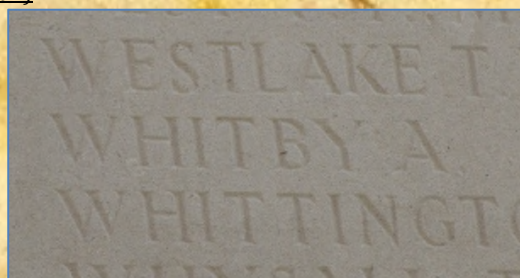


Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: Arthur Henry Whitby
Rank: Private
Service Number: 27501
Date of Death: 22nd July 1916
Age: 26



Regiment/Service: 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: Pier and Face 2C

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:

Arthur was born in Hitchin and resided in Hitchin. Before enlisting he worked for Francis Newton the Hitchin builders for eight years. He was an active member of the St. Mary's Bible Class and Sunday School and was also a sidesman there. In the opinion of certain of his friends he would have had reason to claim exemption from call-up as a conscientious objector. He was single and lived with his mother Mrs E. Abbiss of 38, Dacre Road. Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

He joined the 4th Battalion of the Bedfords in April 1916, was given the Regimental Number 27501 and left England on the 1st July 1916. He was later transferred to the 1st Battalion, which at the time of his death, was part of the 15th Brigade in the 5th Division of XV Corps in the 4th Army. He was killed in action in France.

One record suggests that he was with the 10th Battalion of the Worcesters when he was killed but there is no such mention of him in the Regimental volume of 'Soldiers died' database.

The 1st Battalion of the Bedfords was in the Somme sector in the vicinity of Pommier Redoubt and High Wood and at the time of his death was part of the Divisional Reserve. A heavy bombardment of the German line began with occasional 15" shells going over. The return fire from the enemy probably caused his death.

He has no known grave, but is remembered on Pier & Face 2C of the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing in France. An 'In Memoriam' notice in a local newspaper added "*Dearly loved son and brother*".

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne
David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

