

## Private William Matthews

7220, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment



In 1911, William Matthews was a farm labourer living at Winchester Street, with his wife, Mary and two children, in the household of his in-laws of the same surname. He was born at Coxford and baptised at Laverstoke church and married at Overton church.

William Matthews' name is not recorded on Overton War Memorial in St Mary's Churchyard, nor on the wooden board in Overton Memorial Institute. However he clearly had a connection with Overton as the Hants and Berks Gazette of August 29<sup>th</sup> 1914 Roll of Honour for Overton 'Joined since; Reservists' includes **William Matthews, 1<sup>st</sup> Hants** and in the September 12<sup>th</sup> 1914 edition the Roll of Honour for Overton lists '**Matthews W. 1<sup>st</sup> Hants Regt**'. The 1916 Overton Roll of records **Matthews W.** as deceased and his name is on the War Shrine on the Post Office in 1917.

The Hants and Berks Gazette of 15<sup>th</sup> May 1915 has a report of Overton wounded and killed, noting that William Matthews was killed early in War –

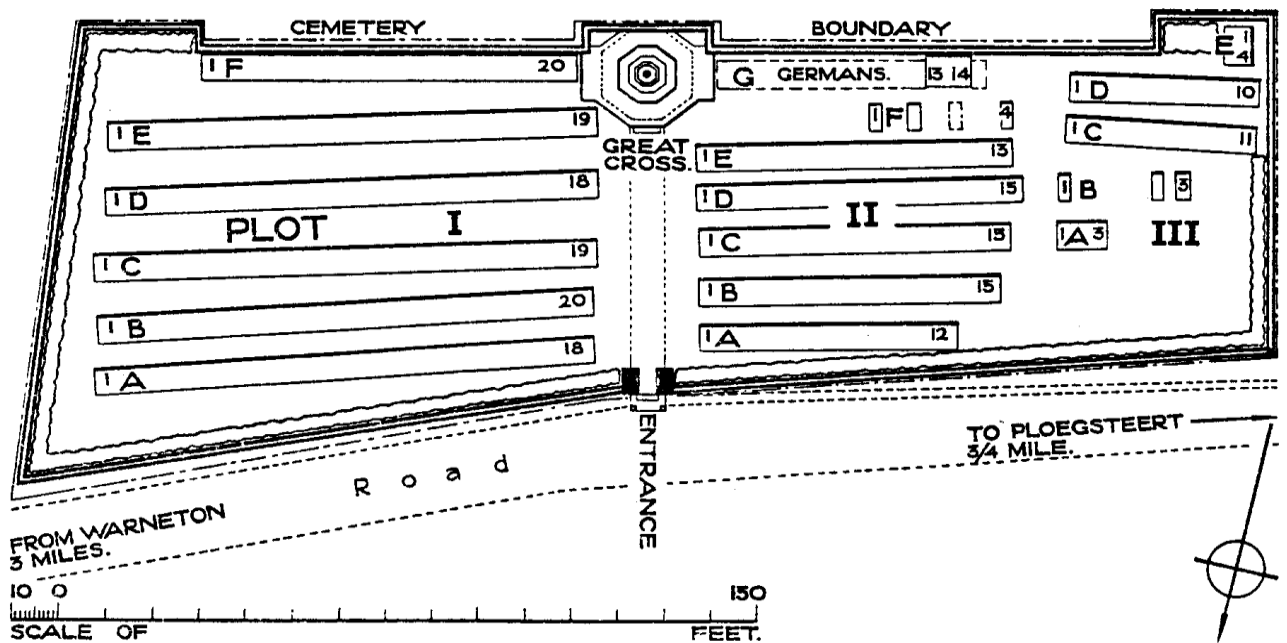
*Considering the large number of Overtonians at the front the casualties amongst them till last week had not been heavy, Private W. Matthews was killed early in the war...*

According to the Hampshire Regiment War Diary William Matthews was killed by a sniper on 21st November 1914 near Nieppe.

His pay owing (£3 6/-) was sent to his widow, Mary Marion, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1915 and war gratuity of £5 was paid to his widow, Mary Stevens 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1919, so she must have re-married by then.

William is buried at the Lancashire Cottage Cemetery, Ploegseert, in Plot 1, Row B, Grave 15.





LANCASHIRE COTTAGE CEMETERY, PLOEGSTEERT.

Lancashire Cottage Cemetery is located 13.5 km south of Ieper (Ypres) town centre. This Cemetery was begun by the 1st East Lancashire (who have 84 graves in it) and the 1st Hampshire (who have 56) in November 1914. It was used as a front line cemetery until March 1916 and occasionally later. The cemetery was in German hands from 10 April to 29 September 1918 and they made a few burials in it during that spring and summer.

William was awarded the Victory Medal, The British Medal and 14 Star. The medal card shows them as having been returned.

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Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
MATTHEWS	1 Hamps R	Pte	7220
William			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	* C/1/103 <sup>B19</sup>	1823	} Returned (1743 KR) 7998/adt
BRITISH	do	do	
14 STAR	C/1/1	81	
C/2/2465. Roll: ret'd. (1743. KR) 7998/adt			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein	27-8 7K		

7998/adt K 1380.