

A quarter of the Empire's casualties in the Great War occurred round Ypres. In memory of the fallen, and of the Great Field Marshal who took his title from Ypres, it is hoped that this Church should be built.

All who feel that the erection of a Church on so historic and commanding a point in the battle area would be appropriate, are invited to contribute towards the necessary funds.

Ten thousand pounds are wanted.

Five thousand five hundred pounds of which have already been received.

Please see full particulars of the appeal for Funds on the last page of this circular.

"THE VERY CATHEDRAL OF DEATH."

"The very Cathedral of Death itself"—that is how Mr. Rudyard Kipling once described Ypres. There more than at any other point of the far-flung battlefields that lie scattered, world-wide from from the Channel to the Tigris, the glory and the tragedy of the Great War may be remembered.

Ypres rises in the centre and forefront of the old western line and it is ringed about with names famous in the chronicles of trench warfare.

Poperinghe and Passchendaele lie closely on its flanks; eastwards from it runs the road to Menin and southwards over Messines Ridge to the spot marked on the maps, "Bois de Ploegsteert," and in all our hearts as "Plugstreet," stands Armentieres.

No German soldier ever set foot in Ypres except as a prisoner. But a succession of titanic battles, each in itself on a scale to make Waterloo seem a skirmish and the Alma an affair of outposts, was raged round it. Concerning the first, when the Channel Ports were threatened, Lord Ypres himself has written: "The stakes for which we were playing were nothing less than the safety—indeed, the very existence—of the British Empire."

At the second, our armies performed their "month's miracle of naked endurance against the long-planned and coldly thought-out horror of gas" employed for the first time in military history.

At the third, which raged for three and a half months, under terrible conditions of weather, the enemy had to use up no less than 78 Divisions, of which 18 had been engaged a second or third time in the battle after having been withdrawn to rest and refit.

From 1914, when the old Regular Army barred the way to the coast at the price almost of annihilation, to the autumn of 1917, when the New Armies went gallantly into their huge offensive, the Salient was unceasingly the stage on which the most intense drama of the war was being enacted.

Such a corner of foreign soil which, by reason of its closely resting dead, will be for ever England, demands a worthy and a permanent memorial.

English-speaking pilgrims and visitors come in increasing streams to Ypres; for three months of last year they reached nearly 1,000 a week.

For them and for those who follow them in future generations the Church will be built, and all who cherish memories of the Great War either as combatants in any area or as anxious civilians at home may, by helping the building fund, find some expression for the honour and affection in which they held their fallen comrades and relations.