

In Memory of

Private Arthur John BRIDGEMAN

**22889, 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment
who died age 26 on 17 June 1917**

**Son of John and Sarah Bridgeman
of 73 The Green, Christian Malford, Wiltshire**

**Remembered with honour -
BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY
EXTENSION (NORD)**

Bailleul is a large town in France, near the Belgian border, 14.5 kms south-west of Ieper (Ypres). It was occupied on 14 October 1914 by the 19th Brigade and the 4th Division. It became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. It was also a Corps headquarters until July 1917, when it was severely bombed and shelled, and after the Battle of Bailleul (13-15 April 1918), it fell into German hands and was not retaken until 30 August 1918. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made at the east end of the communal cemetery and in April 1915, when the space available had been filled, the extension was opened on the east side of the cemetery. After the Armistice graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields and burial grounds. The extension contains 4,403 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.



Battalion War Diary - 16 June 1917: During this period the Battn was called upon to provide each evening working parties to the strength of 350 other ranks for digging a CT from the Messines Ridge SE of Messines to the front line. These parties were out from 8p.m. to 4a.m. daily. Considerable hostile shelling was encountered and the following casualties were carried : 15th, 1% wounded, 18th 2% wounded, 19th 1% wounded, 20th 8% wounded and 4% killed. In spite of the shelling the work was carried to the entire satisfaction of the RE. During the day the men rested, inspections and a short parade taking place in the afternoon.

[There is no diary entry for 17 June. Arthur is known to have died from wounds, possibly received in the shelling of 16 June.]