

## Château Rosendal - Bedford House

To be buried in the permanent enclosure at Bedford House, Edmund would have had to have been killed in or close to Bedford House. Most likely he was severely wounded whilst on the working party. The Buffs war diary does not state that the Batt came under fire whilst in the rest camp, had it been so he would have been buried there and moved into enclosure 4-6 after the war. So we can safely assume that Edmund was part of a working party sent to the Zillebeke St Trench. We know that the area was under heavy shell fire at the time. Had he been killed in the trench area, he most likely would have been left there, and ended up in the Maple Copse cemetery, as it would have been difficult for the other soldiers to carry a body plus all the returning stores approx 3km to Bedford House for burial.

However as Bedford House was the location of a Field Ambulance Aid Post, it is most likely that Edmund was severely wounded, transported to Bedford House where he most likely succumbed to his wounds. The other graves around Edmunds show differing dates around the 20th July 1917, indicating a trickle of deaths and burials in that location.

The pre-war Château Rosendal was located 2.1km south of Ypres in grounds made up of areas of woodland, moats and a lake. The Kemmelbeek stream ran along the northern boundary of the château grounds.

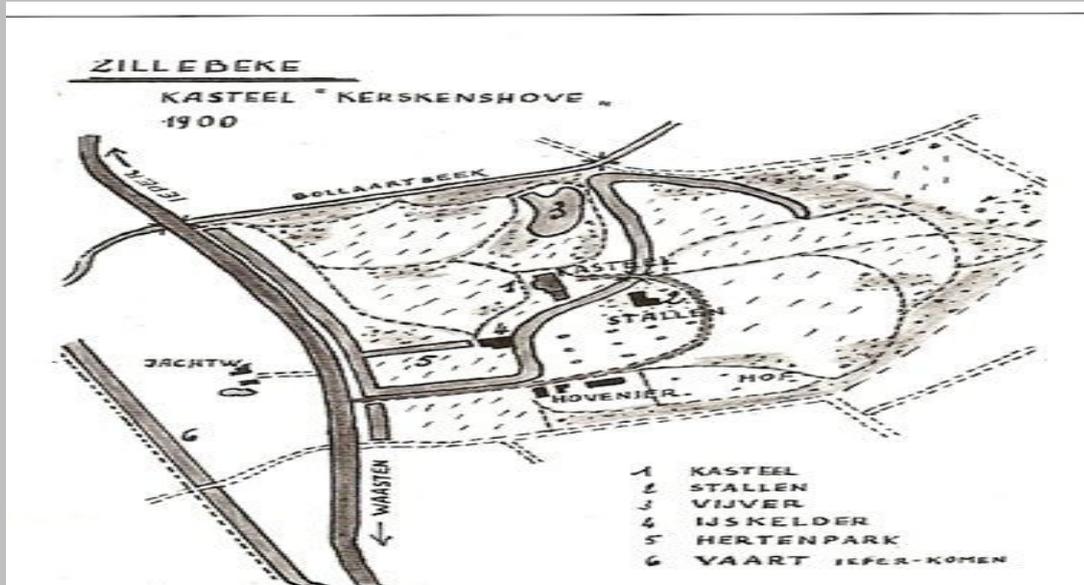
The château was in Allied-held territory behind the Allied Front Line for the duration of the war. From the time when the British took over this southern sector of the Ypres Salient from the French Army in the early weeks of 1915 through to the autumn of 1918 the main house, its various outbuildings and grounds were used for headquarters & Field Ambulance Aid posts and burial sites. The château was renamed by the British as Bedford House.

### G3461 Private EJ Payne MM Enclosure 2, Plot 3, Row C, Grave 14.



The detailed section below from a British Army trench map dated August 1916 shows the layout of the grounds, the moats, woodland and lake. The main road from Ypres to St. Eloi is seen on the left of the site, running from north to south. The Ypres-Comines canal, as it was at that time, can be seen on the left of that road. Just to the south of the Bedford House site the canal made a turn to the east and crossed under the road at Lock No. 8.

Over the period of the four years the house and its grounds were shelled by German artillery. The Château Rosendal and its surrounding parkland were destroyed.



The site of the British and Commonwealth military cemetery named Bedford House was used by the British Army from 1915 through to the end of the war. By the time the war was over there were “enclosures” containing graves in various numbers on this site. With the development of the cemetery after the war, and graves being brought into the site from burial sites and battlefield burials around the area, the Bedford House Cemetery now consists of four Enclosures, these being numbered Enclosure Numbers 2, 3, 4 and 6.

There are 5,139 Commonwealth casualties from the First World War buried in the site of Bedford House Cemetery. Of these casualties 2,194 are identified burials. Special memorials commemorate those Servicemen who are believed to be buried here but their marked graves were destroyed and could not be found.

#### **Enclosure No. 1**

After the Armistice the group of graves in Enclosure 1 was moved to St. Jean, north-east of Ypres into White House Cemetery.

#### **Enclosure No. 2**

The site at Enclosure No. 2 was started by Field Ambulance Aid Post units as a burial ground in December 1915. It was in use during the war until October 1918.

#### **Enclosure No. 3**

As with Enclosure No. 2 the site at Enclosure No. 3 was in use from February 1915 to December 1916.

#### **Enclosure No. 4**

The site at Enclosure No. 4 was in use from June 1916 to February 1918. Many of the casualties buried during that time were serving in this area with the 47th (London) Division. After the Armistice a further 3,324 casualties were brought to this Enclosure. They had originally been buried or had been missing in action on the battlefields around this site. Many of these re-burials remain unidentified.

**Enclosure No. 5**

Never existed?

**Enclosure No. 6**

Some twenty years after the Armistice of November 1918 a sixth enclosure was established for casualties who were discovered and brought in from the fields in the area as the great task of battlefield clearance was underway.



Entrance to Cellar / First Aid post Bedford House.