

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: Ernest William Smith

Rank: Private

Service Number: 33635

Date of Death: 31st December 1918

Age: 33

Regiment/Service: 1st/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's
(West Riding Regiment)

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: North East Grave 628

Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin Cemetery, Hertfordshire
Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin

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



Pre War:

Ernest was the son of William and Mary Smith nee Chapman of 52 Dacre Road, Hitchin. He had been born in London on the 12th April 1885 and educated at the British Schools in Hitchin. After leaving school he was employed by the Great Northern Railway. He seems to have been a passenger brakeman.

He married Mary Catherine Smith nee Nash in St. Michael's church, Wood Green, London on the 21st March 1908. They had one daughter, Lilian Maud, who was born on the 11th August 1910. His home was at 52, Westfield Ave, Hornsey in London.

Wartime Service:

He joined the army on the 6th June 1916 and was posted to the Queen's Regiment with the Regimental Number 60033. Later he was transferred to the 1/5th Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment and held the Number 33635. He seems to have been a signaller.

He served in France from the 25th January 1918 until taken prisoner at Rheims in France on the 21st July 1918 after being wounded in the arm. In October, whilst in Germany, he contracted nephritis. He suffered for two-months before being repatriated on the 6th December 1918 to the United Kingdom and was then transferred to the 2nd Scottish General Hospital in Edinburgh. He died of nephritis aggravated by the wounds and the privations he had sustained whilst a prisoner of war.

He is buried in Hitchin Cemetery Grave NE 628. His gravestone states that he was a returned prisoner of war.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

