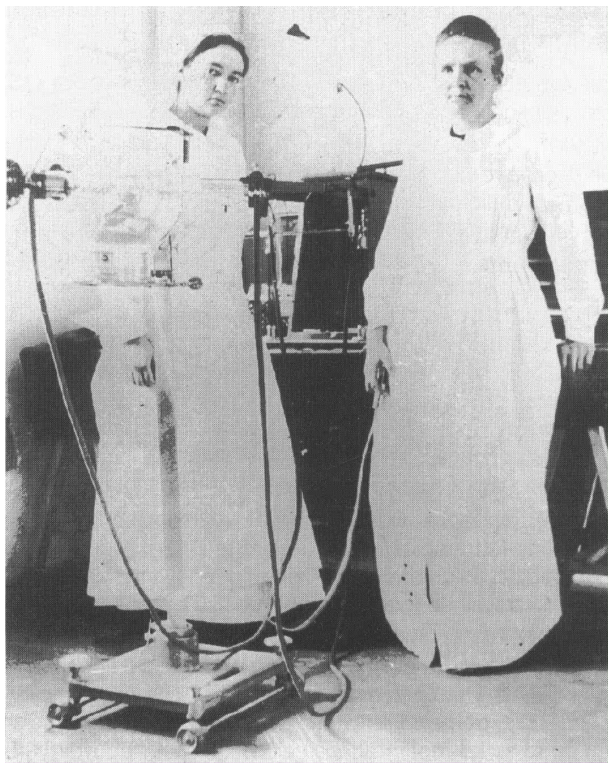


Marie CURIE



°1867 †1934



↑ Marie and Irene in Hoogstade



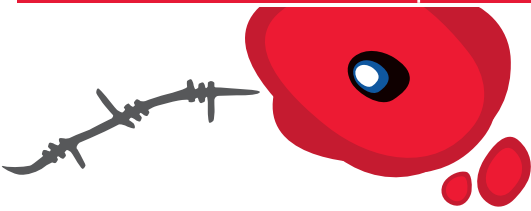
Marie Sklodowska Curie et la Belgique. (Brussel, ULB, 1990)

When WWI broke out the famous scientist Marie Curie, with her daughter Irene, made her knowledge available to war victims. They fitted cars with radiology equipment and trained operators. Marie Curie also installed equipment in the field hospitals behind the Belgian frontline, mainly in 1914 and 1915. In Belgium she worked with the famous French professors Frans Daels and Antoine Depage. In Poperinge equipment was placed in the hospital in the castle of judge D'Hondt. Also in the field hospitals of De Panne (L'Océan), Adinkerke (Cabourg) and Hoogstade (Belgian Field Hospital) where Marie and Irene stayed longer and met King Albert I.

Marie Curie was born in former Russian Warsaw as Marya Sklodowska. In Paris she graduated in physics and mathematics. She married French physicist Pierre Curie. She studied radioactivity with her teacher Becquerel. She discovered polonium and uranium and was awarded the Nobel prize twice: in 1903 for physics and in 1911 for chemistry. Her radiology equipment provided excellent services to thousands of wounded throughout the war. In 1934 Marie Curie died from the effects of radium. In 1990 an exhibition and a book were dedicated to Marie Curie and her links with Belgium.



Marie Curie and King Albert ↑



Herman NOHL



°1879 †1960

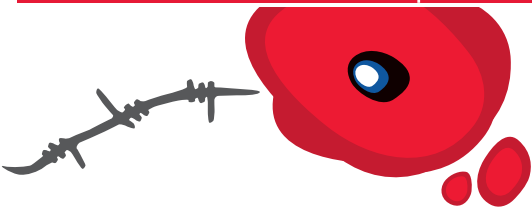


4. Herman Nohl als eben in Weimar
eingezogener Landsturmmann, Sommer 1915

Although Herman Nohl was already 35 when WW I broke out, he still enlisted in the summer of 1915. Due to short-sightedness and a knee injury Nohl enlisted in the 'Wirtschaftsausschuss' and was responsible, e.g., for provisions. During his time in Ghent Nohl had numerous contacts with Belgian artists and worked for the release of the Belgian professors Henri Pirenne and Paul Fredericq who had been deported to Germany. He wrote hundreds of letters to his wife. He returned home to Jena in 1918.

