

Lieutenant John Rookhurst Platt

Lieutenant John Rookhurst Platt was born on the 15th May 1890, the son of Sam Platt of Platt Bros, Oldham and Helen Platt nee Roberts.

He was educated at Eton and was part of the 2nd Battery, Royal Field Artillery 3rd (Northumbria) Brigade in the First World War.

The War Diary for his unit is Ref WO 95/2817 (252 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery).

He served with his unit from their embarkation from Newcastle on Tyne to Le Havre via Southampton on 19th April 1915. They were near Ypres in May and June, and then Neuve Eglise in July, and Armentieres in October.

There was no let up for Christmas as his unit now at Kruisstraat fired 67 High Explosive and 79 Shrapnel shells on the 25th December 1915 and on the 31st December the war diary states "Each battery fired 60 rounds between 11pm and 11.50pm and the same between midnight and 12.50pm without provoking retaliation."

He was wounded by shell fire on Hill 60, near Ypres, and died the same day, the 27th March 1916.

He is buried at Railway Dugouts Burial Ground, Grave Ref III E 13.

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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erased heading not required.)

SHEET No 29
3rd Northumbrian RFA
(TF)
Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 28 H23B59	1916 March			
	23		Nie	
	24		Amv expended 26A 6AX	JRP
	25		do 54A 159AX	JRP
			Gp Lums H.W. No 1140 a carnalut - shell shock.	
	26		Amv expended 23A 6AX	JRP
	27		do 66A 69AX	JRP
			Lt J.R. Platt, 2 nd Battery, wounded by shell fire on Hill 60, dies same day.	
			Corporal J.A. Shaw No 942, 1 st Bty do do dies following day.	
			Gp Turnbull J No 1617 2 nd Bty do and sent to Hospital	
	28		Amv expended 63A 89AX	JRP
			Corporal J.A. Shaw No 942, 1 st Bty, died of wounds.	JRP
	29		Amv exp: 22A 24AX	JRP
			Gp Ferguson I No 2 nd Bty killed by rifle bullet near Klauwepoot farm.	
	30		Amv exp: 19A 13AX	JRP
	31		do 38A 4AX - from J.V. Magee No 1645 killed by shell fire near Sene Chateau.	JRP

1577 Wt. W1079/1773 500,000 1/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Form C. 2118

Sparked. Pickering

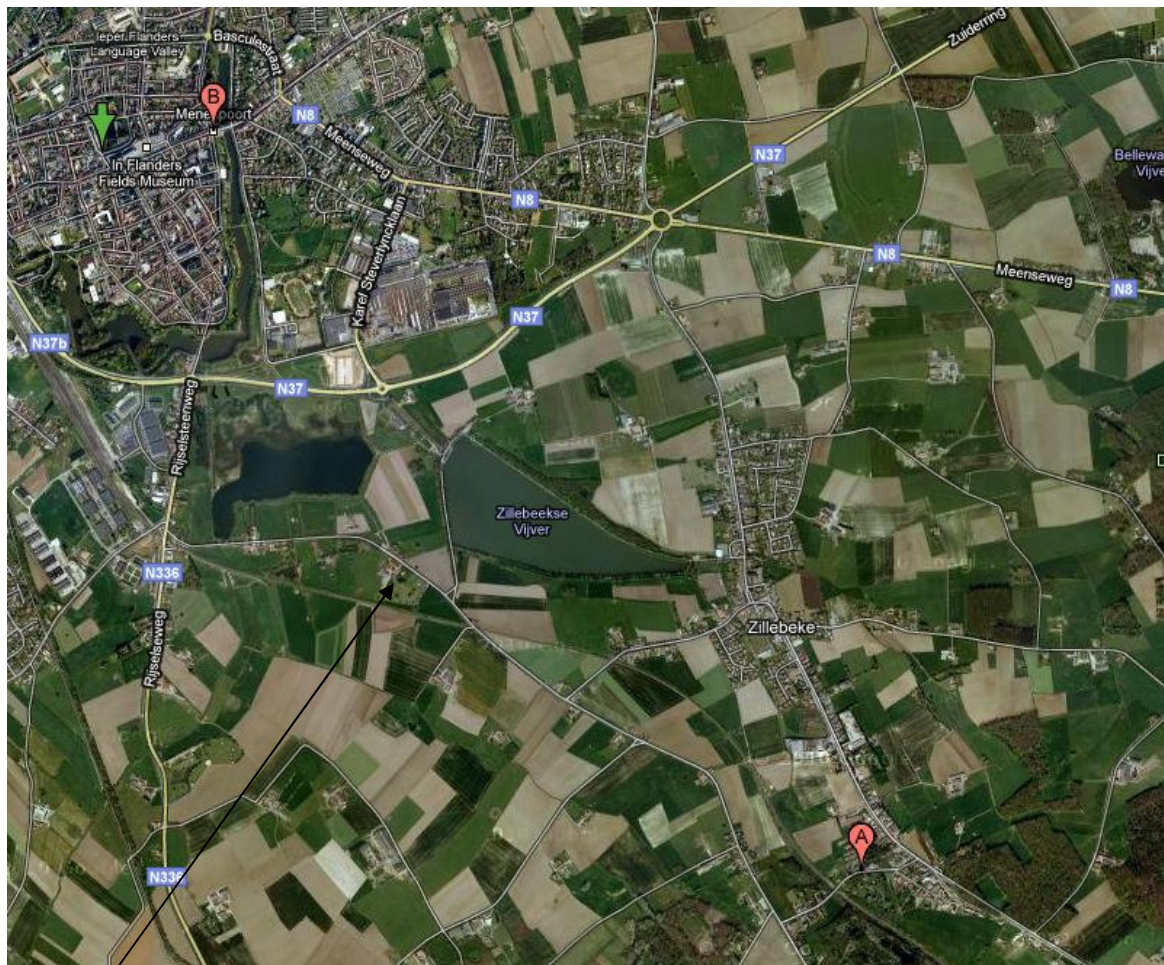
War Diary record of March 1916, Ref WO 95/2817



