

Fred Stevens

Fred was born in Hitchin, Herts, on 24th June 1890, the son of Charles Ernest Stevens a Carpenter and Fanny Stevens (nee Igrave).

He was Baptised on the 23rd August 1890 at Holy Saviours Church, Hitchin, Herts.

1891 Census records Fred aged 9 months, living with his parents, brothers Francis E. 11, Arthur 10, Harry 8 and Bernard 2, at 105 Nightingale road, Hitchin, Herts.

1901 Census records Fred aged 10, living with his parents and brother Harry 18, at 105 Nightingale Road, Hitchin, Herts.

Fred attended St Mary's National School, Hitchin, Herts.

1911 Census records Fred aged 20, living with his parents and brother Harry 28, at 32 Bunyan Road, Hitchin, Herts. He was working as a Newsvendor on a Bookstall.

The census indicates his parents had been married for 34 years and they had 6 children 3 of which died in infancy.

Military Service

Fred was posted to the Hertfordshire Regiment with the service number 4350 and was on 'special duties' until July 1915, but the nature of them has not been discovered.

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In July 1916, he was posted to the 6th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry with the service number 28707. That Battalion was in the 43rd Brigade of the 4th (Light) Division.

He was initially reported as missing and it was not until July 1917 that he was declared to have been killed in action at Grandecourt on the 16th September 1916. On the day of his death the Battalion launched an attack on Gird and Gird Support trenches in front of Guedecourt in the Somme sector, moving forward in a single wave. At 9.25am heavy machine-gun fire from the right brought the assault to a standstill. A renewed attack at 6.55pm was also a failure. The casualties were heavy.

He has no known grave, but is remembered on Pier/Face 6B of the great Thiepval Memorial to the Missing in France. In July 1916, he was posted to the 6th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry with the service number 28707. That Battalion was in the 43rd Brigade of the 4th (Light) Division.

Fred's Medal Card.

74	Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
	STEVENS	Inf. Bn. Lt	Pte	28707
	Fred.			
	Serial	Unit	Page	Remarks
	1027	1027		
	Number of War Decisions			
	Date of entry			

British War Medal & Victory medal awarded to Fred.

