

Herts at War

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Name: James Bowler
Rank: Private
Service Number: 202150
Date of Death: 23rd February 1917
Age: 23 or 24
Regiment/Service: 1/7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment



Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: III. A. 3

Cemetery/Memorial: PONT-DU-HEM MILITARY CEMETERY, LA GORGUE, FRANCE.

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Panel A
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
Not on the Letchworth Memorial

Pre War:

He was the son of James and Mary James Bowler of 11A, Bridge Street, Hitchin. Another address given for his parents is 89, Campers Rd, Letchworth. He lived in Hitchin and before joining the army had been a driver of a Shell petrol cart. Later he worked for Innes & Son & King's engineering works.

Wartime Service:

James enlisted in March 1916 and went to France in June 1916. He was posted to the 1/7th Middlesex Regiment which was in the 167th Brigade of the 56th Division and was given the Regimental Number T.F. 202150. He was killed in action.

From the 1st January 1917 the 1/7th Battalion were in trenches at Neuve Chapelle. The circumstances of his death were that he was protecting a party laying out wire when he was hit in the head by a chance shot. He died within two hours and was buried in a little cemetery behind the lines. A cross was put over his grave.

His grave is in Plot III, Row A, Grave 3 at the Pont-du-Hem Military Cemetery, Nord in France. A private inscription on the stone reads "*In loving remembrance from Mum, Dad, sisters and brothers. R.I.P.*"

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne
David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

