



**Tilehouse Street
Baptist Church
Roll of Honour
Great War
1914-1918**

David C. Baines
and the team at www.hertsatwar.co.uk

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: Frederick John Brown

Rank: Private

Service Number: G/60128

Date of Death: 9th March 1918

Age: 19

Regiment/Service: 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment.

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 113 to 115.

Cemetery/Memorial: Tyne Cot Memorial Belgium.
Hitchin Memorial, St Mary's Church. Panel B
UK Cemetery/Memorial: St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
Tilehouse St., Baptist Church War Memorial
British Schools Museum, Hitchin



Pre War:

His home was with his parents at Peartree Cottage, Charlton near Hitchin and they were William and Emily Brown and Frederick was born in Charlton. He was educated at Tilehouse Street Baptist School and on leaving was employed by H. Peters, Butchers of Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

He was called up for service on the 24th March 1917 and was posted to the 1st Battalion of the Regiment with the Regimental Number G/60128. The Battalion was part of the 98th Brigade in the 33rd Division. He went to France in October 1917 and was killed in action in Belgium.

His date of death coincides with the 1st Battalion spending quite an amount of time in the front line south west of Passchendaele and they suffered a number of casualties from mustard gas shelling.

He has no known grave, but is remembered on Panels 113-115 of the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing in Belgium.

Additional Information:

He was the cousin of Francis Brown who was killed in action on the 19th April 1916.

Acknowledgments:

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Name: Edward Ellis Chapman

Rank: Pioneer

Service Number: 172639

Date of Death: 21st March 1918

Age: 39

Regiment/Service: 6th Divisional Signal Company
Royal Engineers

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: Bay1

Cemetery/Memorial: Arras Memorial, France.

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church. Panel B
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
Tilehouse St Baptist Church War Memorial



Pre War:

After being apprenticed to Mr Charles Holmes, he was a printer by trade and at one time had a small business in Potton. He was a married man with six children, the eldest being aged thirteen, and lived at 58, Lancaster Ave, Hitchin.

He joined the army whilst working in London in June 1916. 'Soldiers died' database shows an Edward E. Chapman born in Hitchin, residing and enlisting there.

Wartime Service:

His Corps Number was 172639 and he was with the 6th Divisional Signal Company Royal Engineers. He was killed in action in France on the first day of the German onslaught known as the 'Spring Offensive'.

He has no known grave and is remembered in Bay I of the Arras Memorial to the Missing in France.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

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Herts at War

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Name: George William Alfred Farrow
Rank: Sergeant
Service Number: 265386
Date of Death: 26th September 1917
Age: 19
Regiment/Service: 1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment



Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: IXA. D. 2.

Cemetery/Memorial: HOOGE CRATER CEMETERY. BELGIUM

Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin Territorials Memorial
Tilehouse St Baptist Church War Memorial
British Schools Museum, Hitchin

Pre War:

He was the son of Mr and Mrs A.G. Farrow of Ducklands Farm, Hitchin, but born in Kentish Town, London. He resided in Hitchin and attended Hitchin Boys British School. He also enlisted in Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

George was given Service Number 265386. He was in No. 4 Company of the 1st Battalion of the Regiment having joined in January 1914 and went to France with them in November 1914. He had been gassed on one occasion, wounded on another and was killed in action by a shell in Belgium. At the time of his death the Hertfordshires were part of the 118th Brigade of the 39th Division in X Corps.

The Herts were not engaged in any major action at the time, but had just received a severe mauling at St. Julien, as a result of which, they temporarily ceased to exist as a fighting unit, having lost half their number. On the 26th September the 118th Brigade attacked with the three other Battalions in the Battle of Polygon Wood. They were positioned west of Gheluvelt and south of Clapham Junction (on the Ypres to Menin road).

He was buried in Plot 9A, Row D, Grave 2 in the Hooge Crater Cemetery in Belgium.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

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Herts at War

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Name: Hubert Samuel Fitt
Rank: Private
Service Number: G/67931
Date of Death: 5th December 1918
Age: 19
Regiment/Service: 11th Battalion The Queens
Royal West Surrey Regiment



Award:
Grave/Memorial Reference: IV. H. 4.
Cemetery/Memorial: TOURNAI COMMUNAL CEMETERY ALLIED EXTENSION,
BELGIUM.
Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
UK Cemetery/Memorial: Tilehouse St Baptist Church War Memorial, Hitchin
St Faith's Church War Memorial, Walsworth

Pre War:
He was the son of H.S. and Emily Fitt of Charlton near Hitchin.

Wartime Service:
He is reputed to have been in the Royal West Surrey Regiment, but no 'H.S. Fitt' appears in the 'Soldiers died' database, there are two 'H' Fitts, but neither has an obvious connection to Hitchin. This is possibly due to the fact that he died after the end of the war. His Regimental Number was 6/67931 and he was in the 11th Battalion of the Regiment. He died of pneumonia.

