

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: George Foster
Rank: Private
Service Number: 2644
Date of Death: 10th April 1918
Age: 37



Regiment/Service: 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: B. 2.

Cemetery/Memorial: HAVERSKERQUE BRITISH CEMETERY, FRANCE.

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
British Schools Museum, Hitchin

Pre War:

He was born in St. Mary's Parish, Hitchin and attended Hitchin Boys British School. He also enlisted in Hitchin. His home was at 8, Fairview Cottage, Kershaw's Hill, Hitchin and he was the eldest son of George and Phoebe Ann Foster.

Wartime Service:

George was given the Regimental Number G.2644 and posted to the 13th Battalion of the Regiment, which was part of the 119th Brigade in the 40th Division of XV Corps in the 1st Army. He was wounded on four occasions during his service and, after suffering a serious arm injury, he died of wounds in a Casualty Clearing Station in France, probably during the Battle of Estaires. This would have been either No. 33 or No. 54 Casualty Clearing Station in Haverskerque.

The fighting involving the 13th Battalion occurred on the River Lys on the line Armentieres to Laventie south of the Steenwerck stream after a German attack. The Brigade was called on to counter-attack in order to recover the Bac St. Maur bridgehead but they were forced back with heavy casualties.

He was buried in Row B, Grave 2 in Haverskerque British Cemetery in France. A private inscription on the headstone reads "*Gone but never forgotten*".

Additional Information:

His brother, Harry was killed in action on the 13th February 1916.

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

