Name: Class: Number:

Task 1:

Identity card.

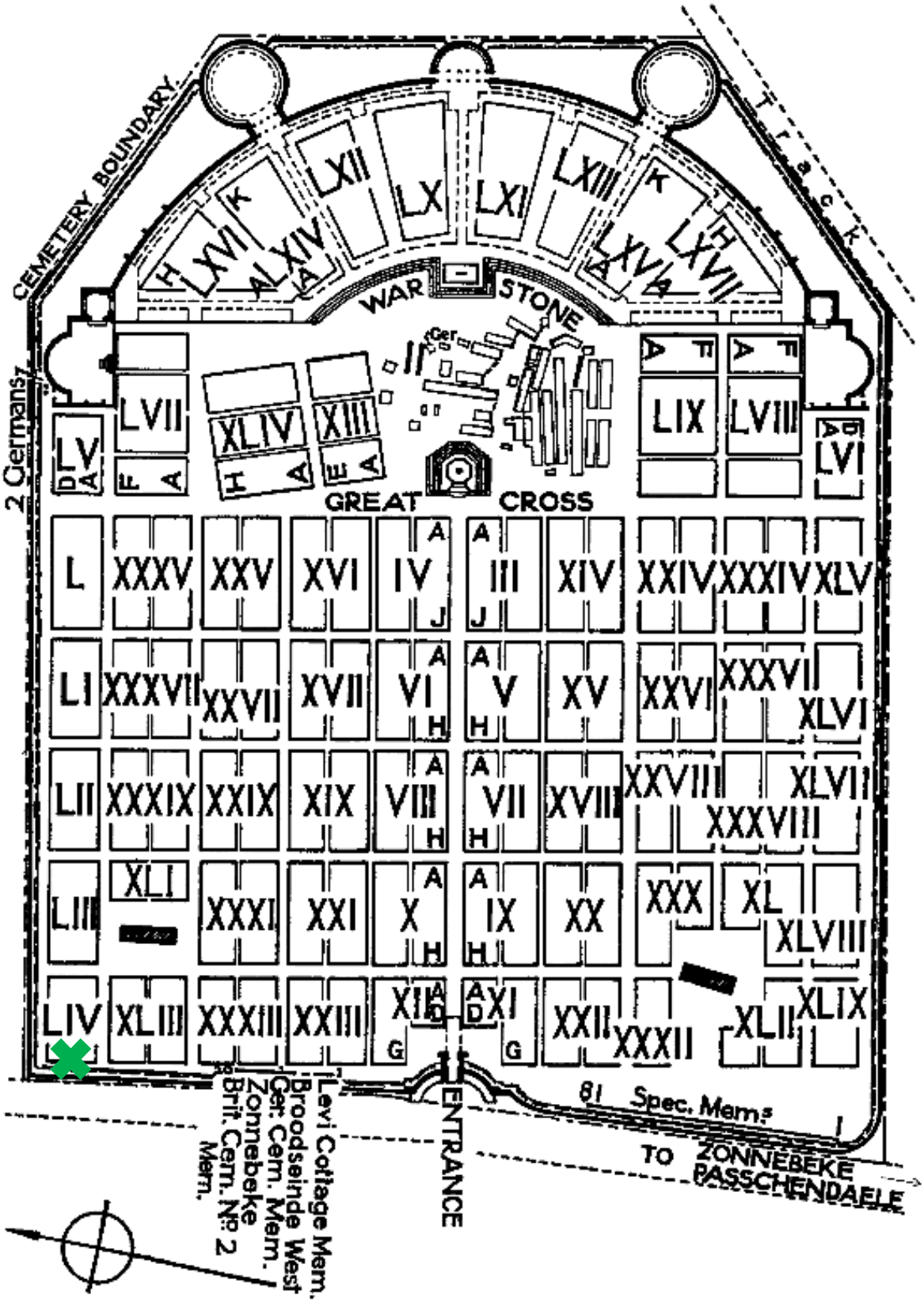
Name: WILKINSON, James

Date of death: 20 September 1917

Complete the information on this identity card by using the step-by-step guide for task 1.

