

SPURGEON Herbert Alfred



Private : Essex Regiment: 11th Battalion.

Age: 33 Died of wounds: 03/04/1917

Service No: 32387

Additional information: Husband of H. R. Spurgeon, of Bells Forstal, Throwley, Faversham, Kent. He was born & resided at Tollesbury. He enlisted at Warley. He served in France & Flanders and died of wounds.

The 11th (Service) Battalion was formed at Warley, September 1914, as part of K3. In September 1914 it was attached to 71st Brigade, 24th Division. On the 11th October 1915 it was transferred with Brigade to 6th Division. Then on the 27th October 1915 ; transferred to 18th Brigade, 6th Division.

The 11th Essex as part of the 24th Division of K3, were assembled around Shoreham during September 1914. The Division crossed to France 28th August - 4th September 1915. It served on the Western Front throughout the war. The Division's first experience was truly appalling. Having been in France for only a few days, lengthy forced marches brought it into the reserve for the British assault at Loos. GHQ planning left it too far behind to be a useful reinforcement on the first day, but it was sent into action on 26th September, whereupon it suffered more than 3,900 casualties. He died of wounds sustained in the period of the build up to the major battle of Arras, which commenced on the 9th April.



1914- 1920 War Medal; 1914-1919 Victory Medal

Name		Rank		Regt./Co.	
SPURGEON		Private R		32387	
H.A.					
Serial	Regt.	Para.	Remarks		
102	K/102	561			
Theatre of War in which served in					
Date of entry theatre					



Casualty Type:
Commonwealth War
Dead Grave/Memorial
Reference: VI. C. 59.
Cemetery: BETHUNE
TOWN CEMETERY

For much of the First World War, Bethune was comparatively free from bombardment and remained an important railway and hospital centre, as well as a corps and divisional headquarters. The 33rd Casualty Clearing Station was in the town until December 1917. Early in 1918, Bethune began to

suffer from constant shell fire and in April 1918, German forces reached Locon, five kilometres to the north. The bombardment of 21 May did great damage to the town and it was not till October that pressure from the Germans was relaxed. Bethune Town Cemetery contains 3,004 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, including 26 men of the 1/8th Manchester Regiment who were killed by a bomb on 22 December 1917 while marching to rest billets. Second World War burials number 19. There are also 122 French and 87 German war graves. The Commonwealth section of the cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. No. of Identified Casualties: 3181

Last updated 25/01/2008

His name is recorded on the Roll of Honour at Saint Mary's Tollesbury



Saint Mary's Tollesbury