

**Cathays Cemetery,
Cardiff, Wales
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7353 PRIVATE

H. I. BABBAGE

ROYAL DEFENCE CORPS

14TH OCTOBER, 1916 Age 41

Herbert Ivan BABBAGE

Herbert Ivan Babbage was born on 10th August, 1876 at South Road, Adelaide, South Australia to parents Charles Whitmore Babbage and Amelia Babbage (nee Barton).

Newspaper item – *South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail*, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 September, 1876:

ARRAIGNMENTS

Charles Whitmore Babbage, pleaded guilty to having forged and uttered a warrant for £9, 955 with intent to defraud; and also having at different dates embezzled various sums of money the property of his master, the Bank of Adelaide.

Newspaper item – *Border Watch* (Mount Gambier, South Australia – 30 September, 1876:

TELEGRAMS

Adelaide, September 29

Charles W. Babbage, for forgery has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Herbert Babbage (born 1876) along with Mrs Babbage (born 1844) & Alfred Babbage (born 1872) were passengers on the *Rotomahana* which departed from Victoria for New Zealand via Hobart in March 1881.

Herbert Ivan Babbage received tutoring in art at the Wanganui Technical School. He worked at the College from 1899 to 1904 as a pupil teacher under the painter D. E. Hutton.

The 1896 New Zealand Electoral Roll – Wanganui Roll listed Herbert Ivain Babbage, Artist of Moana, Tayfield. His parents Charles Whitmore Babbage, Farmer & Amelia Babbage were also listed at Moana, Tayfield.

The 1900 New Zealand Electoral Roll – Wanganui Roll listed Herbert Ivan Babbage, Artist of Virginia Lake. His parents Charles Whitmore Babbage, Settler & Amelia Babbage were also listed at Virginia Lake.

Herbert Ivan Babbage studied at the London School of Art and later at the Académie Julian in Paris, France.

Mr H. I. Babage was a passenger on *Corinthic* which had departed from London, England on 5th February, 1909 bound for Wellington, New Zealand.

On returning to New Zealand, 200 of Herbert Ivan Babbage's artworks were exhibited in Wellington, Wanganui and New Plymouth, New Zealand.

Mr H. I. Babbage, Artist, was a passenger on *Ruahine*, which had departed from Wellington, New Zealand & arrived at the port of London, England on 17th May, 1911.

On his return to England Herbert Ivan Babbage lived at St. Ives in Cornwall & set up a Studio there.

Herbert Ivan Babbage enlisted at St. Austell, Cornwall, England. He originally was posted to D.C.L.I. (Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry) with a service number of 3308 then transferred to Royal Defence Corps with a service number of 7353.

Royal Defence Corps

The Royal Defence Corps was a corps of the British Army formed in March 1916 and disbanded in 1936.

It was initially formed by converting the (Home Service) Garrison battalions of line infantry regiments. Garrison battalions were composed of soldiers either too old or medically unfit for active front-line service; the Home Service status indicated they were unable to be transferred overseas. Eighteen battalions were converted in this way.

The role of the corps was to provide troops for security and guard duties inside the United Kingdom; guarding important locations such as ports or bridges. It also provided independent companies for guarding prisoner-of-war camps. The corps was never intended to be employed on overseas service. (*Wikipedia*)

Newspaper item – Hawera & Normanby Star, Volume LXXI, Issue LXXI – 14 June, 1916:

