

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: George Ginger
Rank: Private
Service Number: 266301
Date of Death: 27th March 1918
Age: 23
Regiment/Service: Hertfordshire Regiment
Posted 4th Battalion Bedfordshire
Regiment
Award:
Grave/Memorial Reference: Bay 10
Cemetery/Memorial: Arras Memorial, France
UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin Territorials' Memorial
Codicote Village Memorial
Peace Memorial Hall, Codicote



Pre War:

He was the son of Frederick and Martha Ginger of Barracks Cottages, Walkern. Born in Hitchin in 1893, son of Frederick and Martha Ginger. 1911 Census: living with widowed mother and brothers Fred and Ernest at The Barracks, High Street, Codicote, Herts and working as farm labourer. His home was in Codicote, but he enlisted in Hertford.

Wartime Service:

He served initially in 4 Company of the Hertfordshire Regiment. At the time of his death, he was serving with the 4th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment with Regimental number 266301. He was killed in action according to 'Soldiers died' database, but the Codicote War Memorial states that he died of wounds. In the chaotic conditions following the German attack on the 21st March 1918 it is difficult to know which is correct and the difference is probably one of the timescale between being wounded and dying.

On the 21st March 1918 the 4th Battalion of the Bedfords were part of the 190th Brigade in the 63rd Division of V Corps and were in the salient of the Flesquieres Ridge and Havrincourt Wood area to the south-east of Arras. The British were expecting an attack as in the previous month they had been subjected to heavy artillery bombardments, especially with gas shells that had caused some 700 casualties in the 190th Brigade. The German attack of the 21st March 1918 was so violent over the next few days that it forced the Brigade to withdraw almost due east to the Thiepval Ridge and back across the River Ancre.

The fact that he is remembered on the Arras Memorial suggests that his injuries were incurred nearer the 21st March than the 27th otherwise he is more likely to have been remembered on the Thiepval Memorial which relates to the Somme sector. It is quite possible that at the time of his death he was an injured prisoner of the Germans.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

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www.hitchinatwar.org.uk