

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: Sidney Smith
Rank: Guardsman
Service Number: 23560
Date of Death: 25th September 1916
Age: 29

Regiment/Service: Grenadier Guards

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: Pier and Face 8D

Cemetery/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, 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 married and lived in 5, Exchange Yard, Hitchin and he had three children.

Before joining up he had been a steam-roller driver for the Hitchin Urban District Council. He was also in the choir at St. Mary's Church in Hitchin. He had been born in the parish of St. Mary in Hitchin and enlisted there in March 1915.

Wartime Service:

Sidney was given the Regimental Number 23560 and posted to the 4th Battalion of the Grenadiers. He was killed in action in France whilst charging a German trench. His body was found after the attack. "*Many a brave man fell*" said a letter home.

The Battalion went to Bemafoy Wood on the 22nd September 1916 and moved forward on the 24th September and attacked at 12.35pm on the 25th September. Over 150 Germans were killed with the bayonet as the Battalion rushed to clear its first objective. The second objective was also taken. They were relieved at 10.00pm on the 26th September 1916.

He has no known grave and is remembered in Pier/Face 8D of the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing in France.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne
David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

