

CAPTAIN CHARLES HUTTON CROWDY (1903-05)

Date of Birth	12 February 1889
School Information	Sub Prefect. Cricket XI 1905. Shooting VIII 1905
Career Information	Bank of Montreal
Date Of Death	19 October 1915
Cause of Death	Killed in action while inspecting trench 134 by a mortar round.
Location	France
Cemetery	Cite Bonjean Cemetery, France - Plot IX.D.28
Rank	Captain
Branch of Service	13 th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regiment)


In October 2014 there was an OF visit to his grave







Cité Bonjean Military Cemetery



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Armentières was occupied by the 4th Division of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on 17 October 1914 and remained in Allied hands until its evacuation before the German advance on 10 April 1918. British soldiers of the 4th and 6th divisions began burying their fallen comrades here in October 1914 and the cemetery was used extensively by Commonwealth field ambulances and fighting units until they were forced to withdraw during the German spring offensive. German troops occupied the town for almost six months in 1918, during which time they used the cemetery for their own burials. On 3 October 1918, the British 4th Division recaptured Armentières and within a few days the first tide of the war had moved the fighting away from the city. Many different Commonwealth units served in this sector and the cemetery contains more than 2,140 graves of British, Irish, Australian, New Zealand and Canadian soldiers, as well as those of several Belgian and French servicemen. In 1925, 450 German graves were moved to Elies German Cemetery, but over 500 German servicemen still rest here, most of whom were buried while the Germans occupied the area in 1918. In all, over 2,600 servicemen of the First World War are buried or commemorated here along with 35 burials dating from the Second World War.

Cité Bonjean is also the site of a memorial commemorating 47 members of the New Zealand Division who fell in this sector and have no known grave. Designed by Sir Herbert Baker, who

also designed the cemetery it is one of seven memorials to missing New Zealanders in France and Belgium.

Armentières during the First World War
 We 'brushed past Armentières in August and September 1914 in the form of German cavalry patrols and the withdrawal of the French garrison from Lille. After the German advance was stopped further south and east, the city was briefly occupied by the Germans as they moved north toward the Belgian coast. The Allied armies, also moving north, clashed with the German

force and from 10 October to 22 November heavy fighting raged from La Bassée to the ridges around Tournai. Armentières was occupied by the British on 17 October and its streets were turned to the rear of the city, which was heavily defended for almost two weeks against major attacks by numerically superior forces.

Armentières was always within range of German artillery, but for most of the war it was nonetheless considered a relatively 'quiet' sector. Troops newly arrived in France would be sent here

to learn how to hold from line trenches and those from more active parts of the line were posted here for a 'rest'. New Zealand troops, recently arrived from Gallipoli, spent their first three months in France here in the spring and summer of 1916. Although the sector was considered safe enough for high-grade figures like King George V to visit and view the front line, several hundred men were buried in Cité Bonjean Cemetery each year. Despite mortar and artillery fire, tank their stay and in trench lines that were sometimes only 40 yards apart, soldiers digger every part of the trench-line. Commonwealth troops were often billeted in the city's factory buildings and would spend their nights carrying supplies to the front-line or performing trench maintenance. During the daytime, however, soldiers in and around Armentières enjoyed a city at their disposal and could take a hot bath in the converted brewery, visit a cafe table or secure cigarettes and beer. Large numbers of civilians remained in the city until the spring of 1918 and the presence of women and children, in particular, created a comforting atmosphere of civil society for many Commonwealth servicemen for whom Armentières became almost a home only from home.

View of an Field Hospital Section near Armentières looking in the direction of the approach of British troops, March 1918

German 4th Army soldiers in trench near Armentières in Belgium, May 1918

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 those men and women, who came from all parts of the Commonwealth and who were of many faiths and of many ages, are found around the globe in 151 countries. For more information about the Commission, our work and how to search our records online visit www.cwgc.org. Enquiries are also welcome at our offices: CWGC Head Office: Tel: +44 (0) 1628 507200 E-mail: casualty.enq@cwgc.org CWGC France Office: Tel: +33 (0) 2 21 21 77 00 E-mail: france.enq@cwgc.org

For more information about this location and some of those commemorated here, scan the QR code below.

