

In Memory Of

**ALLEN LEIGH**

Private 16(8)919  
9<sup>th</sup> Bn., Cheshire Regiment  
who died on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 1915



Born Hyde, Cheshire    Enlisted Hyde, Cheshire    Residence

Died How    Died of wounds    Theatre of War    France & Flanders

**Additional Inf.**

**Commemorative Information**

- Cemetery:** CHOCQUES MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France  
**Grave Reference/ Panel Number:** I. H. 9.  
**Location:** Chocques is 4 kilometres north-west of Bethune on the road to Lillers. When you reach the traffic lights on this road at Chocques, follow the signs for the centre of town and go through the main street, then turn left towards Gonnheim. Take the next turning on the right and the cemetery lies approximately 400 metres down the road on the left.
- Historical Information:** Chocques was in British occupation from the late autumn of 1914 to the end of the War. It was at one time the Headquarters of the I Corps. From January, 1915, to April, 1918, No. 1 Casualty Clearing Station was posted in the village, and during that time almost all the burials in the Cemetery were those of men who died there of wounds received in the fighting on the Bethune front. These men are buried in Plot I, and the officers in part of Plot V. From April to September, 1918, the burials were carried out by Field Ambulances; Divisions and units; the graves are in parts of Plots II to VI, and they represent the repulse of the German attack on this front. The groups of graves of a single Royal Artillery Brigade in Plot II, Row A, and of the 2nd Seaforths in II D, and III A, are significant of the casualties of the 4th Division at that time. The big collective grave in VI A contains the remains of soldiers of the 4th King's Liverpool Regiment killed in a troop train in April, 1918. The stone memorial in 1A is placed behind the graves of 8 men of the 3rd Squadron, R.F.C., killed in a bomb explosion on the Aerodrome at Merville in March, 1915. After the Armistice it was found necessary to concentrate into this Cemetery (Plots II, III, IV and VI) a large number of isolated graves or small graveyards in the country between Chocques and Bethune. Among the small cemeteries thus removed, to ensure the maintenance of the graves, were:- ANNEZIN COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, a short distance West of Bethune, made by the 3rd Division in April, 1918, and containing 38 graves; LES HARISOIRS BRITISH CEMETERY, Mont-Bernenchon, three miles North East of Chocques, made by the 4th Division in April, 1918, and containing 27 graves; CANAL CEMETERY, Les Harisoirs, made by the 4th Division in April, 1918, and containing 17 graves; BOIS-DES-MONTAGNES BRITISH CEMETERY, Vaudricourt, two miles South West of Bethune, made by the 46th Field Ambulance in September, 1915, and containing 8 graves; and CHOCQUES CHURCHYARD, containing 1 British and 35 Indian graves. There are now nearly 2,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. The Cemetery covers an area of 5,430 square metres. It occupies a corner site, standing above the road; and it is bounded by a low stone wall and approached by stone steps. The War Stone stands on a platform at the North angle of the cemetery, and the Cross at the East end.