

In Memory Of

THOMAS MATTHEWS

Private 1709
1st / 6th Bn., Cheshire Regiment
who died on Friday, 13th October 1916.



Born Whitehall, Bristol **Enlisted** Hyde, Ches. **Residence**

Died How Died of wounds **Theatre of War** France & Flanders

Additional Inf. Residence: Nelson Street, Hyde.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: LONSDALE CEMETERY, AUTHUILE, Somme, France

**Grave Reference/
Panel Number:** VIII. A. 6.

Location: Authuille is a village 5 kilometres north of the town of Albert on the D151 road to Grandcourt. The Cemetery (signposted in the centre of Authuille) is 1 kilometre east of the village. Access to the cemetery, 500 metres from the road, is by a grass pathway (unsuitable for cars).

Historical information: On the 1st July, 1916, the 32nd Division, which included the 1st Dorsets and the 11th (Lonsdale) Battalion of the Border Regt., attacked the German line at this point and stormed the Leipzig Salient, but were compelled to retire later in the day. In the spring of 1917 the V Corps cleared these battlefields, and made, among others, the cemeteries then known as Lonsdale No. 1 and No. 2. Lonsdale Cemetery No. 1 (the present Lonsdale Cemetery) contained originally 96 graves (now in Plot I), the great majority of which were those of officers and men of the 1st Dorsets and the 11th Borders. It was enlarged after the Armistice by the concentration of graves (almost all of 1916) from the surrounding battlefields. There are now over 1,500; 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 22 soldiers from the United Kingdom, known or believed to be buried among them. The cemetery covers an area of 4,605 square metres and is enclosed by a low red brick wall. Of the smaller burial grounds now represented in this cemetery:- LONSDALE CEMETERY No. 2, AUTHUILE, was about 500 metres further East. It contained the graves of 38 soldiers from the United Kingdom (31 of whom belonged to the 11th Borders) and two German soldiers. NAB ROAD CEMETERY, OVILLERS-LA-BOISSELLE, was on the road running up Nab Valley, about 914 metres East of Lonsdale Cemetery. It contained the graves of 27 soldiers from the United Kingdom, who fell in July, September and October, 1916. PAISLEY AVENUE AND PAISLEY HILLSIDE CEMETERIES, AUTHUILE, were on the South side of Thiepval Wood. They contained the graves of 284 soldiers and Marines from the United Kingdom (mainly of the 49th (West Riding) Division), who fell in July, 1916-February, 1917, and two German soldiers.