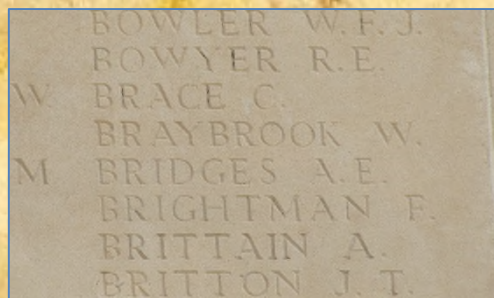


## **Herts at War**

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

**Name:** Albert Edward Bridges  
**Rank:** Private  
**Service Number:** 20896  
**Date of Death:** 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916  
**Age:** 23



**Regiment/Service:** 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Bedfordshire Rgt

**Award:**

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** Pier and Face 2C

**Cemetery/Memorial:** Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

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

**Pre War:**

He was born in Hitchin and served through the South African (Boer) War. Later he worked in George Jackson's Sale Yard in Hitchin. His home was at 20, Wratten Road, Hitchin and he lived with his mother. He was still resident in Hitchin when he enlisted in Bedford.

**Wartime Service:**

Albert was posted to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Bedfords and given the Regimental Number 20896. He had been in France for nine months when he was killed in action having initially been reported as missing.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion attacked a strongpoint known as the 'Quadrilateral' opposite Ginchy and Bouleaux Wood on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916. Of the tanks that were supposed to have been in advance of the infantry, only one appeared and that immediately stuck in the mud. In the attack they were assisted by the Heavy Section of the Machinegun Corps. Zero hour was 6.20am in three assault waves. Quadrilateral on the left flank with 'B' Company attacking the trench leading to it. At 6.00am heavy artillery opened a slow barrage on the line Morval to Les Boeufs. At zero hour the barrage became more intense but was cut short leading to numerous casualties. At 6.00pm they were relieved and put into Brigade Reserve. The attack had failed and the casualties were numbered in hundreds.

He has no known grave and is remembered on Pier 2 Face C of the great Thiepval Memorial to the Missing in France.

**Additional Information:**

**Acknowledgments:**

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

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