Country of service	South Africa		
Rank	Fully written: Sergeant Abbreviation: Sgt. *See appendix 2.2. 'Military ranks'.*		
Service number	7692 *Note: most officers don't have a service number.*		
Year of birth	1883 *If no year of birth is mentioned, use the age of your soldier to find it (if available).*	Age	34
Regiment + battalion	"B" Coy. 3rd Regt., South African Infantry *Make sure you write down the battalion number (number + Bn.)*		
Place of remembrance (grave or panel)	Tyne Cot Cemetery: PLOT: LIV ROW: G GRAVE: 16 Tyne Cot Memorial: PANEL: / *Mark the location of the panel or grave on the attached cemetery plan.*		
Military awards	/ *See appendix 3 'British military awards'. Put a dash if no military award is mentioned.*		
Family members	Son of John and Betsy Wilkinson, of Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham; husband of Barbara Ann Wilkinson, of 13, Alexandra Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Co. Durham, England. *Put a dash when no family members are mentioned.*		
Coordinate Burial Return Sheet	Coordinate: 28.D.26.a.2.1. *Write down the coordinate when a grave has a Burial Return Sheet.*		
Personal details	Profession: James was a coal miner and firefighter before he emigrated. He was married and had a son.		

Mark the location of the grave on this cemetery plan:



TYNE COT CEMETERY PASSCHENDAELE.

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Task 2:

The fatal day.

Reconstruct the day your soldier fell. Use the information below, the book Passchendaele - The Day-by-Day Account, the step-by-step guide for assignment 2, appendix 5 'The Battle of Passchendaele' and the regimental history or War Diary at the back of the information folder.

The battalion and regiment belonged to the following brigade and division. See appendix 2 in the information folder to see how the army was structured:

Brigade	South African Brigade
Division	9th Division

Write down what happened on the day your soldier died or was mortally wounded.

Battle of the Menin Road.

Passchendaele - The Day-by-Day Account, pp. 82-84:

The 9th Division attacked at 5.40 a.m. with two brigades. **South African Brigade: the leading battalions were 3rd** and 4th **Regiments** supported by the 1st and 2nd. **The Red Line was taken in their stride with the 3rd Regiment assisting the Royal Scots (27 Brigade) in taking Potsdam,** while 4th Battalion entered Borry Farm. The 1st and 2nd Regiments continued the assault on the Green Line. The 1st Regiment reached its objective without any opposition but the 2nd came under fire from positions in the 55th Division area - Namely Waterend House, Tulip Cottages and Hill 37. The 2nd Regiment took Zevenkote and Bremen Redoubt with difficulty. They then threw out a defensive flank to the south bank of the Zonnebeke stream, until 55th Division caught up with them. The Division then consolidated its objectives; an enemy counter-attack at 5 p.m. was stopped by artillery.

The History of the South African Forces in France, pp. 135-140:

The 3rd South African Regiment was on the right of the Brigade and within that regiment, "B" Company under command of Captain Sprenger was in the centre. It was in the first wave of attack and when the first objective had been taken, supporting battalions were to pass through, and attack the second and third objectives. **The first objective for the South Africans was roughly the line of the Steenbeek stream (also called Hanebeek). While the 4th Regiment advanced, the left wing of the 3rd Regiment took Vampir Farm and reached its objective. When "A" Company and "B" Company of the 3rd Regiment reached their objective they were too far in advance of their neighboring brigade, and were subjected to a heavy enfilading fire from Potsdam. Captain Sprenger of "B" Company then collected all the men he could, both from the 3rd Regiment and the 1st, and with two Lewis guns and one machine gun he advanced by rushes from shell hole to shell hole against the redoubt. The place fell.** A halt was called for an hour before the attack on the second objective. It was arranged that the area of the South African Brigade would be extended to the right till it included the

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northern bank of the railway. Just previous before attacking continued, men of the 1st and 3rd Regiments were seen going through the own barrage against a large pill box immediately on their front, which was taken. The 3rd Regiment now remained at the first objective and consolidated the ground while others moved against the second objective.

Notes:

Potsdam
Steenbeek (Hanebeek)
Vampir Farm

Use this box to write down coordinates, place names, etc. They will help you to reconstruct the course of the fatal day.

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Task 3:

Create a map.

Mark the information you found in different colors on the A3 map using:

- *The step-by-step guide 'Map reading'.*
- *Appendix 4: 'Coordinates and toponyms'.*
- *The A3 map (trench map) that was added to this bundle.*
- *Possible useful maps in the book Passchendaele – The Day-by-Day Account.*
- *The colored pencils.*

1. **Mark the battalion's starting position or the front line in blue.**

2. **If an attack took place:**
   Indicate in green up to where the battalion was able to proceed. This could be two green lines: the furthest position the battalion reached and, if the battalion had to retreat, its final location.

3. **Circle the toponyms you found in yellow.**
   If you cannot find certain toponyms on your map, use the list with coordinates in appendix 4.

