

WASS 2211

WA 10594

A. E. Wood

Correspondence

Extracts

Images

Touchpaper

Articles

## Ian MacFarlane

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**From:** Hyeresman@aol.com  
**Sent:** 04 November 2010 08:36  
**To:** archives@royalgunpowdermills.com  
**Subject:** Archive Question From Martin Hale- re: A E Wood

Hi, my name is Martin Hale, my mother is Doreen Wood aged 79, the Hale and Wood families go back few centuries in the Waltham Abbey area, I'm writing to see if you are seeking any information on Albert Edward Wood aka A E Wood, aka Edward Wood aka Slacker Wood, an employee of the mills in the early 1900's who went on to become the international cross country champion, are you aware of him or if not then perhaps another 'piece' for your museum!

He lived near the Good Intent public house in Upshire, my mother received many testaments about his feats after an article in the Hertfordshire Mercury about 35 years ago from people who actually witnessed him running home from the mills after work, it was rumoured that he used to race a homing pigeon released from the mills a certain time after he started his run home, the idea was to beat the pigeon, although it sounds far fetched my mother received letters from people that new him to say this was true and that they had witnessed the event.

Although the mills produced many eminent scientists this was just a working class man from a modest background, the wealthy Tuck family of Waltham Abbey used to pay for his training, he must have been some sort of hero as a mills employee, probably just for the fact alone that he travelled abroad to run.

In cross country he became north of the Thames champion twice, Southern counties champion twice, a member of the winning international England team three times and the world champion twice in 1909 & 1910, so sadly he was killed in the first world war. I would be pleased to know if you have any details about him, if you were to consider featuring him in your museum then I have original photos, letters, publications that refer to him and even a newspaper reporting his death where he is referred to as the 'world champion runner'.

I probably have the only details still remaining of this great athlete, perhaps many Waltham Abbey residents don't even know that a world champion ( in that era) was born and bred there, it would be unfortunate for this bit of local history to be lost in time.

I can be contacted by Email or 01954 261369 Thanks for reading, Martin hale, Cambridge (ex WA)

## Ian MacFarlane

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**From:** Les Tucker [les10tucker@btinternet.com]  
**Sent:** 08 November 2010 18:41  
**To:** Hyeresman@aol.com  
**Cc:** imacfarlane@royalgunpowdermills.com  
**Subject:** Archive Question From Martin Hale- re: A E Wood

Dear Martin

Many thanks for your fascinating e mail. This is the kind of thing that makes archive work worthwhile.

Ironically we have far more documentation on Mills personnel up to 1841 than after so your information is entirely new to us.

Basically I will certainly lodge this in the Mills Archive with a record of you as donor, together with any images etc. which you feel able to copy to us.

Beyond this the Friends maintain exhibition cabinets in the main Exhibition building. At the next meeting of the Friends Committee, on 19th. November, I will propose that one of the present exhibits be replaced by one on A.E.Wood, subject to ( i Committee agreement ( ii our being able to present the material in a suitable manner ( iii it can be tied in with current refurbishment of the exhibition area.

I will come back to you after the 19th.

In the meantime thanks again.

Regards

Les Tucker

Archivist Royal Gunpowder Mills

## Les Tucker

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**From:** Hyeresman@aol.com  
**Sent:** 10 November 2010 13:40  
**To:** les10tucker@btinternet.com  
**Subject:** Re: A.E.Wood

Hello Les, nice of you to take an interest, he was my mothers uncle born in 1888, I've always been interested in him, in the family he was referred to as 'Slacker' - probably his nickname at the mills to, strangely enough nearly all documents refer to him, including the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as A E Wood never Albert Edward, although I understand he preferred to be called Edward rather than Albert. For your records I can mail you copies of some of the items listed below, however I can also loan the following items to you until such a time as the museum no longer requires, my objective is for his achievements not to get lost in time, because there is such a local connection to Waltham Abbey/Upshire and the Mills then I think you should have the choice.

Should your committee choose to use Slacker as an exhibit then I can supply you the following for you to display:

I have the original Hertfordshire Mercury from November 1917 reporting his death, the newspaper is in tatters but I've a good photocopy of the relevant page, the heading is 'Ex -World Champion Runner Killed' it goes on to state that he ran in nearly every European country plus America

There are the following original 5 photos, probably from the early 1900's that are framed:

A/ 2 of 9" x 7" both show him with a large selection of cups & trophies, one of the photos is slightly damaged but shows him with two 'Gentlemen', one is believed to be Mr Tuck who paid for his training

B/ 2 identical photos of Slacker running on a cinder track, one is 11" x 9" and the smaller one is a postcard which was presumably available for purchase, the frame size is 7" x 5" and the postcard states: A E Wood North of Thames, Southern Counties & International Champion 1909 - the cinder track it was taken on was at High Beech before becoming Britains first 'speedway' race track in 1928!

C/ A nice 21" x 17" portrait

A handwritten 1975 letter from a man saying that his father 'used to work with a wonderful athlete in the Powder Mills'

A page from a 1975 Midweek Mercury displaying a letter from the sister of Slacker, she mentions they were a family of 14 children and how he trained by racing against his pigeons! ( as I previously mentioned to you)

An Essex County Amateur Athletics Association 1883-1983 Centenary book which has a page with interesting information regarding him and confirming his title wins.

A 1964

Guinness Book of Records that mentions him under the cross country section, there is also a GB Athletics web site that also confirms his 2 world championship wins, however you need to ask their permission to display the contents ( I can do this if required)

A colour photo of his war grave that I took in Le Treport, France

We know we have more handwritten testimonials to his feats but are having difficulty locating them, they'll probably be found sometime in the future, hoping that this information is of interest for your committee

12/12/2010

presentation

Regards Martin

In a message dated 08/11/2010 18:48:09 GMT Standard Time, les10tucker@btinternet.com writes:

Dear Martin

Many thanks for your fascinating e mail. This is the kind of thing that makes archive work worthwhile.

Ironically we have far more documentation on Mills personnel up to 1841 than after so your information is entirely new to us.

Basically I will certainly lodge this in the Mills Archive with a record of you as donor, together with any images etc. which you feel able to copy to us.

Beyond this the Friends maintain exhibition cabinets in the main Exhibition building. At the next meeting of the Friends Committee, on 19<sup>th</sup>. November, I will propose that one of the present exhibits be replaced by one on A.E.Wood, subject to ( i Committee agreement ( ii our being able to present the material in a suitable manner ( iii it can be tied in with current refurbishment of the exhibition area.

I will come back to you after the 19<sup>th</sup>.

In the meantime thanks again.

Regards

Les Tucker

Archivist Royal Gunpowder Mills

12/12/2010

## Ian MacFarlane

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**From:** Les Tucker [les10tucker@btinternet.com]  
**Sent:** 07 December 2010 19:14  
**To:** imacfarlane@royalgunpowdermills.com  
**Subject:** Archive Question From Martin Hale- re: A E Wood

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From: Les Tucker [mailto:les10tucker@btinternet.com]  
Sent: 04 December 2010 11:58  
To: 'Hyeresman@aol.com'  
Subject: RE: A E Wood

Hello Martin

Many thanks for the material.

I will need a little time to evolve questions, but in the meantime - I see there are two WW1 cemetery images. Do you know which one is applicable. You mentioned Le Treport in an earlier e mail, does this mean I should take it this is the one I should quote.

The due date for material for the next quarterly Touchpaper is 15th. February so I have some time. A provisional article title is - Mills worker A.E.Wood - Runner Extraordinaire.

I work part time for the Mills and will speak to Lynne Lennard about future space plans as soon as I can see her. She tends to be away a lot.

Regards

Les

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From: Hyeresman@aol.com [mailto:Hyeresman@aol.com]  
Sent: 01 December 2010 17:31  
To: les10tucker@btinternet.com  
Subject: A E Wood

Hi Les, just to advise that I've posted to you most of the mentioned details, they are copies for you to keep, I've not enclosed a letter as all fairly self explanatory, I'll try to answer any questions you may have. Once you've viewed the material I've sent then perhaps sometime we can decide what should be done for the future regarding the Mills & WA Museum

Regards Martin

**Les Tucker**

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**From:** Hyeresman@aol.com  
**Sent:** 08 December 2010 11:10  
**To:** les10tucker@btinternet.com  
**Subject:** A E Wood - exciting news!

Dear Les, I've received notification from the War Graves Commission that completely turns things on their head, first of all I gave you information in good faith as known by my mother and her surviving brothers, through the WGC we now know that Slacker was officially called Arthur Edwin Wood not Albert and that he was referred to as both Edwin and Edward, date of birth would be 1884.

When I did my original war graves research the grave was narrowed down to one of 2 graves, as one was in Belgium and the newspaper reported his death being in France, then Le Treport was the only grave that could be his and consequently the grave that I visited, because of your interest I contacted the WGC for further information, it appears that I visited the wrong grave! completely unknown to my family it appears that Slacker enlisted as a Canadian and in fact was buried as a Canadian soldier not a British soldier, I enclose details which absolutely prove this to be his grave, the next of kin are my mothers grandparents.

The WGC must have known of his athletic abilities, they have unbelievably sent me a copy of an article from The New York Times 1912, this gives a completely unknown insight into Slacker, from this we now know he was also a 15 mile flat track world champion, beating both Olympic, national and international champions and also at one time the English 10 mile champion, it makes fascinating reading and brings home just what he accomplished, through the NYT I'm finding more information on him and will forward any article that I discover of interest, it seems that Slackers achievements were far greater than what our family ever realised

Regards Martin

12/12/2010

**Les Tucker**

**From:** Hyeresman@aol.com  
**Sent:** 31 January 2011 15:49  
**To:** les10tucker@btinternet.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: A E Wood - exciting news!

20-1-2011  
 Resent 31-1-2011

Hello Les, just making sure you received this mail I sent 11 days ago - regards Martin

From: Hyeresman@aol.com  
 To: les10tucker@btinternet.com  
 Sent: 20/01/2011 16:43:00 GMT Standard Time  
 Subj: Fwd: A E Wood - exciting news!

