

*In Memory Of*

**JAMES ATKINSON**

**Gunner 293419**  
**136<sup>th</sup> Heavy Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery**  
**who died on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1918. Age 37**

**Born** Hyde, Cheshire    **Enlisted** Manchester    **Residence** Hyde, Ches.

**Died How** Died of wounds    **Theatre of War** France & Flanders

**Additional Inf.** FORMERLY 2410, 136<sup>th</sup> Coy. PALATINE, RGA.  
Husband of Elizabeth Ann Atkinson, of 5, Hallbottom Place,  
Newton Moor, Hyde, Cheshire

**Commemorative Information**

**Cemetery:** CAMBRAI EAST MILITARY CEMETERY, Nord, France  
**Grave Reference/  
Panel Number:** I. B. 36.

**Location:** Cambrai is a town about 32 kilometres south-east of Arras on the main straight road to Le Cateau. From the Cambrai inner ring road take the D942, Solesmes road, for approximately 1.5 kilometres to find the Cemetery on the right hand side of the road.

**Historical Information:** Cambrai was occupied by German forces on the 26th August 1914, and it remained in German hands until the 9th October 1918. The Battle of Cambrai, 1917 (20th November to 3rd December), left the British line still eight kilometres from the city on the South-West side, and the German offensive of March 1918, drove it far to the West; but the Battle of Cambrai, 1918, the last of the Battles of the Hindenburg Line, delivered the city into British hands. It was very severely damaged, and the main square was still burning two days after the fight. In October and November four Casualty Clearing Stations were posted at Cambrai. The city was later "adopted" by the County Borough of Birkenhead. Cambrai East Military Cemetery was made by the Germans during their occupation (in addition to their plots in the Porte-de-Paris Cemetery), and laid out with the greatest care, and monuments were erected in it to the French, British, and German dead; and on the 11th August 1918, as an inscription in the cemetery records, the Bavarian Commandant handed over to the city the care and maintenance of the cemetery. The graves have now been regrouped. The British Plots are numbered I to VI, in the South-East corner, and VII, near the North side, on the left of the entrance. Plots I to IV were made by British troops after the capture of Cambrai; V and VI contain 69 graves brought from the battlefields East and South of the city; and VII contains the graves of British prisoners. There are now over 500, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 30 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to seven soldiers from the United Kingdom, known to be buried among them. Another special memorial records the name of a soldier from the United Kingdom, buried by the enemy in Cauroir Communal Cemetery, whose grave could not be found. The cemetery covers an area of about 20,066 square metres, of which 1,656 square metres are occupied by the British plots.