

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: William Arthur Darrington

Rank: Private

Service Number: 25247

Date of Death: 27th July 1916

Age:

Regiment/Service: 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers

Award: British War and Allied Victory Medals.

Grave/Memorial Reference: Pier and Face 8C, 9A and 16A

Cemetery/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin Boys Grammar School Memorial, Stained Glass Window, School Library. Grammar School Walk, Hitchin.

Pre War:

His father was Mr W. H. M. Darrington, the proprietor of a wholesale bookbinding business, living at Trevor House, Trevor Road, Hitchin. Born in Tottenham in north London, he had a brilliant academic career at the Hitchin Grammar School which he attended from 1903-1910. He obtained first class honours in the Senior Local Examinations and a high place in the Second Division of the Civil Service Examination. He left to go to Clark's College in London.

He gave up a good position in February 1916 to join the 22nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers, having been recruited in Church End Finchley.

Wartime Service:

William's Regimental Number was 25247. After his first engagement, which was at Delville Wood, he was reported missing believed killed and was later confirmed as having been killed in action.

This was in the 99th Brigade of the 2nd Division, the same Brigade as that of Harold Bowman who was to die six days later in the same battle for Delville Wood. There was extremely fierce fighting for possession of the wood and on the 27th July 1916 every available man in the Brigade was thrown into the battle. The 22nd Royal Fusiliers had been in support of the 1st Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps and were brought in to protect an exposed right flank. The losses were extremely heavy. The 22nd Royal Fusiliers alone lost 5 officers and 189 other ranks killed, wounded or missing.

Officers and comrades wrote of his perseverance and cheerfulness in the most trying circumstances. A wounded soldier, on arriving at hospital in England, forwarded Darrington's haversack, containing a letter and some cards, to his parents.

He has no known grave and is remembered on Pier and Face 8C, 9A and 16A of the great Thiepval Memorial to the Missing in France.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

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