

# CHRISTOPHER HITCHINGS

Private  
18245

**13th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment**  
**died on**  
**Thursday 26th September 1918**  
**aged 35**

CHRISTOPHER HITCHINGS  
is buried in  
ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN  
France

*. Additional information in the  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register*  
Son of the late George and Elvina Hitchings, of Colwall, Malvern

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters were also established in the city. Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general hospitals, five stationary hospitals, one British Red Cross hospital, one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920. The cemetery extension contains 8,346 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Christopher Hitchings is buried in Plot R III. Row D. Grave 4.



**Ledbury Reporter  
& Farmer's Gazette  
Saturday 1st July 1916**

**WOUNDED**

A letter received by Mrs J Berry, Camp Road Colwall this week stating her brother Private C Hitchens was wounded. Private Hitchens belongs to the Gloucester Pioneers.

**Ledbury Guardian  
& Herefordshire Advertiser  
Saturday 5th October 1918**

***District Intelligence***

**COLWALL**

**DIED IN FRANCE**

Private Christopher Hitchens youngest son of Mr and Mrs Hitchens, Mathon formerly of Colwall, has died in hospital in France from the effects following being gassed. Soon after the war commenced he joined the 13th Labour Battalion Gloucesters. He was of a bright disposition, much liked and an active member of the Loyal Perseverance Lodge of Oddfellows. He was unmarried.

**Ledbury Guardian  
& Herefordshire Advertiser  
Saturday 26th October 1918**

***District Intelligence***

**COLWALL**

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Evensong at the parish Church took the form of a memorial service for Private Christopher Hitchens who had died in hospital in in France.

Christopher Hitchings was born in Mathon 1883, the son of George and Elvina Hitchings. He was one of nine children and his father George was a farm labourer. In 1901 his father had died and the rest of the family were living in Sallybed Cottages, Colwall and Christopher was a wirer at the mineral water factory. In 1911 he was living with his mother and brother Henry in Hardwick Terrace, Colwall and his occupation is recorded as bottler in the mineral water works. Christopher Hitchings enlisted in Hereford and joined the Gloucestershire Regiment. He was wounded in 1916. He was gassed and died of the effects in a stationary hospital in Rouen. He is buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension.

Ernest Whatmore of Colwall is also buried there.