

Third Ypres, Passchendaele, July-November 1917, British attack.

This is the battle that carried the Salient to its furthest curve, it is also the most tragic period in the defence of Ypres. It was preceded by the capture of the Messines Ridge by the explosion of a gigantic system of mines early 7 June 1917.

Six weeks later, after a bombardment from 16 to 31 July using over 4 million shells from over 3000 guns the Third Battle of Ypres began. Everything promised well until the rain began to fall and from then onwards the wettest August recorded since 1878 saw the gradual disappointment of all hopes. The Salient became one vast quagmire where soldiers fought their way through bog, shell holes and craters filled with water; where the morass was belted with rows of impregnable concrete fortresses which commanded every approach with machine guns. For 4 months this slow advance continued until Passchendaele was captured by the Canadians in early November ...

Hooze, 31 July 1917.

The 30th Division got lost and went straight into the already captured Château Wood, reporting they had taken Glencorse Wood. Reserve of the 18th Division and 53rd Brigade advanced to take Polygon Wood believing that the first objectives had fallen but instead they walked into a storm of fire from the untouched German line on the Menin Road. The Menin Road was taken at the same time five tanks arrived only to become stuck in the valley.

In October 1917 the **Hooze Crater Cemetery** was created and opened by the burial Officer of the 7th Division.