ON DUTY IN ENGLAND

AN ARTIST'S LETTER

In the course of an interesting letter, dated April 25th, Mr H. J. Babbage, formerly of Hawera, who has been doing special military duty in England for a considerable time, says that the hours are pretty long owing to air raids. The men have 24 hours on and 24 hours off, in addition to fatigue duty in the spare time. Writing of the season he says:- "We have had the worst winter in the memory of living men. It has been a regular old-timer one reads about. Early in March we had a blizzard. It snowed for two weeks on end. Then at the end of March another blizzard lasting two days, and in that time the drifts of snow were 20 feet deep and number so people perished in them. All trains were stopped, some snowed up, and all telegraph wires were down; the poles simply smashed off in the gale like reeds. The wires weighed tons, and were like great white ropes as thick as one's arms. Two motor busses were snowed up outside our billet in the street. It was pretty trying at night time on top of the viaduct, as they were so exposed." His picture, which gained a place at the Royal Academy, he worked at in his spare time. The snow effects, he says, were most lovely. Not only was the picture hung, but hung "on the line," which means the best place in the Gallery. In concluding his letter, Mr Babbage says:- "All the Reserves are now formed into one, with headquarters in London, and are now called the Royal Defence Corps, as the King wanted to show his appreciation of the service of the various corps."

Private Herbert Ivan Babbage died on 14th October, 1916 at 3rd Western General Hospital, Cardiff, Wales after an operation for a previous condition.

A death for Herbert I. Babbage, aged 41, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Cardiff, Glamorganshire, Wales.

Private Herbert Ivan Babbage was buried in Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff, Wales – Plot number EB. 37. He has a Private Memorial stone but his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper item – Hawera & Normanby Star, New Zealand, Volume LXXII – 23 October, 1916:

PERSONAL ITEMS

The death is announced of Mr Herbett Ivan Babbage, third son of Mr and Mrs C. W. Babbage, of Wanganui, formerly of Hawera. Mr Babbage had adopted the profession of artist, and after forwarding himself as far as possible in New Zealand went to England. There he pursued his studies diligently and with a success that justified the early promise he had shown. Later on he travelled a good deal in Europe, all the time adding to his reputation. Last year he gained the distinction of having one of his pictures accepted by the Royal Academy and hung "on the line," a coveted concession. Very general regret will be felt by Hawera friends at his untimely death. It is not suggested that he was killed in action, and we understand he had not been accepted for military service abroad, though he had offered himself. But he had been serving in England on patrol duty, and curiously among his first work was the duty of helping to guard an important bridge in the south of England which his grandfather had designed.

Newspaper item – Manawatu Standard, New Zealand – 24 October, 1916:

ROLL OF HONOUR

Mr Herbert Ivan Babbage, son of Mr C. W. Babbage, of St. John's Hill, Wanganui, and well-known artist, was in England when the war broke out. He joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and was continuously engaged in home defence. A short time ago he broke down under the strain, and had to undergo an operation, from which he never recovered, word of his death having just been received. Mr Babbage held an exhibition in Palmerston North a few years ago and a number of his pictures were purchased by local admirers.

Newspaper item – *The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 November, 1916:

CONCERNING PEOPLE

The death is announced of Mr. Herbert Ivan Babbage, third son of Mr. C. W. Babbage, of Wanganui (N.Z.), who was educated at Mr. John L. Young's school in Adelaide. The deceased was an artist, and after studying in New Zealand for some time, he went to Europe to complete his work. There he gave much promise in his profession. Last year he gained the distinction of having one of his pictures exhibited in the Royal Academy. At the outbreak of the war he enlisted, and after several attempts to get to the front he was transferred to the Duke of Cornwall's light infantry for home defence. During the past two years Mr. Babbage was kept on patrol duty— having 24 hours on duty and 24 off. The work, which is very strenuous, proved too much for him. He died on October 14.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Herbert Ivan Babbage – service number 7353, aged 41, of 23rd Coy., Royal Defence Corps. He was the son of Charles Whitmore Babbage and Amelia Babbage, of Wanganui, New Zealand. An artist.

H. Ivan Babbage is remembered on the St. Ives War Memorial and Memorial Gardens, St. Andrew's Street, St. Ives, Cornwall, England.



St. Ives War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Online)



St. Ives War Memorial and Memorial Gardens (Photo by Nick_2)



St. Ives War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Online)

H. I. Babbage is remembered on the St. Ives Arts Club Memorial for the Great War located in St Ives Arts Club, Westcott's Quay, St. Ives, Cornwall, England.



