

Herts at War

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Name: Cecil Weare
Rank: Captain
Service Number:
Date of Death: 31st October 1917
Age:
Regiment/Service: 25th Battalion Canadian Infantry
Nova Scotia Regiment
Award: M.C



Grave/Memorial Reference: XXI. AA. 14.
Cemetery/Memorial: LIJSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY, Belgium
Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
UK Cemetery/Memorial: St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
British Schools Museum, Hitchin
Town Hall Memorial, Hitchin

Pre War:

He was the second son of Mrs F.W. Weare of 5, Park Street, Hitchin. Enlisted 8th December 1914 into the Nova Scotia Regiment.

Wartime Service:

He was in the 26th Canadian Infantry and he had joined the Canadian forces in October 1914 as a private soldier, going to France in September 1915. He was promoted to Lieutenant in October 1916. He was promoted to Captain and awarded the Military Cross following the taking of Vimy Ridge on the 9th April 1917. As a result of the fighting at Vimy Ridge he suffered from shellshock and lost the hearing in his left ear and in consequence was made Conducting Officer at the base.

The London Gazette records the award of the Military Cross to "*Lieutenant Cecil Weare Canadian Infantry for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his Company in the face of heavy fire of all kinds and despite strong opposition captured and consolidated the enemy trench. He displayed great courage and initiative throughout.*"

At the time of his death the Canadian Corps were attacking in the vicinity of Passchendaele in the Ypres Salient. The unit sustained numerous counter attacks all of which were repulsed by the evening of the 31st October 1917 but the casualties were considerable.

Cecil had conducted troops up the line to Ypres where he had met his brother Lance Corporal Raymond Weare who had just returned from leave in Hitchin and whom he had not met since April 1916. In the early hours of the morning the hut he was in was struck by an aerial bomb severely wounding him. He was received into a Casualty Clearing Station at 6.00am but died at 9.25am being conscious to the last.

Additional Information:

Awarded the Military Cross at Vimy 1917

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne
David C Baines

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