

In Memory Of

REGINALD MILBURN BELL

Corporal 74584
1ST signal Coy., Royal Engineers
who died on Friday, 19th April 1918. Age 21

Born Hyde, Cheshire **Enlisted** Worcester **Residence** Stourport, Worcs

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

Additional Inf. Son of Mr. and Mrs.R.Harold Bell, of Tilton Hill, Stourport, Worcs
Native of Hyde, Cheshire.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: BROWN'S ROAD MILITARY CEMETERY, FESTUBERT, Pas de Calais, France
**Grave Reference/
Panel Number:** V. H. 8.
Location: Festubert is a village 8 kilometres east-north-east of Bethune. From the church in Festubert, take the D166 signposted Cuinchy. After 300 metres turn right. Brown's Road Military Cemetery will be found a further 300 metres along this road on the right hand side.

Historical Information: Festubert has given its name to the Battle Honours of many Regiments. It was occupied by British forces in October, 1914. On the 23rd-24th November, 1914, the Indian Corps, in the Defence of Festubert, repulsed a German attack. The Battle of Festubert (15th-25th May, 1915) resulted in a short advance which rendered the village somewhat less exposed than it had been; and thenceforward until the 9th April, 1918, this sector was quiet. On that day the Battles of the Lys began. The village of Festubert was held by the 55th (West Lancashire) Division against the German assault, and successive attacks lasting through the month were repelled by the 1st and other Divisions. It remained a British outpost until the final advance of our forces began in September, 1918. The Village was later "adopted" by the town of Southport. The cemetery was begun in October, 1914, and carried on by fighting units and Field Ambulances until November, 1917, when it contained 299 graves. It was greatly enlarged after the Armistice by the concentration of small cemeteries and isolated graves (chiefly of 1914-15 and 1918) from the surrounding battlefields. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, just over 400 are unidentified and memorials are erected to three soldiers from the United Kingdom believed to be buried among them. The cemetery covers, with its approaches, an area of 4,257 square metres and is bounded by a rubble wall. The more important of the graveyards concentrated here were:- CHEYNE WALK CEMETERY, GIVENCHY, on the road from Givenchy to Cuinchy, named from a trench. It was part of a cafe and garden, and it contained the graves of 13 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in October and December, 1914. LE PLANTIN SOUTH CEMETERY, GIVENCHY, on the road leading South from the hamlet of Le Plantin to Windy Corner. It contained the graves of 33 soldiers from the United Kingdom, and it was used from October, 1914 to December, 1916. LE PLANTIN CEMETERY (WELSH CHAPEL), FESTUBERT, on the South-West side of the road at Le Plantin North. It contained the graves of 43 soldiers from the United Kingdom (largely O.B.L.I. and 2nd Black Watch) and four from Canada, and it was used from December, 1914 to December, 1915.