



ROHAN, PATRICK BERNARD

Second Lieutenant



King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2nd Battalion. 13th Brigade, 5th Division

Age: 33

Killed in Action. Date of Death: 16/03/1915

The 2nd Battalion in August 1914 was in Dublin. Part of 13th Brigade, 5th Division. The Division was one of the first to land in France, and as part of II Corps, took the brunt of the early fighting at Mons and Le Cateau. He was killed in the prelude to the Divisional attack on Hill 60 between 17th - 22nd April 1915.



Hill 60 on the left is the heap of spoil taken from the railway cutting in the foreground

Hill 60 was the largest of three artificial spoil banks, created from the excavated earth from the cutting in the Ypres Ridge, through which passed the Ypres-Comines railway line. The other two mounds, located on the opposite side of the railway line, were known as the 'Caterpillar', due to its unusual shape, and a conical shaped hill known as the 'Dump'. The German Army had pushed the French from this vital piece of high ground in early December 1914 and from this vantage point commanded Ypres and much of the opposing line. In order to retake the hill French Sappers had commenced mining from one of their front line trenches but had made little progress by the time the British took over this part of the line at the beginning of 1915. It was decided to continue to mine the hill from three shafts designated M1, M2 and M3, the latter being the original French attempt, and each of the galleries split to form pairs and packed with gunpowder and guncotton. The mines were fired successfully on 17 April 1915 and an artillery bombardment of the hill and surrounding area preceded an infantry assault. Initially the operation seemed a complete success but as the day wore on and the Germans reorganised themselves it became apparent that 'a costly tactical blunder had been committed'. The hill pushed into the German front line and was now exposed to heavy artillery fire from two sides and from the Caterpillar nearby. It seemed at first that the German artillery was firing wildly but this was due to the fact that they did not have their guns ranged on 'what had been their own hill, and anyway shelled behind the line chiefly with a view

to catching our reserves and preventing reinforcements coming up'. The British position on the hill became untenable and, under such fierce bombardment, the use of poisonous gas and almost continuous counter-attack, it was finally lost on the 5 May with the loss of 100 officers and 3,000 men During this fighting four Victoria Crosses were won.



A trench remaining at Hill 60 in the 1930s.

Additional information: Son of Keiran and Mary Rohan, of Ballinahown, Athlone, Co. Westmeath; husband of Gertrude Amy Crickmar (formerly Rohan), of "Woodside," The Haye, Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex.



1914 Mons Star 1914-20 War Medal 1914-19 Victory Medal

Campaign: — B.E.F. 1914. (A) Where decoration was earned.

(B) Present situation *63*

Reg.	Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)
(A)	<i>ROHAN</i>	<i>Irish Guards</i>	<i>C.R.M.S.</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>9/1/11</i>
(B)	<i>P.O.B.</i>	<i>K.O.L.G.</i>	<i>2nd Lt</i>		<i>Irish Guards</i>

Action taken *1. V. 1408/m of 8.8.19. WS/2/5833*
On Rank 1st Lt 24/10/19
Bd. 1st Lt 14/1/1954/4 10-21 WS/2/5833

Disembarkation Date: *WS/2/5833*

(6 34 46) W8188—RP488 50,000 12/17 HWV(P1917) G17/1048

Off 5/10/21

Correspondence.

Mrs G. Crichton (nee Rohan) applies for 1914 Star in respect of the services of her late husband

22.1.19

Proposals to be sent to: *Mrs Crichton*

Address: *45 Willow Rd*

Hampstead

N.W.3.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 47

Cemetery: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

(c) CWGC



The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Broadly speaking, the Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war. The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces

back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defence. There was little more significant activity on this front until 1917, when in the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, which began at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele. The German offensive of March 1918 met with some initial success, but was eventually checked and repulsed in a combined effort by the Allies in September. The battles of the Ypres Salient claimed many lives on both sides and it quickly became clear that the commemoration of members of the Commonwealth forces with no known grave would have to be divided between several different sites. The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands of men who passed through it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates those of all Commonwealth nations (except New Zealand) who died in the Salient, in the case of United Kingdom casualties before 16 August 1917. Those United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, a site which marks the furthest point reached by Commonwealth forces in Belgium until nearly the end of the war. Other New Zealand casualties are commemorated on memorials at Buttes New British Cemetery and Messines Ridge British Cemetery. The YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. The memorial, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick, was unveiled by Lord Plumer in July 1927. No. of Identified Casualties: 54332



THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ABBERTON, EAST DONYLAND, FINGRINGHOE, LANGENHOE