

## **Herts at War**

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**Name:** Charles Stevens  
**Rank:** Private  
**Service Number:** 7209  
**Date of Death:** 12<sup>th</sup> March 1915  
**Age:**  
**Regiment/Service:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment



**Award:**  
**Grave/Memorial Reference:** Panel 34  
**Cemetery/Memorial:** YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, BELGIUM  
**UK Cemetery/Memorial:** Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin  
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)

### **Pre War:**

He had been born in Hitchin and had enlisted there by September 1914. His home was in Gosmore Lane, Hitchin.

### **Wartime Service:**

Charles went into the 4th Battalion with the Regimental Number 7209. At the time that he was killed in action he was in the 2nd Battalion which was in the 85th Brigade of the 28th Division.

One reference and the date of his death indicate that he was killed at Neuve Chapelle. Heavy fighting was taking place at Neuve Chapelle at the time and he may have been in the area with another unit. The 28th Division, of which the 2nd Battalion East Surreys formed part, was in the Ypres Salient further north. This and the fact that he is remembered on the Menin Gate suggests that he was a casualty of the incessant sniping and shelling that went on in the Salient.

He has no known grave, but is remembered on Panel 34 of the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing at Ypres in Belgium.

### **Additional Information:**

### **Acknowledgments:**

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

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