

In Memory of
PERCY CYRIL RICKETTS

Corporal
21735
2nd Bn., Canterbury Regiment, N.Z.E.F.
who died on
Friday, 12th October 1917.

Additional Information: Son of the late J. J. Ricketts.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: PASSCHENDAELE NEW BRITISH CEMETERY, Zonnebeke,
West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

**Grave Reference/
Panel Number:** V. D. 1.

Location: Passchendaele (Passendale) New British Cemetery lies 10.5 kilometres north east of Ieper town centre on the S'Graventafelstraat, a road leading from St Jan to Passendale. Two roads connect Ieper town centre onto the Zonnebeekseweg; the Torhoutstraat leads from the market square onto a small roundabout. At the roundabout the first right turn is Basculestraat. At the end of Basculestraat, there is a crossroads and Zonnebeekseweg is the turning to the left. 7 kilometres along the Zonnebeekseweg, in the village of Zonnebeke, lies the left hand turning onto the Langemarkstraat (further on this street name changes to Zonnebekestraat). 2 kilometres along this road, and after passing Dochy Farm New British Cemetery, lies the right hand turning onto the 'S Graventafelstraat. 4 kilometres along the 'S Graventafelstraat, and after passing the New Zealand Memorial, lies the cemetery on the left hand side of the road.

Historical Information: The village and its neighbourhood are associated with every phase of the war. On the 13th October, 1914, the 7th Division advanced to Roulers, and on the 16th, with the 3rd Cavalry Division and Belgian troops, it retired through Passchendaele. On the 17th, the village was occupied by the cavalry, and on the 18th and 19th by French cavalry and Territorials; but on the 20th it passed into enemy hands. On the 6th November, 1917, after the severest fighting in most unfavourable weather, the 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade took, and passed, the village; this fight was part of the Second Battle of Passchendaele, the last of the Battles of Ypres, 1917. In the middle of April, 1918, in the Battles of the Lys, the British line was withdrawn far back on the road to Ypres; but on the 29th September, in the course of the Allied offensive in Flanders, Belgian forces recaptured the village. The New British Cemetery was made after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemarck. Almost all of the burials are from the autumn of 1917, but one is identified who fell in November, 1914, and one other who fell in May, 1915. There are now over 2,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over three quarters are unidentified and

special memorials are erected to four soldiers from the United Kingdom and three from Canada, believed to be buried among them. The cemetery covers an area of 7,246 square metres and is enclosed on three sides by a low rubble wall, and on the road side by a stone wall. At "Crest Farm," on the Western outskirts of Passchendaele, is a Memorial of the sacrifices of the Canadian forces in this area.