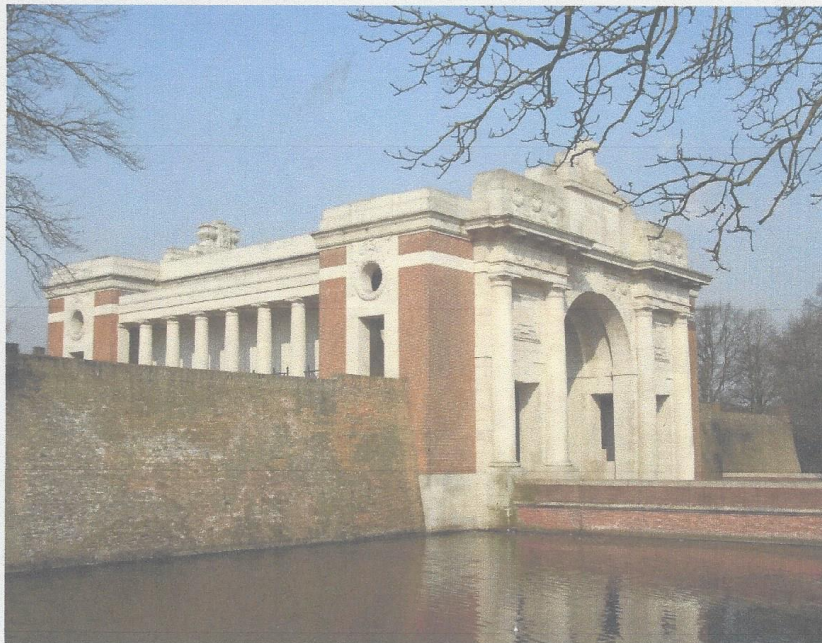
Matthew Savage

32560, 8th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 07 June 1917 Age 37

Son of Agnes Savage, of Penrith, Cumberland, and the late John Savage; husband of Edith Ellen Savage, of 212, Eastbourne Avenue, Gateshead.

Remembered with Honour

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Location Information

Ypres (now Ieper) is a town in the Province of West Flanders. The Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town on the road to Menin (Menen) and Courtrai (Kortrijk).

Each night at 8 pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the Memorial's arches.

Visiting Information

Panel Numbers quoted at the end of each entry relate to the panels dedicated to the Regiment with which the casualty served. In some instances, where a casualty is recorded as attached to another Regiment, his name may appear within their Regimental Panels. Please refer to the on-site Memorial Register Introduction. All odd panel numbers are on the North side of the road and even numbers are located on the South side of the road.

Steps on either side of the memorial leading to the rear of the memorial, make wheelchair access to the rear impossible. There is however, a slope at the side of the memorial which gives wheelchair users some access but due to the incline, it may not be possible to ascend/descend unaided.

Please note that every Friday, all wreaths positioned under the Menin Gate will be checked and removed as necessary, with the exception of those placed on the floral tribute the previous evening.

Historical Information

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Broadly speaking, the Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war.

The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defence.

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.

The German offensive of March 1918 met with some initial success, but was eventually checked and repulsed in a combined effort by the Allies in September.

The battles of the Ypres Salient claimed many lives on both sides and it quickly became clear that the commemoration of members of the Commonwealth forces with no known grave would have to be divided between several different sites.

The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands of men who passed through it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates casualties from the forces of Australia, Canada, India, South Africa and United Kingdom who died in the Salient. In the case of United Kingdom casualties, only those prior 16 August 1917 (with some exceptions). United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, a site which marks the furthest point reached by Commonwealth forces in Belgium until nearly the end of the war. New Zealand casualties that died prior to 16 August 1917 are commemorated on memorials at Buttes New British Cemetery and Messines Ridge British Cemetery.

The YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. The memorial, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick, was unveiled by Lord Plumer on 24 July 1927.