He was initially buried in Sarlardingne Churchyard near Grammont but was later moved to Plot 4, Row H, Grave 4 in the Tournai Communal Allied Cemetery in Belgium.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

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Herts at War

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Name: William Lawrence

Rank: Private

Service Number: G/29537

Date of Death: 25th October 1918

Age: 19

Regiment/Service: 10th Battalion Queen's Own
(Royal West Kent Regiment)

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: A. 10.

Cemetery/Memorial: HEESTERT MILITARY CEMETERY, Belgium
Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
UK Cemetery/Memorial: St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
Tilehouse St Baptist Church War Memorial.



Pre War:

He was the third son of George and Kate Lawrence who lived at 9, Russell Slip, Hitchin. He was born in Hitchin and resided there. Before the war he was employed as a pork butcher with Mr File of Bucklersbury.

Wartime Service:

He enlisted in Bedford on the 15th October 1917 and was given the Regimental Number G/29537. He was posted to the 10th Battalion which was part of the 123rd Brigade of the 41st Division in XIX Corps of the 2nd Army. He was killed in action in Belgium.

The date of his death coincides with an action involving the Battalion whilst in support at Ooteghem about seven miles south east of Courtrai as part of the Battle of Courtrai.

He was buried in Row A, Grave TO in the Heestert Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Additional Information:

He was the last of three brothers to join the services. One brother was gassed whilst serving with the Essex Regiment and the other, who was serving with the South Lancashire Regiment, was discharged after having a leg amputated.

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Name: James Henry Sewell

Rank: Corporal

Service Number: 265385

Date of Death: 31st July 1917

Age: 21

Regiment/Service: Hertfordshire Regiment

Award: 1914/15 Star, British War and Victory medals

Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 54-56

Cemetery/Memorial: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, BELGIUM
Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
Hitchin Territorials Memorial, Hitchin

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Holy Saviour Church War Memorial, Radcliffe Rd., Hitchin
Tilehouse St Baptist Church War Memorial, Hitchin
British Schools Museum, Hitchin



Pre War:

The son of James Henry and Emma Elizabeth Sewell, of 50, Radcliffe Rd., Hitchin, Herts. He was born and resident in Hitchin and before the war was employed by Spencer & Co Engineering and was also a member of the Church Lads' Brigade.

His home was 50, Radcliffe Rd, Hitchin and he was the only son of James Henry and Emma Elizabeth Sewell.

Wartime Service:

He volunteered in Hitchin in August 1914 and was drafted to France in 1915 with the Regimental Number 265385. He fought at Ypres and Arras and was wounded in October 1915 and did not return to France again until January 1917. He was killed in action at St. Julien and "the last seen of him was just before the final objective was reached".

On the day of his death, the 1st Herts were cut to pieces by shot and shell at St. Julien in the Ypres Salient. They had marched from Vlamertinge to their assembly position arriving by midnight on the 30th/31st July 1917. A general bombardment of the German lines commenced at 3.45am on the 31st July and the Hertfordshires left their assembly position at 5.00am and passed through St. Julian during the morning. Unfortunately, the promised supporting artillery barrage did not materialise as the guns could not be brought up due to the all -prevailing mud. By noon the Herts had crossed the Steenbeck stream and had come across

unbroken wire that prevented any further advance. The German artillery and machine-guns decimated them and by the end of the day the Herts had virtually ceased to exist. Over half the fighting strength of the Battalion, including most of the officers, were killed or wounded in a single day.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

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Herts at War
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Name: Fred Stevens

Rank: Private

Service Number: 28707

Date of Death: 16th September 1916

Age:

Regiment/Service: 6th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's
Light Infantry

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: Pier and Face 6 B.

Cemetery/Memorial: THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France
Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
UK Cemetery/Memorial: St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
Tilehouse St Baptist Church War Memorial.



Pre War:

He was a resident of Hitchin, but enlisted in Hertford in December 1914. His home address was 51 Tilehouse St. Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

Frederick was allocated the Regimental Number 4350 in the Hertfordshire Regiment. He was on 'special duties' until July 1915, but the nature of them has not been discovered. Later he was posted to the 6th Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry where he was given the Number 28707. The Battalion was in the 43rd Brigade of the 14th (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 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.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

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Name: Arthur Summerfield

Rank: Rifleman

Service Number: 52459

Date of Death: 6th June 1918

Age: 19

Regiment/Service: 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: V. A. 17.

Cemetery/Memorial: KLEIN-VIERSTRAAT BRITISH CEMETERY, BELGIUM
Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Tilehouse St Baptist Church War Memorial, Hitchin
British Schools Museum, Hitchin



Pre War:

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Summerfield, of 30, Union Rd., Hitchin, Herts. He was born in Hitchin, was resident there and worked for Waters & Sons of Bancroft, Hitchin. He enlisted in Bedford.

