In Memory Of

HARRY HELLIWELL

Private 20395
2nd / 5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
who died on Wednesday, 27th March 1918. Age 26

Born **Enlisted** **Residence** Hyde

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

Additional Inf. Son of Mary Ann Helliwell, of 148 Ashton Road, Newton Moor, Hyde, and the late William Helliwell.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: GOMMECOURT BRITISH CEMETERY No. 2, HEBUTERNE, Pas de Calais, France

Grave Reference/ Panel Number: IV. A. 18.

Location: Gommecourt is a village 19 kilometres south-west of Arras. The Cemetery lies just off the road between Gommecourt and Puisieux (D6). A CWGC signpost indicating the directions to the site is situated at the junction 2 kilometres along this road. Access can also be made from the village of Hebuterne where a CWGC signpost indicates the way from the main square.

Historical Information: Hebuterne village remained in British hands from March, 1915, to the Armistice, although in the summer of 1918 it was practically on the front line. Gommecourt and Gommecourt Wood were attacked by the 56th (London) and 46th (North Midland) Divisions on the 1st July, 1916, with only temporary success; but the village was occupied by the 31st and 46th Divisions on the night of the 27th-28th February, 1917, and remained in British hands to the Armistice. Gommecourt was later "adopted" by the County Borough of Wolverhampton. Gommecourt British Cemeteries No.1, No.2, No.3 and No.4 were made in 1917, when the battlefields were cleared. No.1, No.3 and No.4 were concentrated into No.2 after the Armistice, with other graves from the neighbouring battlefields. The cemetery originally contained 101 graves of the 1st July, 1916, almost all of the 56th Division, which now form Plot I. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, half are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 33 soldiers from the United Kingdom, known or believed to be buried among them. Two graves of American soldiers have been removed to other cemeteries. The cemetery covers an area of 3,949 square metres, without the access path and is enclosed by a rubble wall. GOMMECOURT BRITISH CEMETERY No.1 was 90 metres North-West of No.2. It contained the graves of 107 soldiers from the United Kingdom, mainly of the 56th Division, who fell on the 1st July, 1916. GOMMECOURT BRITISH CEMETERY No.3 was at the South-West corner of the village. It contained the graves of 117 soldiers from the United Kingdom, mainly of the 56th Division, who fell on the 1st July, and the 12th November, 1916. GOMMECOURT BRITISH CEMETERY No.4 was 45 metres South of No.1. It contained the graves of 70 soldiers from the United Kingdom, largely of the 56th Division, who fell on the 1st July and the 12th November, 1916, and at the end of February, 1917.