

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: Cuthbert Victor Way Albone

Rank: Private

Service Number: 5949

Date of Death: 13th November 1916

Age: 20

Regiment/Service: 1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment

Award: British War and Victory medals.

Grave/Memorial Reference: Pier and Face 12C

Cemetery/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin Territorials' Memorial

Pre War:
His home was in Walkern and he enlisted in Walkern.



Wartime Service:

His Regimental number was 5949. He was killed in action only three weeks after he had arrived in France.

The 1st Herts were part of the 118th Brigade of the 39th Division in II Corps of the 5th Army at the time of his death. This was the Battle of the Ancre, an attempt by General Sir Hubert Gough to reduce the Beaumont Hamel Salient that had hitherto resisted all assaults. The Herts were on the right of the Brigade and assembled at the Schwaben Redoubt just north of Thiepval. Their first objectives were some enemy strongpoints about 200 yards in front of the Redoubt, the so-called Hansa Line of trenches and the final objective the junction of Mill Trench and the Hansa Line, a total advance of about 1,200 yards. Zero hour was 5.45am in thick mist, heavy going with the ground honeycombed with shell holes.

He was in 4 Company which led the advance on the right of the Battalion and by 7.30am most of their objectives had been achieved. The rest of the day was spent consolidating the position, constructing a redoubt at the junction of Mill Trench and the Hansa Line and beating off counter attacks. A splendid achievement but at a cost of over 150 men killed and wounded.

He has no known grave, but is remembered on Pier/Face 12C of the great Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Somme, France.

Additional Information:

His brother Gilbert had been killed on the Somme a few months earlier.

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne
David C Baines

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