

**In Memory of**  
**W S C Arthey**

**Private**  
**235117**

**10th Bn., Worcestershire Regiment**  
**who died on**

**Sunday, 29th September 1918. Age 24. BORN 1894**

**Additional Information:** Son of William and Kate Arthey, of River House, Kersey, Hadleigh, Suffolk.  
(RUFFELL)

**Commemorative Information**

**Cemetery:** VALENCIENNES (ST. ROCH) COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Nord, France  
**Grave Reference/** V. F. 15.  
**Panel Number:**

**Location:** Valenciennes (St Roch) Communal Cemetery is situated on the north-east side of the town, about 1.5 kilometres from the centre. It is on the north side of the road to Bruay-sur-L'Escaut.

**Historical Information:** Valenciennes town remained in German hands from the early days of the War until the 1st-2nd November, 1918, when it was entered and cleared by the Canadian Corps; 5,000 civilians were found in the town. In November and December, 1918, the 2nd, 57th, 4th Canadian and 32nd Casualty Clearing Stations were posted at Valenciennes, and the last of them did not leave until October, 1919. The Communal Cemetery of St. Roch, in the North-Eastern outskirts of the town, was used by the Germans in August and September, 1914, and an Extension was then made on the South-East side. The British plots were made adjoining the German: I and II contain the graves of October, 1918-December, 1919; III, IV and V and part of VI contain the graves of 348 soldiers buried originally in the German Extension and 226 whose bodies were brought from other cemeteries or from the battlefields. The German Extension has now been removed, and the British plots are within the enlarged Communal Cemetery. There are now over 900, 1914-18 and 30, 1939-45 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 40 from the 1914-18 War are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 19 soldiers from the United Kingdom who died as Prisoners of War, of whom nine are buried here (Plot IV, Row A.) and ten at Le QUESNOY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, non of whom could be individually identified, hence all are commemorated at both sites. Other special memorials record the names of seven soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in other cemeteries, whose graves could not be found. An interesting feature from the 1939-45 War, is a memorial tablet of white marble affixed to the outside wall of the shelter building, commemorating the Commission's former gardener, the late Robert Armstrong. An ex-Irish Guardsman, Mr. Armstrong held an Eire passport and, as a neutral, was allowed to continue at work in the cemetery after the outbreak of war. His sympathies impelled him to assist Allied soldiers and airmen to escape, and he was arrested by the Germans at the end of 1943. The original death sentence was commuted to 15 years imprisonment, and he was deported to Germany, dying at Waldheim Camp, Saxony, in December, 1944. For his help to Allied escapees he was posthumously awarded the Medaille de Resistance Francaise, and the tablet was a voluntary token of remembrance from the people of Valenciennes and the surrounding district. The British plots cover an area of 3,111 square metres. The cemetery contains a memorial to Sir William Douglas, K.C.B., who commanded the 91st Regiment in the Waterloo campaign. The following were among the burial grounds from which British graves were moved to this cemetery: ARTRES BRITISH CEMETERY, on the road from Artres to Preseau, containing the graves of 32 soldiers of the 61st (South Midland) Division who fell on the 1st November, 1918. MONT-DES-BRUYERES BRITISH CEMETERY, ST. AMAND-LES-EAUX, where 17 soldiers from the United Kingdom, who fell in October and November, 1918, were buried.