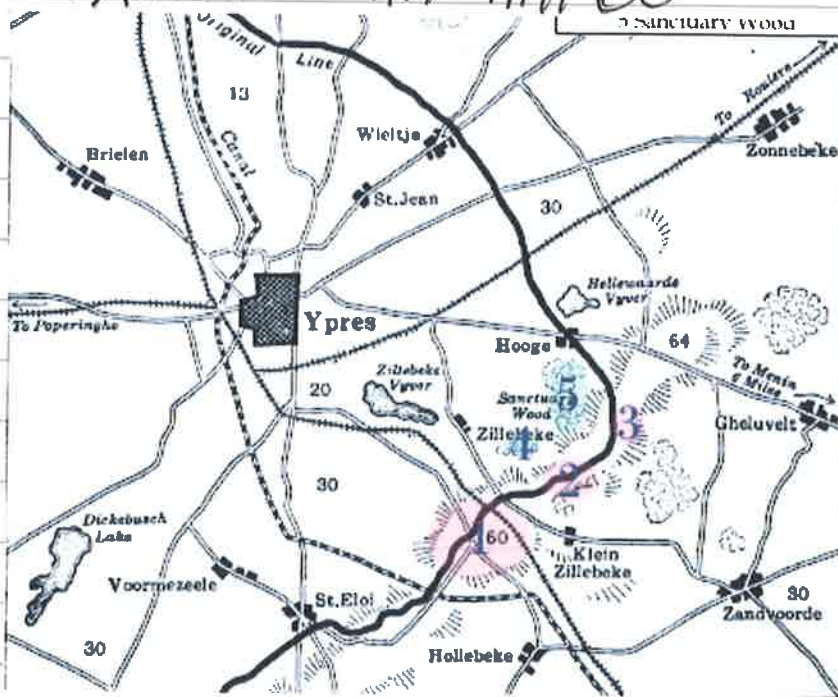


History of my family 1913-1923

My project is about my Great grandfather Arthur Joseph O'Connor. Both of Arthur's parents were from Drogheda, Ireland. They moved to Liverpool, England. Arthur had a brother called Patrick and a sister called Kathleen. Kathleen became a nun in an enclosed order. She was known as Sister Mary Bernadette. When the war started Patrick joined the army in the King's Liverpool Regiment.

When Arthur was growing up, he was educated by monks in France because he was expected to become a priest. He spoke French, Italian and Latin. When world war I started it ended his dreams of becoming a priest.

Map of Ypress with Hill 60



1. Hill 60
2. Mount Soret
3. Tor Top
4. Maple copse
5. Sanctuary wood

Surprisingly he joined the King's Liverpool Regiment. Maybe Arthur joined the army because he wanted to be with his brother. But we are not quite sure. We don't know anything about where he fought before 1917. Arthur became a runner for the army. In 1917 Arthur and Patrick were fighting near a town called Ypres in Belgium. They were trying to capture a hill, which the forces called Hill 60. Before the war it was called "côte des Amants" by the locals which is French for "Lovers Knoll". Hill 60 is a man made hill made from waste soil from making a railway cutting in the 1850s.

Hill 60 was very important to capture, because who ever held it had the advantage to see out ~~over~~ for miles on the flat country side. It was so important to capture that miners dug tunnels and filled them with explosives and blew the hill up. One day Arthur and Patrick were fighting on the hill together when sadly Patrick got shot by a sniper and was killed. Due to confusion of war Arthur's name was accidentally put on to the war memorial instead of Patrick.

If the first world war had not happened Arthur probably would have become a priest and would not marry my Great Grandmother and therefore I would not be here today!

by Anna-Sofie Haffner

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