Hi Les, please find enclosed the answers to your questions:

1. 17/11/1917
2. The Midweek Mercury 4/2/1975
3. Date unknown, probably between 1908 - 1912
4. It's believed that Mr Tuck is the man on the right as you look at photo, the Tuck brothers owned the potteries that produced flowerpots & tiles in Woodgreen Road, Upshire and later the Tuck family purchased Upshire Hall, we don't know how they got involved with Slacker but there's a good chance that when he ran home from the mills then he would have ran across their land to get to Upshire, if the mills were in Sewardstone Road in the 1910 period and Slacker worked at that particular site, then the most direct route across country to Upshire would most definitely have taken him close to land to the rear of the potteries where presumably the Tucks dug their clay from.
5. Not sure what New York Times article is missing Les as I sent quite a few NYT articles, I can send all again - let me know please
6. I've not yet heard from the CWGC as to how they tied up Slackers grave with the NYT article, I'll let you know if I get a reply, I did speak to someone that does WW I & 11 war graves tours and he thought it very unusual for any 'outside' information to be found on record.
7. We unfortunately cannot answer how he came to reside in Canada as a Canadian citizen, my guess is that as a professional runner in the USA he made enough money to become a partner in a Canadian farm, his enlistment papers show his occupation as a farmer with next of kin being one unmarried sister in Toronto.

I hope this gives you enough information Les - Regards Martin

From: les10tucker@btinternet.com  
 To: Hyeresman@aol.com  
 Sent: 21/12/2010 19:28:26 GMT Standard Time  
 Subj: RE: A E Wood - exciting news!

05/02/2011



Hello Martin

It must be heartening for you to now have the definitive account of Arthur Edwin, as we now know him.

I have enough material for an article but I would be glad if you could provide answers to the following, as far as is possible.

1. Hertfordshire Mercury item headed Waltham Abbey Ex-World's Champion Runner Killed

Exact date of publication

2. Newspaper item All our Yesterdays Readers write

Letter from Mrs. Palmer

Exact title and date of publication

3. Photo with trophies and two gentlemen supporters, one believed Mr. Tuck

Date

4. Mr. Tuck. Is he the one on the right or the left

Do we know anything about him – where he lived, reason for his support for Arthur etc.

5. New York Times

For some reason my computer refuses to print out the article

Could I trouble you to send it if possible please

6. I was amazed to see that the CWGC were able to produce the NYT article. Does this mean that they keep this kind of documentation on every one of the dead.

7. Arthur's nationality is given as Canadian. Did he emigrate to Canada ( In Readers write Mrs. Palmer says there is one brother left, in Canada )

From the date of death, connection with Canadian Forces and place of burial I think it is virtually certain that he died in the awful Third Battle of Ypres, with the main

object of capturing the fortified village of Paschendaele, which the Canadian Corps did on November 6 1917.

I have a very useful book Before Endeavours Fade ( BEF ) by a female civil servant Rose Coombs MBE which details suggested tour routes of the main battle areas

together with detailed information on units, actions fought, memorials etc.

The introductory tour of the town is simply headed Ypres and on P.31 the the following comment appears - ' The other cemetery in the town is the Reservoir

05/02/2011

quite substantial losses on the races, while the harrier clubs expressed the view that the Executive Committee of the Association 'knew nothing about cross-country championships'. There was also some doubt whether all those who competed were qualified to run in an Essex championship. It was agreed to let the cross-country clubs carry out the championship themselves and to transfer the cup to them, provided they formed within the next year a properly constituted body.

On 5 February 1892, the Essex Cross-country Association was born and the promotion of the cross-country championships passed out of the hands of the Association for nearly thirty years. There seems to be some mystery about what happened to the new cross-country association. George Hogsflesh, a member of the Executive Committee of the County Association, reported in 1907 that he had discovered the old Essex cup at Southend and had purchased it for use as a perpetual trophy by his club, Southend H. The cross-country association seems to have been re-started at about that time, because its final championships in 1920 were described as the seventh.

It would be wrong, however, to let that period pass without a mention of the excellent performances by Essex runners and clubs, particularly Essex Beagles. From 1892 to 1904, Essex Beagles were placed in every southern counties championship, being winners five times, second five times, and third three times. They also won the national championship twice, tied on a third occasion and won four other placings. Their best runner, J. Kibblewhite, was third in both the southern counties and the national championships in 1893 — this was on top of his many successes while running for Spartan H, which had now folded up. G. Martin scored two wins and two placings in the southern counties and a placing in the national; T. Bartlett four placings in the southern counties and two in the national; and W. J. Clark a placing in both the southern counties and the national. Harry Watkins, of Walthamstow H, won the southern counties championship in 1894 and 1895, and was second in the national in the same two years. His club did not have the strength of Essex Beagles, but did gain a third place in the national championship for 1893. Finally, a little later than these, came the brilliant A. E. Wood of Essex Beagles. He won the north of the Thames race twice, the southern counties twice and was placed in the national, but his best performances were in the international championship which was started in 1903. In the England winning team for three consecutive years, 1908, 1909 and 1910, in the last two of these he was the individual winner.

When racing was resumed after the 1914-18 war, the first championship, in 1920, was held by the Essex Cross-country Association. Responsibility was



A. E. Wood

then handed back to the County Association, and the compliment of 1892 was returned, the cross-country association transferring to the county their team championship trophy, the Lister Harrison bowl. From 1921 to the second world war, the leading club in the county was Woodford Green AC, who won 13 out of the 18 races; although Orion H were more successful in the southern counties championship, scoring third place in the years 1923, 1924 and 1925. The outstanding runner was Harry Payne, of Woodford Green AC, better known as a marathon runner. Harry Payne won the county championship eight times in succession. He also won the southern counties in 1922 and 1928 and was second in the national the latter year. He represented England three

**Hertfordshire Mercury**  
**17-11-1917**

**WALTHAM ABBEY**  
**EX-WORLD'S CHAMPION RUNNER**  
**KILLED.**

A. E. Wood, of Coat Hall, Waltham Abbey, who at one time held the world's record as a champion runner, has been killed in France. Wood's prowess on the cinder track is of international fame. He 'ran' in practically every county of Europe and in America he captured trophies galore.

# Midweek Mercury

4-2-1975

## Readers write

A few weeks ago I received a cutting from Midweek Mercury with a photograph of the late world champion runner, A. E. Wood, of Waltham Abbey.

I was very pleased to see he has been remembered in this way for he was my brother. We were a family of 14 children, I being the youngest but one of 12 boys and two girls.

You mentioned a niece whom I have never met, but for the rest of my family they are few now. There is only one brother left, in Canada, and myself.

Mrs Hale asked if anybody could tell her how her uncle's running ability was first developed. Firstly, I should say it was due to our parents. We were all brought up to help each other. But I think the real start was through keeping racing pigeons. My brother used to take them out and let them loose then try and get home before the pigeons. Afterwards he took to running in races, and as you know, did very well.

I was very pleased and proud to get the cutting and would like to say thank you also to Mrs Hale for it.

MARJORIE PALMER (Mrs).  
(nee Wood).

7 Abbots Close  
Hassocks,  
Sussex.

17, Berkeley Avenue  
Waltham Cross  
Herts. EN 8 8DN

Dear Mrs Hale,

I was interested to see the photograph of your uncle, Mr Wood of Cox-Hall, in a pre-Christmas copy of the Midweek Mercury. I enclose a similar photograph which has been in my possession since my father died in 1958.

My father, Charlie Speller, used to be very keen on sport & he often spoke to me of a wonderful athlete he used to work with in the Powder Mills.

I think he was very friendly with him & Mr Wood must have given him the enclosed photograph. I found it in my fathers possessions.

A few years back I did send it to the Waltham Telegraph asking that if they would print it I would be willing to pass on the photo to any of his relatives who would be interested enough to have it, but although it was published, the photo was not claimed.

Perhaps you would like to keep this one, if so I gladly pass it on to you.

It was a tragedy that such a wonderful athlete as he undoubtedly was should have lost his life so early as did so many more.

Yours sincerely  
Ted Speller.

Description of Arthur Edwin Wood on Enlistment.

Apparent Age <u>23</u> years <u>4</u> months. <small>(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)</small>		Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.  (Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer).
Height <u>5</u> ft <u>6 1/2</u> ins.	2 Scars Rt. Leg.  Scar on Lt. Shin.	
Chest measurement: (Girth when fully expanded) <u>37 1/2</u> ins. Range of expansion <u>3 1/2</u> ins.		
Complexion <u>Fair</u>		
Eyes <u>Blue</u>		
Hair <u>Brown</u>		
Religious denominations.	Church of England <u>C. of E.</u>	
	Presbyterian	
	Methodist	
	Baptist or Congregationalist	
	Roman Catholic	
	Jewish	
	Other denominations <small>(Denomination to be stated.)</small>	

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him\* fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date March 17th, 1916. *A. H. O'Brien*

Place Toronto, Canada. *Capl*

\*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

Toronto Recruiting Depot. Medical Officer.

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

Arthur Edwin Wood, having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

*A. H. O'Brien* Major (Signature of Officer)  
 Date March 18th for O.C. Comdg. 180th O.S. Battalion, C.E.F. 1916.

**ORIGINAL**

5 **ATTESTATION PAPER.**  
180th Batti.  
**CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**

No. 863084  
Folio.

**QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.**

(ANSWERS)

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. What is your surname?.....  | W O O D                            |
| 1a. What are your Christian names?.....  | Arthur Edwin,                      |
| 1b. What is your present address?.....   | Dunnville, Ont., Canada.           |
| 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?.....                                       | Essex, England.                    |
| 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?.....  | Miss Cissie Wood.                  |
| 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?.....   | #145 College St., Toronto, Canada. |
| 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?.....   | Sister.                            |
| 5. What is the date of your birth?.....  | Nov. 10th, 1884.                   |
| 6. What is your Trade or Calling?.....   | Farmer.                            |
| 7. Are you married?.....   | Single.                            |
| 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?.....  | Yes.                               |
| 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?.....   | No.                                |
| 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?.....<br><small>If so, state particulars of former Service.</small> | No.                                |
| 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?.....  | Yes.                               |
| 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the }<br>CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? }                  | Yes.                               |

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, Arthur Edwin Wood, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

A. E. Wood (Signature of Recruit)

Date March 17th 1916. W. W. Hamilton (Signature of Witness)

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, Arthur Edwin Wood, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

A. E. Wood (Signature of Recruit)

Date March 17th 1916. W. W. Hamilton (Signature of Witness)

**CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.**

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath

before me, at Toronto, Canada this 17th day of March 1916.

