



The village of Hotton was the western limit of the great German counter offensive in the Ardennes in January 1945. A great many of the burials in Hotton War Cemetery date from that time, although there are also some from May 1940.

The British Expeditionary Force was involved in the later stages of the defence of Belgium following the German invasion in May 1940, and suffered many casualties in covering the withdrawal to Dunkirk. Commonwealth forces did not return until September 1944, but in the intervening years, many airmen were shot down or crashed in raids on strategic objectives in Belgium, or while returning from missions over Germany. The cemetery contains 666 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 21 of them unidentified.

#### Nationalities in Cemetery

**British - 575**

**Canadian - 88**

**Belgian - 1**

**Unidentified - 21**



Figure 1. Infantry of 53rd Welsh division in the snow near Hotton 4th January 1945



Figure 2. 3inch Mortar of 2nd Monmouthshire regiment during the advance towards la Roche in Belgium near Hotton, 5th January 1945

### The War Diary of 158 Brigade reports for 4th January 1945:

" 10.30 hrs: 2 Mons ordered to adv. Adv of 2 Mons very slow owing to thickness of country. Little opposition was met until a rd block was encountered on main Hotton rd North of RENDEUX-BAS. Beside rd block was a dug-in tk. The siting of the block and the enemy tps covering it was such that it was almost impossible to bring down effective arty or mortar fire. In spite of determined attempts to capture the posn 2 Mons made no progress during the rest of the day. Enemy stand in this posn had a profound effect on the course of the battle as it was impossible for the Div Comnd to pass 160 thro' on to 'PERCH' until it was cleared.

On the evening of the 4th, at 7.15 p.m., Brigadier Sugden was killed when his Scout Car skidded on the ice covered road and overturned, the accident happened at point 367877. He now rests in the Hotton War Cemetery.





The Royal British Legion, Brussels Branch, faithfully holds a memorial service in May every year to remember those that lay here. Followed by lunch at the Café Le Jacquemart. The day ends with a short Act of Remembrance at the 51st Highland Division Memorial at La Roche en Ardenne.

Please check the events calendar for more information. Listed below are some of the men buried in the cemetery.

### Major John Ronald Hamilton Cartland MP

53rd (The Worcestershire Yeomanry)

Anti-Tank Regiment Royal Artillery

Killed 30th May 1940, aged 33.

(Plot X, Row B, Grave 1)

### Major Peter Henry Lawless MC

War Correspondent - Daily Telegraph

Killed 9th March 1945, aged 53.

(Plot VII, Row A, Grave 8)

### Major Hugh De Lancy Samwell MC

7th Bn Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

Killed 13th January 1945, aged 33.

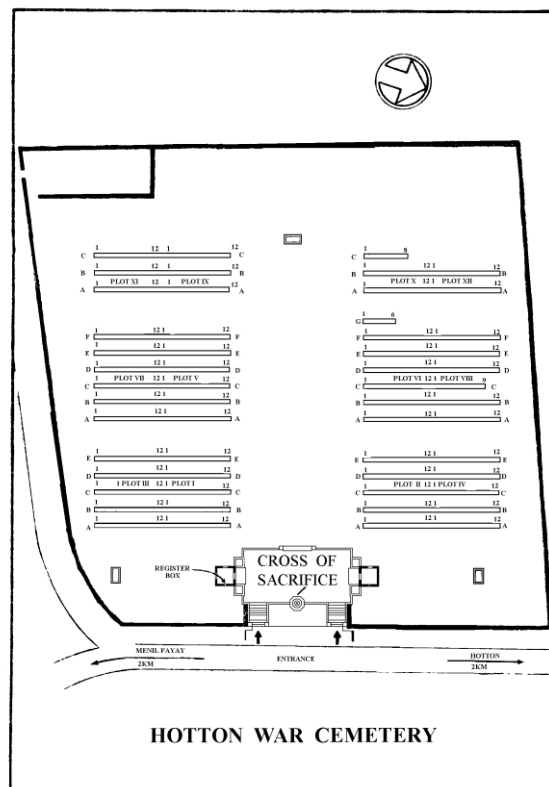
(Plot XI, Row A, Grave 11)

### Brigadier Gwynne Brian Sugden CBE

South Wales Borderers

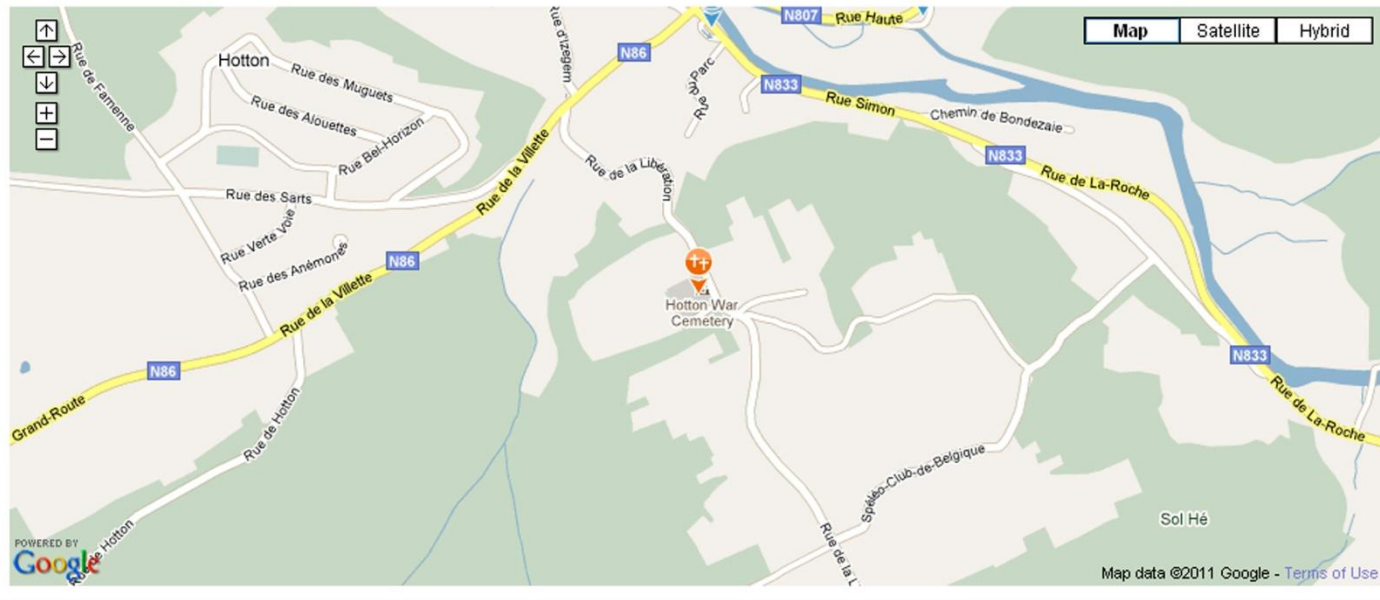
Cmdg. 158 Infantry Brigade, 53rd (Welsh) Division

Killed 4th January 1945, aged 41.



**Commonwealth War Cemetery Hotton**

(Belgium - Hotton)



Hotton is located south of Liege on the N86. On reaching Hotton follow the N86 towards Menil along the Rue de la Liberation. The Cemetery is along that road on the right. GPS Co-ordinates: Longitude 05°26'49", Latitude 50°15'44"



Figure 3. 51st Highland Division