In Memory Of

ROBERT SHAW

Private PLY/881
Royal Marine Light Infantry (S) Div.
who died on Friday, 2nd February 1917.

Born **Enlisted** **Residence**

Died How **Theatre of War**

Additional Inf. 7 Hallbottom Place, Newton, Hyde.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: CONNAUGHT CEMETERY, THIEPVAL, Somme, France
Grave Reference/ Panel Number: VIII. B. 2.
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. A memorial was erected in the cemetery by the 1st/5th West Yorkshire Regiment to their Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men who fell on the 28th September, 1916, at the Schwaben Redoubt. It has now been fixed in the Battalion's Drill Hall at York. The more important cemeteries concentrated into Connaught Cemetery, Thiepval, were the following:- THIEPVAL VILLAGE CEMETERY, on the summit of the ridge, West of the road to Grandcourt. It contained the graves of 215 British soldiers who fell in 1916 (or in a few cases in 1918). THIEPVAL VALLEY CEMETERY, on the South-East side of Thiepval Wood, containing 11 British graves. QUARRY PALACE CEMETERY, THIEPVAL, close to the river and a little North-East of the hamlet of St. Pierre-Divion, containing 23 British graves of the autumn of 1916-17. ST. PIERRE-DIVION CEMETERY No. I, THIEPVAL, a little South-East of that hamlet containing 10 British graves of November, 1916. DIVION ROAD CEMETERY No. 2, THIEPVAL, almost adjoining St. Pierre-Divion Cemetery No. I and containing 60 British graves of July, August and September, 1916. SMALL CONNAUGHT CEMETERY, THIEPVAL, opposite Connaught Cemetery, across the road. It was made by the 11th Division in November, 1916, and contained the graves of 41 British soldiers who fell for the most part on the 1st July. BATTERY VALLEY CEMETERY, GRANDCOURT, half-A-mile South-West of that village, containing 56 British graves of November and December, 1916, and one of July, 1917.