W. W. Hamilton (Signature of Justice)

123rd Canadian Pioneer Battalion  
( Royal Grenadiers )

(13)  
**WAR DIARY**

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regn., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres (Map location I.7.d. 0.5)	21-10 1917		<p>when "C" Company was proceeding up the street towards the billets, a shell struck No. 12 platoon killing 20 men and wounding 13 others. For Nominal Roll of Killed and wounded see reference .....</p> <p>The wounded casualties were all taken care of by the medical officer, and subsequently carried to the Dressing Station. The padre buried 20 men during the evening. Cemetery Map location (Reservoir Military Cemetery, Map 28, N.W. 1.7.b.1.2., Row 8, graves 55/75 inclusive.</p>	<p>App 19 <i>WMA</i></p>
	22-10	Reveille:	<p>Weather: fine.</p> <p>Battalion strength: 48 Officers, 1257 Other Ranks includ. 50 Other Ranks on Command.</p> <p>For work done by Companies see Work Report.....</p> <p>The following casualties occurred of Other Ranks while out on Working parties :-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">#863096 - Pte. Smith, W.C. - "C" Company - Shell fire. #643023 - " Branden, J.R. - "A" " - Shell fire. #417731 - " Million, S. - "B" " - Premature explosion.</p>	<p>20 <i>WMA</i></p>
	23-10	Reveille:	<p>Weather: unsettled.</p> <p>Battalion strength: 48 Officers, 1257 Other Ranks includ. 50 Other Ranks on Command.</p> <p>For work done by Companies see Work Report.....</p> <p>Operation Orders from G.S.O. 1 covering the coming offensive received, setting forth the scheme generally and embodying in them the work of the Engineers and the Pioneers. C.R.E.'s Operation Order also received, setting forth the Battalion's work.</p> <p>The work that the Battalion is called upon to do is to construct two Mule Tracks, i.e.,</p> <p>1 - Continuation WIELTJE/GRAVENSTAFEL ROAD as far forward as possible.</p> <p>2 - If practicable to construct Road from GRAVENSTAFEL, via Dump House, Beetleer, along road towards Winzig to road running in the direction of STROOMBEEK; thence to KROMPRINZ FARM.</p>	<p>21 <i>WMA</i></p>



Appendix  
-19-

123rd Canadian Pioneer Bn.

NOMINAL ROLL

Of

Other Ranks killed and died of Wounds by shell fire October 21st, 1917

AT YPRES

Also Other Ranks who were wounded and removed to Hospital.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>
<u>KILLED</u>	766611	Sergt.	Jelly, T.M.
	767062	Corp.	McKinstry, J.G.
	463602	Pte.	Bunce, W.M.
	863004	Pte.	Munn, G.B.
	863111	"	McLean, D.
	430296	"	Gwilliam, E.
	853267	"	Bell, H.A.
	802670	"	Tobias, W.
	766696	"	Saunders, L.J. ( Died of Wounds )
	853597	"	Shaw, C.
	862851	"	Rogers, J.
	766622	"	Lewis, F.H.
	862657	"	Hiles, F.H.
	784528	"	Packham, E.A.
	862739	"	Ross, D.
	863084	"	Weed, A.E. ( Died of Wounds )
	863063	"	Slocumbe, R.F.
	863188	"	Herrigan, S.F. ( Died of Wounds )
	862357	"	McMurdy, F.D.
	853645	"	Lyffyt, H.
BA	150844	"	Clarke, J.C. - Killed by bomb A.M.
<u>WOUNDED:</u>	766076	Pte.	Wright, R.O.
	814976	"	Gagne, A.
Since died	430388	"	Bell, W.
	802426	"	Noah, A.
	454307	"	McDonald, P.
	766890	"	Lowe, S.
	766968	"	Williams, J.
	766792	"	Coulson, R.W.
	766558	"	Counsell, A.V.
	430412	Sgt.	McAdam, H.
#	797112	Pte	Ball, F.W.
	769573	Cpl.	Edson, H.
	862397	Pte.	Robertson, A.
	766722	"	Strong, P.
Since died #	785223	"	Griffin, M.
	766743	"	Wood, J.
	766741	"	Wilson, J.A.
	766721	"	Shannon, S.
Since died	643023	"	Brandon, J.A. - "A" Co.

Including "C" Co  
& others injured  
outside Head-  
quarters



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## In memory of

Private

**ARTHUR EDWIN WOOD**

who died on October 21, 1917

## Military Service:

Service Number: 863084

Age: 33

Force: Army

Unit: Canadian Pioneers

Division: 123rd Canadian Pioneer Bn.

## Additional Information:

Date of Birth: November 10, 1884

Son of William and Elizabeth A. Wood, of Ferns Hollow, Upshire, Waltham Cross, England.

Commemorated on Page 352 of the First World War Book of Remembrance.

[\[CLICK HERE FOR AN IMAGE OF THIS PAGE\]](#)[\[TO ORDER A COPY OF THIS PAGE CLICK HERE\]](#)There is a digital photo collection relating to **ARTHUR EDWIN WOOD**.[\[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PHOTOS AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION\]](#)[\[CLICK HERE TO ADD TO THE COLLECTION\]](#)

## Burial Information:

## Cemetery:

YPRES RESERVOIR CEMETERY

Belgium

[\[CLICK HERE FOR CEMETERY PLAN\]](#)

Grave Reference: I. H. 69.

## Location:

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Cpl. Wilson, William Lanqel M<sup>c</sup>Lean. 44<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wilson, William Robert. 7<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wilson, William Roscoe. 7<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Lieut. Wilson, William Tully. 6<sup>th</sup> Bde. C.F.A.  
 Pte. Wilton, Alvin Edward. 50<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Capt. Wilton, Arthur; M.C. 27<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wilton, Daniel. 25<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wilton, Howard Sylvester. 43<sup>rd</sup> Bn.  
 Lieut. Wilton, Walter Barron. 27<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wiltshire, Hubert John. 5<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 C.S.M. Wiltshire, William Henry. 73<sup>rd</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winchester, John. 21<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winchester, Joseph Hopley. 85<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Lieut. Winchester, Murray MacKay. 75<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Sgt. Winchurst, Arthur. 8<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Windover, Warren Melville. 19<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Windover, William. 87<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Cpl. Windram, Alexander. 7<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Cpl. Windram, John. 47<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Windram, William. 54<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Windsor, Harry Ernest. 10<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wines, Elwood Luke. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
 Wing, George Earl. 4<sup>th</sup> C.M.R.  
 Spr. Wingate, Richard. 9<sup>th</sup> C.R.T.  
 Sgt. Wingfield, George Albert. 6<sup>th</sup> Bde. C.F.A.  
 Pte. Wingrove, Arthur John. 124<sup>th</sup> Pn. Bn.  
 Pte. Winkworth, William. 38<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winman, Elmer James. 38<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Sgt. Winning, Andrew, M.M. 6<sup>th</sup> Bd. Coy.  
 Pte. Winnington, Stanley George. 54<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winsor, Harry. 7<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Sgt. Winslow, Albert James. 54<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winslow, Edgar Allison. 26<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Bdr. Winslow, James Henry. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde. C.F.A.  
 Lieut. Winslow, Jasper Andrew. 3<sup>rd</sup> D.A.C.  
 C.S.M. Winslow, Nathaniel. 78<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winsor, Sidney James. 50<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winsper, George. 24<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Capt. Winter, Francis Bassell, M.C. 26<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Cpl. Winter, George Horsford. 10<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winter, John Abraham S. 31<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winter, M<sup>c</sup>Donald. 28<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winter, Robert. 14<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winter, Wallace James. 7<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winterbottom, Sydney A. 29<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 L. Cpl. Winters, John. 21<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Winter-Top, Isaiah. 1<sup>st</sup> M.M.G. Bde.  
 Bdr. Winton, Frederick. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde. C.F.A.  
 Pte. Wire, Willard Dinsmore. 78<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wiscarsan, John Jacob. 50<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Sgt. Wisdom, Colin Matsan; M.M. 16<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Sgt. Wiseman, Claude. 18<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wiseman, William. 85<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wisenden, William Lewis. 43<sup>rd</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wiser, Oscar. 58<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wishart, James. 15<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wishart, James. 51<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wiskin, James Delbert Harry. 18<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wismer, Jacob. 27<sup>th</sup> Regt.

Pte. Wisson, Ronald Cecil A. 2<sup>nd</sup> C.M.R.  
 Pte. Wittchell, Edwin Aubrey. 54<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Sgt. Witherington, William; D.C.M. 7<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Witherow, Fred. 7<sup>th</sup> M.C. Coy.  
 Pte. Withers, Neil Albert. 31<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Witherspoon, David. 5<sup>th</sup> C.M.R.  
 Pte. Withey, John. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Withington, William. 58<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Cpl. Withrow, Calvin Edward, M.M. 5<sup>th</sup> I.T.M.B.  
 Lieut. Withrow, William James. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pn. Bn.  
 Pte. Witmer, Harry. 102<sup>nd</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wittel, Archibald Charles. 8<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wittly, Ernest James. 124<sup>th</sup> Pn. Bn.  
 Pte. Wixey, Stuart. 8<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wöelke, Reginald Albert. 87<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wojcieszuk, Fedor Ivanoff. 20<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wolfe, Earl Stanley. 20<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Cpl. Wolfe, William. 50<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Major Wolfenden, Francis Cooley. C.F.C. B.D.  
 Sgt. Wolhaupter, Harold Phillip. 4<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wolverton, Harry Ernest. 26<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Womack, George Victor. 5<sup>th</sup> C.M.R.  
 Pte. Wonsawitch, Nicholas. 16<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Alexander. 49<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Alfred Benjamin. 246<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Arthur Edwin. 123<sup>rd</sup> Pn. Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Arthur George. 18<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Bert. 15<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Charles Edgar. 50<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Colin George. 54<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Edgar. 43<sup>rd</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, George. 49<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, George Henry. 4<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Herbert Francis. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Herbert Roy. 4<sup>th</sup> C.M.R.  
 Pte. Wood, John. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, John. 5<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, John Alexander. 43<sup>rd</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, John Lyman. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn.  
 Sgt. Wood, John Sutherland. 43<sup>rd</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Joseph. 29<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Lee. 26<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Cpl. Wood, Leonard. 43<sup>rd</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Leonard Robert. 7<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Peter Percy. 46<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Robert. 4<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Thomas Alfred. 44<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Thomas Chariton. 50<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Vernon. 7<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Wallace. 25<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, Walter William. 15<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, William. 2<sup>nd</sup> C.M.R.  
 Pte. Wood, William Boyton. 44<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, William Henry. 116<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Wood, William James. 50<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Woodall, Harold. 28<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Woodbeck, Milford William. 21<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Woodbridge, John. 72<sup>nd</sup> Bn.  
 Pte. Woodcock, Bertram Arthur. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
 Lieut. Woodcock, Frank Fremont. Eaton M.M.G.  
 Pte. Woodcock, Thomas Milton. 20<sup>th</sup> Bn.



