

In Memory Of

JOHN KNOWLES



Private PLY/866 (S)
2nd R.M. Bn., Div., Royal Marine Light Infantry
who died on Monday, 13th November 1916. Age 26

Born

Enlisted

Residence

Died How Killed in action

Theatre of War France & Flanders

Additional Inf.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: ANCRE BRITISH CEMETERY, BEAUMONT-HAMEL, Somme, France
**Grave Reference/
Panel Number:** IV. E. 21.
Location: Ancre British Cemetery is about 2 kilometres south of the village of Beaumont-Hamel, on the D50 between Albert and Achiet le Grand.

Historical Information: The village of Beaumont-Hamel was attacked on the 1st July, 1916, by the 29th Division, with the 4th on its left and the 36th (Ulster) on its right, but without success. On the 3rd September, a further attack was delivered between Hamel and Beaumont-Hamel. On the 13th and 14th November, the 51st (Highland), 63rd (Royal Naval), 39th and 19th (Western) Divisions captured Beaumont-Hamel, Beaucourt-sur-Ancre and St. Pierre-Divion. In the spring of 1917, the V Corps cleared this battlefield and created a number of cemeteries, of which Ancre British Cemetery (then called Ancre River No. 1 British Cemetery, V Corps Cemetery No. 26) was one. It contained 517 graves, almost all of the 63rd and 36th Divisions; but after the Armistice 1,965 graves from the same battlefields, and from certain smaller burial grounds, were concentrated into it. There are now just over 2,500, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these nearly half are unidentified, and special memorials are erected to 33 officers and men from the United Kingdom and ten from Newfoundland, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 16 soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in other cemeteries, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. The great majority of the officers and men buried here fell on the 1st July, the 3rd September or the 13th November 1916. The cemetery covers an area of 7,408 square metres. It stands 2 kilometres above the road, and it is approached by steps in a red brick retaining wall. The sides and the back are enclosed by a red brick wall.