

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: William Castle

Rank: Private

Service Number: 31911

Date of Death: 23rd October 1918

Age: 22

Regiment/Service: 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment

Award: 1914/15 Star, the British War and the Victory medals.

Grave/Memorial Reference: III. E. 12.

Cemetery/Memorial: ROMERIES COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, France

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church. Panel B
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)

Pre War:



His home was at 15, St. Andrew's Place, Hitchin. He was born in and was a resident of Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

He enlisted as a volunteer in Bedford in 1915, was allocated the Regimental Number 31911 and went to France in the same year. He served with the 1st Battalion of the Bedfords on the Somme, Arras and Ypres and was killed in action during the great advance of 1918.

He was engaged in an attack which started about 100 yards north east of Beaurain. Heavy fire was directed onto the assembly area both by the Germans and our own guns causing about 100 casualties. The attack was not delayed although the Battalion was considerably under strength and commenced its advance at 3.20am and the objective, a ridge about 500 yards north east of Beaurain, was achieved. The action resulted in the deaths of 2 officers, 14 other ranks, 5 other ranks missing, 7 officers wounded and 105 other ranks wounded. 90% of the casualties were caused by the barrages on the assembly line. That night the Battalion returned to Caudry.

He is buried in Plot 3, Row E, Grave 12 in the Romeries Communal Cemetery Extension in France.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

