

Harry HUTCHINGS

Born: 1893, Gurnard

Parents: James Charles Hutchings and Elizabeth Emma Paul

Last known address: Albert Road, Gurnard

Last known occupation: Labourer

Service number: 29057

Regiment: Grenadier Guards

Service history summary:

- enlisted: Cowes
- rank: Private
- decorations: Victory Medal

Died: 25th December 1918

Age: 26

Buried: [Mount Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport](#)

Family: Harry was the youngest of the seven children of James Charles Hutchings and Elizabeth Emma Paul, born on March 9th, 1893. They married in St John the Baptist Church in Northwood in 1876, Elizabeth being a local girl although James came from Chichester. He listed his occupation as 'general labourer' on Harry's birth certificate but on all the census records he describes himself as a 'seaman' or 'mariner'. Harry's father predeceased him in 1916 and his mother probably died in 1926 at the age of 74. If his elder brothers fought in the war then they survived.

Brothers: James (b and d 1878), Albert Edward (1886) and James Charles (1893).

Sisters: Alice (1889), Emily (1882) and Elizabeth (1884).

Northwood/Gurnard connection: the family moved around regularly as in 1881 they were in Park Road in Cowes and in 1891 in Albert Road in Gurnard. Two years later, when Harry was born, they were in The Avenue in Gurnard but by 1901 they were in the stables at Mornington House, Queens Road, Cowes. 1911 saw them back in Albert Road, albeit in a different house.

War record: as Harry's service record has not survived there is no record of his enlistment in the Grenadier Guards, other than that it was in Cowes and must have been in 1916 or later as he was not awarded the 1915 Star. Harry fought on the Western Front and died of his wounds on Christmas Day 1918. He was buried in the cemetery at Mont Huon at Le Treport, about 15 miles north-east of Dieppe. Le Treport was an important centre for military hospitals, with the British, Canadian and Americans all having establishments there. The Grenadier Guards landed at Le Havre in August 1914, a few days after war was declared and did not return to England until 1919. They were transferred to the Guards Division a year after their arrival in France and fought in most of the major actions on the Western Front, including the battles of the Somme in 1916, the battles of Passchendaele and Cambrai in 1917 and the first and second battles of the Somme in 1918.