

**In Memory of
L/Corporal THOMAS FREDERICK HAWKES LEWIS
15374, 2nd Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment
Who died, age 29, on 25 September 1915
Husband of Florence May Lewis,
of Block Green, Faringdon, Berks.
Remembered with honour
Faringdon War Memorial and
PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL**



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Ploegsteert Memorial stands in Berks Cemetery Extension, located 12.5 km south of Ieper town centre.

The Ploegsteert Memorial commemorates more than 11,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in this sector during the First World War and have no known grave.

The memorial serves the area from the line Caestre-Dranoutre-Warneton to the north, to Haverskerque-Estaires-Fournes to the south, including the towns of Hazebrouck, Merville, Bailleul and Armentieres, the Forest of Nieppe, and Ploegsteert Wood. The original intention had been to erect the memorial in Lille.

Those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in

support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere. Berks Cemetery Extension, was begun in June 1916 and used continuously until September 1917, contains 876 WW1 burials.

Action of Bois Grenier

Saturday 25th September 1915 France, Bois Grenier: The Battalion took part in an attack on the German position and during the day sustained the following casualties:-

Officers Killed: Captain R.W.L. Oke, Captain W.A. Guest-Williams, Lieutenants G.F. Gregory, R.H.G. Trotter, J. Vesey, R.H.L. Simmons and 2nd Lieut B. Russell.

Officers Wounded: Captain G.H. Sawyer, Lieut G.E. Hawkins, 2nd Lieuts H.F.R. Merrick, R. Lewis, and G.W. Lindley. (The last two named were not admitted to hospital).

Other Ranks: Killed 32, Missing 143, Wounded 216.