

# ESSEX FARM CEMETERY

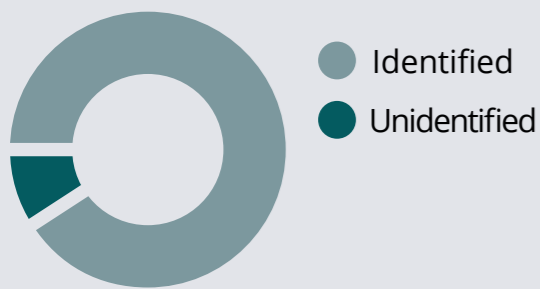
Essex Farm is one of the most visited CWGC cemeteries in the world. It was near here that John McCrae wrote 'In Flanders Fields', a poem that has become synonymous with remembrance. This cemetery was begun by a medical unit that was established here in 1915. Over the next two years Essex Farm became one of several key evacuation routes for the wounded and an Advanced Dressing Station was based here in the bunkers beside the cemetery and in several wooden huts. Thousands of wounded soldiers were treated and those who succumbed to their wounds were laid to rest. By the 1918 Armistice over 1,200 burials had been made.

Designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and Noel Rew, the Cross of Sacrifice forms the entrance feature, while the Stone of Remembrance stands in the heart of the cemetery amongst the disordered rows of war-time burials.

The cemetery register, plan and visitors' book can be found at the Cross of Sacrifice.



Total number of graves: **1,206**



Force nationalities

- German
- Canadian
- United Kingdom



For more information please scan here.



## ESSEX FARM CEMETERY

COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



## RIFLEMAN VALENTINE JOE STRUDWICK



Rifleman Valentine Joe Strudwick is one of the youngest casualties of the First World War commemorated in Belgium by the CWGC. He lied about his age in order to enlist and served with the Rifle Brigade in France and Belgium. He was killed by shell fire on 14 January 1916, aged just 15. His comrades carried him back from the front line and laid him to rest here (Plot I, Row U, Grave 8.)

## PRIVATE THOMAS BARRETT



Private Thomas Barrett of the South Staffordshire Regiment was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery during a patrol in no-man's land. He skilfully dealt with several enemy snipers and then volunteered to stay behind to cover the retreat of his comrades. Tragically, he was killed by shell fire upon his return to British lines. (Plot I, Row Z, Grave 8.)

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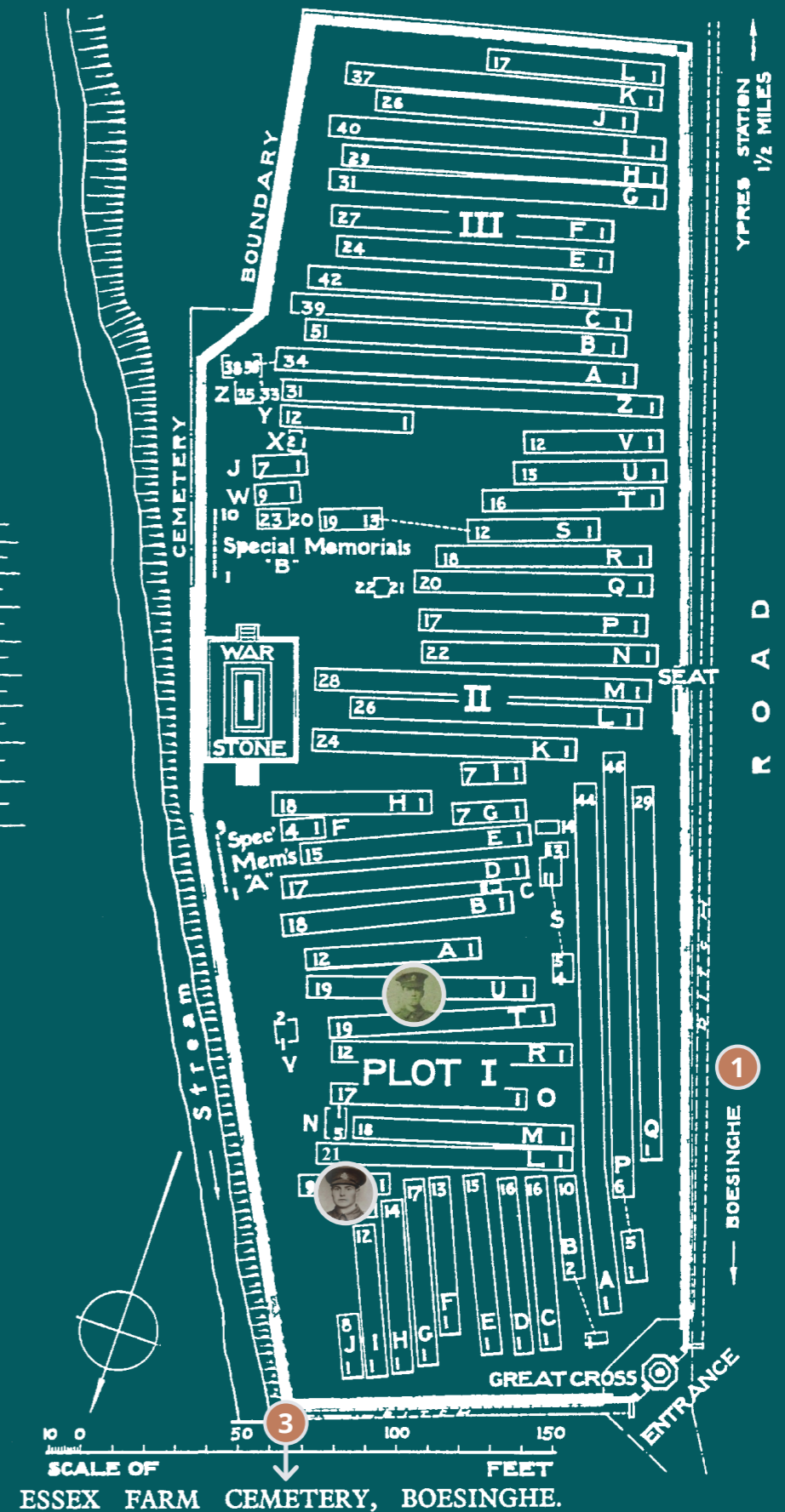


## HIGHLIGHTS

- Essex Farm and John McCrae**  
Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian army doctor, wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields' while stationed near here in May 1915, the day after the funeral of his friend Lieutenant Alexis Helmer. McCrae died in 1918 and was laid to rest in CWGC's Wimereux Communal Cemetery in France. Two memorials to McCrae are located just outside the cemetery.
- 49th (West Riding) Division Memorial**  
You will see many memorials when you travel through the Ypres battlefield. Located here is the 49th (West Riding) Division memorial, erected by the

men of the Division to commemorate their actions during the war. They chose this location as they spent many months fighting nearby and because men of the division are buried in Plot I of the cemetery. Look out for headstone badges of the West Yorkshire Regiment.

- Dugouts**  
The original medical units based here in 1915 dug rough shelters into the embankment behind the cemetery. By 1917 these had been reinforced with concrete. Today you can visit the dugouts and imagine the conditions that medical staff endured while undertaking their vital work.



- In the area**  
Near the preserved bunkers are a small network of walking tracks. Other CWGC sites nearby are Duhallow A.D.S. Cemetery (towards Ieper) and Bard Cottage Cemetery (towards Boesinghe).
- Westtoer bike routes nearby**
  - Ieperboog
  - Vredesfietsroute
  - Bierfietsroute Poperinge - (Vleteren) - Ieper
  - Fietsen langs Brouwerij Deca
- Step free access**
- Good parking**
- Seats present in cemetery**