

In Memory Of

FRANK APLEYARD

Private 305329

Tank Corps

who died on Sunday, 23rd June 1918. Age 26.

Born Hyde, Cheshire

Enlisted Hyde, Cheshire **Residence** Cheshire

Died How Died

Theatre of War France & Flanders

Additional Inf. FORMERLY 13713, KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS, Reinforcement Depot, Son of Samuel and Sarah Appleyard of Hyde, Cheshire

Commemorative Information

Cemetery:

ABBEVILLE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Somme, France

**Grave Reference/
Panel Number:**

IV. B. 19.

Location:

The town of Abbeville is on the main road from Paris to Boulogne (N1), about 80 kilometres south of Boulogne. The communal cemetery and communal cemetery extension are located on the left hand side of the road when leaving the town in a north-east direction for Drucat. CWGC direction signs will be found within the cemetery. Enter the Communal Cemetery by the left hand side main gate and follow CWGC signs within the Cemetery. The extension may be entered from the communal cemetery or from the side lane.

Historical Information:

Abbeville, was during the greater part of the 1914-18 War, under various titles, the headquarters of the British Lines of Communication; and three Hospitals were stationed there from 1915 to 1919. British burials from November, 1914, to September, 1916, took place in the old Communal Cemetery, at first in the two French Military plots, and later in four plots in the North corner of the Cemetery. The Extension, which adjoins these four plots, was created in July, 1916, by agreement with the town authorities. During the 1939-45 War Abbeville was one of the main operational aerodromes of the Air Component in 1940, it was also the last crossing over the Somme and fell to the enemy at the end of May of that year. On June 4th, 1940, the British 51st Division in conjunction with the French unsuccessfully attacked this bridgehead, suffering heavy losses. Towards the end of 1943 there existed near Abbeville no less than eight large ski-shaped buildings at first thought to be launching sites for flying bombs. It was found that they were storage buildings for the bomb components, and they were heavily bombed. Abbeville was re-taken on September 4th, by Canadian and Polish units. There are now over 2,000, 1914-18 and 350, 1939-45 war casualties commemorated in this site. 112 of the 1939-45 war casualties were previously buried in Amiens (La Madeleine) Communal Cemetery, but permanent maintenance of the graves was found to be impossible there. The Extension covers 8,247 square metres and is surrounded by a low concrete wall, except on the side of the Communal Cemetery, where a grass bank is climbed by two flights of stone steps and terminated by brick and stone bastions.