

In Memory Of

CLIFFORD BARKER

Private 33794
11th Bn., South Wales Borderers
who died on Monday, 20th August 1917.

Born Leeds **Enlisted** Ashton-u-Lyne **Residence** Hyde

Died How Killed in action **Theatre of War** France & Flanders

Additional Inf.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY, ZILLEBEKE, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
Grave Reference/
Panel Number: Enclosure No.4 XIII. AA. 20.
Location:

Bedford House Cemetery is located 2.5 Km south of Ieper town centre. The cemetery lies on the Rijselseweg (N365), the road connecting Ieper to Armentieres. From Ieper town centre the Rijselsestraat runs from the market square, through the Lille Gate (Rijselpoort) and directly over the crossroads with the Ieper ring road. The road name then changes to the Rijselseweg. The cemetery itself is located 2 Km after this crossroads on the left hand side of the Rijselseweg.

Historical Information:

Zillebeke village and most of the commune were in British hands during the greater part of the War; but the number of cemeteries in the neighbourhood bears witness to the fierce fighting in the vicinity from 1914 to 1918. Bedford House, sometimes known as Woodcote House, were the names given by the Army to the Chateau Rosendal, 1,830 metres South of the Lille Gate of Ypres. It was a country house in a small wooded park, with moats. It never fell into enemy hands, but the house and the trees were gradually destroyed by shell fire. It was used by Field Ambulances, and as the Headquarters of Brigades and other fighting units; and charcoal pits were started in October, 1917. The property became, in time, largely covered by small cemeteries. Five Enclosures existed at the date of the Armistice; but the graves from No. 1 were then removed to White House Cemetery, St. Jean, and those from No. 5 to Aeroplane Cemetery, Ypres. Enclosure No. 2 was begun in December, 1915, and used until October, 1918; and after the Armistice 437 graves were added, all but four of which came from the Ecole de Bienfaisance and Asylum British Cemeteries, both at Ypres. There are over 30 unidentified graves and special memorials are erected (in No. 4) to 24 United Kingdom soldiers and one Australian, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials (in No. 2) record the names of two United Kingdom soldiers, buried in the two cemeteries at Ypres, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. Certain graves in Plots VII, VIII and XV, identified collectively but not individually, are marked by headstones superscribed: 'Buried near this spot'. Enclosure No. 3, the smallest, was used from February, 1915, to December, 1916; the burials in August-October, 1915, were largely carried out by the 17th Division. Enclosure No. 4, the largest, was used from June, 1916, to February, 1918, largely by the 47th (London) Division; and after the Armistice it was enlarged by the concentration of 3,324 graves from other burial grounds and from the battlefields of the Ypres Salient. Almost two-thirds of the graves are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 20 soldiers from the United Kingdom known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 25 soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in other cemeteries, whose graves could not be found. Enclosure No. 6 was made in 1930's from the concentration of graves from the battlefield of the Ypres Salient. There are also graves of the 1939-1945 War, all of them soldiers of the British Army, who died in the defence of the Ypres-Comines canal and railway at the end of May 1940.