

Saturday 25 May 2019

- **Newfoundland Memorial Park of Beaumont-Hamel.**
- Commemorates the participation of the Newfoundland Regiment during the Battle of the Somme. There are largely undisturbed trench lines, the likes of which are no longer found within the Somme.
- Newfoundland suffered 80% fatalities, they suffered







25/05/2019









Lochnagar Mine Crater Memorial

- Mining a distance of 250m (from their own lines) the British placed 27 tons of explosives 16m under the German trenches.
- The Lochnagar mine was the largest of the 19 mines that exploded on 1st of July 1916 to mark the start of the Battle of the Somme.
- The mine created a crater 100 metres across and 21 metres deep, including a lip 4.6 metres high.
- This is the largest crater made by man in anger in history.
- The mine was detonated at 7.28am on the morning of 1 July, 2 minutes before one of the bloodiest battles in history. Almost 20,000 died in the assault.
- Debris from the explosion rose 4,000 feet into the air.





Internet photos, but they give a better idea of the scale.

The Delville Wood South African National Memorial



The memorial at Delville Wood is a national memorial dedicated to all South Africans who served in all theatres of war.

It is the only memorial dedicated to the participation of the South African Forces on the 1914-1918 Western Front. 229,000 officers and men served with the South African Forces in the Great War. Their casualties who died in action or who died of wounds numbered approximately 10,000.







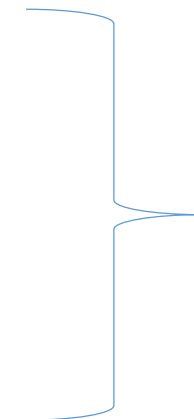
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• **Condemned Cells & Execution Spot**

These prison cells date from 1913. Many Belgian, British and French soldiers spend one or more nights here in the First World War. They are condemned for drunkenness or not returning to their soldiers' quarters. Those who are caught in the pub during forbidden hours also risk custody in the cells.

Some leave a trace in the form of graffiti: drawings of busty ladies, a name or a date, lewd comments, a reference to the regiment, and such like.

For a number of soldiers this is a death cell, the place where they spend their last hours, waiting to be executed. The execution takes place in the courtyard of the town hall, at dawn. Four soldiers have certainly been executed in this courtyard. They are buried in Poperinghe New Military Cemetery. Seventeen men executed by firing squad rest in this cemetery - a sad record.

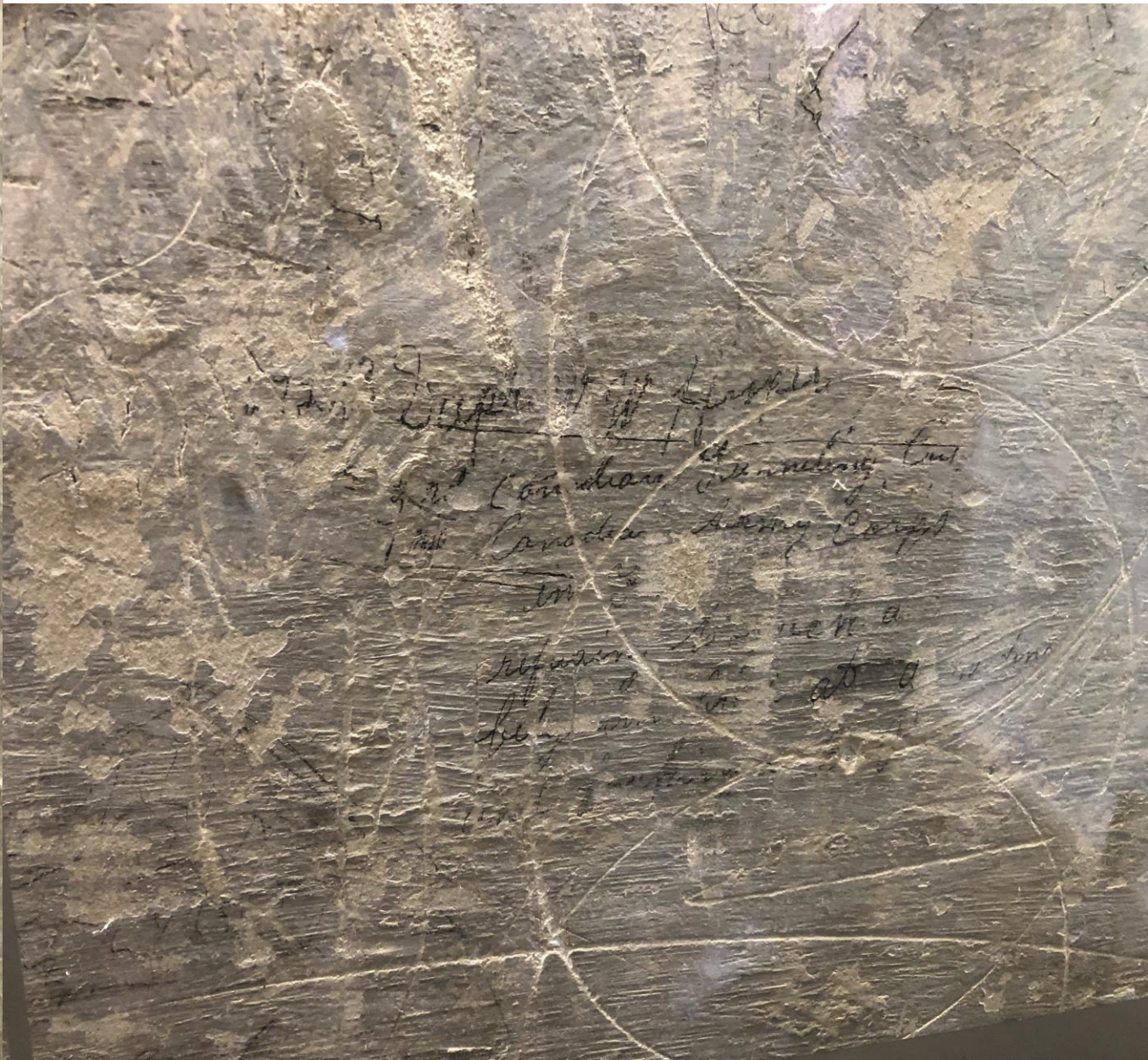


Read
this.



26/05/2019





Licht, grauw licht.

De sleetse nacht
barst in me open en versterft.

Mijn handen rond het glas -
mijn laatste.

De priester met zijn god,
de dokter met zijn opium.

Moeder van god.

Ze zal nu opstaan, haar voeten
warmen aan de kolen.

Ze zal zich omdraaien in de lakens.

Mik niet op mij jongens,
Mik op het witte
linnen op mijn borst

Licht, grauw licht
etst woorden, schrale
woorden in de wanden.

Erwin Mortier



Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

- A Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial ground for the dead of the First World War in the Ypres Salient on the Western Front. After Tyne Cot, it is the second largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces in Belgium.





The inscription of the headstone reads

265802 Private W. Huges

Royal Welch Fusiliers

2nd October 1917

“THY WILL BE DONE”

26/05/2019