

James Francis Hourihan

Service number: 6426

Rank: Private

Roll title: 26 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements (May-December 1916)

Date of embarkation: 23 December 1916

Place of embarkation: Sydney

Ship embarked on: HMAT Demosthenes

Ship number: A64

Date of death: 15 September 1917

Place of death: Belgium

Cemetery or memorial details: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Source: AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War, Army

James Hourihan ,a British born Australian was born in 1886 and was from Tarong near Kingaroy in Queensland .His occupation was teamster and farmer . He enlisted in the AIF on the 25th August 1916 and embarked on the HMAT DEMOSTHENES on the 23rd December 1916, bound for Egypt. He joined the 26th Infantry Battalion as a reinforcement. He was 30 years old at the time of enlistment. Accompanying him was his brother John from Maryborough. John would also serve on the front line and would return home with severe shellshock.

After initial training with the 7th Training Battalion in England, the brothers were finally in France, arriving on the 20th June 1917 in Havre and marching to join their unit on the 14th July 1917.

Training took place during a very wet August while operations were conducted around Bapaume and the Abbey near Woestine in the St Omen region where further rest periods and training for operations were conducted. On the 13th September the Battalion operated around Steenvoorde and Menin Road area where heavy bombardments took place. On the 18th September many gas shells were thrown at the 26th Battalion area and further heavy bombardments. There was to be a major offensive which rain had delayed but finally on the 20th September the various Battalions in support of each other launched an offensive that finally took Westhoek Ridge and into areas of Polygon Wood.. It was here that 16 members of the Battalion were killed and 8 were to remain missing along with many wounded.

James Francis Hourihan was one of the missing over this period who to this day has never been found,only to be remembered on the Menin Gate.

His brother John was to fight on during October and on the 10th November was to be admitted to hospital in Belgium finally being diagnosed with severe shell shock and returned to Etaples where he was on active service with the Australian Employment Company before being medically unfit ,returned finally back to Weymouth in England where he was repatriated back to Australia .

WAR DIARY			Army Form C. 2118.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY			9.
<small>Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.</small>			
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
			<p>(c) A. C. French from WESTHOEK RIDGE to dead ground on the eastern slope.</p> <p>The whole of A Company was engaged in carrying to the 3rd objective and in addition the platoons under Lieut. Brown were working under the Bde. Bombing Officer.</p> <p>At 7 P.M. on the 20th A Co. took up a position on WESTHOEK RIDGE and remained there till relieved by 22nd Bn. The relief was completed by 11 o'clock on night of 21st/22nd Sept and the Bn moved back to HALIFAX CAMP arriving there about 3 a.m. The march back to the camp was a good one but the men who were thoroughly done up after their 56 hours vigil but they were welcomed into camp with a hot meal and a good rum ration.</p> <p>The total casualties were two officers, thirteen O.R. killed, three officers, ninety-nine O.R. wounded, whilst eight O.R. are missing.</p> <p>21.9.17 Bn moved to WIPPENHOEK AREA by route march (operation conducted) arriving there at 12 noon. The camp was a tented one and was occupied by 5th Australian Divisional Detachment.</p> <p>24.9.17 This person was absent in writing, post marching Pt. and making instructions.</p> <p>29.9.17 Planning operation for 30th Sept. to take Haverloot B.C. from German side of 2000 ft. of low land who had been rounded by a bomb from an aeroplane.</p> <p>30.9.17 Bn moved to BELGIAN CHATEAU by route march (operation conducted) arriving there at 2 p.m. There was a lot of traffic on the road which inconvenienced the march a great deal.</p>
HALIFAX CAMP	28.9.17		
RENINGHELST	24.9.17		

The diary events of the 19th, 20 and 21st September of the action on the Westhoek Ridge and Menin Road area.

26th Battalion

After another stint in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France as part of the 2nd Australian Division in March 1916. In concert with the 28th Battalion, the 26th mounted the first trench raid undertaken by Australian troops on the Western Front on 6 June. The Battalion fought in its first major battle around Pozieres between 28 July and 7 August. After a short spell in Belgium, the 2nd Division came south in October to attack again in the Somme Valley. The 26th Battalion took part in two attacks to the east of Flers, both of which floundered in mud and slush.

