

## **Edith Cavell's white marble grave marker at the Tir National from 1918 – rediscovered 2022 – newly placed in 2023**

Immediately after the end of WW1 in November 1918 the Red Cross in the Brussels commune of Schaerbeek placed a white marble plaque next to Edith Cavell's grave at the Tir National where she was executed on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1915. In May 1919 her mortal remains were returned to the UK.

There was, however, no record of the whereabouts of the white marble plaque until recently, some 104 years later. Richard Kent, a descendant of Lilian Cavell, lives near Birmingham in the UK and, while clearing out his mother's garage, discovered the plaque in an old suitcase. No one in the Cavell family has any recollection of having seen the plaque on display. It was quite badly soiled and damaged.

Richard's family decided that the plaque should be returned to Belgium. The Commune of Schaerbeek created an Edith Cavell Memorial, with the plaque as the centre piece in the Schaerbeek cemetery close to that of Gabrielle Petit.

This new memorial was unveiled on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the 108<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Edith Cavell's death, at the Schaerbeek Cemetery, rue d'Evere 4, 1140 Evere, Brussels.

Attached are images of the plaque when it was recently re-discovered and as it was when it was placed at Edith Cavell's "Tir National" grave in 1918. Also an image of it as now restored.

Note (edited) by Andrew Brown – see also Belgian Edith Cavell Commemoration website <http://www.edith-cavell-belgium.eu/>



[www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205213454](http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205213454)

The Inscription on the plaque says: *Le Comité de Schaerbeek / de la / Croix Rouge de Belgique / à Miss Edith Cavell. Infirmière / Victime de son dévouement patriotique / Décembre 1918*

Translation: *The Schaerbeek Committee / of the / Red Cross of Belgium / for Miss Edith Cavell. Nurse / Victim of her patriotic devotion / December 1918*

Le Comité de Schaerbeek  
de la  
Croix Rouge de Belgique  
à Miss Edith Cavell, Infirmière  
Véline de son dévouement patriote  
Décembre 1918.