



GUNNER WILFRED JOHN CALLOW

113th Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery

Service Number 169256

Wilfred Callow died of wounds in northern France on November 26th 1917 aged 36 years. He is buried at CWG Potijze Chateau Grounds Cemetery near Ypres, Belgium.

Born in Great Brington, Northamptonshire on October 29th 1881, Wilfred was the second son of John and Annie Callow. He had two younger sisters, Rose and Mary and an older brother, Lewis George and was educated at Great Brington school.

In 1907 Lewis married Elizabeth Ann Percival in Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire and came to live at No. 56 Great Brington. They had two children, Gladys born in 1908 and died in infancy and Kenneth who was born in 1910. Wilfred worked as a house painter on Althorp Estate.

At the outbreak of World War 1, Wilfred joined the Northamptonshire Police Force as a Reserve Constable and was stationed at Weston Favell and then Harlestone.

Wilfred's older brother, Lewis, served as a Private in the Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment in Macedonia and survived the war.

POTIJZE CHATEAU GROUNDS CEMETERY

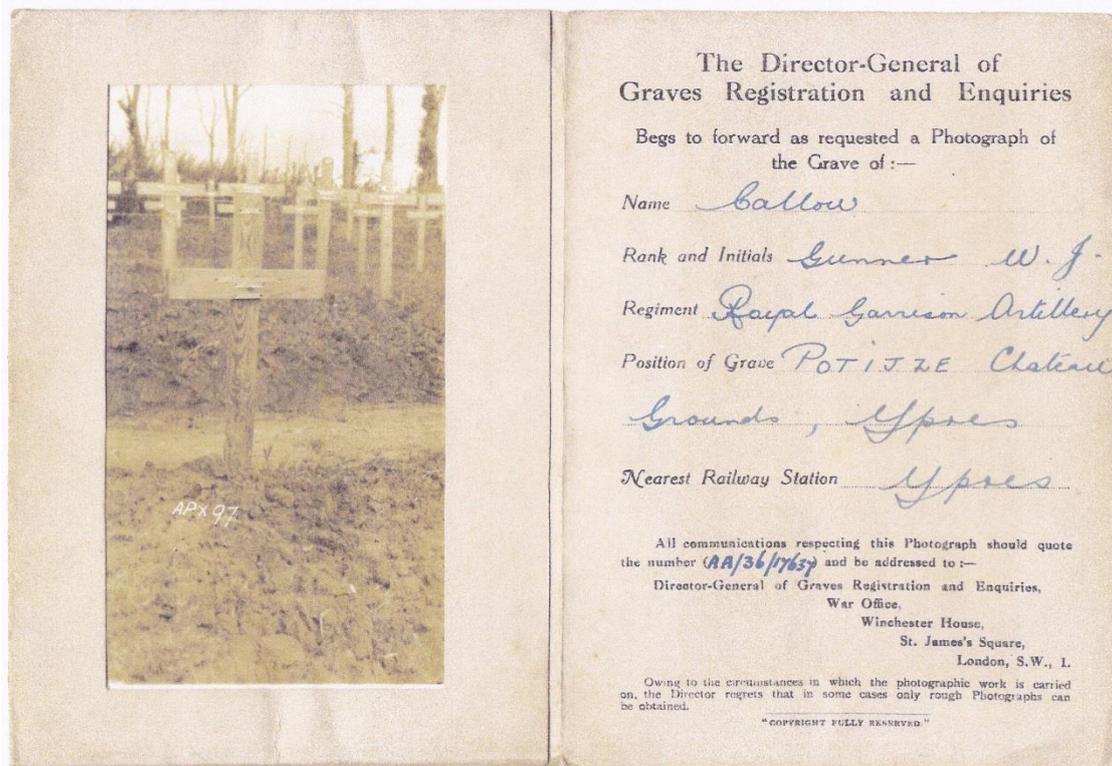


~~2-12-17~~
Dec 2nd 1917

Dear Mrs Callow

I am sorry to say that this letter will bring you bad news. I regret to inform you that your husband No 169256 Gnr W. Callow was killed on the 26th of last ^{Nov.} month by a bomb from an enemy plane. There is some consolation in knowing that death was instantaneous so that he suffered no pain immediately before hand. The battery joins me in expressing sympathy with you for your loss and in regrets at losing a brave comrade and a good man.

Yours faithfully
A G Coombs
Commanding Officer



Siege Batteries of the Royal Garrison Artillery were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in high trajectory, plunging fire. The usual armaments were 6 inch, 8 inch and 9.2 inch howitzers, although some had huge railway- or road-mounted 12 inch howitzers. As British artillery tactics developed, the Siege Batteries were most often employed in destroying or neutralising the enemy artillery, as well as putting destructive fire down on strong points, dumps, store, roads and railways behind enemy lines.

An unidentified British soldier standing with a 9.2 inch howitzer Mk I, named Berdamed, which was supporting the Australians on the Somme. The camouflaged box in front of the gun is known as a dirt box, which was filled with soil and attached to the gun to act as a counterweight to the force of the blast and keep the gun in position.