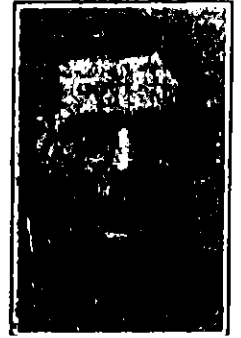


In Memory Of

LEO VICKERS

**Rifleman 8824
1st Bn., Royal Irish Rifles
who died on Saturday, 1st July 1916. Age 26**



Born Hyde, Cheshire

Enlisted Hyde, Cheshire

Died How Killed in action

Theatre of War France & Flanders

Additional Inf. Husband of Mrs. M.A. Vickers, 52, Clarendon Street, Hyde.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: OVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY, Somme, France
**Grave Reference/
Panel Number:** Mem. 3.
Location:

Ovillers is a village about 5 kilometres north-east of the town of Albert off the D929 road to Bapaume. The Military Cemetery is approximately 500 metres west of the village on the D20 road to Aveluy. The Cemetery is signposted in the village.

Historical Information:

On the 1st July, 1916, the 8th Division attacked Ovillers and the 34th Division La Boisselle; the villages were not captured, but ground was won between them and to the South of La Boisselle. On the 4th July, the 19th (Western) Division cleared La Boisselle. On the 7th July the 12th (Eastern) and 25th Divisions gained part of Ovillers, and the village was cleared by the 48th (South Midland) Division on the 17th July. The two villages were lost in March, 1918, but they were retaken on the following 24th August by the 38th (Welsh) Division. They were later "adopted" by the City of Gloucester. The cemetery was begun before the capture of Ovillers, as a battle cemetery behind a Dressing Station, and it was used until March, 1917. It then contained 143 graves, about half the present Plot I. It was increased after the Armistice by the concentration of British and French graves, mainly from the battlefields of Pozieres, Ovillers, La Boisselle and Contalmaison; the great majority of these British graves were those of men who fell in July, 1916, and the French graves were of 1914-15. The unidentified French graves were removed by the French authorities later. The 22nd Royal Fusiliers erected a wooden memorial in the cemetery to 78 officers and men of the Battalion who fell in action in February, 1917. There are now nearly 3,500, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, two-thirds are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 23 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from Australia, believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 35 soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in Mash Valley Cemetery, whose graves were destroyed in later fighting. The cemetery covers an area of 9,475 square metres and is enclosed by a red brick wall. Two smaller burial grounds were concentrated into Ovillers Military Cemetery:- MASH VALLEY CEMETERY, OVILLERS-LA BOISSELLE, was about 182 metres North of Ovillers Military Cemetery. It was named from one of two valleys (Mash and Sausage) which run from South-West to North-East on either side of La Boisselle. It contained the graves of 76 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in July-September, 1916. RED DRAGON CEMETERY, OVILLERS-LA BOISSELLE, was midway between Ovillers and La Boisselle. It was made by the 16th and 17th Royal Welch Fusiliers, and named from their badge. It contained the graves of 25 soldiers who fell in August, 1918, all of whom belonged to the 38th (Welsh) Division, and all but three to the Royal Welch Fusiliers.