22910 Corporal William York Amer

1st Battalion, The King's (Liverpool) Regiment

Corporal William Y. Amer of the 1st Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment) was the son of Margaret Ann & William Amer of Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port, and the brother of Samuel Amer. William's father, William senior, was from Birkenhead and moved to Ellesmere Port, the birth place of his wife, to work as an engine driver. In 1901 they were living in Queen's Street, young William being recorded as 5 years old. Ten years later they had moved to 57 Whitby Road, and William was a sixteen year old apprentice joiner working in the Port. A few years later the family moved a few doors down to 65 Whitby Road.

When war broke out, William travelled over to Liverpool to sign on for the King's Liverpool Regiment and was posted in one of the Old Pals battalions. This was the 1st (City) Battalion (later the 17th (Service) Battalion) and had the distinction of being the first of the 'pals' battalions to be formed. This took place in the old watch factory at Prescot where they were undergoing training. They landed at Boulogne on 7 November 1915.

Unfortunately, William's war record no longer exists, but he was killed in action near Souchez/Vimy on 29 April 1918 and was buried in Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, France, Plot VIII, Row R, Grave 31. He was twenty-three years old.



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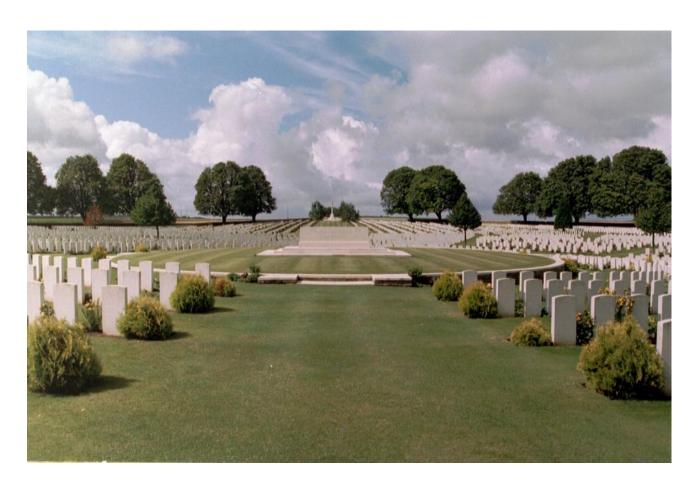


Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais

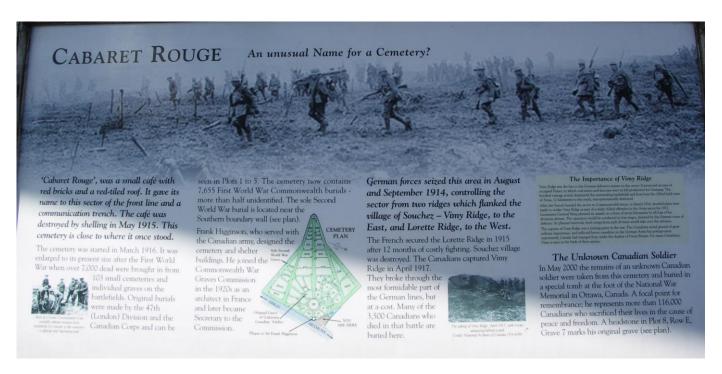
Souchez is a village 3.5 kilometres north of Arras on the main road to Bethune. The cemetery is about 1.5 kilometres south of the village on the west side of the D937 Arras-Bethune Road. On 26 September 1915, Souchez was taken from the Germans by French troops, who handed the sector over to Commonwealth forces the following March. The village was completely destroyed. The "Cabaret Rouge" was a house on the main road about 1 kilometre south of the village, at a place called Le Corroy, near the cemetery. On the east side, opposite the cemetery, were dugouts used as battalion headquarters in 1916. The communication trenches ended here, including a very long one named from the Cabaret.

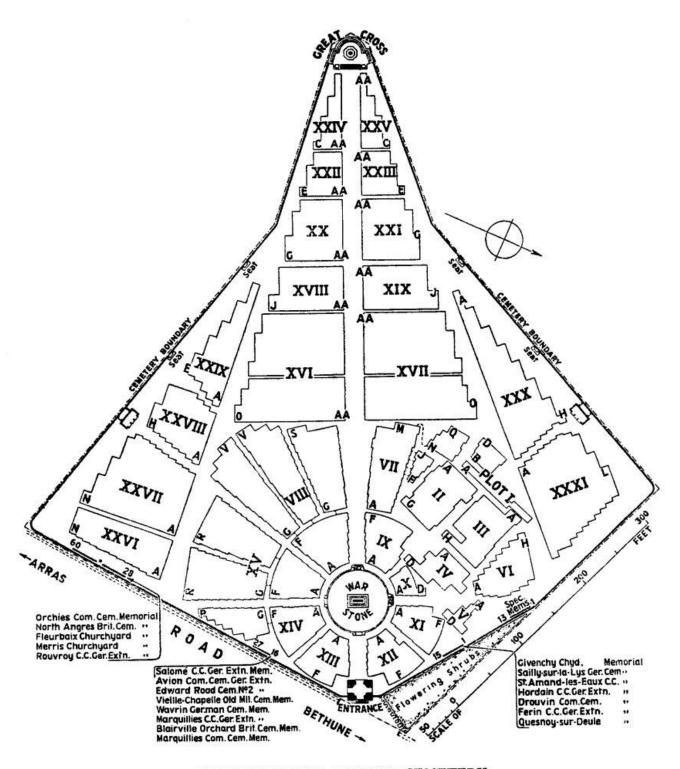
The cemetery was begun by Commonwealth troops in March 1916, used until August 1917 (largely by the 47th (London) Division and the Canadian Corps) and - at intervals - until September 1918; these original burials are in Plots I to V inclusive. It was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when more than 7,000 graves were brought in from the battlefields of Arras and from 103 other burial grounds in the Nord and the Pas-de-Calais. The cemetery now contains 7,655 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, more than half of them unidentified. There is also one Second World War burial. On 25 May 2000, the remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier were entrusted to Canada at a ceremony held at the Vimy Memorial, France. The remains had been exhumed by staff of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission from Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Plot 8, Row E, Grave 7. The remains were laid to rest within the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in a sarcophagus placed at the foot of the National War Memorial, Confederation Square, Ottawa, Canada.











CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY

Researched and written, and photographs in France by Mike Royden