Arthur Haines Tucker

Background Information

Arthur Haines Tucker was born in 1881 in Worthing. Eldest son of Edward and Emma Florence Tucker of Worthing; also from Worthing was his wife Hilda Tucker from ‘Belfort’ Liverpool Gardens. Before joining the army, Arthur was employed as an architect in Chapel Road.

Arthur Tucker was first with 1/4th battalion, Royal Sussex regiment, and later moved on to become a lieutenant of the 9th battalion in The King’s Royal Rifle Brigade/Corps. The Royal Rifle Brigade was part of the 42nd brigade, inside the 14th light division.

Arthur was killed in action near Ypres on 16th October 1917, aged 36. His name is on Steyning Parish War memorial under Royal Sussex Regiment. Unfortunately, he was buried far from his family at Hooge Crater Cemetery, Zillebeke, Belgium.

Arthur is mentioned on his mother’s grave which is in Broadwater Cemetery, Worthing, West Sussex, England. The gravestone reads: In loving memory of EMMA FLORENCE wife of Edward Tucker died February ** 1919 aged 60 years. And ARTHUR HAINES their eldest son and dearly loved husband of Hilda G Tucker Lieut. *** Royal Sussex Regt. attached K * R C Killed in action in Flanders October 16th 1917 aged 38 years. Their name liveth for evermore.

Spaces marked *, ** and *** are illegible segments of writing from where the gravestone has weathered.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Service Number</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Regiment / Service</th>
<th>Service Country</th>
<th>Grave / Memorial Reference</th>
<th>Cemetery / Memorial Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUCKER, A.H.</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/10/1917</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Royal Sussex Regiment</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>81, F, 16</td>
<td>HOOGH CRATER CEMETERY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Steeping Parish church

Hooge Crater Cemetery

Liverpool Gardens now
The Royal Sussex Regiment

This is the Regiment Arthur Haines Tucker was in. Inside this Regiment there are lots of separate Divisions, Brigades and Battalions.

Arthur was not a private but he wouldn’t have been one of the most important people in the trenches.

He was an officer - this shows he was probably middle class, especially if he was an architect.
The King's Royal Rifle Corps

Battalions of the regular army

9th (Service) Battalion

Formed at Winchester in August 1914 as part of K1 and came under orders of 42nd Brigade in 14th (Light) Division. Moved to Aldershot, going on to Petworth in November and in February 1915 returned to Aldershot.

20 May 1915: landed at Boulogne.

Record same as 8th Battalion.

The cap badge worn by members of the King's Royal Rifle Brigade.

A clear, readable version of the same badge.

The uniform worn by the Royal Rifle Corps.
The 14th (Light) Division in 1914-1918

This is the Badge that would have been on his sleeve to show he was part of the 14th (Light) Division. The Division was formed as a result of Army Order No. 324, and was issued on 21 August 1914, which led to the formation of the six new Divisions of K1. It was formed purely of volunteers. At first it was the 8th (Light) Division, but as more army units were created they were able to create other Divisions. This division was given superiorly and therefore renumbered as the 14th (Light) Division. Initially without equipment or weapons/artillery of any kind, the recruits were judged to be ready by May 1915, although its move to the fighting front was delayed by lack of rifle and artillery ammunition.

The order of battle of the 14th (Light) Division

41st Brigade
42nd Brigade
43rd Brigade
Divisional Troops
Divisional Mounted Troops
and so on
The Engagements the 14th (Light) Division served in on the Western Front throughout the WW1

1915
The Action of Hooge, in which the Division had the misfortune to be the first to be attacked by flamethrower.
The Second Attack on Bellewaarde

1916
The Battle of Delville Wood*
The Battle of Fers-Courcelette*
The battles marked * are phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

1917
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line
The First Battle of the Scarpe**
The Third Battle of the Scarpe**
The battles marked ** are phases of the Arras Offensive

The Battle of Langemark***
The First Battle of Passchendaele***
The Second Battle of Passchendaele***
The battles marked *** are phases of the Third Battles of Ypres

Which one happened in October? – Maybe research this one more fully?
Hooge Crater Cemetery
Arthur Haines Tucker’s Grave

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Conclusion

I chose my soldier through Sussex Roll of Honour, and I chose Arthur Haines Tucker because it’s my sister’s surname. Which means he could have been related to my sister (there was no one with mine or my Dad’s surname). I found my evidence on the internet. I used several different websites to confirm information and to find specific photos, or facts. The evidence I have of Arthur’s mother and father is very useful, because it is solid evidence that proves my soldier lived. It is very reliable evidence as it is a gravestone which states the whole family’s names on it! It fits in with what I have found out as she died just 2 years after her eldest son, Arthur was buried abroad and that’s why I think his name is mentioned on it, so that it is as though he is buried with his mother. It says on it that Arthur was killed in action 16th October 1917, which was during the war and matches the information I found out. Unfortunately, I found that once I had realised there was so much
information about my soldier and his family I had to keep the information related to the topic. To resolve this I often took breaks when doing the work so I could clear my head; this made it easier to focus when I came back to work. I found this project absolutely amazing I am hooked and Genealogy is definitely going to be one of my hobbies, but next time I will check out the New Zealand records so I can find someone who was related to my dad and was in the 1st World War. I have learnt from my auntie that the reason it is hard to find out about people who were in WW1 and from Britain is because the warehouse/s that contained all the army records were bombed by Germans in WW2. I would love to do it again, and would find it interesting to maybe choose someone from WW2. If I’d had time I would have loved to have been able to find out where my soldier lived for sure; I know where he might have lived because of where his wife came from but I did not feel I had enough evidence to say in my work that he lived there.

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Bibliography

Information from: My own wording and typing
Information from: Find a grave memorial (page 1)
Information From: Commonwealth War Graves Commission (page 2)
Information from: The long, long trail (page 4 & 6)

colour coded