

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: Percy Harry Snelgrove

Rank: Sergeant

Service Number: 265339

Date of Death: 11th January 1918

Age: 21

Regiment/Service: "H" Company. 1st Battalion,
Hertfordshire Regiment

Award: 1914 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal, Military Medal

Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 153

Cemetery/Memorial: Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium.
Hitchin Territorials' Memorial, Hitchin
Stevenage Old Town War Memorial
Not on the Letchworth Memorial

UK Cemetery/Memorial:



Pre War:

Percy was born in Stevenage on the 26th December 1896, the son of William & Francis Snelgrove. He was employed as Machinist at the Educational Supplies Association in Stevenage, who were manufacturers of school furniture. He spent some time living in Trinity Road, Stevenage, before joining the Territorials in June 1913. He is later recorded as a resident of Letchworth. He enlisted in Hitchin in July 1914.

Wartime Service:

When he joined up in July 1914 and was allocated Regimental number 265339. Initially he served in 4 Company of the 1st Battalion, but the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records state that he was in 'H' company at the time of his death. This letter may be a confusion with a handwritten 4. He went to France on the 6th November 1914 and was killed in action.

The Hertfordshires were serving with 118th Brigade in the 39th Division at the time of his death. No major action was taking place at the time but there were a steady number of casualties from snipers, shellfire and accidents both in and out of the trenches. The Battalion was in the area of the Steenbeek in a wasteland of stinking mud.

On the 11th January 1918 the Battalion relieved the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment in trenches near Steenbeek, Belgium. The unit war diary notes that their positions were shelled by German artillery and it is presumed that this is when he was killed.

Very little detail exists with regard to his award of the Military Medal or his eventual death. It is possible that his Military Medal may have been awarded sometime after the end of the war as it is not mentioned on the Drill Hall War Memorial.

Additional Information:

Son of Mrs J C Snelgrove whose address at his death was 53 Jays Avenue, Letchworth, Herts.

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

Paul Johnson

www.stevenageatwar.com

David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