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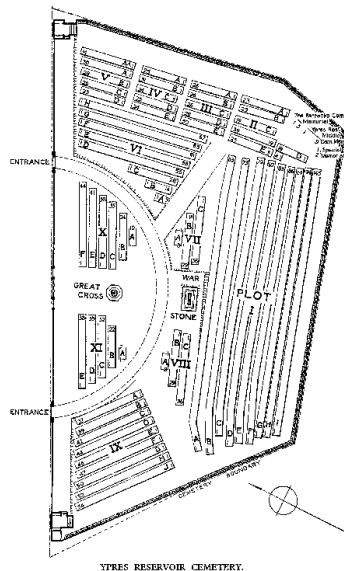
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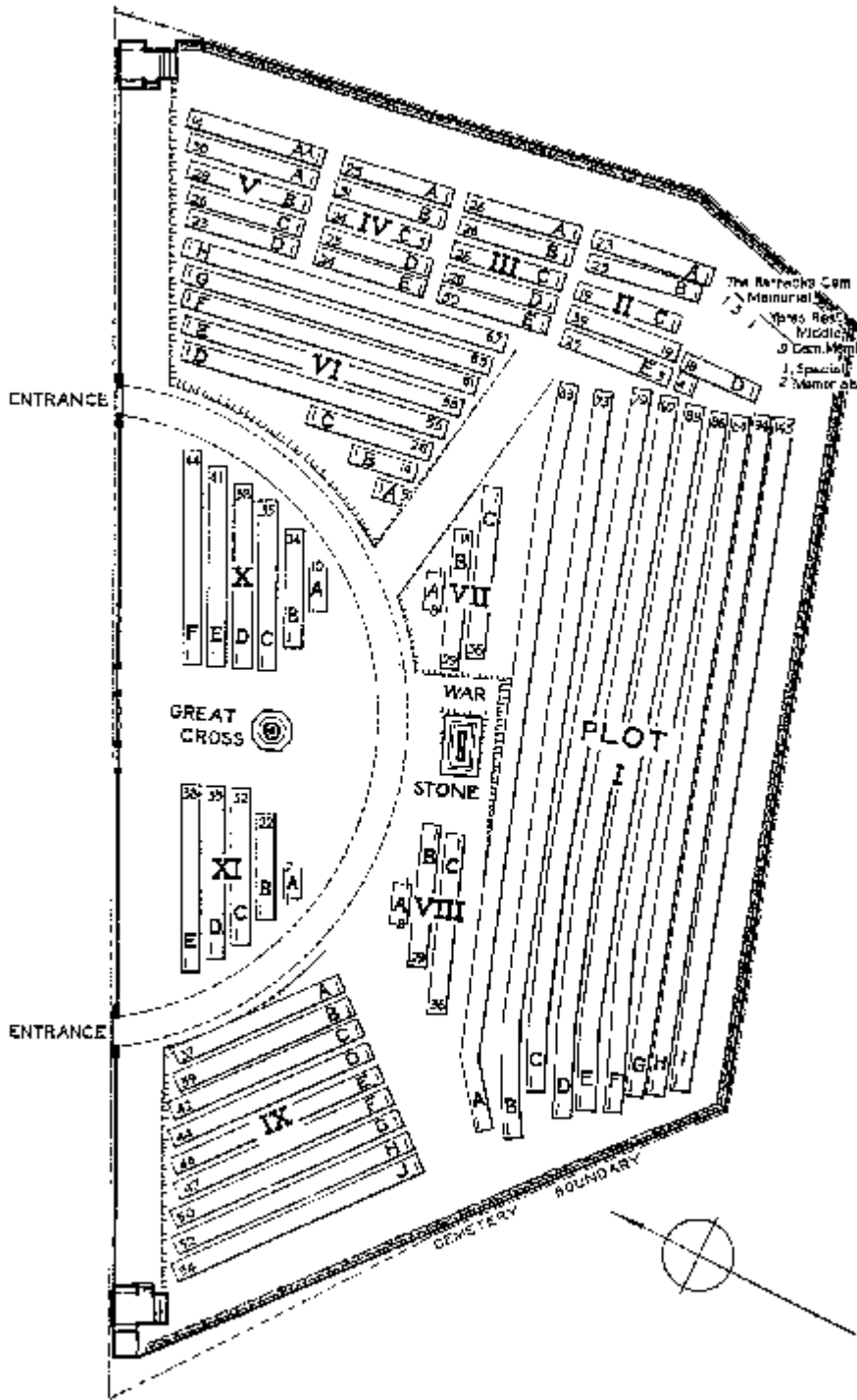
## YPRES RESERVOIR CEMETERY



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YPRES RESERVOIR CEMETERY.



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## Photo Collection Relating to ARTHUR EDWIN WOOD

Click thumbnail to view full sized photograph.



*Grave Marker*



*Photo of Arthur Edwin Wood*



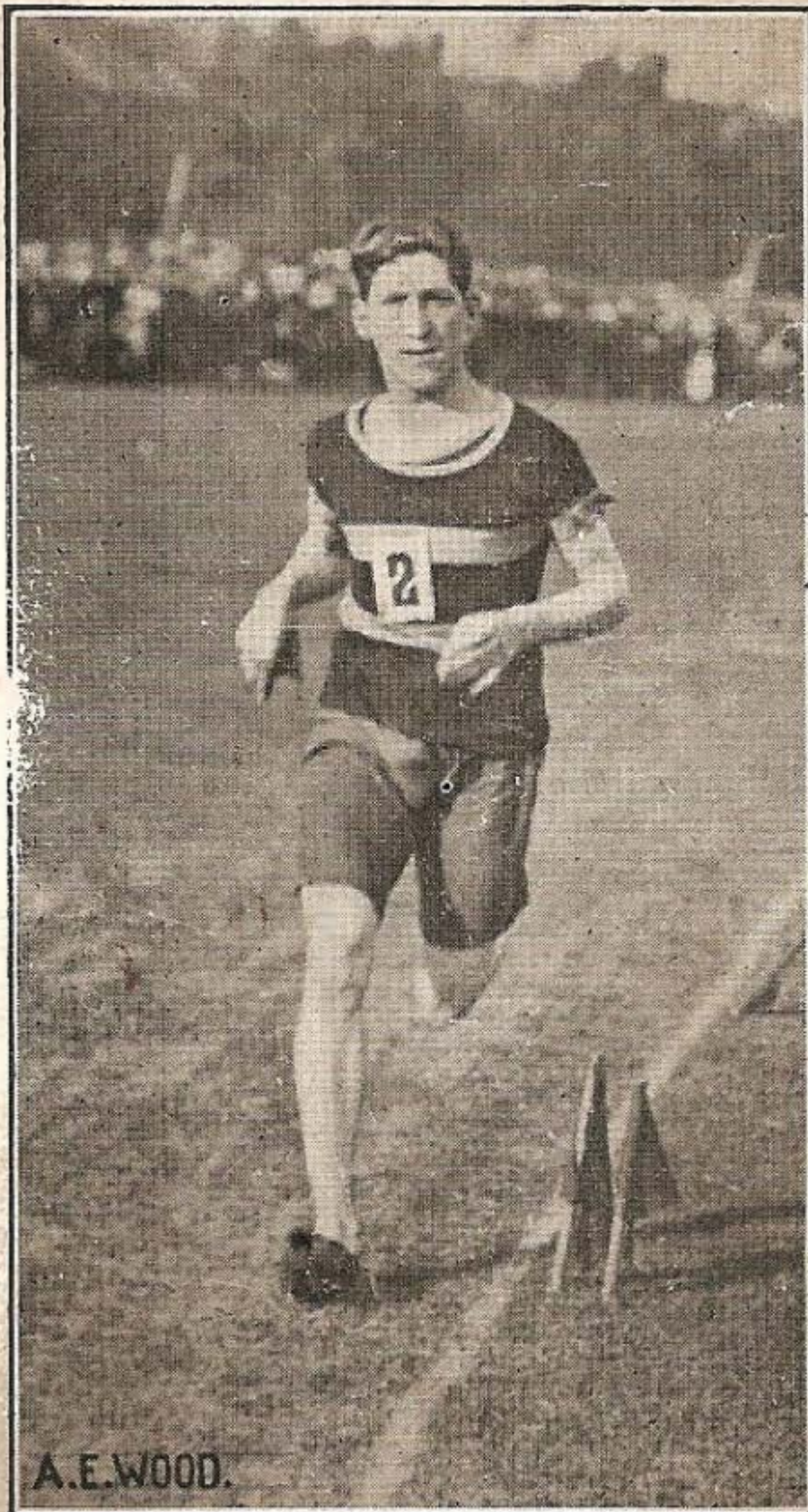
*Photo of Arthur Edwin Wood*

# Grave Marker



Photo courtesy of Gary Nelson

Photo fournie gracieusement par Gary Nelson



A.E. WOOD.

**North of Thames  
Southern Counties & International Champion  
1909.**



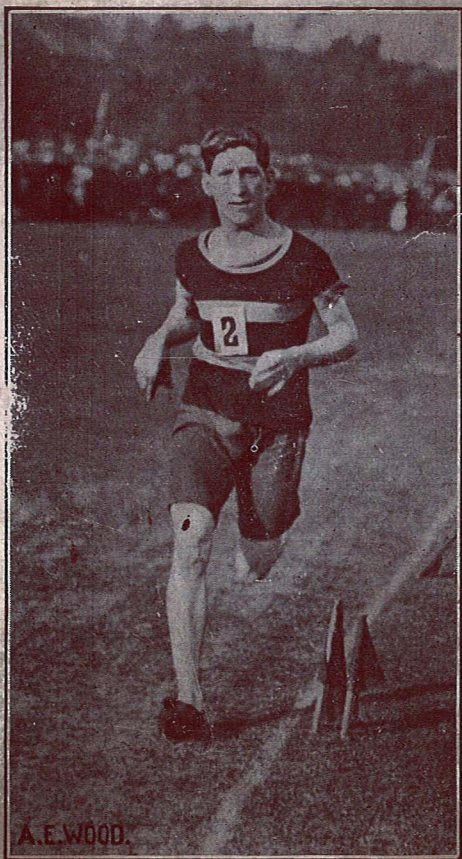
Cross -Country Running: 2 x North of The Thames winner, 2 x Southern Counties winner, 3 x winning England team member (1908, 1909, 1910, 2 x World Champion (1909, 1910) Flat Track: English Champion 10 mile, World Champion 15 mile (1912)

# Photo of Arthur Edwin Wood



A E Wood with some trophies for running





A.E. WOOD.

