

In Memory Of

THOMAS WELLS

**Private 45055
17th Bn., Royal Welsh Fusiliers
who died on Friday, 12th October 1917. Age 24.**

Born Hyde, Cheshire

Enlisted Hyde, Cheshire

Died How Died of wounds

Theatre of War France & Flanders

Additional Inf. Son of Arthur and Mary Wells; husband of Rebecca Wells
Of 27, Foundry Street, Hyde, Cheshire.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery:

ESTAIRES COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Nord, France

Grave Reference/

V. A. 9.

Panel Number:

Location:

Estaires is a town about 11 kilometres west of Armentieres. The Cemetery is on the eastern outskirts of the village and on the east side of the road to Baillleul. The Extension is on the far left hand side of the Communal Cemetery.

Historical Information:

Estaires was occupied by French cavalry on the 15th October, 1914, and passed at once into British hands. On the 10th April, 1918 it was captured by the enemy, after an obstinate defence by the 50th (Northumbrian) Division; and it was finally retaken by British troops at the beginning of September, 1918. The town was a Field Ambulance centre as early as November, 1914, and later the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station was posted in it. It was later "adopted" by the County Borough of Plymouth. Estaires Communal Cemetery Extension was used from April, 1917 to April, 1918, and again in September-November, 1918. The Plots are numbered IV and V, in continuation of the numbering for the Communal Cemetery. The Portuguese graves of June-August, 1917 and two French graves were removed after the Armistice. There are now over 200, 1914-18 and nearly 10, 1939-45 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a small number from the 1914-18 War are unidentified and a special memorial inscribed "Known to be buried in this cemetery", commemorates a Canadian soldier whose grave cannot be found. Those from the 1939-45 War were killed during the withdrawal of the British Expeditionary Force to Dunkirk at the end of May 1940. The five Plots cover an area of 3,336 square metres.