

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: Henry James Lewis

Rank: Lance Corporal

Service Number: 43328

Date of Death: 27th May 1918

Age: 37

Regiment/Service: 1/7th Battalion Durham Light Infantry

Award: British War and Victory medals

Grave/Memorial Reference:

Cemetery/Memorial: SOISSONS MEMORIAL, France

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

Pre War:



He was born in Whitechapel in London and resided in Peckham. His parents lived at 2, Leicester Cottages, Nightingale Rd, Hitchin. He was the husband of Ruth Evangelina Jessie Lewis of 3, West Alley, Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

He joined up in June 1916 in Camberwell and was given the Regimental Number 27087 in the King's Royal Rifles. Later he was posted as Number 43328 in the 1/7th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. In October 1916 he was sent to France and fought at Ypres, Loos, Albert and on the Somme, was wounded and invalided home in December 1917. In April 1918 he returned to the Western Front and was reported missing at Cambrai. Later he was presumed killed in action.

At the time of his death his unit was the Pioneer Battalion as part of the 151st Brigade in the 50th Division of IX Corps operating under the 6th (French) Army on the final day of the Battle of the Aisne. At 1.00am on the 27th May 1918 the Germans launched a fearful bombardment of gas and high explosives followed by assault divisions of infantry from Rheims to Soissons. The 50 (Northumberland) Division were near the Chemin des Dames in the vicinity of Cerny about three miles north of the River Aisne. The Divisional artillery was destroyed, communication lines broken, forward trenches eliminated as the barrage ranged backwards and forwards in one of the most concentrated and effective bombardments of the war.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Soissons Memorial to the Missing in France.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne
David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

