

## **Herts at War**

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**Name:** James Henry Moss  
**Rank:** Sergeant  
**Service Number:** 3718  
**Date of Death:** Between 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November 1915  
**Age:**  
**Regiment/Service:** 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment  
**Award:** 1914/15 Star, British War and Victory medals  
**Grave/Memorial Reference:** IV.G.20  
**Cemetery/Memorial:** Bethune Town Cemetery, France  
**UK Cemetery/Memorial:** Hitchin Territorials' Memorial, Hitchin

### **Pre War:**

James and his wife were the first couple to be married in the Bunyan church in Stevenage High Street. They had several children.

### **Wartime Service:**

The circumstances of his death are not certain, as the Hertfordshires were not engaged in any major attacks throughout the winter period. However, they were in the vicinity of Bethune and spent the time in the front line, on reliefs and in billets, with shelling, sniping, snow, mud and rain creating a steady toll of casualties. It is interesting to note that his grave is only four graves away from M.H. Farey who died of wounds on the 5 December 1915. The probably is that both were in hospital at the time of their deaths which would have been No. 33 Casualty Clearing Station operating at Bethune at the time, perhaps wounded by the same shell? Another account states that on returning from a long march with his Company, they went into billets in a Bethune orphanage. He fell asleep and did not wake up again and it was said that he died of heart failure.

He was buried in Bethune Town Cemetery in Plot IV, Row G, Grave 20 in France.

### **Additional Information:**

His brother Reginald was killed on the Somme nearly a year later.

### **Acknowledgments:**

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

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