

## ROBERT R. JEWITT, Private 7602266, RAOC, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1940

Robert Raymond Jewitt was born in Netherton in Northumberland in 1916, the son of Robson and Eliza Jewitt. In 1935, he married my great Aunt, Lillie Hodgson in the Richmond area.

At the moment though, I can't find Robert or his family in the 1939 Register, so I don't know what he was doing or where exactly he was at that time.

What I do know is that Robert was serving in France in 1940 and initially he was listed as missing, which isn't too surprising as the retreat towards the French coast in May 1940 was chaotic.

7607657	GORE	Pte.	J.		10.5/16.6.40.
7617144	GREEN	Pte.	E.		10.5/16.6.40.
7592321	GURR	Pte.	B.R.	Att. 2 Bn. R.S.Fus.	10.5/16.6.40.
7602266	JEWITT	Pte.	R.R.		Date not reported
7590735	McLEAN	Pte.	R.J.		-do-
7599131	SKEGG	Pte.	R.D.		10.5/16.6.40.
7591405	SMITH	Pte.	J.		Date not reported
7609845	WALKER	Pte.	H.		-do-
7590034	WRIGHT	A/L/Cpl.	H.J.	Att 1/7 Middx. Regt.	10.5/16.6.40.

It's likely he was killed near to the village where he was buried, Nielles-les-Blequin, during the retreat.

Nielles-les-Blequin is a small village (800 inhabitants in 2004) in the Pas-de-Calais, France about 20 miles East of Boulogne and about 40 miles South of Dunkirk. Marked by the red dot on the map, right.



On 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1940, the [Battle of Boulogne](#) began as the German panzers of Heinz Guderian's 19th Corps and Georg Reinhardt's 41<sup>st</sup> Corps closed in on Boulogne and British and French forces fell back towards the coastal ports of Boulogne, Calais and Dunkirk.





Gravestone of Robert Jewitt, Nielles-Les-Blequin, France

Sources

- (1) CWGC <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/3073649/ROBERT%20RAYMOND%20JEWITT/>
- (2) May 1940 Campaign Details  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Boulogne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Boulogne)  
<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/UK/UK-NWE-Flanders/index.html>