

**Albert Edward Gearey**  
**1892 – 1918: age at death 26**  
**Student of the Society of The Sacred Mission**



**Family History**

Albert Edward Gearey (Geary on 1901 Census) was born 17 Dec 1892 and was baptised on 15 January 1893. He was the third of five children. His father was Edward Geary, a Singer Sewing Machine Agent, born in London. His mother was Agnes Ann, born in Romford, Essex.

By 1901 they were living in Ferriby Road, Barton on Humber, Lincolnshire and in 1905 Albert entered Wintering Secondary School, about 7 miles away.

The family, however, seems to have spent some time in India

Children:

- Ellen, aged 13, born in India
- Florence, age 11, born in Barton
- Albert, age 8, born in Barton
- Lillian, age 6, born in Barton
- Margaret, age 3, born in Barton

He entered the Society of the Sacred Mission in February 1909, aged 16 as a school-boy scholar, then became a theological student two years later.

In the obituary published in the Society's quarterly Newsletter, he is described as

A strongly built man he looked a giant, and yet there was about him a certain lack of athletic spring which was frequently causing him to be on the sick list. Football accidents, and once a most serious tobogganing casualty, stand out in the college history of this sportsman.

### **Military History**

Albert enlisted in December 1914 and served as a sergeant in the Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire Regiment) before being promoted to second lieutenant on 13 January 1916 with 1/8th Bn Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regiment). Another student from the Society, John Whitworth Corbett received the same promotion and transfer to the Sherwood Foresters on the same day.

**The undermentioned to be Second Lieutenants. Dated 13th January, 1916:—**

**Serjeant Albert Edward Gearey, from The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment).**

**Corporal John Whitworth Corbett, from The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment).**

The London Gazette, 18 January 1916

Albert was later promoted to Captain. He was described as a born soldier who took the greatest interest in his men.

On 15 June 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross.

The notice in *The London Gazette* Issue 30135 reads:

M.C. His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to confer the Military Cross in recognition of his gallantry and devotion to duty in the Field. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed great skill and courage when leading his platoon during house-to-house fighting. He drove the enemy from various positions, and later repelled a counter-attack with complete success

*The Sherwood Foresters in The Great War*, p.297 and p.301 records the battle in which he was killed:

We had three Companies in the front line ... 'B' Company in the centre went on until they were held up by unbroken wire, and heavy machine gun fire from the Regnicourt Ridge, and from a clearing in the centre of the Battalion area. Their Commander, Capt. Geary, was killed by machine gun fire after leading his men with the greatest bravery. On many previous occasions he had done excellent work, and his loss was most keenly felt.

During the attack we captured something like 220 prisoners, and nearly 100 machine guns, besides inflicting many other casualties. Our own losses, too, were heavy - the heaviest in Officers that we had experienced in the recent fighting.

He is buried in Commonwealth Grave no 588276: Fresnoy-le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension: Aisne, France Cemetery, Plot 1, Row B, Grave 10.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

Army Form W. 3372.

**GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.**

COMMUNE :- FRESNOY LE GRAND REPORT No. 1 SCHEDULE No. 3c  
*assumed* THIRD A.S.No.E/3426  
*10.8.20*

PLACE OF BURIAL FRESNOY LE GRAND COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION.  
 All documents certified complete and correct.

Map Reference 62b.I.18.d.9.9.

Major.

Cancels report 4th A.S.Nos. 3446/7/8/9.

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U. D.	Plot, Row and Grave
1/4 LEICESTERS	202167	HUNT "B" (continued)	PTE.G.	17.10.18	ALL	Gr. 9
8/SHERWOODS	--	GEAREY MC Sc	CPT.A.E.	do	CROSSES	10

D.A.D. G.R. & E.

**Sources:**

1901 & 1911 Census Data on FindMyPast <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Nottinghamshire Great War Roll of Honour: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/588276/>

Forces War Records website: <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>

The London Gazette: <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/awards-and-accreditation/ww1>

Society of the Sacred Mission Quarterley Newsletter, Borthwick Institute:  
<https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/>

GoogleMaps: <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/dir/Barton-upon-Humber/Winteringham/@53.6826488,-0.5548085,13z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x487893519192a573:0x9b09472ff346361d!2m2!1d-0.443368!2d53.686675!1m5!1m1!1s0x4878e86013244fe3:0x3e94873b2ea1df74!2m2!1d-0.596876!2d53.688987!3e0?hl=en>