

MENIN GATE, AT MIDNIGHT



Will Longstaff, an Australian Artist painted Menin Gate at Midnight after he had attended the unveiling ceremony of the Menin gate memorial at the entrance to the Belgian town of Ypres on the 24th of July, 1927. This memorial lists the names of more than 54,000 men of the British and Empire Forces who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave – known only unto God. Longstaff is reported to have been so profoundly moved by the ceremony that during a midnight walk along the Menin Road he saw a vision of steel-helmeted spirits rising from the moonlit cornfields around him. It is said that, following his return to London, he painted the work in one session, while still under psychic influence. Every morning since 1927 (except during the Second World War) Police Officers assemble and direct traffic away from the Menin Gate, at precisely 8 o'clock three uniform Buglers sound the Last Post.

Other Links.

[The Official Last Post Website](#)

[Tom Morgan, "The Menin Gate, Ypres"](#), with an excerpt from Lord Plumer's moving dedicatory address

[Siegfried Sassoon On Passing the new Menin Gate](#)

[Last Post at the Menin Gate, Eve of July 1st 2006 - Somme 90th Anniversary](#)