**North of Thames  
Southern Counties & International Champion  
1909.**





THEIR NAME LIVETH  
FOR EVERMORE

1941 PRIVATE  
S. E. ASHTON  
1ST BATT. CANADIAN INF.  
31ST. OCTOBER 1917

THEY TRAVEL  
A. G. MARTIN  
1ST BATT. CANADIAN INF.  
1ST. OCTOBER 1917

THEY TRAVEL  
A. G. MARTIN  
1ST BATT. CANADIAN INF.  
1ST. OCTOBER 1917

THEY TRAVEL  
A. G. MARTIN  
1ST BATT. CANADIAN INF.  
1ST. OCTOBER 1917

THEY TRAVEL  
A. G. MARTIN  
1ST BATT. CANADIAN INF.  
1ST. OCTOBER 1917

In Memory of  
Private ARTHUR EDWIN WOOD

863084, 123rd Bn., Canadian Pioneers  
who died age 33  
on 21 October 1917

Son of William and Elizabeth A. Wood, of Ferns Hollow, Upshire, Waltham Cross, England.  
Remembered with honour  
YPRES RESERVOIR CEMETERY



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## Casualty Details

<b>Name:</b>	WOOD, ARTHUR EDWIN
<b>Initials:</b>	A E
<b>Nationality:</b>	Canadian
<b>Rank:</b>	Private
<b>Regiment/Service:</b>	Canadian Pioneers
<b>Unit Text:</b>	123rd Bn.
<b>Age:</b>	33
<b>Date of Death:</b>	21/10/1917
<b>Service No:</b>	863084
<b>Additional information:</b>	Son of William and Elizabeth A. Wood, of Ferns Hollow, Upshire, Waltham Cross, England.
<b>Casualty Type:</b>	Commonwealth War Dead
<b>Grave/Memorial Reference:</b>	I. H. 69.
<b>Cemetery:</b>	<b>YPRES RESERVOIR CEMETERY</b>



## Cemetery Details

<b>Cemetery:</b>	YPRES RESERVOIR CEMETERY
<b>Country:</b>	Belgium
<b>Locality:</b>	Ieper, West-Vlaanderen
<b>Visiting Information:</b>	Wheelchair access to this cemetery is possible via main entrance. For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on telephone number: 01628 507200
<b>Location Information:</b>	The cemetery is located to the North-West of Ieper. From the station turn left and drive along M.Fochlaan to the roundabout, turn right and go to the next roundabout. Here turn left into M.Haiglaan and continue for 300 metres and then turn right into M.Plumerlaan. The cemetery is on the right hand side, approximately 200 metres along the road.
<b>Historical Information:</b>	<p>From October 1914 to the autumn of 1918, Ypres (now Ieper) was at the centre of a salient held by Commonwealth (and for some months by French) forces. From April 1915, it was bombarded and destroyed more completely than any other town of its size on the Western Front, but even so certain buildings remained distinguishable. The ruins of the cathedral and the cloth hall stood together in the middle of the city, part of the infantry barracks stood in an angle of the south walls and the prison, reservoir and water tower were together at the western gate. Three cemeteries were made near the western gate: two between the prison and the reservoir, both now removed into the third, and the third on the north side of the prison. The third was called at first the "Cemetery North of the Prison," later "Ypres Reservoir North Cemetery, and now Ypres Reservoir Cemetery. This cemetery was begun in October 1915 and used by fighting units and field ambulances until after the Armistice, when it contained 1,099 graves. The cemetery was later enlarged when graves were brought in from the battlefields of the salient and the following smaller burial grounds:- YPRES RESERVOIR SOUTH CEMETERY, between the prison and the reservoir (also called "Broadley's Cemetery" and "Prison Cemetery No.1"). It was used from October 1914 to October 1915, and contained the graves of 18 soldiers from the United Kingdom. YPRES RESERVOIR MIDDLE CEMETERY, immediately North of the last named (also called "Prison Cemetery No.2" and "Middle Prison Cemetery"). It was used in August and September 1915, and rarely afterwards. It contained the graves of 107 soldiers from the United Kingdom (41 of whom belonged to the 6th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry) and one Belgian soldier. The CEMETERY at the INFANTRY BARRACKS (also called "the Esplanade"). It was used from April 1915 to July 1916 and contained the graves of 14 soldiers from the United Kingdom, ten of whom belonged to the 6th Siege Battery, R.G.A. In Plot V, Row AA, are the graves of 16 officers and men of the 6th Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, who were billeted in the vaults of the cathedral and killed on 12 August 1915 by shelling from the "Ypres Express" firing from Houthulst Forest. The survivors were rescued by the 11th King's Liverpools, but these bodies were not recovered until after the Armistice. There are now 2,613 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 1,034 of the burials are unidentified. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.</p>
<b>No. of Identified Casualties:</b>	1579

**This figure includes Foreign and Non-World War graves in CWGC care**



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Items from Dunnville Chronicle + Gazette, Book 2, Letters from the front 1914-1918 (Green Cover), 1914, page 21

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Arthur Edwin Woods ("Ted"), the well known long distance runner, who lived for some time with Chas. Hetteron on his farm in Canboro, is reported killed in action.

# WOOD MAKES NEW 15-MILE RECORD

**Former English Amateur Champion Runs Distance in 1:18:15, Defeating Queal and Shrubbs.**

One hour eighteen minutes, fifteen and one-fifth seconds is the mark that the distance runners of the world can from now on run against if they desire to lower the figures made yesterday by Arthur Edwin Wood of England in the fifteen-mile professional championship race at Celtic Park, under the auspices of the Monument Club. The former world's record, made by an amateur, Fred Appleby, was 1:20:04 3-5, at Stamford Bridge, London, England, while the American amateur record is 1:25:15. The only authentic professional figures up to yesterday were to the credit of J. Howitt of England, being 1:22:00.

Incidental to setting up such marvelous figures Wood took the measure of such title holders as Billy Queal, the American premier distance runner; Alfred Shrubbs, the world's record holder at many distances; Henri St. Yves, the former Marathon champion, and others. Wood also lowered the world's best "past performances" at twelve, thirteen, and fourteen miles. Queal, who was second, was clocked in 1:21:02 1-5, while Shrubbs, the third man, did 1:22:04 1-5, and Ted Crook, who finished fourth, 1:24:03 1-5.

Three thousand persons braved the possibility of inclement weather, and were rewarded by the performances of the men, who gathered their respective shares of the money award. The atmosphere and all the conditions proved conducive to the establishment of a record, which seems destined to stand for many a day, according to the testimony of the many experts who witnessed the performance. The runners all attested that there was an abundance of oxygen in the atmosphere, and that the quarter-mile ellipse was almost "cushiony," enabling them to travel at their best pace without the usual fatigue attending such exertions.

The race was spectacular in the extreme, because of the uncertainty which existed as regarded the possible outcome between Wood and Queal, who ran like a team to the twelve and three-quarter-mile mark, with the Englishman on the pole watching every move of the American champion. Four miles before this stage the pair had shaken off the one-time mighty Shrubbs, and the rest of the field was spread all over the track, with some of the runners two miles to the bad even at that point.

Some idea of the pace is conveyed when the various elapsed times of each five miles are glanced at, these being as follows—First five, 25:31; second five, 26:20 1-5; third five, 26:23 4-5. Even the last five miles is capital time for many of our star runners, without the proposition of their having had any previous distance "under their belts."

Wood has been running four years, and in 1909 won the amateur distance running championship of England, doing 52:40 for ten miles, beating Voight, the title holder. Yesterday's race was the longest distance that he has ever run, and he confessed after the race that he was a bit fearful of the distance.

He was lapped on the leader yesterday at half a mile in 2:21 4-5, and his running in the last half mile in 2:30, and the last hundred yards in 15 seconds, coming through with all the earmarks of having plenty in reserve. Just a dozen runners toed the scratch, and included aside from those named John Svanberg, who figured in the last Olympic games for Sweden; Harvey Cohn and Jimmy Lee, former American amateur champions, and several lesser lights of the spiked shoe.

There was considerable speculation before the race, and the sharps were divided between Wood and Queal, with the latter a slight favorite. This pair had met twice in races of an hour, and Queal had won each time, although the Englishman had shown an inclination to gather pace as the distance progressed. This and the fact that Wood had run twelve miles against Longboat in 1:02:29 served to have the Queal supporters have a wholesome respect for his ultimate victor.

Up to eight and three-quarter miles Wood, Queal, and Shrubbs alternated in the making of pace. From then on Shrubbs fell behind, and the others hung together to twelve and three-quarter miles, where Wood jumped away. The elapsed time for each mile, and the actual time of each mile follow:

4:56 4-6; 10:11 4-5; 15:14; 20:21; 25:31; 30:45 1-5; 36:00 4-5; 41:21 4-5; 46:36; 51:51 1-5; 57:11; 1:02:32 1-5; 1:07:44; 1:13:03; 1:18:15.

The times for each mile.—4:56 4-5; 5:15 4-5; 5:02 1-5; 5:07; 5:10; 5:14 1-5; 5:15 3-5; 5:21; 5:14 1-5; 5:15 1-5; 5:19 4-5; 5:21 1-5; 5:11 4-5; 5:19, and 5:12.

<http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=F00A11FD3E5813738DDDAF0894DD405B828DF1D3>

## INTERNATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The inaugural International Cross Country Championships, held in 1903, were contested by the four home countries. France were the first overseas country to compete in 1907, followed by Belgium in 1923, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Switzerland in 1929, Netherlands in 1950 and Yugoslavia in 1953. Northern Ireland first entered a discrete team in 1933 and the Irish Republic in 1938, although All-Ireland teams were again entered from 1946 to 1967 inclusive. The first African country to enter was Tunisia in 1958. A junior championship (for athletes under 21 on the day of the race) was introduced in 1961, although an earlier unofficial junior race was staged in 1940. 8 unofficial women's international matches were held between 1931 and 1957 prior to the formal acceptance of a women's race as a championship event in 1967. In 1970 two women's events were held at different venues over the same weekend. The event was given official [IAAF World Championship](#) status in 1973 with the top three finishers since that date listed on the page for that event. For near complete results see the [Athchamps](#) website.

**Venues (Men):** 1903 Hamilton (SCO), 1904 St. Helens (ENG), 1905 Dublin (IRL), 1906 Caerleon (WAL), 1907 Glasgow/Scotstoun (SCO), 1908 Paris/Colombes (FRA), 1909 Derby (ENG), 1910 Belfast (NIR), 1911 Caerleon (WAL), 1912 Edinburgh (SCO), 1913 Paris/Juvisy (FRA), 1914 Amersham/Chesham Park (ENG), 1915-19 *not held*, 1920 Belfast (NIR), 1921 Caerleon (WAL), 1922 Glasgow/Hampden Park (SCO), 1923 Paris/Maisons-Lafitte (FRA), 1924 Newcastle/Gosforth Park (ENG), 1925 Dublin (IRL), 1926 Brussels (BEL), 1927 Caerleon (WAL), 1928 Ayr (SCO), 1929 Paris/Vincennes (FRA), 1930 Leamington (ENG), 1931 Dublin (IRL), 1932 Brussels (BEL), 1933, Caerleon (WAL), 1934 Ayr (SCO), 1935 Paris/Auteuil (FRA), 1936 Blackpool (ENG), 1937 Brussels (BEL), 1938 Belfast (NIR), 1939 Cardiff (WAL), 1940U Paris/Bois de Boulogne (FRA), 1941-45 *not held*, 1946 Ayr (SCO), 1947 Paris/Saint-Cloud (FRA), 1948 Reading (ENG), 1949 Dublin (IRL), 1950 Brussels (BEL), 1951 Caerleon (WAL), 1952 Hamilton (SCO), 1953 Paris/Vincennes (FRA), 1954 Birmingham (ENG), 1955 San Sebastián (ESP), 1956 Belfast (NIR), 1957 Waregem (BEL), 1958 Cardiff (WAL), 1959 Lisbon (POR), 1960 Hamilton (SCO), 1961 Nantes (FRA), 1962 Sheffield (ENG), 1963 San Sebastián (ESP), 1964 Dublin (IRL), 1965 Ostend (BEL), 1966 Rabat (MAR), 1967 Barry (WAL), 1968 Tunis (TUN), 1969 Clydebank (SCO), 1970 Vichy (FRA), 1971 San Sebastián (ESP), 1972 Cambridge (ENG)

**Venues (Women):** 1931U Douai (FRA), 1932U Croydon (ENG), 1935U Morecambe (ENG), 1938U Lille (FRA), 1954U Birmingham, 1955U Ayr (SCO), 1956U Hornchurch (ENG), 1957U Musselburgh (SCO), 1967 Barry (WAL), 1968 Blackburn (ENG), 1969 Clydebank (SCO), 1970A Frederick (USA), 1970B Vichy (FRA), 1971 San Sebastián (ESP), 1972 Cambridge (ENG)

### MEN

	First		Second		Third	
1903	Alf Shrubb ENG	46:23	Tom Edwards ENG	46:57	John Daly IRE	47:11
1904	Alf Shrubb ENG	47:59	Albert Aldridge ENG	48:21	George Pearce ENG	49:39
1905	Albert Aldridge ENG	40:20	Tom Hynes IRE	40:35	Joe Deakin ENG	41:14
1906	Charlie Straw ENG	57:32	George Pearce ENG	57:55	William Nelson ENG	58:11
1907	Adam Underwood ENG	54:27	George Pearce ENG	54:48	Sammy Welding ENG	54:50
1908	Arthur "Archie" Robertson ENG	50:27	Fred Neaves ENG	50:31	George Pearce ENG	50:42
1909	Edward Wood ENG	58:03	Jean Bouin FRA	58:04	Ernest Loney ENG	58:53
1910	Edward Wood ENG	54:02	Francis O'Neill IRE	54:24	Harry Baldwin ENG	54:24
1911	Jean Bouin FRA	54:08	Harry Baldwin ENG	54:22	George Wallach SCO	54:44
1912	Jean Bouin FRA	51:46	William Scott ENG	52:19	Fred Hibbins ENG	52:34
1913	Jean Bouin FRA	51:53	Ernest Glover ENG	52:13	Jacques Keyser FRA	53:10
1914	Alfred Nichols ENG	60:24	George Wallach SCO	60:47	Ernest Glover ENG	60:47
1915-9	<i>not held</i>					
1920	Jimmy Wilson SCO	55:06	Chris Vose ENG	55:33	Wally Freeman ENG	55:52
1921	Wally Freeman ENG	56:53	Arthur "Bobby" Mills ENG	57:03	Bevy Bingham IRE	57:17
1922	Joseph Guillemot FRA	63:59	Bill Cotterell ENG	64:27	Julien Schnellmann FRA	65:03
1923	Charles "Joe" Blewitt ENG	58:12	James McIntyre SCO	58:13	Georges Van Den Broe BEL	58:20
1924	Bill Cotterell ENG	55:36	Ernie Harper ENG	55:40	Eddie "Jack" Webster ENG	56:21
1925	Eddie "Jack" Webster ENG	56:55	John Joseph Ryan IRE	57:14	Bill Cotterell ENG	57:38
1926	Ernie Harper ENG	44:18	Joseph Guillemot FRA	44:59	Robert Marchal FRA	45:04
1927	Lewis Payne ENG	51:40	Seghir Beddari FRA	51:49	Henri Gallet FRA	52:03
1928	Harry Eckersley ENG	52:34	John Suttie Smith SCO	52:48	Seghir Beddari FRA	53:02
1929	Bill Cotterell ENG	42:47	Henri Dartigues FRA	42:48	Robert Courtier FRA	42:51
1930	Tom Evenson ENG	53:49	Robert Sutherland SCO	53:50	Roméo Dieguez FRA	54:15
1931	Tim Smythe IRE	48:52	Jack Winfield ENG	49:11	Tom Evenson ENG	49:16
1932	Tom Evenson ENG	50:51	Jack Holden ENG	51:06	Wally Beavers ENG	51:15
1933	Jack Holden ENG	53:41	Robert Sutherland SCO	53:50	John Suttie Smith SCO	53:54
1934	Jack Holden ENG	50:28	Alec Burns ENG	51:24	Arthur Penny ENG	51:26
1935	Jack Holden ENG	47:52	Bill Wylie SCO	48:12	Bill Eaton ENG	48:14
1936	Bill Eaton ENG	47:38	Jack Holden ENG	48:08	Alex Dow SCO	48:14
1937	Jim Flockhart SCO	49:50	André Sicard FRA	50:03	James Ginty ENG	50:13
1938	Jack Emery ENG	49:57	Jean Chapelle BEL	50:16	Sam Palmer WAL	50:36
1939	Jack Holden ENG	47:23	Mohamed El Ghazi FRA	47:34	Salem Amrouche FRA	47:52
1940-5	<i>not held</i>					
1946	Raphaël Pujazon FRA	51:52	Marcel Vandewattyne BEL	52:24	Paul Messner FRA	52:49
1947	Raphaël Pujazon FRA	50:26	Jean Chapelle BEL	50:51	Mohamed Lahoucine FRA	51:04
1948	John Doms BEL	54:05	Emile Renson BEL	54:25	Mohamed Lahoucine FRA	54:50
1949	Alain Mimoun FRA	47:50	Raphaël Pujazon FRA	47:51	Charles Cérou FRA	47:55
1950	Lucien Theys BEL	45:42	Alain Mimoun FRA	45:50	Mohamed Hamza FRA	46:00
1951	Geoff Saunders ENG	54:07	Frank Aaron ENG	54:48	Charles Cérou FRA	55:05
1952	Alain Mimoun FRA	48:19	Marcel Vandewattyne BEL	49:02	Abdelkader Driss FRA	49:06
1953	Franjo Mihalic YUG	47:53	Frank Sando ENG	48:03	Abdallah Ould Lamine FRA	48:06
1954	Alain Mimoun FRA	47:51	Ken Norris ENG	48:13	Pat Ranger ENG	48:21
1955	Frank Sando ENG	46:09	Hugh Foord ENG	46:33	Ken Norris ENG	46:35

## A Brief History of Celtic Park

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In 1897, the Greater New York Irish Athletic Association purchased approximately seven acres of land in the suburban farming community then known as Laurel Hill, Long Island. The land was purchased from George Thomson for \$9,000, and soon an athletic complex â€ˆâ€ˆ Celtic Park â€ˆâ€ˆ was built on the Laurel Hill parcel. For the first two decades of the 20th century, dozens of world-class athletes were nurtured and trained by the Irish-American Athletic Club (as they became known in 1904), making Celtic Park one of the premier track & field training facilities in the world, producing more than two-dozen Olympic medalists who, collectively, won more than 50 medals for the U.S. Olympic team. In addition, Celtic Park became a village green for thousands of Irish immigrants. Like many other New York landmarks, it was eventually razed, and in 1930, replaced by an apartment complex bearing the same name.

Construction began on Celtic Park in early 1898, in an area that has been referred alternately to as Laurel Hill, Thomson Hill, Long Island, Long Island City, and is today considered part of Woodside and Sunnyside, Queens. ([See Maps of Celtic Park](#)). Although the inaugural track meet was held on May 30, 1898 with New York City Magistrate Henry Brann, a native of Ireland, delivering the dedication speech, it wasn't until 1901 that the facility was completed and held its proper public debut. Improvements resulted in the practical rebuilding and remodeling of the stands and grounds, and Celtic Park emerged as one of the most â€ˆcompletely equipped places of the kind about the city.â€ˆ According to *The New York Times*, 10 May, 1901:

â€ˆThe entrance to the park is about 600 feet from trolley lines. The clubhouse, including inclosed (sic) piazzas, is 104 by 120 feet, two stories. The basement is 12 feet high and has bowling alleys and sitting rooms for those desiring to watch the games; a restaurant accommodating 1,000 persons, and a kitchen with all the latest improved fixtures. On the floor above are cafÃ©, dressing rooms, reception room, and private dining hall, which is 80 by 100, but with no posts. On either side are piazzas 12 feet wide by 120 feet. From the piazza may be seen all the gamesâ€ˆ(and) a big part of Manhattan and other boroughsâ€ˆ On the west side of the grounds are the grand stands, with a seating capacity of 2,500.â€ˆ

â€ˆ("ATHLETIC FIELD REMODELED.: Celtic Park in New Garb to be Re-opened Monday." *The New York Times*, May 10, 1901.)

### â€ˆThe Wilds of Long Island Cityâ€ˆ

In a sports column in *The New York Times* in 1934, Robert F. Kelley wrote:

â€ˆWhen one remembers the difficulties under which national and international characters, such as [Mel Sheppard](#), [Abel Kiviat](#), Harry Gissing, Jim Rosenberger, Alvah Meyer, Yank Robbins, [Jack Eller](#), George Bonhag, Lawson Robertson and all the old-timers of that grand old Irish-American Athletic Club, had to train, it is amazing that they were ever able



Cartoon from *The New York Evening World*, depicting opening day of the 1906 season at Celtic Park.



