

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: George Henry Edwards
Rank: Private
Service Number: 266902
Date of Death: 31st July 1917
Age: 28

Regiment/Service: Hertfordshire Regiment

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 54-56

Cemetery/Memorial: Ypres Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin Territorials' Memorial

Pre War:

He was born in Willesden in Middlesex and his home was in Walkern. He was the son of George and Emma Edwards of Froghall Lane, Walkern. He enlisted in Hertford.

Wartime Service:

George's Regimental number was 266902. He served in 4 Company of the Regiment and he was killed in action.

On the day of his death, the 1st Herts were cut to pieces by shot and shell at St. Julien in the Ypres Salient. They had marched from Vlamertinge to their assembly position arriving by midnight on the 30th/31st July 1917. A general bombardment of the German lines commenced at 3.45am on the 31st July and the Hertfordshires left their assembly position at 5.00am and captured St. Julien during the morning. Unfortunately, the promised supporting artillery barrage did not materialise as the guns could not be brought up due to the all-prevailing mud. By noon the Herts had crossed the Steenbeck stream and had come across unbroken wire that prevented any further advance. The German artillery and machine-guns decimated them and by the end of the day the Herts had virtually ceased to exist. Over half the fighting strength of the Battalion, including most of the officers, were killed or wounded in a single day.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

