

SOLESMES COMMUNAL CEMETERY

CEMETERY INDEX NUMBER Fr. 288.

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SOLESMES is a town and commune in the Department of the Nord, in the valley of the Selle river, at the junction of the railway lines from Cambrai to Dour and from Valenciennes to Hirson. The 2nd South Lancs and the 1st Wilts were attacked at Solesmes on the evening of the 25th August, 1914; and on the 19th-21st October, 1918 the 62nd (West Riding) Division, followed by the 61st (South Midland) Division, captured and cleared the town after severe fighting in the streets.

SOLESMES COMMUNAL CEMETERY is on the Eastern outskirts of the town. It was used by the German troops, who buried in the North-West corner, near the Crucifix, seven soldiers and airmen from the United Kingdom who fell in August, 1914, May, 1917, or October, 1918. Five graves in this row are unnamed. Rows A and B, in the North-East corner, were made by British troops in October and November, 1918; and they contain the graves of 15 soldiers from New Zealand and seven from the United Kingdom.

The Register of Solesmes Communal Cemetery records particulars of 29 War Graves.

SOLESMES BRITISH CEMETERY is a little West of the town, close to the railway station. It was made and used by the 4th and 34th Casualty Clearing Stations from November, 1918, to March, 1919. It contains the graves of 133 soldiers and airmen from the United Kingdom; three soldiers from India and one from New Zealand; one French civilian; one man of the Chinese Labour Corps; and one German prisoner.

The cemetery covers an area of 1,019 square yards. It is bounded by a steep bank on the road side and by a rubble wall on the remaining sides; and it is planted with mountain ash, holly and flowering shrubs. It stands on high ground overlooking the town.

The Register of Solesmes British Cemetery records particulars of 138 War Graves.

THE REGISTERS OF THE GRAVES

SOLESMES COMMUNAL CEMETERY

AMER, Rfn. H., R/33716. 13th Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps. 5th Nov., 1918. Age 33. Husband of Elizabeth M. Amer, of 52, Pedro St., Clapton Park, London. B. 4.

ARMITAGE, Pte. A., 39378. 2nd/4th Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regt. Died of wounds 4th Nov., 1918. Sp. Mem.

BABBAGE, Rfn. Frederick Richard George, 61982. 2nd Bn. 3rd N.Z. (Rifle) Brigade. Died of wounds 30th Oct., 1918. Age 22. Son of F. C. and M. L. Babbage, of Apiti, Wellington. A. 11.

BARRETT, Pte. Frederick, 62236. N.Z. Machine Gun Battalion. Killed in action 23rd Oct., 1918. A. 8.

BARTLETT, Pte. George Richardson, 24964. 2nd Bn. S. Staffordshire Regt. 2nd Nov., 1918. Age 28. Son of Samuel and Sarah Bartlett, of 9, Lincoln Rd., South Norwood, London. Native of Chelsea, London. B. 2.

BOOTY, Pte. G., 325115. 1st Bn. Essex Regt. 4th Nov., 1918. B. 6.

BURROWS, Dvr. William Henry, 9/500. 1st Bty. N.Z. Field Artillery. Died of wounds 23rd Oct., 1918. Age 26. Son of Joseph and Mary Burrows, of Cromwell, Dunedin. Also served at Gallipoli. A. 2.

CHRISTIE, Pte. William Gordon, 42486. 2nd Bn. S. Staffordshire Regt. Killed in action 2nd Nov., 1918. Age 32. Son of James and the late Ellen Christie, of Newcastle-on-Tyne; husband of Margaret Christie, of 277, Brighton Rd., Bensham, Gateshead-on-Tyne. B. 3.

CLOUGH, Rfn. Albert Robinson, 22708. 3rd Bn. 3rd N.Z. (Rifle) Brigade. Died of wounds 31st Oct., 1918. A. 12.

EDWARDS, Gnr. Harry Grosvenor Brundell, 50506. N.Z. Field Artillery. Died of wounds 4th Nov., 1918. B. 11.

HARDING, Gnr. Francis Smith, 9/1567. N.Z. Field Artillery. Died of wounds 4th Nov., 1918. B. 12.

HOLROYDE, 2nd Lt. J. S. East Yorkshire Regt., att'd. Royal Flying Corps. 10th May, 1917. C. 2/3. INDEX No. Fr. 288 SOLESMES COM. CEM.

LEWIS, Cpl. Fred G. Ll., 761, M.M. 129th Bty. 42nd Bde. Royal Field Artillery. Killed in enemy air raid 24th Oct., 1918. Age 23. Son of Margaret Robb, of 86, Melher St., Kirkcaldy. Born at Edinburgh. A. 9.

MCLEAN, Pte. George Stronach, 59032. 2nd Bn. Otago Regt., N.Z.E.F. Killed in action 23rd Oct., 1918. Age 27. Son of Hellen McLean, of Braco Brae, Grange, Keith, Banffshire, Scotland, and the late John McLean. A. 6.

MITCHELL, Rfn. Albert, 71517. 1st Bn. 3rd N.Z. (Rifle) Brigade. Died of wounds 30th Oct., 1918. Age 34. Son of William and Mary Mitchell, of Wanganui, New Zealand. A. 10.

MUIR, Pte. Alfred, 69968. 2nd Bn. Canterbury Regt., N.Z.E.F. Died of wounds 23rd Oct., 1918. Age 23. Born at Ross, Greymouth. A. 1.

MYLES, Pte. Sidney Austin Wilson, 59696. N.Z. Machine Gun Battalion. Killed in action 4th Nov., 1918. Age 22. Son of William and Jessie Myles, of Amberley, Christchurch. A. 13.

PITT, 2nd Lt. B. W. 55th Sqdn. Royal Flying Corps. 10th May, 1917. C. 2/3.

POLLOCK, Pte. Robert Andrew, 17/160. 1st Bn. Otago Regt., N.Z.E.F. Died of wounds 23rd Oct., 1918. Husband of Madge Pollock, of 30, Walcot Square, Kennington, London, England. A. 4.

REED, Pte. Albert Edward, 74494. 2nd Bn. Canterbury Regt., N.Z.E.F. Killed in action 23rd Oct., 1918. A. 7.

RICHMOND, Maj. James McDonald, 2/311, D.S.O., M.C. N.Z. Field Artillery. Killed in action 27th Oct., 1918. Age 30. Son of Maurice Wilson Richmond and Flora Hursthouse Richmond, of 15, Upper Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, London, England (formerly of Christchurch, New Zealand). B. 1.