

Remembrance 2013

Found buried under a stack of old magazines in a small cramped old bookshop, there was a tattered album, its browning pages crumbled to the touch. Full of old cigarette cards of Victorian soldiers and statesmen, it had clearly belonged to a young boy at the turn of the 20th Century.

But the album was much more: it had become a shrine kept and maintained by a grieving mother, a place where she could keep cards and photos of the son she had lost in the horrors of the Western Front. Her son was Bertie Hibbert and the family lived in the village of Old Fletton near Peterborough, Northants.

The album tells its own sad story. With the passage of one hundred years, the story had been forgotten and this fragile reminder had ceased to be someone's treasured memento. Here, we feature some of the contents of the album, beginning with Bertie proudly showing off his new uniform. A crumpled card from Folkestone to Miss Freeman was probably posted by Bertie to his girlfriend just before he boarded a troopship and onward to the trenches.









Bertie Hibbert did not return to his mother or to his 'Dearest', Miss Freeman. He was killed in action in 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele, sometimes called the Third Battle of Ypres. His mother would have received the dreaded knock on the door and a telegram from the War Office with the bitter news.

After the war various arrangements were made for relatives to visit the graves of loved ones. For those unable to make the journey, an organization called the British Association Ypres Salient Belgium was set up. For a modest charge a wreath would be laid on the grave and a photograph taken and sent to the family back home.

There was no such photograph in this album.

SPECIAL WREATHS

(Including two photos. 15/6)

Having received numerous enquiries concerning special and individual wreaths we have added photographs of two further models to our catalogue.

Any letter in the alphabet can be made up similar to those illustrated, **cycus palms trimmed with Flanders Poppies and Forget-me-nots**. These wreaths are very pleasing to the eye and we feel sure will fulfill the requirements of a great number of our subscribers.

After the wreath has been placed **two different photographs** will be taken showing the wreath placed upright on the grave and another with wreath laying flat so that you can read distinctly and lettering inscribed on the grave-stone.

In the event of an order for one of these Special Wreaths kindly state on the order, form the letter which is desired and return to us as soon as possible and **NOT LATER THAN THE 4th NOVEMBER**.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION YPRES SALIENT BELGIUM



SPECIAL WREATHS

See notice concerning these wreaths au verso.



Splendid Laurel Chaplet with Cycus Palms
and Flanders Poppies

No 1. Size 24 inches by 18 inches. Price £ 1-1-0
No 2. Size 32 inches by 26 inches. Price £ 1-6-0



Handsome Laurel Cross with Spray of
Pansies and Cycus Palms

No 15. Size 24 inches by 16 inches. Price £ 1-1-0
No 16. Size 32 inches by 24 inches. Price £ 1-6-0

THESE PRICES INCLUDE COST OF PLACING THE WREATH AND ONE PHOTOGRAPH

BRITISH ASSOCIATION YPRES SALIENT BELGIUM.



No. 9. Palm Wreath with Flowers and Poppies
Size 20 inches by 18 inches
Price including one Photo 8/6.



No. 12. Laurel Cross with Flowers
Size 18 inches by 10 inches
Price including one Photo 8/6

BRITISH ASSOCIATION YPRES SALIENT BELGIUM.



No. 4. Small Laurel Wreath with Flowers
Size 14 inches by 14 inches
Price including one Photo 8/6.



No. 3. Spray of Poppies and Cypcus Palms
Size 20 inches by 18 inches
Price including one Photo 8/6.

In Affectionate Remembrance



Loved in Life
Honoured in Death
Cherished in Memory

of
from

Soldiers Name

Cemetery :

Plot No: Row, Grave No :

Wreath :

N. B. - This space must be reserved for the use of the
BRITISH ASSOCIATION, YPRES, BELGIUM.



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Pansies and Cypcus Palms

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION YPRES SALIENT BELGIUM

(AN ASSOCIATION OF EX-SOLDIERS)



CATALOGUE

In this catalogue relatives will find an admirable choice of
wreaths suitable for placing on our soldiers' graves in France
and Flanders. The prices quoted include the cost of placing
the wreath on the grave and one large mounted photograph.



WREATHS OF ANY SIZE CAN BE SPECIALLY ORDERED
FROM

THE SECRETARY, 22, RUE MERGHELY, YPRES, BELGIUM

To provide a focal point for grieving relatives, War Memorials were established in towns and villages throughout the Kingdom. In London the Cenotaph was built; intended to be a temporary structure, it has been the central point of the national act of Remembrance for those killed during and since the 'War to end all War'.



Bertie Hibbert's name appears on two War Memorials: Tyne Cot and Old Fletton

Name:	HIBBERT, BERTIE JAMES
Nationality:	United Kingdom
Rank:	Sapper, Royal Engineers
Unit Text:	14th Div. Signal Coy.
Age:	20
Date of Death:	03/12/1917 Killed in action near Passchendaele, Belgium.
Service No:	43327
Additional information:	Son of Jack and Florence Edith Hibbert, of 28, Victoria Place, Old Fletton, Peterborough, Northants. A linesman, G.P.O.
Casualty Type:	Commonwealth War Dead
Grave/Memorial Reference:	XX. A. 8.
Cemetery:	<u>TYNE COT CEMETERY</u>



Bertie was just one of the millions of men and women who took the short sea crossing from Folkestone to France. It was his fate not to make the return journey.

We Remember Them.

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