In early 1917, the 26th Battalion joined the follow-up of the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line and attacked at Warlencourt and Lagincourt. On 3 May, the Battalion was also involved in the second attempt to breach the Hindenburg Line defences around Bullecourt. Later that year the focus of the AIF's operations switched to Belgium. There, the 26th battalion fought in the battle of Menin Road on 20 September, and participated in the capture of Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October.

Like most AIF battalions, the 26th fought to turn back the German spring offensive in April 1918, and in the lull that followed mounted "peaceful penetration" operations to snatch portions of the German front line. In one such operation in Monument Wood on 14 July the 26th Battalion captured the first German tank to fall into Allied hands - No. 506 "Mephisto". In another, on 17 July, Lieutenant Albert Borrella was awarded the Victoria Cross. Later in the year the 26th participated in the great offensive that began on 8 August, its most notable engagement being an attack east of Mont St Quentin on 2 September. The Battalion's last action of the war was the capture of Lormisset, part of the operation to breach the Beaurevoir Line, on 3 October 1918. The 26th Battalion was disbanded in May 1919.

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30510

Q 11464

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 6426Name HOURLIHAN JAMES FRANCIS

Unit

18726 Bth

Enlisted on

15th August 1916

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 1. What is your Name? | ... | ... | ... | 1. <u>JAMES FRANCIS HOURLIHAN</u> |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? | ... | ... | ... | 2. In the Parish of ... in or
the Town of <u>MARYBOROUGH</u>
in the County of <u>QUEENSLAND</u> |
| 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) | ... | ... | ... | 3. <u>BRITISH BORN</u> |
| 4. What is your Age? | ... | ... | ... | 4. <u>30 yrs. 4 mths.</u> |
| 5. What is your Trade or Calling? | ... | ... | ... | 5. <u>Teamster</u> |
| 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? | ... | ... | ... | 6. <u>No</u> |
| 7. Are you married? | ... | ... | ... | 7. <u>No</u> |
| 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) | ... | ... | ... | 8. <u>MR (SISTER) MRS MARY HOURLIHAN</u>
<u>CLIFFORD</u>
<u>TARONG. VIA NANANGO. QUEENSLAND.</u> |
| 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? | ... | ... | ... | 9. <u>No</u> |
| 10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? | ... | ... | ... | 10. <u>No</u> |
| 11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge | ... | ... | ... | 11. <u>No</u> |
| 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? | ... | ... | ... | 12. <u>No</u> |
| 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? | ... | ... | ... | 13. <u>No</u> |
| 14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—
Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? | ... | ... | ... | 14. <u>No</u> |
| 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? | ... | ... | ... | 15. <u>Yes</u> |

I, JAMES FRANCIS HOURLIHAN do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service

to the support of my wife and children.

Date 15th August 1916

James Francis Hourlihan
Signature of person enlisted.

JAMES FRANCIS HOURIHAN on Enlistment.

4 months.

DISTINCTIVE MARKS.

9 inches.

D. 6

D. 6

Scar on Chin

Army Form B. 103.

Regimental Number 6426

Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 18th Bpts 28th Battalion A.I.F.

Rank Private Surname H O U R I H A N Christian Name James Francis

Religion R. C. Age on Enlistment 30 years 4 months

Enlisted (a) 15/3/16 Terms of Service War & 4 months Service reckons from (a) 15/3/16

Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank

Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b) or Corps Trade and rate

Occupation Signature of Officer

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 30, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received			
	O/C Troops A64 "Demosthenes"	Embarked Sydney	22.12.16	IR.326)
		Disembarked Plymouth	3. 3.17	5. 3.17)
1. 3.17	O/C 7th Trg Bn	Marched in from Australia	Rollestone	3. 3.17 DO.20/E of 28/3/17 B213. IR534
15. 4.17	do	P.U.O. to Fargo Hospital	do	12. 4.17 IR2751
12. 4.17	Mil.Hosp	Influenza. Admitted	Fargo	12. 4.17
19. 4.17	do	Discharged to Depot	do	19. 4.17
	O/C	((Pte)Proceeded O/seas France		{ DO.43/E of 27/6/17
19. 6.17	7th Trg Bn	ex Rollestone via	Southampton	19. 6.17 IR4307.
20. 6.17	2 A.D.B.D.	Admitted from England	Havre	20. 6.17 AX 9267.
7. 7.17	do	Proceeded to join Unit	do	7. 7.17 AX 9840
				{ DO.41/4761
14. 7.17	C/O 26 Bn	Taken on strength	France	9. 7.17 B213.B21/28

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) Signaller, Shipping Smith, &c.

W. 1635-21273 20/20 1/17 (P.O.). C. P. & S., Ltd. Form B. 103 E/1007.

P.T.O.

I hereby certify that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that he has been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him

LIEUT..

1916

R. Sanders Lieut

Range

Commanding 18/26 Batt

Act, and

The foregoing questions were read to the person enlisted in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each

[illegible]

this **Fifteenth** day of

August

19¹⁶, before me—

me-
Admiral

LIEUT..

Signature of Attesting Officer.

*A person enlisting who objects to taking an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Act, and the above form must be amended accordingly. All amendments must be initialed by the Attesting Officer.

Description of JAMES FRANCIS HOURIHAN on Enlistment.

Age 30 years 4 months.
 Height 5 feet 9 inches.
 Weight 148 lbs.
 Chest Measurement 32-34 inches.

DISTINCTIVE MARKS.

D. 6 D. 6
 Scar on Chin
 Moles on each side of Body

FIELD SERVICE.

Army Form B. 2090A.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36, or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT OR CORPS 26th Battalion A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company 18th Reinforcements
 Regimental No. 6426 Rank Private
 Surname HOURIHAN Christian Names JAMES FRANCIS
 Died Date 15th September 1917 Place Belgium.
 Cause of Death* Killed in Action.
 Nature and Date of Report Casualty report dated 16th September 1917.

By whom made Commanding Officer 26th Battalion A.I.F.

* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

Burial Place Particulars not yet to hand Date _____
 By whom reported _____

State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Will not (b) in Small Book (if at Base).
 a Will or not (c) as a separate document received.

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Fixed Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.O., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer, as the case may require, together with the Deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

ANZAC SECTION 3rd Echelon 21st November 1917. Adjutant-General's Office at the Base

(1452) WBS/7/1153 501000 216 JFW (E222) Forms 1125/04/2

J. H. H. Lieut.,
 Officer i/c Records.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him

to

Date

Place

D.3721A.1A.—C.4577.

18/26
1 DEC 1918

Rifle Range

Commanding 18/26 Batt

4

Statement of Service of No. 6426

Name HODRIHAN James Francis

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
11th. Depot Btn.	Private	25-9-16	4 OCT 1916	with Capt
REINFORCEMENT th. BATTALION.	do.	4-10-16	30 OCT 1916	JWWth
Cpls School 18/26	Pte.	30-10-16	30-11-16	H.L.
	"	1 DEC 1916		
Embarked. Sydney		22-12-16		
18/26 Bn	Demosthenes..		L.R. 326	
Disembarked Plymouth		5-3-17	5-3-17	
	Pk. M/I Vmg. Batt Ft Huel.	Rollestone	3. 3. 7.	D/O 20/2563E L.R. 534 28.37
	(P) Proceeding Sea to France ex J.B Rollestone	Shanghai	19. 2. 17	L.R. 4307 27/6/17 D.O. 3/4/4413
26 Bn	(P) LOS from 18/26 Bn	France	9/7/17	2044/4761 2.7/7/17
	KILLED IN ACTION.	France	15. 9. 17	L.S.B.L. 1849 P.H. 49/824 20.9.17

I have examined the above details, and find them correct in every respect.

SEE COPY A.F. B103. ENCLOSED

Army Form B. 103.