St. Ives Arts Club Memorial (Photo courtesy of Stephen Litherland, President)

Herbert Ivan Babbage is remembered by the New Zealand War Graves Project.



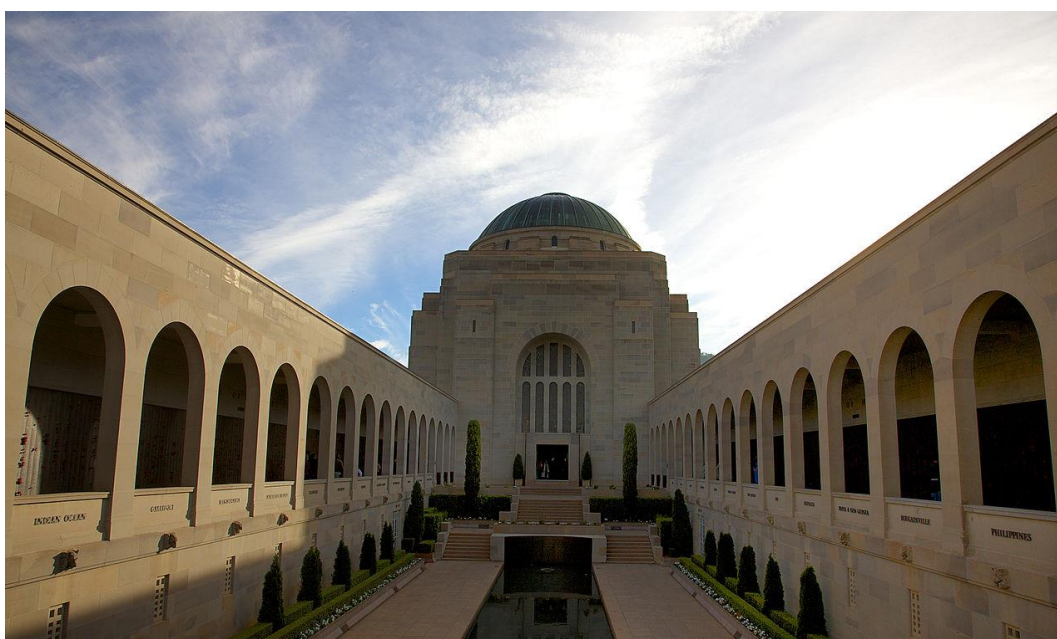
At the time of researching, Private Herbert Ivan Babbage was not remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

*Note – Private Herbert Ivan Babbage's name was submitted in February, 2019 to the Australian War Memorial for inclusion on the Commemorative Roll.

****Update** – On checking the Commemorative Roll in October, 2021 it is found that Private Herbert Ivan Babbage is now remembered on the Commemorative Roll at the Australian War Memorial.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)

Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

BABBAGE – Herbert Ivan, third son of C.W. Babbage, St. John's Hill

(*Wanganui Chronicle*, Volume LX, Issue 16796, 12 October, 1916)

ST. IVES TOWN COUNCIL

At a meeting of St. Ives Town Council on Monday evening, the Mayor (Ald. T. Uren) referred with regret to the loss the town had sustained by the death of Pte Samuel Berriman, D.C.L.I., of Hellesvean, in action, and of Mr Babbage, a well-respected artist resident in the town. The latter joined the forces, but the renewing of an old complaint necessitated an operation to which he succumbed.

Votes of condolence with the relatives of both men were passed.

(*Cornishman*, Penzance, Cornwall, England – 19 October, 1916)

GEN. BABBAGE'S BEREAVEMENT

General H. P. Babbage, of Cheltenham, who was fighting his country's battles in India as far back as seventy years ago, has been bereaved by the death in hospital at Cardiff, of Pte Herbert Ivan Babbage, of the Royal Defence Corps, aged 41. Pte Babbage, who was an artist, living in normal times at St. Ives (Cornwall), was the son of Mr and Mrs C. W. Babbage, of New Zealand, and a great-grandson of Charles Babbage, M.A., F.R.S., the famous mathematician and inventor of the calculating machine, so that he was the great-nephew of the Cheltenham municipal reformer.

