

In Memory of

Private ARCHIBALD HERBERT WHEELER

**18230, 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment
who died age 28 on 12 June 1915**

**Son of Leonard Jacob and Eliza Wheeler
of 59 The Green, Christian Malford, Wiltshire**

**Remembered with honour
BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY,
BELGIUM**



Bedford House Cemetery is located 2.5 km south of Ieper town centre. Zillebeke village and most of the commune were in the hands of Commonwealth forces for the greater part of the First World War, but the number of cemeteries in the neighbourhood bears witness to the fierce fighting in the vicinity from 1914 to 1918. Bedford House, sometimes known as Woodcote House, were the names given by the Army to the Chateau Rosendal, a country house in a small wooded park with moats. Although it never fell into German hands, the house and the trees were gradually destroyed by shell fire. It was used by field ambulances and as the headquarters of brigades and other fighting units, and charcoal pits were dug there from October 1917. In time, the property became largely covered by small cemeteries. After the Armistice it was enlarged when graves were brought in from other burial grounds and from the battlefields of the Ypres Salient. In all, 5,139 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War are buried or commemorated in the enclosures of Bedford House Cemetery. 3,011 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate a number of casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials name casualties buried in other cemeteries whose graves could not be found on concentration.

Battalion War Diary - 12 June 1915: Rest, during the afternoon an accident occurred with a LYDDITE Grenade killed 2nd Lieut Stansfield-Smith and one man and wounded 23 others. [The Christian Malford School Log makes it clear that the 'one man' was Archie.]

From the Parish Magazine: On June 13th a very heavy blow struck the village, for on that evening, in the Soldiers' Burial Ground, near Ypres, was laid to rest by the Chaplain to the Forces, Private Archibald Wheeler, after his death on the 12th. The Chaplain very kindly reported our loss to the Rector long before it was possible for the War Office to send a notification, and it was a great comfort to know that our friend and Church bell-ringer had been buried with the hopeful solemnity of the Church Service. On Sunday, June 27th, the remaining ringers rang muffled peals morning and evening in honour of their comrade, and the Rector, the Organist and Choir, and a large congregation joined with them in this expression of sorrow and sympathy. The Dead March was played and the National Anthem was sung.

Archie's father, Herbert, was a postman.