Regimental Number 6426

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Rank Pte Surname HOVRIHAN Christian Name James Francis
 Religion R.C. Age on Enlistment 30 years 4 months
 Enlisted (a) 15/8/16 Terms of Service (a) war & 4 yrs Service reckons from (a) 15/8/16
 Date of promotion to present rank..... Date of appointment to lance rank.....
 Extended ☐ Re-engaged ☐ Qualification (b).....
 or Corps Trade and Rate.....
 Occupation..... Signature of Officer.....

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 10, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 10, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
		Embarked ...	<u>Sydney</u>	<u>22.12.16</u>	<u>(L.R. 326)</u>
		Disembarked...	<u>Plymouth</u>	<u>3.3.17</u>	<u>(5.3.17)</u>
1	<u>O.C. Troops</u>	<u>A64 "Demosthenes"</u>			
2	<u>11.3.17</u>	<u>64th Coy Bn</u>	<u>Marched in from Australia</u>	<u>Recollectors</u>	<u>3.3.17</u>
3	<u>15.4.17</u>	<u>do</u>	<u>Seck 20 Sango Hosp (P.O.)</u>	<u>do</u>	<u>12.4.17</u>
4	<u>12.4.17</u>	<u>Med Hosp.</u>	<u>Adm Influenza</u>	<u>Sango</u>	<u>12.4.17</u>
5	<u>19.4.17</u>	<u>64th Hosp</u>	<u>Discharged to Hosp</u>	<u>do</u>	<u>19.4.17</u>
6	<u>19.6.17</u>	<u>O.C. Troops</u>	<u>Re-embarked at sea France</u>		<u>19.6.17</u>
7	<u>20.6.17</u>	<u>2nd Bn Base</u>	<u>via Southampton</u>	<u>19.6.17</u>	<u>19.6.17</u>
8	<u>7.7.17</u>	<u>do</u>	<u>Haute</u>	<u>20.6.17</u>	<u>20.6.17</u>
9	<u>14.7.17</u>	<u>Go 26 Bn</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>7.7.17</u>	<u>7.7.17</u>

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) Signaller, Shoeing-Smith, &c.

W.13563—M1477 2000 1/17 (27612) S.P. & Co. Ltd. Forms B. 103/4 R. 1354.

P.T.O.

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.21, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.21, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
16.9.17	C/o 26Bn	KILLED IN ACTION	Belgium	15.9.17	V.L. 474 07/17 Do. 49/5571 Cas. Rpt. AT 15350
<p>ORIGINAL . Copy fwd Defence Melb., AIF H'qrs London, and C.P.M.with A.F. B2090a 7/12/1917.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">772 Lieut., Officer i/c Records.</p>					

My father is dead years ago & my mother has been
 after he died & is in a mental hospital ever since & knows none
 of us I am the eldest since Private James got killed
 during this medal if clear enough now & hope I will get
 the medal I was given & my to left hand

send it to me. I get these same letters every time
 should not please
 it to me
 My Address is
 same as you
 have on this
 note. I have given
 you all the information
 you asked now
 surely I am entitled
 to the medal
 May 6 1921

Arondale
 May 25/1921

Dear Sir.

Re your note which I enclose.
 My Brother No 6426 Pte J. F. Hourihan
 left me as next of kin. I am the
 oldest sister & the one that he wished
 should have anything that would be
 given in memory of him. That is why
 he left me next of kin. I am sick &
 tired of writing for this medal. I have
 wrote several letters to Brisbane & even
 got my sister to witness & sign it
 & still not get it. My younger Brother
 Private John Hourihan Post Office
 Tiaro. I have told them to inquire there
 if I am not the one to get the medal.
 Surely when I am left as next of kin
 that has enough when a poor Soldier
 is dead & gone & leaves his sister
 as next of kin surely his wishes
 should be carried out. I would give
 anything to have the medal in memory
 of him & I don't know why you don't



Army Form B. 103.