(*Gloucestershire Echo*, Gloucestershire, England – 23 October, 1916)

DEATHS

BABBAGE – On the 14th inst., at the 3rd Western General Hospital, Cardiff, while serving as a private in the Royal Defence Corps, Herbert Ivan Babbage, artist, of St Ives, Cornwall, and son of Charles Whitmore Babbage and Mrs Babbage, of Roto Kowia, St. John's Hill, Wanganui, New Zealand, and great grandson of Charles Babbage, of London, aged 41 years.

(*Gloucestershire Echo*, Gloucestershire, England – 23 October, 1916) & (*Gloucestershire Chronicle*, Gloucestershire, England – 28 October, 1916)

Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff, Wales

During the 1939-1945 War, the city of Cardiff was one of the Royal Naval bases of the Western Approaches Command. It was severely damaged by enemy air attack during the early part of the 1939-1945 War and has been largely rebuilt. The cemetery, known locally as Cathays Cemetery was opened in 1859 and has been extended to cover over 100 acres. The cemetery contains war graves of both world wars. Just over a third of the 1914-1918 burials are contained in a War Graves Plot in the portion of Section EB, this plot is on two converging roadways leading to the main entrance. The remainder of the graves are scattered in other parts of the cemetery. After the 1914-1918 War, a Cross of Sacrifice was erected in front of the plot in the angle formed by the junction of the two roadways, the whole forming a triangular island site. The 1939-1945 War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery in more than 30 different sections. A number of them are airmen who came from the Royal Air Force stations at Cardiff and St. Athan. There are now nearly 500, 1914-1918 and over 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. Some 40 French and Norwegian Foreign Nationals are also commemorated here.

(Information & Photos from CWGC)





Entrance to Cathays Cemetery (Photo by Peter – Find a Grave)

VGC
War Graves Commission

Cardiff (Cathays) Cemetery

CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The British Home Front during the First and Second World Wars

During the two world wars Britain became an island fortress and a base for equipping and training troops and launching land, sea and air operations. In both conflicts, the skies above the island and the seas that surrounded her became the scene of fierce fighting involving aircraft, submarines and warships. Britain was also the main centre for the medical care of men and women serving in the armed forces. Thousands of hospitals located across the country were used to treat service personnel who were wounded, fell victim to disease, or were injured in accidents at home or overseas.

Many of the servicemen buried in the United Kingdom were killed in action in the air while defending the home front. Others, mostly naval men, drowned in British coastal waters. However, the majority were wounded or contracted disease on active service, were transported back to Britain, and subsequently died while undergoing hospital treatment or recovering in private homes.

Today over 170,000 men and women who died in the United Kingdom, while serving in the armed forces during the first and second world wars, are buried in cemeteries and churchyards throughout the country. Some burials form small war graves plots within larger cemeteries, but the majority are scattered throughout cemetery grounds. In all, there are Commonwealth

© Royal Air Force / Imperial War Museum

war graves in almost 12,500 different locations throughout the United Kingdom.

Cardiff (Cathays) Cemetery

During the First World War, King Edward VII Hospital (now Cardiff Royal Infirmary) and the Welsh Metropolitan War Hospital, formerly the Cardiff City Asylum at Whitchurch, were devoted to the treatment of sick and wounded Commonwealth servicemen. Casualties took over half the beds in the former and entirely occupied the latter hospital, with a total provision of over 3,000 beds throughout the city. In addition, the Prince of Wales Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers had 66 beds for men from Wales, Herefordshire and Shropshire. Most servicemen recovered as a result of the care they received in Cardiff during the war; but of those who died many were buried in this cemetery.

The vast majority of the 466 First World War burials are British, but the cemetery is also the final resting place of six Australians and nine Canadians. Two thirds of the servicemen buried here died during the war; the remainder succumbed to post-war injuries, disease or influenza. Influenza or Spanish Flu was a

global pandemic that killed up to six per cent of the entire globe's population between 1918 and 1920. An estimated 25 million people died in the first six months alone and it may ultimately have killed more than 50 million worldwide. The young and healthy were particularly vulnerable to the disease, which struck with such severity that a victim could be fit at breakfast and dead by tea-time.

