



EDWARD ("TED") WARNER VC  
(1883 - 1915)  
FIRST WORLD WAR HERO  
Lived Here

**Edward ("Ted") Warner (1883 – 1915)**

**Why a plaque:**

Edward Warner was awarded the Victoria Cross for 'most conspicuous bravery' after he was killed in action in the First World War.

**Importance to St Albans:**

A local factory worker in St Albans, Edward Warner represents the spirit of so many who died fighting in WW1. He is recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres, Belgium, and on the St. Albans war memorial.

**History:**

Edward was born in St Albans on 18 November 1883, the only son of Mark and Charlotte Warner. He attended Hatfield Road School from 1890 to 1896, and went to work as a straw hat stiffener in a local factory.

He enlisted into the Bedfordshire Regiment late in 1903, and served in India. A reservist when WW1 broke out, he rejoined the 1st Battalion. They were among the first British troops to arrive at the Western Front, on 16th August 1914. They fought at the battles of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne, the Aisne, Givenchy and Ypres. After the first winter in the shallow, temporary trenches the battalion was stationed at a tactically critical mound of mining slag called Hill 60 in April 1915, after it had been captured from the Germans. The importance of the low rise commanding a view of Ypres ensured determined efforts by the Germans to re-take the position. On 1st May 1915, he and his comrades had held the firing trenches on the hill for almost a week with very little sleep or rest. They were attacked by concentrated artillery bombardment and gas shells, a weapon used for the first time only a few days before. Blinded, coughing and retching, the Bedfordshires began to abandon the trenches, leaving the position completely undefended. Edward jumped into the empty trench and single-handedly kept the attackers at bay until reinforcements arrived. When he had the chance, he ran back to the Battalion and gathered more men to go back with him. Eventually overcome, he was carried back to the first aid post, where he died from the effects of the gas. Edward's final resting place was lost in the fighting that raged across the ground for a further three years and he has no known grave.

His Victoria Cross was recorded in "The London Gazette", Issue No. 29210, dated 29th June, 1915. In November 1916, his mother received the award from King George V at a private audience in Buckingham Palace. Her son's outstanding army pay was 3s 6d and the War Office sent her an additional 2s 10d. The Poly Picture Palace in St Albans held a special matinee, giving her the proceeds, and the St Albans Relief Committee decided that her rent should be paid out of the Mayor's Relief Fund.