

In Memory Of

JOHN O'NEILL

Private 302435
2/7th Bn., Manchester Regiment
who died on Saturday, 23rd March 1918

Born Hadfield, Derbys.

Enlisted Hyde

Died How Died of wounds

Theatre of War France & Flanders

Additional Inf. Marcheipot Brit. Com. Cem.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: ROYE NEW BRITISH CEMETERY, Somme, France

Grave Reference/Panel Number: 106.

Panel Number:

Location:

Roye is a commune in the Department of the Somme 40 kilometres south-east of Amiens. From Peronne take the N17 to Roye. On arriving in Roye stay on the N17 and at the second roundabout take the D934 towards Noyon. Roye New British Cemetery will be found about 230 metres on the right along this road.

Historical Information:

Roye was in German hands from the 30th August, 1914, until the French retook it on the 17th March, 1917. On the 26th March, 1918, the Germans recaptured it; but on the following 26th August they evacuated the town, which was entered on the 27th by the French First Army. It was very severely damaged. Roye Old British Cemetery was 1.6 kilometres south of the town; it was made in March, 1918, by the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station; and there was little time to mark the graves before the town was captured by the Germans, who extended this cemetery for the burial of their own dead. In 1920 the British graves were removed to Roye New British Cemetery. Roye New British Cemetery made after the Armistice by the concentration of graves, almost all of 1918, from the battlefields and from other burial grounds. There are now over 600 1914-18 and nearly 45 1939-45 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a quarter from the 1914-18 War are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 12 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from South Africa, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 109 United Kingdom soldiers, seven South African and one Canadian, buried in Marcheipot British Cemetery and in three German cemeteries, whose graves could not be found. The New British Cemetery covers an area of 1,578 square metres and is enclosed by a low stone rubble wall. The following (all but one in the Department of the Somme) were among the burials grounds from which graves were removed to the New British Cemetery:- CRESSY CHURCHYARD FRENCH EXTENSION, where 36 United Kingdom soldiers were reburied by the French authorities after the Armistice. DANCOURT GERMAN CEMETERY No. 1, West of the village, where two RAF officers, who fell in June 1918, were buried. DRESLINCOURT CEMETERY, on the road to Potte, where four United Kingdom soldiers were buried. FERME D'EREUSE FRENCH MILITARY CEMETERY, BERNY-SUR-NOYE, on the West side of the farm, where two men of the Tank Corps were buried in July, 1918, and one RAF officer in August. GOYENCOURT GERMAN CEMETERY, on the road to Roye, where five United Kingdom soldiers and one RAF officer were buried in March-June, 1918. HATTENCOURT FRENCH and GERMAN CEMETERIES, on the road to Fresnoy-les-Roye, where 14 United Kingdom soldiers and one airman were buried. LE FOLOISE FRENCH MILITARY CEMETERY, near the road to Esclainvillers, where nine men of the Tank Corps were buried in July, 1918, and one RAF officer in August. MARCHELEPOT BRITISH CEMETERY, on the North-East side of the village, used by the British in the early months of 1918 and by the Germans in March-August, 1918, and containing 115 British graves. ROYE GERMAN CEMETERY, where 85 United Kingdom soldiers were buried by the enemy in March and April 1918. SOLENTE COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Oise), where one United Kingdom officer was buried in March, 1918.