

In Memory Of

JOSEPH BEELEY

Lance Corporal 7241
2nd Bn., Royal Irish Rifles
who died on Monday, 26th October 1914. Age 30

Born Ashton-u-Lyne **Enlisted** Manchester **Residence**
Died How Killed in action **Theatre of War** France & Flanders
Additional Inf. 3, Astley Street, Flowery Field.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: RUE-PETILLON MILITARY CEMETERY, FLEURBAIX, Pas de Calais, France
Grave Reference/ Panel Number: II. E. 45.
Location: Fleurbaix is a village 5 kilometres south-west of Armentieres on the D22. Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery will be found by taking the D175 from Fleurbaix towards Fauquissart, then the D171 towards Petillon. The cemetery is on the south side of the road from Petillon to La Boutillerie.

Historical Information: The cemetery was begun in December, 1914, and used by fighting units until March, 1918. In April, 1918, it fell into enemy hands, but one further burial was in September, 1918, after the German retreat. It consisted at the Armistice of twelve Battalion burial grounds, made by units which had occupied the Headquarters and Dressing Station at "Eaton Hall", adjoining the cemetery. It was enlarged later by the concentration of graves from other cemeteries and the battlefields over a wide area round Fleurbaix. There are now just over 1,500, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly half are unidentified and a special memorial is erected to one soldier from the United Kingdom, believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of two Indian soldiers; and a third group commemorates 15 Canadian soldiers, five from the United Kingdom one from Australia, buried in other cemeteries, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery is irregularly arranged, because of the conditions under which it was made; and the groups of concentrated burials are among the original groups of graves. It covers area is 5,983 square metres and is enclosed by a low red brick wall. The following were among the burial grounds from which British graves were brought to this cemetery:- BERSEE CHURCHYARD (now closed), in which three soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried in October, 1918. CUTHBERT FARM CEMETERY, RICHEBOURG-L'AVOUE, on the road from Neuve-Chapelle to Pont-Logy, containing the graves of 44 soldiers from the United Kingdom and two from India who fell in 1914-15. DON GERMAN CEMETERY, ALLENES-LES-MARAIS, at the Chateau-du-Bois, containing the graves of nine soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from India who fell in 1914-18. EIGHTH CANADIANS CEMETERY, LENS, 2.4 kilometres North of the centre of Lens, containing the graves of 15 soldiers of the 8th Canadian Infantry Battalion, who fell in August, 1917. GONDECOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION, in which were buried about 650 German soldiers and ten soldiers and one airman from the United Kingdom. HALPEGARBE GERMAN CEMETERY, ILLIES, in the hamlet of Halpegarbe, which contained the graves of eight soldiers from the United Kingdom. (There was another on the South side of the hamlet.) HANTAY COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION, containing the graves of one soldier from the United Kingdom and one from India. HERRIN CHURCHYARD AND GERMAN EXTENSION; the Germans buried five soldiers from the United Kingdom in the Churchyard in 1915 and two in the Extension in 1918. ILLIES CHURCHYARD, where the Germans buried one soldier from the United Kingdom in 1914.