

In Memory Of

JAMES WILLIAM BELL WILSON



**Sapper 43044
24th Div. Signals, Royal Engineers
who died on Friday, 17th March 1916**

Born Hereford

Enlisted Hyde, Cheshire

Died How Died from wounds **Theatre of War** France & Flanders

Additional Inf. Son of Mr and Mrs Wilson, "The Bungalow", Hyde.

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: LONGUENESSE (ST. OMER) SOUVENIR CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France
**Grave Reference/
Panel Number:** II. B. 44.
Location:

St. Omer is a large town 45 kilometres south-east of Calais. Longuenesse is a commune on the southern outskirts of St. Omer. Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery is approximately 3 kilometres from St Omer to the left of the D928 Abbeville road. As you leave St Omer towards Longuenesse drive up the hill for about 600 metres and the cemetery is on your left. There is a large car park to the rear of the cemetery.

Historical Information: St. Omer became on the 13th October, 1914, and remained until the end of March, 1916, the General Headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force. Lord Roberts died there in November, 1914. It was a considerable hospital centre, more especially in 1918; the 4th, 10th, 7th Canadian, 9th Canadian and New Zealand Stationary Hospitals, the 7th, 58th (Scottish) and 59th (Northern) General Hospitals, and the 17th, 18th and 1st and 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stations were all, at some time during the war, quartered in St. Omer. It was raided by aeroplanes in November, 1917, and May, 1918, with serious loss of life. At Elnes, 11 kilometres to the South-West, the 8th Casualty Clearing Station made a small cemetery in the summer of 1918; and the four graves from Elnes, with three others, were brought into the Souvenir Cemetery after the Armistice. There are now over 3,000, 1914-18 and nearly 450, 1939-45 war casualties commemorated in this site. Special Memorial headstones are erected to 23 men of the Chinese Labour Corps whose graves could not be exactly located and an airman of the Royal Air Force, buried at the time in Merckeghem churchyard, whose grave is now lost. The British portion of the Cemetery covers an area of about 5,541 square metres.