

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: William Harold Ayto
Rank: Private
Service Number: 206971
Date of Death: 10th August 1917
Age: 30
Regiment/Service: 11th Btn The Queen's
(Royal West Surrey Regiment)
Award:
Grave/Memorial Reference: I. C. 54.
Cemetery/Memorial: GODEWAERSVELDE BRITISH CEMETERY
UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church. Panel A
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)



Pre War:

He was born in Binley in Yorkshire Whardle, Yorkshire 24th July 1891(?) to Samuel and Emily Ayto. of Chalkdell Terrace, Hitchin. He was the husband of E. Ayto, of 69, Tilehouse St., Hitchin. They had one child. He was the son of Mrs Ayto

William resided in Dunstable and enlisted there on the 25th October 1916 having previously worked for the Home and Colonial Stores in Hitchin. He had been a chairman at St. John's Church, Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

At first he was in the Suffolk Regiment with the Regimental Number 290677. He went to France on the 22nd June 1917. Later he joined the 11th Battalion of the Royal West Surreys with the Regimental Number T/206971. This Battalion was the 11th (Lambeth) Battalion of the Regiment which was part of the 123rd Brigade in the 41st Division of X Corps of the 2nd Army. He was wounded in action and died before reaching hospital at the end of the Battle of Pilckem.

He is buried in Plot 1, Row C, Grave 54 at Godewaersvelde British Cemetery near Mont des Cats in the Ypres Salient. The close proximity of the graves suggests that the bodies were placed side by side which coincides with the presence of Casualty Clearing Stations nearby. In July 1918 the 11th, 37th and 41st Casualty Clearing Stations were stationed nearby. He is buried next to a German soldier.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

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