1910 Mecca Cigarettes card depicting champion hammer thrower John Flanagan at Celtic Park.



Celtic Park, from the corner of 44th St. and 48th Ave, looking south-west. The Irish-American Athletic Club's pavilion can be seen to the left, and the spire of St. Rafael's Church in the distance to the right. (Date unknown).

to rise above mediocrity. Celtic Park, out in what was then the wilds of Long Island City, was more inaccessible than Montauk Point is today to a New Yorker. All of these men worked for a living somewhere in New York City, and after an arduous day on the job, took this tiresome trip in order to engage in training.

<b>CELTIC PARK</b>	<b>LADIES and GENTS' RESTAURANT</b>
<b>POPULAR CITY PRICES.</b>	<b>HOTEL PAVILION.</b>
CATERING TO IRISH SOCIETIES A SPECIALTY.	<b>Robert Forbes, Caterer.</b>

Advertisement from [The Gaelic American](#), 1903.

Kelley was guilty of slight hyperbole, (the park was close to trolley lines that traveled from the ferry depot at the East River), but was accurate in stating that many of these athletes were on the job, as several athletes of the I-AAC were members of the New York City Police Department. A 1916 article in the *NY Times* asserted that among the 11,000-member police force, at least 4,000 could be classified as athletes and fully 1,000 could win high athletic honors if they entered the best amateur or professional ranks. Many of them, of course, did just that, including Detective Martin Sheridan of Manhattan's First Branch Bureau, who won 1,000 cups and as many medals in his thirteen years of competition. It was not uncommon for him to win eight or a dozen cups during one athletic meet. Other members of both the I-AAC and NYPD included Patrolman Matt McGrath of the Oak Street Station an Olympic Champion, and (held) the world's record for (throwing a) 56-pound weight, and fellow Patrolman Patrick Babe MacDonald, a traffic cop whose post at one time was 43rd Street and Broadway, who won more than 1,000 prizes putting the 16-pound shot. ([4,000 Athletes on Police Force. Majority of New York Patrolmen are in Pink of Physical Condition. Some World Champions.](#) *The New York Times*, 17 Jul. 1916: p. 9.)

In 1931, following the sale of Celtic Park, [Limerick native P.J. Conway](#), (a founding member of the I-AAC and president for twenty-seven of the club's thirty-two years of existence), recalled proudly the athletes who trained and competed at Celtic Park:

Among the athletes who competed were Martin Sheridan, discus thrower and all-around champion, Matt McGrath, the hammer thrower; now Police Inspector, John Flanagan, our first star hammer thrower; (sic) Mal Shepard, (Melvin Sheppard) middle distance runner; Jack Joyce and John Daly, cross-country runners; John Hayes, the Olympic Marathon champion, and many others well known to the public. ([Paid \\$9,000 in 1897 for Celtic Park. City Home Company Bought the Athletic Field Last Year for about \\$500,000.](#) *The New York Times*, 28 Jun. 1931: p. RE10.)

### Celtic Park and the Sunday Blue Laws

Celtic Park played a pivotal role in challenging early 20th century New York laws that made it illegal to charge admission for a sporting event (or serve alcohol) on a Sunday. These laws were collectively known as Sunday Blue Laws, and Celtic Park served as an unintentional battleground in the fight to change those laws. On numerous occasions, athletes, umpires and managers of Celtic Park were arrested for participating in Sunday games. But this didn't stop Celtic Park games from being held on a regular basis, and eventually the Blue Laws were overturned.

**SUNDAY ATHLETIC GAMES LEGAL.**

MAGISTRATE CONNORTON DISCHARGES  
CASES AGAINST MEN ARRESTED  
AT CELTIC PARK.

Headline from the [New York Daily Tribune](#), Oct. 30, 1902.

**First Regiment  
Irish Volunteers**

(MAJOR CROWLEY, Commanding)

**FIELD DAY at CELTIC PARK,**  
Laurel Hill, L. I.,  
**Sunday, November 1st, 1903**

**RETURN GAME OF FOOTBALL**

Between Irish Volunteers Football Team and  
Kerrymen's Association Football Team

**DANCING. ADMISSION 25 CTS.** Payable at Gate

[POLICE STOP FOOTBALL GAME: Umpire of Game at Celtic Park Arrested During Sports of Irish Volunteers.](#) -*NYT*: Nov. 2, 1903.

### National All-Around Championships

Celtic Park often hosted events governed by the rules of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), the governing body of amateur sports in the U.S. National and world records were frequently set or broken at Celtic Park, sometimes only to be broken again within days or weeks. Celtic Park hosted six AAU All-Around Championships, predecessor of the modern decathlon. And while the decathlon is conducted over two days of competition, the 10-event all-around meet was held on a single afternoon. The 1902 all-around was won by Adam Gunn; 1903 by Ellery H. Clark; 1907 by Martin Sheridan; 1908 by John Bredemus; and, in 1909, again by Martin





All-around champion athlete Jim Thorpe gaining on Thomas McLoughlin of the Loughlin Lyceum club at the Olympic tryouts held at Celtic Park, May 18th, 1912.  
Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Sheridan. The final AAU All-Around Championship at Celtic Park was held in 1912 and won by Jim Thorpe, fresh from his Olympic titles at Stockholm.



Source: American Irish Historical Society

Photo © Copyright Ian McGowan / Winged Fist Organization

Irish-American Athletic Club team photo at Celtic Park, circa 1910, from the collection of the American Irish Historical Society.

### Irish Societies at Celtic Park

In addition to being home of the I-AAC and its celebrated Winged Fist-wearing world-class athletes, Celtic Park played a critical role as the meeting place for Irish fraternal, social and political organizations. The Irish Counties Athletic Union (predecessor of the United Irish Counties), the Irish county societies benevolent associations, Gaelic Athletic Association and the Irish Volunteers all regularly held events, meetings and fundraisers at Celtic Park. Some of these activities attracted crowds more than 15,000 strong. Testimony to the central role of Celtic Park in the New York Irish community can be found in a 1908 front-page article from *The Gaelic American*:

“Irishmen are responsible in a large degree for the healthy athletic influences now prevalent in American cities. The first centenary of the Irish Revolution of 1798 was remarkable as being the year which saw the birth of the Irish-Ireland Movement and the sweeping of the last vestige of an old world tyranny from the American main. The Spanish War was insignificant compared to the foundation of the athletic America, which can honestly be claimed by the men who conceived Celtic Park. The formation of the Public Schools Athletic League, the Catholic Athletic League, the Military Athletic League and the Irish Counties Athletic Union



can be traced directly to Celtic Park.  
€ (â€Irish Athletes Made Splendid Records.â€ The Gaelic American 8 Feb. 1908: p. 1).

County Offaly hurling team, 1926 New York champions, at Celtic Park.  
Photo courtesy of Kathleen Walsh D'Arcy

## Celtic Park, Clan-na-Gael and the Easter Rising

*The Gaelic American*, published by John Devoy and [owned by Daniel F. Cohalan](#), was the unofficial newspaper of the Clan-na-Gael. As an incentive to sell subscriptions to the paper, *The Gaelic American* offered a [Brand New Mauser Rifle](#), with Short Knife-Bayonet and Fifty Rounds of Ammunition, delivered, express paid, to any addressâ€for anyone selling fifty subscriptions or more.

Cohalan was a lawyer, a jurist, and in effect the in-house counsel for the Clan-na-Gael. He also served as a member of the [Board of Directors of the I-AAC](#) as early as 1903, the chairman of the [Martin J. Sheridan Memorial Committee](#) in 1918, and was the attorney who handled the sale of Celtic Park in 1930. For nearly thirty years, Cohalan was intricately involved with the Celtic Park and the I-AAC, and for most of this time he was also involved with the clandestine operations of the Clan-na-Gael. â€It was no secret that Cohalan and the old Fenian soldier Devoy stood at the head of the Clan-na-Gael, the most intransigent of American fighters for Irish independence; and there was little doubt that they were the American sponsors of the Dublin Rising, (and) that Roger Casement was in effect their agent.â€(Reid, B.L. [The Man from New York: John Quinn and his Friends](#). Oxford University Press, New York. 1968: p. 324).

From as early as 1905, until at least 1921, Clan-na-Gael held fundraisers, picnics and athletic events at Celtic Park. At these events that attracted thousands of Irish exiles and Irish-Americans, Clan-na-Gael publicly advocated armed resistance to British occupation of Ireland well over a decade before the Easter Rising.

In 1914, at a secret meeting held in New York, a delegation from Clan-na-Gael met with the German Consul General, Count von Bernstoff and German spy, Wolf von Igel, to discuss Germanyâ€™s support for an armed insurrection in Ireland. â€The Clan delegation told von Bernstoff bluntly that a revolt would take place in Ireland sometime soon, while Britainâ€™s soldiers were involved on the Western Front. They had come not to ask for money â€the *American Irish would provide cash* (emphasis added) â€ but for the promise of German arms and officers when the time came for the IRB to rise and strike their preoccupied foe.â€(Golway, Terry. [Irish Rebel: John Devoy and Americaâ€™s Fight for Irelandâ€™s Freedom](#). St. Martinâ€™s Press, New York. 1998: p. 198).

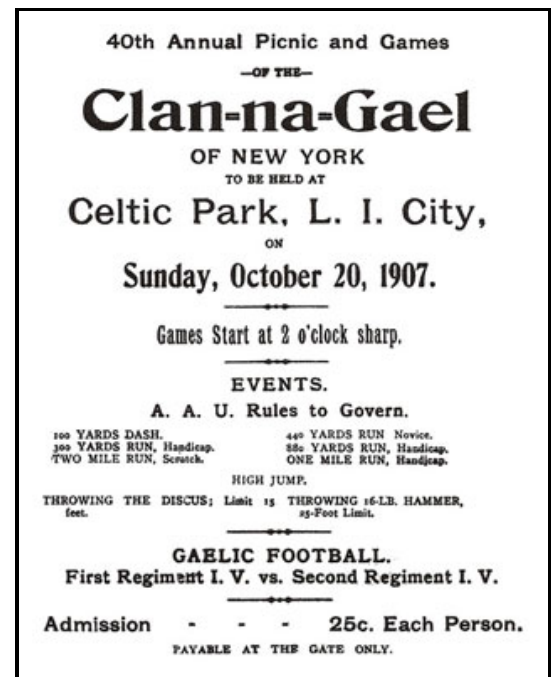
On September 23, 1917, a front page headline in *The New York Times* read: [â€Cohalan and Other Irish Leaders named in New Exposé of German Plots: Von Igel Papers Bared Wide Conspiracy.â€](#) The federal Committee on Public Information released an â€official exposéâ€ of â€German intrigueâ€ in America;

â€... prominently involving, on its Irish side, Judge Daniel F. Cohalan of the New York Supreme Court and John Devoy of *The Gaelic American*. The events described were a year and a half old, coinciding (hardly by chance) with the Easter Rising in Dublin and long antedating Americaâ€™s formal entry into the war. According to the account, Secret Service agents in April 1916 had raided an â€advertising officeâ€ in Wall Street and had trapped a Nordic giant named Wolf von Igel in the act of trying to destroy papers which showed numerous acts of complicity between German agents and American sympathizers aiming at sabotage and general troubling of the sentiment for Allied unity. Among the â€documentsâ€ was a copy of what purported to be a message from Cohalan to Count von Bernstoff, the German ambassador and super-spy, dated April 17, 1916, a week before the Rising, advising the Germans to bomb the English coast, to land arms and officers in Ireland, and to seal off the Irish ports from English access: to promote the rebellion and to help accomplish the eventual defeat of Britain.â€(Reid, p.223-224)

The scope of this article does not allow space to explore all of the intricacies of the activities of Daniel F. Cohalan, John Devoy, Roger Casement and the Clan-na-Gaelâ€™s involvement in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin, but it does appear that a significant portion of the money that the Clan-na-Gael raised to finance the Easter Rising came from the 25 cent admission charged at the gate of Celtic Park.

