

HENRY STEPHEN SPURLING was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Spurling of East Molesey. Born at Hutton, Essex, on July 1, 1896, he came to Oundle from St. George's school, Windsor Castle, in September 1910. He entered Grafton, and left school in July 1912.

Leaving Oundle he joined the South Eastern and Chatham Railway.

When war broke out he was repeatedly rejected on medical grounds before getting a commission in the East Surreys (May 1915). He went to France in December, joining the ninth battalion in the trenches at Hooge.

After taking a course at the Army Grenade School he was made Battalion Bombing Officer.

In May he was wounded by a shell at Messines, and from this he never recovered. After a short leave in June he returned to France and was through severe fighting at Messines and Ploegstert Wood. The Battalion was moved south to the Somme, and was later in the attack on Guillemont. Spurling was hit by machine gun fire on August 16, while leading his bombers at Guillemont. He was taken to a clearing station, but did not recover consciousness and died on August 20 (1916).

His Commanding Officer said that he was a very good officer and a fine soldier, and that when the question arose as to his fitness for front line service, he never pressed him to go, because he could not spare him.



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