Wartime Service:

At first Arthur was given the Regimental Number 38572 in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, but was later posted to the 12th Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles with the Number 52459. He was killed in action in Belgium while he was a member of a digging party and a shell burst among them. This was late in the Battle of the Lys when the 12th Battalion was in the 108th Brigade of the 36th Division of the 2nd Army.

He was buried in Plot 5, Row A, Grave 17 in the Klein Vierstraat British Cemetery in Belgium.

Additional Information:

His brother Harold was killed on the 16th August 1917.

Acknowledgments:

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David C Baines

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Name: Arthur Charles Tomlin
Rank: Private
Service Number: 266199
Date of Death: 13th July 1917
Age: 21
Regiment/Service: 1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment



Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: I.C.6

Cemetery/Memorial: Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium

Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
Hitchin Territorials Memorial, Hitchin
Tilehouse St Baptist Church War Memorial, Hitchin

UK Cemetery/Memorial:

Pre War:

He was a resident of Hitchin. His home was 11, Russell's Slip, The Wratten, Hitchin and he was unmarried. His parents lived at 29, Wratten Road, Hitchin and he was their second son.

Arthur enlisted in Hertford before Christmas 1914, having worked for P.H. Barker & Son the timber merchants and joiners of Bancroft, Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

He served in No. 4 Company of the Regiment with the Regimental Number 266199. The Regiment was in the 118th Brigade of the 39th Division. He was killed by gas in action in Belgium.

He was buried in Plot I, Row C, Grave 6 in Dozinghem Military Cemetery in Westvleteren in Belgium. There were a number of Casualty Clearing Stations in the vicinity.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

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Herts at War

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Name: Frederick John Whaley
Rank: Driver
Service Number: 2096
Date of Death: 6th August 1916
Age: 34
Regiment/Service: A Battery 303rd Brigade
Royal Field Artillery



Award:
Grave/Memorial Reference: III. C. 23.
Cemetery/Memorial: ECOIVRES MILITARY CEMETERY, MONT-ST. ELOI,
FRANCE
Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
UK Cemetery/Memorial: Tilehouse St Baptist Church War Memorial, Hitchin
British Schools Museum, Hitchin

Pre War:

He was the son of William and Eliza Whaley of Hitchin. His home was in Fishponds Road, Hitchin.

He was born in Tilehouse Street, Hitchin and completed an apprenticeship in 1901 with Mr Lawson Thompson the High Street Hitchin tailor. He was a member of the Blue Cross Temperance Brigade, a keen footballer and cricketer. He went to Southsea where he worked for Messrs Handley for six years. He enlisted in Portsmouth in June 1915.

Wartime Service:

Frederick was allocated the Regimental Number 2096. He was posted to 'A' Battery of the 303rd Brigade London Division in the Royal Field Artillery. He was killed in action in France. The incident occurred at 10.00am on Sunday 6th August 1916 when the Battery was shelled and blew in the top of the dugout where he was sleeping after he had been on night duty.

He was buried in a cemetery some miles behind the gun position in Plot 3, Row C, Grave 23 in the Ecoivres Military Cemetery in France. A private inscription on the stone reads "*Rest in the Lord*".

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

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Herts at War
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Name: Walter Charles Wilson

Rank: Private

Service Number: 265387

Date of Death: 25th April 1918

Age: 21

Regiment/Service: Hertfordshire Regiment

Award: Mons Star, British War and Victory medals

Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 153

Cemetery/Memorial: TYNE COT MEMORIAL, BELGIUM
Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin Territorials Memorial, Hitchin
Tilehouse St Baptist Church War Memorial, Hitchin
British Schools Museum, Hitchin



Pre War:

His home was at 2, Taylor's Cottages, Old Park Rd, Hitchin and he was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs C. Wilson. Before joining up he was employed by Russell's Tanyard in Hitchin and was a member of the Territorial Force. He was born in Shillington in Bedfordshire, but resided and enlisted in Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

Walter was allocated the Regimental Number 265387. He was in No. 4 Company of the Hertfordshires. He had volunteered in August 1914 and went to the Western Front that same year. He fought at Loos, Arras, Lens and Cambrai and in 1916 was severely wounded. He was killed in action on the Somme.

This was towards the end of the German offensive which had started on the 21st March 1918 and, in the retreat which followed, the Hertfordshires had been reduced to a small cadre.

He has no known grave and is remembered on Panel 153 of the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing in Belgium This is curious as according to a report from his family and the history of the Hertfordshire Regiment, he was in the Somme Sector in the vicinity of Amiens at the time of his death.

Additional Information:

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