

## HERBERT WALTER HYDE (1904-11)

<b>Date of Birth</b>	10 October 1892
<b>School Information</b>	Cricket XI 1911. Hockey XI 1911. Athletic cap.
<b>Career Information</b>	None
<b>Date Of Death</b>	20 May 1916
<b>Cause of Death</b>	Killed in action
<b>Location</b>	Arras, France
<b>Cemetery</b>	Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France - Plot I.B.44
<b>Rank</b>	Second Lieutenant
<b>Branch of Service</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment

In October 2014 there was an OF visit to his grave







# Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery and the Arras Memorial



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The city of Arras remained in Allied hands and over the fighting from June October 1918 and the end of the war. The British Army took over the city and the cemetery from the French in the spring of 1919 and began burying Commonwealth soldiers behind an old French military position in the eastern suburb of Faubourg d'Amiens. The cemetery was used by field ambulances and fighting units until the American troops were moved to other local grounds in the 1930s and some Commonwealth graves brought here from the battlefields around Arras and one another cemetery nearby. It remained in common use until the 1970s, mostly of the Arras sector but between the spring of 1917 and August 1918 was constructed where the French graves had been, and was completed in 1932. Both the cemetery and memorial complex and part were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. The cemetery is one of the best remaining places of some 2,200 Commonwealth soldiers of the First World War killed in the heavy fighting of the Arras sector in 1917. During the Arras Offensive of 1917, it also contains the graves of eight Commonwealth aircrews of the Second World War and a special memorial to an officer of the United States Air Force killed on his second tour.

### The Battle of Arras

In November 1916, the Allied high command planned a joint offensive to be undertaken in the following spring. Commonwealth forces would attack along a 20 km front from Arras to support a major French offensive along the Chemin des Dames ridge.



To the north of Arras the objective of the First Army was Vimy Ridge and east and south-east of Arras the First and Fifth Armies aimed to advance towards Cambrai. The intention was to force the German army to redeploy in response to the British offensive allowing the French to break through in their sector.

The artillery preparation for the attack was a huge operation, with careful timing and coordination, and a higher concentration of heavy guns than at the Somme. Military units prepared their routes of lay down their positions, such as Vimy Ridge, were covered out with logs, following closely behind one another. Arras to involve a creeping artillery barrage. All forces played

their parts, from supply and engineering agencies to tanks and the flying services. Plans made a total contribution, ensuring some striking success and gains in cost into the final weeks of the offensive which were unexpected, as the Germans of the Hindenburg without being able to do so.

The battle began to dawn on Easter Monday 9 April 1917. Commonwealth forces were the largest advance in a single day since trench warfare began in the summer of 1914. A combined British and Commonwealth force of 200,000 men, supported by the British 29th Division captured the 475 high ground of Vimy Ridge and its other points along the line of attack were only reached their second or third objectives while gas and losses of heavy tank positions. Beyond the first day however, the effects of attrition on the battlefield continued with various weather limited the effectiveness of artillery support and excessive attacks heavy casualties over the following days led to thousands of soldiers being evacuated from the front line with severe wounds.

The offensive continued through April and May but with some limited success. When it came to an end almost 170,000 Commonwealth soldiers were dead, wounded or missing with a higher daily casualty rate than during the battle on the Somme. For many men, the fighting they experienced around Arras in the spring of 1917 would be the most decisive of the war.



Commonwealth soldiers in a trench during the Battle of Arras, April 1917.

The Arras Offensive was one of the most successful in the First World War, with over 170,000 Commonwealth soldiers killed.

The Commonwealth soldiers who died during the battle are buried in the Arras Memorial and the Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery.

The Arras Memorial is a masterpiece of architecture and a symbol of the Commonwealth's contribution to the battle.

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commission is responsible for the commemoration of almost 1,700,000 members of the Commonwealth forces who gave their lives in the two world wars. The graves and memorials of these men and women, who came from all parts of the Commonwealth and who were of many faiths and of many ages, is found around the globe in 155 countries. For more information about the Commission, our work and how to search our records online visit [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org). Everyone who dies will be welcome in our care. CWGC Head Office Tel: +44 (0) 1838 527300. Email: [casualty@cwgc.org](mailto:casualty@cwgc.org). CWGC France Office Tel: +33 (0) 3 21 31 71 80. Email: [france@cwgc.org](mailto:france@cwgc.org).

For more information about the memorial and graves of those commemorated here, visit the QR code (right).