LIEUTENANT
JOHN ROOKHURST PLATT
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY
27TH MARCH 1916 AGE 25
IN THE SECURITY OF DUTY DONE



Railway Dugouts Burial Ground, nr Ypres.



Railway
Dugouts
Burial Ground

A – Hill 60
B – Menin Gate, Ypres

Hill 60 was so named because it is 60 metres above sea level. Even with such a slight incline - the man-made result of spoil from a nearby railway cutting in the nineteenth century (no longer present) - the hill proved an invaluable vantage point from which to view the wider battlefield and so was much sought and fought after by the allied and German forces.

A plaque there records that it was taken from the French by the German forces on 10 December 1914, recaptured by the British on 17 April 1915, retaken by the Germans on 5 May 1916, ceded back to the British on 7 June 1917 (the first day of the Messines offensive), taken once again by the Germans in April 1918 (during the great Spring push) and its final capture by the British on 28 September 1918.

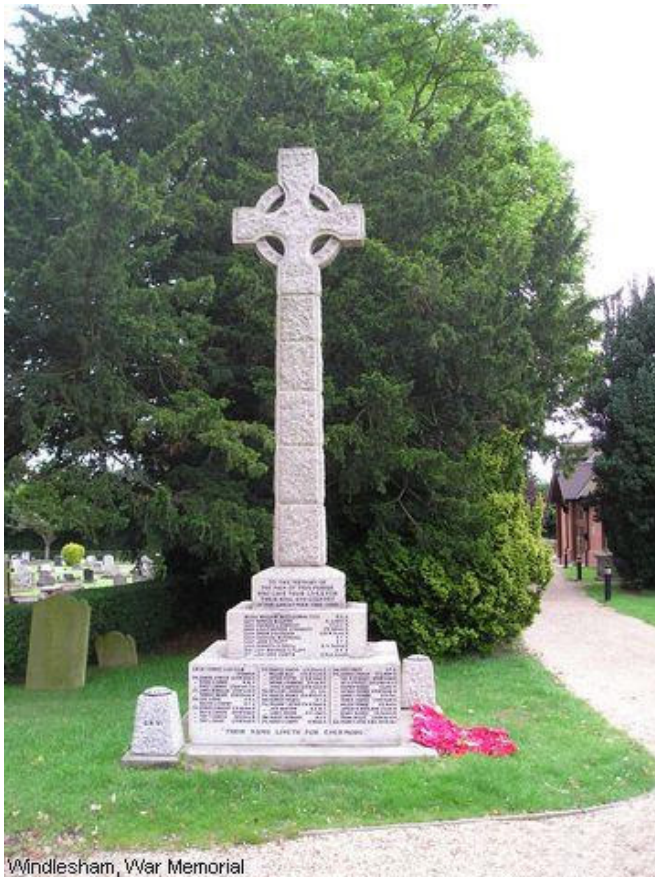
The sanctuary steps at St George's Memorial Church, Ypres were given by Nancy Quinelda Radcliffe Platt in memory of her brother John Rookhurst Platt.

His name, along with his brother Sub-Lieutenant Maurice C Platt K8 41, RN Div. (Antwerp), RNVr who died on the 26th November 1918, are on the War Memorial at Windlesham in

Surrey near where his widowed mother Helen May Platt was living at New Place, Sunningdale, Berkshire. Their names are also on the family grave at Chadderton Cemetery.



Platt Family Grave, Chadderton Cemetery



Windlesham War Memorial

Author: William Bridge, August 2010

