

In Memory Of

JOHN WILLIAM PURCHES

Serjeant 7270
1st Bn., Cheshire Regiment
who died on Thursday, 22nd October 1914. Age 29



Born Newton, Hyde, Cheshire

Enlisted Hyde, Cheshire

Died How Died of wounds

Theatre of War France & Flanders

Additional Inf. Husband of May Purches, of 9 Sackville St. Ashton-under-Lyne
Photo may be of Brother Jack Purches.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery:

BOULOGNE EASTERN CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France

**Grave Reference/
Panel Number:**

III. A. I.

Location:

Boulogne Eastern Cemetery is one of the Town Cemeteries and stands on high ground on the eastern side of Boulogne, on the road to St. Omer.

**Historical
Information:**

Boulogne, was one of the three Base ports most extensively used by the British Armies on the Western Front, throughout the 1914-18 War. It was closed and cleared on the 27th August, 1914, in consequence of the retreat of the Allies; but it was opened again in October, and from that month to the end of the war Boulogne and Wimereux formed one of the chief Hospital areas. The dead from the Hospitals at Boulogne itself were buried, until June (in a few cases July), 1918, in the Cimetiere de L'Est, one of the Town Cemeteries. The British graves form a long, narrow strip along the right hand edge of the cemetery; they are arranged in seven plots, numbered I to IV and VII to IX. (The number V was given to the German Plot and VI to the Portuguese.) In the spring of 1918 it was found that the ground available in the Eastern Cemetery was being filled up, in spite of repeated extensions to the South, and the site of the new cemetery at Terlincthun was chosen. During the 1939-45 War Boulogne was, for a short time in May 1940, again the site of British hospitals and of Rear General Head Quarters. Taken by the Germans at the end of that month, it remained in their hands until re-captured by the Canadians on September 22nd 1944. There are now nearly 6,000, 1914-18 and 200, 1939-45 war casualties commemorated in this site. The cemetery covers an area of 8,040 square metres.