A third of the First World War burials are located here in Section EB, where a Cross of Sacrifice, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, was erected after the war. The remainder are scattered throughout the cemetery.

During the Second World War, Cardiff served as one of the Royal Naval bases of the Western Approaches Command. It was also the biggest coal port in the world and consequently came under repeated enemy air attacks in 1940 and '41 and again in 1944. Damage to property was extensive and many civilians were killed. There are 224 military burials dating from the Second World War scattered throughout the cemetery in more than 30 different sections. Among the Second World War dead buried here are airmen who were stationed at the Royal Air Force bases at Cardiff and St Athan.

A detachment of the Royal Army Medical Corps marching down Queen Street, Cardiff, c. 1917.

Major-General Madge Bevilacqua / Public in partnership with Find a Grave, Cardiff, 2017

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commission is responsible for the commemoration of almost 1,700,000 members of the Commonwealth forces who gave their lives in the two world wars. The graves and memorials of these men and women, who came from all parts of the Commonwealth and who were of many faiths and of none, are found around the globe in some 150 countries. For more information about the Commission, our work and how to search our records online visit www.cwgc.org or contact us at enquiries@cwgc.org

For more information about this location and some of those commemorated here, scan the QR code (right).

Cathays Cemetery (Photo courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathays Cemetery)



Cathays Cemetery (Photos courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathay's Cemetery)





Cathays Cemetery (Photos courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathay's Cemetery)



Private Babbage's Private Headstone (red arrow)

Map Of Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff showing Section EB – Roll of Honour

(Courtesy of The Friends of Cathays Cemetery)



		113	114	115		
103	104	105	106	107	108	109
96	97	98	99	100	101	102
89	90	91	92	93	94	95
82	83	84	85	86	87	88
75	76	77	78	79	80	81
	69	70	71	72	73	74
	63	64	65	66	67	68
	57	58	59	60	61	62
	51	52	53	54	55	56
	45	46	47	48	49	50
	40	41	42	43	44	
	35		37	38	39	
	30	31	32	33	34	
	25	26	27	28	29	
	20	21	22	23	24	
		16	17	18	19	
		12	13	14	15	
		8	9	10	11	
		4	5	6	7	
		1A	1	2	3	



Australian CWGC Headstone



Private Memorial for Babbage



RASC CWGC Headstone for Pilkington

Photo of Private Herbert Ivan Babbage's Private Memorial in Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff, Wales.