Regimental Number 6426**Casualty Form—Active Service.**Regiment or Corps 18th Rfts 26th Battalion A.I.F.Rank Private Surname HOURIHAN Christian Name JAMES FRANCISReligion R. C. Age on Enlistment 30 years 4 monthsEnlisted (a) 15/3/16 Terms of Service War & 4 months Service reckons from (a) 15/3/16

Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank

Extended (.....) Re-engaged (.....) Qualification (b)
or Corps Trade and rate

Occupation Signature of Officer

Date	Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or other official documents.
	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.			
	O/C Troops	A64 "Demosthenes" Embarked	Sydney	22.12.16	IR.326 y
		Disembarked	Plymouth	3. 3.17	5. 3.17)
	O/C				DO.20/E of.
11. 3.17	7th Trg Bn	Marched in from Australia	Rollestone	3. 3.17	26/3/17 B213, IR534
15. 4.17	do	P.U.O. to Fargo Hospital	do	12. 4.17	IR2751
12. 4.17	Mil.Hosp	Influenza. Admitted	Fargo	12. 4.17	
19. 4.17	do	Discharged to Depot	do	19. 4.17	
	O/C	((Pte)Proceeded O/seas France			(DO.43/E 56 27/6/17
19. 6.17	7th Trg Bn	Ex Rollestone via	Southampton	19. 6.17	IR4307.
20. 6.17	2 A.D.B.D.	Admitted from England	Havre	20. 6.17	AX 9267.
7. 7.17	do	Proceeded to join Unit	do	7. 7.17	AX 9840
					(DO.41/4761
14. 7.17	O/O 26 Bn	Taken on strength	France	9. 7.17	(B213.B21/28

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) Signaller, Shoring Smith, Ac.

W. 5548—312729 20/30 9/17 (W911) C.F. & S. Ltd. Form B.103 E/1907.

P.T.O.

HOURIHAN, JAMES FRANCIS

Rank:

Private

Service No:

6426

Date of Death:

15/09/1917

Age:

31

Regiment/Service:

Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

26th Bn.

Panel Reference

Panel 7 - 17 - 23 - 25 - 27 - 29 - 31.

Memorial

YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL



Belgium

Locality:

Ieper, West-Vlaanderen

Identified Casualties:

54406

Location Information

Ypres (now Ieper) is a town in the Province of West Flanders. The Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town on the road to Menin (Menen) and Courtrai (Kortrijk).

Each night at 8 pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the Memorial's arches.

Visiting Information

OCTOBER 2012: Due to road works in the Frenchlaan, which is the road just beyond the Menin Gate, the road through the Gate is closed off for vehicle traffic.

For more information please contact the Area Office on +3257223636. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Panel Numbers quoted at the end of each entry relate to the panels dedicated to the Regiment with which the casualty served. In some instances, where a casualty is recorded as attached to another Regiment, his name may appear within their Regimental Panels. Please refer to the on-site Memorial Register Introduction. The Addenda Panel lists those service personnel whose details are awaiting addition to the Regimental Panels. All odd panel numbers are on the North side of the road and even numbers are located on the South side of the road.

Steps on either side of the memorial leading to the rear of the memorial, make wheelchair access to the rear impossible. There is however, a slope at the side of the memorial which gives wheelchair users some access but due to the incline, it may not be possible to ascend/descend unaided.

Historical Information

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Broadly speaking, the Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war.

The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British

Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defence.

There was little more significant activity on this front until 1917, when in the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele.

The German offensive of March 1918 met with some initial success, but was eventually checked and repulsed in a combined effort by the Allies in September.

The battles of the Ypres Salient claimed many lives on both sides and it quickly became clear that the commemoration of members of the Commonwealth forces with no known grave would have to be divided between several different sites.

The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands of men who passed through it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates casualties from the forces of Australia, Canada, India, South Africa and United Kingdom who died in the Salient. In the case of United Kingdom casualties, only those prior 16 August 1917 (with some exceptions). United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, a site which marks the furthest point reached by Commonwealth forces in Belgium until nearly the end of the war. New Zealand casualties that died prior to 16 August 1917 are commemorated on memorials at Buttes New British Cemetery and Messines Ridge British Cemetery.

The YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known