





COXYDE MILITARY CEMETERY

Britische Begräbnisstätten werden als Gärten entworfen. Die vielen Blumen diesen Gedanken. Auch die einheitlichen Reihen an Grabplatten, die unter ohell aufleuchten können, sollen Trübsal verhindern. Denn schliesslich hatt Krieg gewonnen.



British Military Cemetery

(Robert Vandammestraat, Koksijde)

Coxyde Military Cemetery is the largest military cemetery on the Flemish coast. During the Great War, Koksijde found itself some 10km behind the frontline.

French troops began construction of the cemetery in June 1917. According to the current register, 1,672 fallen soldiers are buried here, of whom 1,517 from WWI and 155 from WWII. 1,453 British soldiers rest here (of whom 9 unidentified), 18 Australians, 15 Canadians, 19 New Zealanders, 2 South Africans and 10 Germans (of whom 6 unidentified).

The 1,517 soldiers of the First World War fell in the defence of the Nieuwpoort sector.

The 155 fallen of the Second World War consist of two distinct groups: a considerable group of soldiers who fell between May and June 1940 during the defence of the perimeter around the port of Dunkirk. Striking in Koksijde is also the large number of pilots and air crew who lie here: at least 45 out of the 155 dead were part of the air force and were shot down by German fighter planes or anti-aircraft guns in the course of the war, mainly in 1944, when they were on their way to bomb German targets.

Coxyde Military Cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens (*1869 -+1944). He designed another 127 cemeteries and burial grounds as well as the city layout of New Delhi in India in 1912.

The cemetery has a rectangular layout and a surface area of 7,750 m². The Stone of Remembrance by the entrance was also one of Lutyens's ideas. The Stone is a 10-tonne Portland stone monolith symbolising eternity emphasised by the inscription, 'Their Name liveth for evermore'.

British military cemeteries are designed like gardens. A notion accentuated by the large amounts of flowers and shrubs. Also the uniform rows of gravestones that sometimes light up under the rays of the sun tend to downplay the sombreness of these sites. The United Kingdom had won the war after all.





