

*In Memory Of*

**ROBERT BLANCHARD**

**Serjeant 15056**  
**-45<sup>th</sup> Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)**  
**who died on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 1918. Age 34**

**Born** Blundell, Lancs      **Enlisted** Manchester      **Residence**  
**Died How** Died of wounds      **Theatre of War** France & Flanders

**Additional Inf.** FORMERLY 24222, ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS  
Husband of Catherine Blanchard, 25, Back Lane, Hyde.  
Native of Crosby, Liverpool.

**Commemorative Information**

**Cemetery:** DUISANS BRITISH CEMETERY, ETRUN, Pas de Calais, France  
**Grave Reference/  
Panel Number:** VI. E. 52.  
**Location:** Duisans and Etrun are villages in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, about 9 kilometres west of Arras. The Cemetery lies in Etrun but takes its name from the nearer village of Duisans. It is one kilometre north of Duisans on the D339 road off the Route nationale N39 (Arras-St Pol), in the angle of the Arras Habarcq road and a track leading to Haute-Avesnes.

**Historical Information:** Duisans and the neighbourhood came under British occupation in March, 1916, but it was not until February, 1917, that the site of this Cemetery was selected for the 8th Casualty Clearing Station. The first burials took place in March; and from the beginning of April the Cemetery grew very quickly under the pressure of casualties in the 8th Casualty Clearing Station (until April, 1918), the 19th (until March, 1918), and the 41st (until July, 1917). The Battles of Arras, 1917, and the subsequent trench warfare are the historical background to these graves. From May to August, 1918, the Cemetery was used by Divisions and smaller fighting units for burials from the front line. In the Autumn of 1918 the 23rd, 1st Canadian and 4th Canadian Clearing Stations remained at Duisans for two months, and the 7th was there from November, 1920. There are now over 3,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Two British graves were obliterated by shell fire, and the names are recorded on special memorials. In Plot II, Row A, there are buried, side by side, two brothers, an Officer and a Private, who died of wounds at Duisans on the same day.