In Memory Of

WILFRED MATTHEWS

Private PLY/1154 (S)
Royal Marine Light Infantry
who died on Sunday, 4th February 1917. Age 22

Born **Enlisted** **Residence**

Died How **Theatre of War**

Additional Inf. Son of Hugh and Harriet J Matthews, of 89, Manchester Road, Hyde, Cheshire. Native of Denton, Manchester.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: CONNAUGHT CEMETERY, THIEPVAL, Somme, France
Grave Reference/ Panel Number: VII. D. I.
Location: Thiepval is a village about 8 kilometres north-east of Albert. The Cemetery (signposted in the village) is about one kilometre north-west of Thiepval on the road (D73) Thiepval-Hamel.

Historical Information: From the time when trench warfare began on the Ancre, Thiepval was garrisoned by the 160th Regiment of Wurtembergers. It was attacked unsuccessfully by the 36th (Ulster) Division on the 1st July, 1916, and in memory of that attack the Battle Exploit Memorial of the Division, a replica of Helen's Tower at Clandeboye, has been erected on the high ground North of the Wood. The village was attacked again and captured by the 18th Division on the 26th September, 1916. It remained in British occupation until the 25th March, 1918, and it was retaken on the 24th August, 1918 by the 17th and 38th (Welsh) Divisions. The cemetery was begun during the early autumn of 1916, and at the Armistice it contained 228 graves (the whole of Plot 1 except 10 graves). It was then very greatly increased by the concentration of graves from the small cemeteries and battle-fields immediately surrounding it, the great majority being those of officers and men who fell in the summer and autumn of 1916. The cemetery now covers an area of 4,630 square metres. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified and special memorials have been erected to two soldiers from the United Kingdom who are believed to be buried among the unknown graves, and to five who were buried in Divion Wood Cemetery No. 2 but whose graves could not be found on concentration.