

## **Herts at War**

([www.hertsatwar.co.uk](http://www.hertsatwar.co.uk))

**Name:** James Horace Brett

**Rank:** Private

**Service Number:** 52418

**Date of Death:** 29<sup>th</sup> September 1917

**Age:** 23

**Regiment/Service:** 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Rgt  
(Prince of Wales's Own)

**Award:** He was entitled to the British War and the Victory medals.

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** II. L. 23.

**Cemetery/Memorial:** SANCTUARY WOOD CEMETERY. West-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM.

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



### **Pre War:**

Son of the late Henry James Brett; husband of Hetty Mottram (formerly Brett), of 98, Rushby Meads, Letchworth, Herts. He was born in Battersea in London,

His home was with Mrs Maylin at Hope Villa, 23 Kershaw's Hill, Hitchin and enlisted in Bedford in September 1916.

### **Wartime Service:**

At first he was in the Huntingdonshire Cycle Battalion with the Regimental Number 2723, but later was posted to the 11th Battalion of the West Yorkshires with the Regimental Number 52418. He saw much fighting and after having been reported as missing in the Ypres Sector was declared killed in action a year later.

The Battalion was in the 69th Brigade of the 23rd Division of X Corps in the 2nd Army and his death coincides with the Battle of Polygon Wood, although what happened is not clear. On the 20th of September the Brigade was astride the Menin Road facing Inverness Copse with Clapham Junction to their rear less than a mile north west of Gheluvelt. Violent attacks and counter-attacks continued for the rest of the month. There was little rain in this period but the scene was one of utter desolation.

He was buried in Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Zillebeke in Belgium in Plot 2, Row L, Grave 23 and his stone has a private inscription reading "*Resting. His duty done*".

### **Additional Information:**

### **Acknowledgments:**

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

[www.hitchinatwar.org.uk](http://www.hitchinatwar.org.uk)

