

In Memory of

Private WALTER VICTOR BRIDGEMAN

**8114, A Company, 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment
who died age 31 on 18 March 1915**

**Son of Frederick Edward and Myrah Urania Bridgeman
of 11, Dodford Cottage, Christian Malford, Wiltshire**

**Remembered with honour
ST. SEVER CEMETERY, ROUEN,
FRANCE**

St Sever Cemetery and its Cemetery Extension are located on the eastern edge of the southern Rouen suburbs of Le Grand Quevilly and Le Petit Quevilly. During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. The great majority of dead from these hospitals were buried at St. Sever. The Cemetery contains 3,082 Commonwealth graves.



Battalion War Diary - 12 March 1915: Just at the moment the rations were arriving about 5.30am the Germans carried out a bomb attack along the trench. This attack drove back 'C' Coy and forced part of it into 'A' Coys trench. Unfortunately the end of 'A' Coys trench was uncovered by this attack the consequence of this was that A & part of 'C' Coy were driven into the British trenches. ... The German advance was easily stopped by 'D' Coy. 'C' Coy organized a new attack & made good progress assisted by the bombers of the 2 Yorks. But coming under a heavy machine gun fire they were again driven back. These attacks were most unfortunate as they prevented the issue of water and rations. Still 'B' Coy got theirs & 'D' Coy got a rum issue. ... 10.30am - The artillery bombardment and about 10.15am a new bombing attack was started along the German trench. Unfortunately Lt Morison who led the attack was killed at once and the attack never really started. So the CO organized another with 1/2 platoon of 'B' Coy and the bombers of the Grenadier Guards. The CO led them out & this time the attack was quite successful. ... 'A' Coy was pushed forward to assist to hold the captured line. ... at dusk this line nearly as far as 23-30 was held by a jumbled mass of Wilts, Gordons, Warwicks & Scots Guards. [It is likely Walter was injured in this action and then evacuated to hospital at Rouen where he died.]

From the Parish Magazine: The Wiltshire Regiment was engaged in the severe and victorious fighting last month in the neighbourhood of Neuve Chapelle, and a well-known Christian Malford family lost a distinguished member. Private Walter Victor Bridgeman, of the 2nd Wilts, was dangerously wounded in action, and died at No. 3 Stationary Hospital, Rouen, on March 18th. Mrs. Bridgeman has received a very kind and sympathetic letter from the Sister in charge of the Ward in which he died. She says: "All the men in the Ward and all who knew him were proud of him. He was a hero to the end. We did everything possible for him, and he died a painless death." The Major of the R.A.M.C. tells how he was buried with military honours by English and French troops. We also are proud of him, and his relatives have our sincere sympathy.