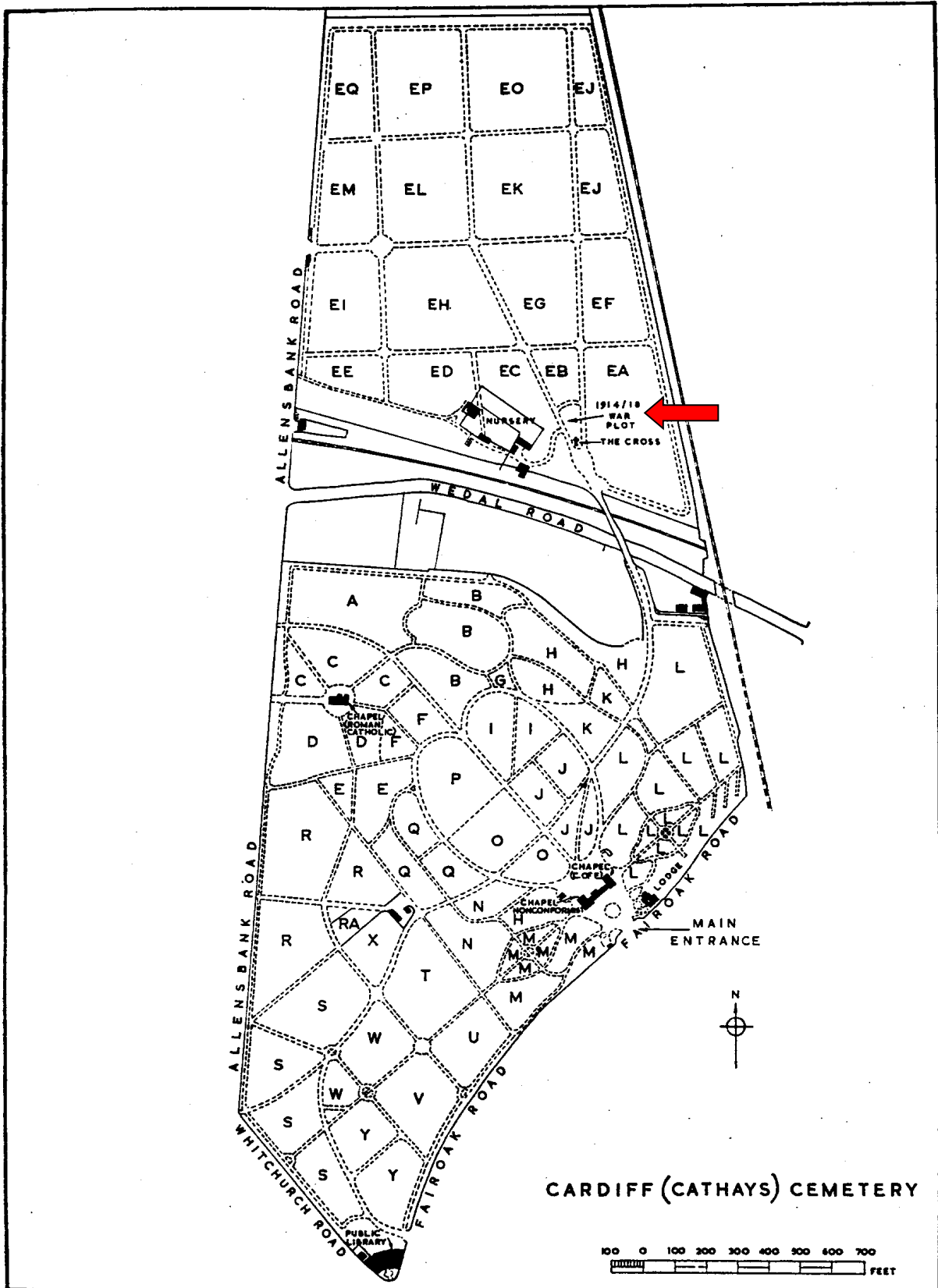
(Photo courtesy of The Friends of Cathays Cemetery)

*In Loving Remembrance
of
HERBERT IVAN BABBAGE
Of
Wanganui, New Zealand
And
St. Ives, Cornwall
ARTIST
Who While Serving
In
The Royal Defence Corps
Died In Cardiff
On The
14TH Of October 1916
Aged 41*

*“Great Love Hath No Man Than This That A Man
Lay Down His Life For His Friends”*



Private Babbage’s Headstone (red arrow) (Photo courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathay’s Cemetery)



Cemetery Plan from CWGC

Some Examples of Herbert Ivan Babbage's artwork from Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.



Babbage, Herbert Ivan, 1875-1916. Babbage, Herbert Ivan, 1875-1916 :Our camp, Ruapehu. Dec. 31st, 1898.. Ref: E-285-q-007. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/23247946](#)



Babbage, Herbert Ivan, 1875-1916. Babbage, Herbert Ivan, 1875-1916 :A study from the garden, Rotokawau. Dec. 20th 1900.. Ref: E-285-q-027. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/23027559](#)



Babbage, Herbert Ivan, 1875-1916. Babbage, Herbert Ivan, 1875-1916 :Zig Zag, Hawera, Nov. 1900.. Ref: E-285-q-026.
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/23007683](https://records/23007683)



Rocky foreshore and cliffs on the Cornish coast. Signed and dated 1914



Luxembourg Garden, Paris



Florence