After university studies in his native Berlin and his marriage in 1905 Herman Nohl and his family moved to Jena where he became a philosophy lecturer. After WWI he focused on popular education and became one of the founders of the democratic Volkshochschule in Thüringen. From 1920 he was a philosophy professor at the University of Göttingen. His position on National Socialism remains a topic of discussion to this day, but in 1943 he was still forced to work in a factory - aged 64. In 1945 he created the Institut für Erziehung und Unterricht op. He died in 1960 at home in Göttingen after a long illness.





Nellie SPINDLER



°1891 †1917



↑

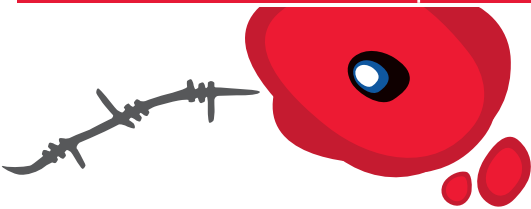
Nurse Nellie Spindler from Wakefield (UK) is the only woman to be buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Poperinge amongst 10,800 men. She was mortally wounded on 21 August 1917 by a grenade when the enemy fire aimed for the railway and the ammunition dump next to the field hospital (CCS 44) at the Brandhoek (Vlamertinge) got her. Nellie died half an hour later. Field hospital 44 was hastily evacuated and transferred to Lijssenthoek near Poperinge the same day. Nellie's body was transferred too. She was given a stately funeral the next day.

Because the British army needed qualified nurses, Nellie Spindler enlisted in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and went to work in the field hospitals on the western front. Initially she was far away from the danger zone, but in the summer of 1917 she arrived at field hospital 44 at the Brandhoek, specialising in abdominal wounds. The hospital was nearer the front, because abdominal wounds had to be treated as quickly as possible due to infection risks. On 31 July 1917, the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres, the hospital was flooded with the injured. Nellie worked in difficult circumstances and the matron was full of praise for her.



Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Poperinge
Boescheepseweg, 8970 Poperinge Graf XVI. A. 3.

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery ↑



Albert WHEELER

°1897 †1982



↑

Albert Wheeler of the Royal Horse Artillery was seriously wounded on the Ypres front in 1916. He expressed the wish to be buried with his comrades after his death. On 7 May 1982 Wheeler's ashes were scattered by his son Dennis at Bedford House Cemetery. In 1983 a commemorative stone was unveiled for him in the 's Herenthagestraat in Zillebeke. The small monument is very similar to the tombstones on British military cemeteries. The ashes of Albert's wife Violet May, who treated the leg wounds of her paralysed husband for years, were also scattered in Zillebeke after her death in 1985

During the retreat from Mons in late August 1914 Albert Edwin Wheeler, from Bristol, was wounded the first time. The Royal Horse Artillery, which he joined in February 1914, belonged to the British troops who saw action first. On 1 July 1916 Albert was heavily wounded in both legs near Ypres. He first was transferred to a Casualty Clearing Station (field hospital) in Zillebeke and later to a hospital in Hampshire (UK). Against all odds, he survived. Because Albert refused amputation, the doctors applied the new method of osteosynthesis. After staying in several hospitals for 3 years, he left the army in 1919.

 Commemorative stone in the Herenthagestraat at Zillebeke
Herenthagestraat, 8902 Zillebeke

Bedford House Cemetery at Ypres
Rijselseweg, 8900 Ieper



Commemorative stone in Zillebeke ↑