



## Charles Stevens

Charles was born in St Ippollitts, Nr Hitchin, Hertfordshire, in 1893 the son of William Stevens an Agricultural Labourer and Sarah Ann Stevens (nee Bradwick).

Charles was Baptised on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1893 in St Ippollitts, Hertfordshire.



1901 Census records Charles aged 8 living with his parents and brother Arthur 13, in Gosmore, St Ippollitts, Hertfordshire.



1911 Census records Charles aged 18, living with his parents, and sister Bertha 19, at Newlands Cottages, Collison Lane, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. His occupation is given as a Gardener. Grandson Charles R. P. White was visiting them at the time of the census.

He married Edith Beatrice Underwood in 1914.

The census records his parents had been married for 26 years, and they had 6 children 1 of which died.

## Military Service

Charles enlisted in Hitchin, Hertfordshire in 1914, and posted to the East Surrey Regiment with the service number 7902. On completion of his training he landed in France with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, East Surrey Regiment on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1915, just 17 days later Charles was killed in action on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1915.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial to the missing in Belgium, Panel 34.

Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin.



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

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.

Charles was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Charles's Medal Card.

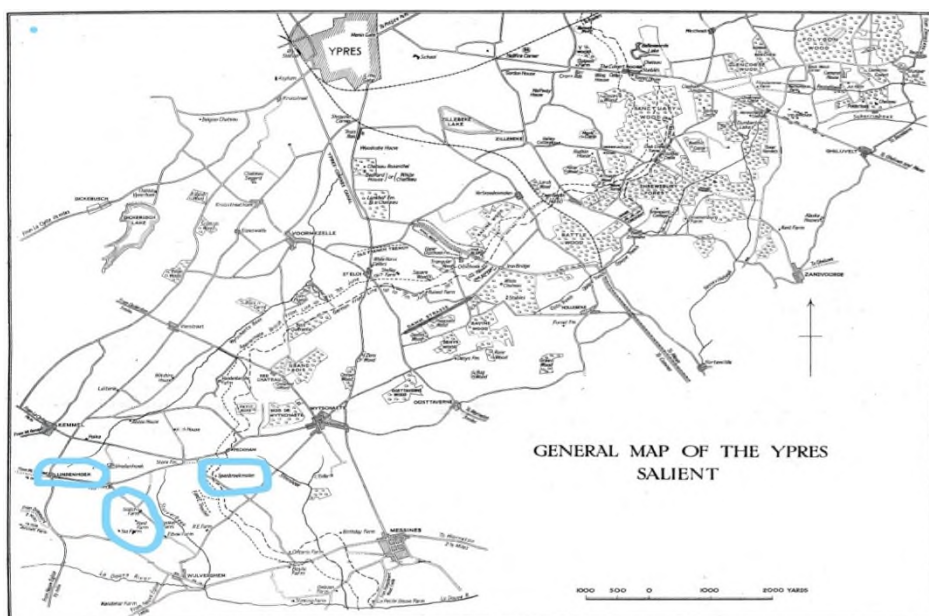
12th It was arranged that 7th Brigade would attack SPANROEK MOLEN at 8.40 a.m. but owing to mist it was postponed until 4.10 p.m. The trench was heavily shelled by our own artillery causing many casualties. The attack was not successful. Casualties. Killed Lieut. J.H.L. HALLER; 2nd Lieuts L.B.G. CRABB, J. KIRTLAND, J.O.G. BECKER, J.P. de BURIATTE and 27 men. Wounded 2 Lieut. R.H.H. JACKSON and 41 men. Missing 7 men. 2 Lieut. H. STRONG who was doing duty with the MIDDLESEX Regiment was killed by a shell at the LAITERIE. C and D Coys relieved A and B.

No Service record for Charles Stevens was found, it is assumed his records were destroyed when the records office was bombed in WW2.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, War Diary

Extract from the Battalion War Diaries for the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1915, describing the location and the action which lead to the death of Charles Stevens, Officers and other Ranks on

that day.



“See attached War Diary and Trench Map”.

War diary for 12<sup>th</sup> March 1915.

Map showing location of Battalion in March 1915.

After his death £2 5s 3d pay owing was authorised to go to his widow Edith Beatrice on 13 July 1915. Later, a war gratuity of £3 was authorised to be paid to her (now named Edith B Spooner) on 3 July 1919. Edith and married William John Spooner on 19 August 1916 in St Mary the Virgin, Little Ilford, Essex.

### Acknowledgements

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. (CWGC).

Ancestry UK.

Find My Past UK.

East Surrey Regimental War Diaries.

“Research carried out by Stuart Osborne for the Herts at War Project” with minor additions by Jonty Wild