

## **Herts at War**

([www.hertsatwar.co.uk](http://www.hertsatwar.co.uk))

**Name:** Elijah Howard Cotton  
**Rank:** Private  
**Service Number:** G/22238  
**Date of Death:** 27<sup>th</sup> August 1918  
**Age:** 27

**Regiment/Service:** 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Buffs  
(East Kents)

**Award:**

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** I. R. 12

**Cemetery/Memorial:** ALBERT COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, SOMME, FRANCE.

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

**Pre War:**

He was the second son of Mr and Mrs Edward Cotton and they lived at 55, Balmoral Road, Hitchin. He was married to Emma of Gosmore, Hitchin, Herts. (later Slater) with one child and the family lived at Paddock Close, Hitchin,

**Wartime Service:**

He was born in Hitchin on the 30th August 1889, was resident in Letchworth and enlisted in Hitchin in April J 917. Before he was called up he was employed at the Dacre Works in Letchworth. He was given the Regimental Number G/22238 and was posted to the 6th Battalion of the East Kents which was in the 37th Brigade of the 12th Division of III Corps in the 4th Army. He went to France in June 1917 and was killed in action in France.

On the 24th August the 37th Brigade moved just to the south of Albert towards Meaulte and captured a strongpoint known as 'Pear Tree'. By the 25th August the Brigade was east of Mametz and on the 26th August had cleared Carnoy. Further advances were made on the 27th August but the fighting was continuous and the artillery fire severe.

He was buried in Plot 1, Row R, Grave I in the Albert Communal Cemetery Extension in France.

**Additional Information:**

**Acknowledgments:**

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

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