### The Decline of Celtic Park

There were a few major factors that combined to contribute to the decline of the Irish-American Athletic Club and popularity of Celtic Park. The initial factor was the advent of World War One. Commenting on the impact of the â€Great War,â€ P.J. Conway said, â€We decided to give up athletics for its duration. We wrote to President Wilson and offered Celtic Park to the nation for any purpose he saw fit. He thanked us for our patriotism but he had to decline the offer. After the war it was impossible to gather the old crowds together.â€ In this interview, however, Conway neglected to mention some other reasons crowds didn't return â€â€ including adoption of the Volstead Act of 1920. Itâ€™s clear that the decline of Celtic Park was hastened by Prohibition â€â€ a 13-year ban on the sale of alcohol in the United



[CRACKS FAIL TO COMPETE.: Sheridan and McGrath Only Stars That Keep Faith with Clan-na-Gael. - NYT, Oct. 21, 1907.](#)

States. It didn't take Celtic Park long to gain notoriety for the illicit sale of alcohol, so it quickly became a high-profile target for law enforcement scrutiny and the object of unflattering media reports. Illicit sale of alcohol and the resulting violence that ensued from police raids brought intense surveillance of Celtic Park activities. For more than six months alleged bootleggers have been arrested at the park every Sunday, sometimes as many as a dozen men being taken into custody. These men have been doing a retail business from bottles of whiskey carried in their pockets, and it was charged. [Celtic Park Under Prosecutor's Fire. Queens District Attorney to Investigate Riot Sunday in which Four Were Shot.](#) *New York Times* 25 Jul. 1922: p. 12.

### Greyhound Racing

As new, more modern facilities were being built in the NYC area, a decline in popularity of Celtic Park as a venue for athletic competitions forced the club to find other income-producing events. From 1928-30, on the same track where Olympic gold medalists had once performed before thousands of cheering spectators, greyhound races were held. And in tribute to a bygone era, track promoters included a race where the winning dog owner received the Martin J. Sheridan Trophy, named in honor of the I-AAC's great Olympic champion. But greyhound racing at Celtic Park didn't last long, in large part due to pressure from the growing residential community:

George W. Morton Jr., President of the Laurel Hill Improvement Association, announced that his organization had united with the Thomson Hill Taxpayers' Association in an effort to prevent the holding of greyhound races in Celtic Park, Laurel Hill, Queens. He said the races would be a detriment to the community, since only a gambling and 'riff-raff' element would be attracted by them. [Protest Greyhound Races. Laurel Hills Associations Ask Patten to bar Park Contests.](#) *New York Times* 21 Sept. 1928: p. 26.

### Sold for Housing

In 1930, after more than thirty years as a meeting place for the Irish in New York, and training grounds for world-class athletes, Celtic Park was sold to the City and Suburban Homes Company for the construction of apartments for working-class families. The plot was irregular in shape, as it was originally acquired before the streets were laid out. To adjust for the property's irregular shape, City and Suburban Homes Company had to acquire additional plots from separate owners in order to have two full square blocks, 190' wide by 600' deep:

These blocks lie between Forty-second (old Madden) Street, and Forty-fourth (old Locust) Street, and Forty-eight (old Anable) Avenue and Fiftieth (old Gould) Avenue with Forty-third (old Laurel Hill) Avenue dividing them. Old-timers state that the section was known in early days as Thomson Hill. It was decided to develop the two rectangular plots with modern apartment houses, attractive in design, thoroughly up to date in equipment, spacious in size of rooms and yet within the means of the wage earner in rental.

(Big Housing Plan for Celtic Park..." *New York Times* 7 Jun. 1931.)



Greyhound trainer and owner George Vaughn with his champion racer "Skipper Lee," at Celtic Park in 1928 or '29.



*New York Times* 6 Oct. 1928: p. 22.



A photograph in *The New York Times* real estate section in July 1931 shows construction of the Celtic Park apartments, before the demolition of the old grandstand (right) and pavilion (distance). The ticket gate with the Celtic Park marquee can be seen in the bottom right. This photo was taken from the corner of 43rd Street and 48th Avenue, looking south.

**LONG ISLAND CITY (Celtic Park Apartments)**—Just completed; 43-10 48th Av., 4 rooms, \$37 to \$67; 5 rooms, \$71.50 to \$81.50; cross ventilation; Electrolux; radio outlets; take I. R. T. or B. M. T. Flushing train to Lowery (40th) St. Construction began in 1930 and by 1931, rental apartments were on the market.

*New York Times* 29 Sept. 1931: p. 47.

Nearly eighty years after construction of the Celtic Park apartments, there are still a handful of reminders of the neighborhood's history. To the south of Celtic Park, Laurel Hill Boulevard remains; and to the north is a small city

park, called Thomson Hill Park – named after the man the land was purchased from in 1897. Today, the only reminder of the glorious history of the athletes who trained here is the one-block-long Celtic Avenue, and, of course, the housing complex that got its name from the Irish-American Athletic Club's track & field stadium...Celtic Park.

<p>Contact: <a href="mailto:WingedFist@gmail.com">WingedFist@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Winged Fist Merchandise</b></p> 	<p>Donate online at Fractured Atlas!</p> 
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[To make a tax-deductible donation to mount a plaque at Celtic Park click here.](#)

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Web Design [Conrad Landais](#)

[http://www.wingedfist.org/Celtic\\_Park\\_History.html](http://www.wingedfist.org/Celtic_Park_History.html)



# A E Wood aka 'Slacker' 1884 – 1917

Perhaps Waltham Abbays most famous yet virtually unknown international 'celebrity' A E Wood was born as one of a family of 14 children to Elizabeth & William Wood of Ferns Hollow, Upshire.

Slacker – as was his nickname, was of slim build and a 66 inch height, as a youth he worked in the Powder Mills, he was a keen cross country and cinder track runner, to strengthen his legs and stamina he would run constantly up and down the wet muddy hills surrounding 'Warlies' with his friend 'Smasher' Parish, on leaving work for home he would race against his families homing pigeons to see if he could beat them home to Copthall Green, \*the pigeons would be released from the Mills at certain times to give him a 'head start'!

His endeavours paid off, when as a member of the Essex Beagles he was chosen to represent England in the amateur International Cross Country Championships of 1908, 1909 & 1910. In the latter two years he in fact won the races and became international and what was then deemed 'world' champion, in 1973 the title of this race was changed to the IAAF World Cross Country Championships.

Also at this time as the winner of the following races, he held these amateur titles:

**North Thames Cross Country Championship 1908 & 1909**

**Southern Counties Championship 1909**

**Ten Mile AAA Championship 1909**

**One Mile Championship of Essex 1909**

**Southern Counties Cross Country Championship 1910**

In late 1910 he took the major step of leaving Waltham Abbey and travelling to the USA to seek his fortune as a professional runner. His arrival in New York was heralded in the New York Times with words "A E Wood, one of the best runners of the British Isles, has arrived in this city and is desirous of meeting any American cracks in races over his favourite distances". There are many articles from this era written about him in the NYT.

He became an outstanding athlete beating Americas and the worlds best known distance runners. His races were watched by spectators of thousands, especially after the pre race hype that was regularly written about him in the NYT.

In September 1914 an audience of ten thousand arrived to watch him race against the American multi champion Queal on a 5 mile stadium cinder track. Wood won and claimed the 100 dollar prize money!



As a professional he quickly became Ten & Fifteen Mile World Champion. Perhaps his zenith was in May 1912 in which during the world 15 mile championship he broke three world lap time records and became world champion, beating Americas Billy Queal and Britains Alfred Shrubbs who came second and third to Slacker, with other professional athletes being some two miles behind the winning three places!

During this era he was also beating the famous and still



## A E Wood aka 'Slacker' 1884 – 1917 (continued)

revered Canadian marathon and long distance running champion Tom Longboat. He continually beat the worlds best and most famous athletes in both cross country and track events over many distance titles, but sadly has never yet been recognised for the athlete he truly was and the titles he brought to British athletics representing both England and Great Britain.

He retired from professional running around 1915 and moved to Ontario where it's thought he became a farmer, he was called to war service in March 1916 and at the age of 33 was killed in Ypres in October 1917, he died as an unmarried Canadian soldier.

There is so much more he achieved, a good source of information is on the internet via the New York Times archives and by searching copies of Commonwealth newspapers from the era, his competition name was always entered as A E Wood

*\*After an article in the Hertfordshire Mercury in the early 1970's our family received many written testimonials from elderly people that had witnessed this feat*



## Useful Telephone Numbers

### COUNCIL SERVICES

Waltham Abbey Town Council	01992 714 949
Epping Forest District Council	01992 564 000
Essex County Council	08457 430 430

### POLICE, FIRE & Ambulance

(dial 999 for emergencies)	
Essex Police (non emergency)	0300 333 4444
or Mobile	07968 354 021

### HEALTH & HOSPITALS

Princess Alexandra Hospital	01279 444 455
St Margaret's Hospital	01992 561 666
Whipps Cross Hospital	0208 539 5522
Chase Farm Hospital	0845 111 4000
NHS Direct	0845 4647

### PUBLIC UTILITIES

EDF Energy	0800 096 9000
National Gas Emergency Services	0800 111 999
Thames Water	08459 200 800

Citizens Advice Bureau	020 8502 0031
Epping Forest College	020 8508 8311
Voluntary Action Epping Forest	01992 564178
Anti-Social Behaviour Actionline	01992 564608

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