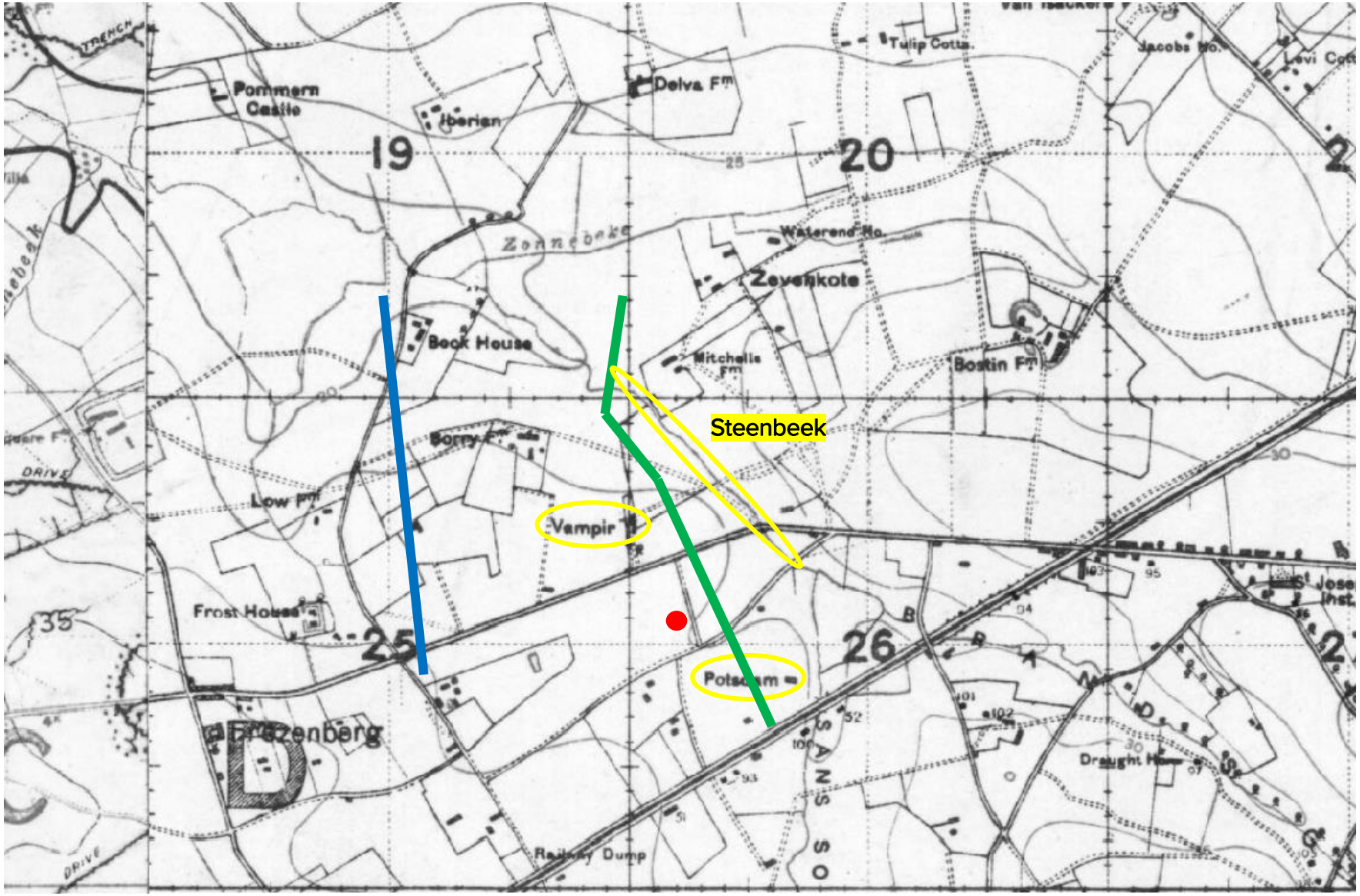
4. **Place of death:**

   A. **If your soldier has a Burial Return Sheet with a coordinate:**
   Mark the place where your soldier was initially buried with a red cross. This is generally the location where the soldier fell during battle as bodies were generally not carried back from the battlefield.

   B. **If there is no Burial Return Sheet:**
   It is most likely that tour soldier died in the area between the blue and green lines you marked on the map or nearby one or more of the mentioned toponyms. Circle this area in red.

Where could you go today to pay tribute to your fallen soldier? Use Google Maps and describe the place where your soldier died using contemporary street names and addresses.

The field north-west of Potsdam, between the Bourgognestraat and Ieperstraat (N332) (Bourgognestraat 2-4)

➔ ***You may keep this bundle and the map. Please place all other equipment (tablet, information folder, Passchendaele – The Day-by-Day Account and the coloring pencils) back in the middle of the table.***

Name: Class: Number: