

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: Samuel Chalkley
Rank: Private
Service Number: 20892
Date of Death: 19th March 1916
Age:
Regiment/Service: 8nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment
Award: British War and Victory medals.
Grave/Memorial Reference: Sp. Mem. B. 8.
Cemetery/Memorial: ESSEX FARM CEMETERY, BELGIUM.
UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church. Panel B
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
Pre War:



He was born and was resident in Hitchin, his home was at 42, Hitchin Hill, Hitchin and he enlisted in Bedford.

Wartime Service:

Samuel was allocated the Regimental Number 20892. He had volunteered in May 1915 and went to the Western Front in February 1916. He was in the 8th Battalion of the Bedfords when he was fatally shot in action at Ypres.

On the 15th April 1916 the Battalion moved up to the line in the Mortaldu Salient from Poperinghe. A heavy German attack on the evening of the 19th April took place at the 'Duck's Bill' on very boggy ground which resulted in numerous casualties. 'B' and 'D' Companies were especially involved with shellfire and later in hand to hand fighting. During the day the Germans were using flame-throwers. The Bedfords sustained about 200 casualties on that day.

He was buried in the Essex Farm Cemetery in Belgium and is remembered there on Special Memorial B8 with the inscription "*Known to be buried in this cemetery*". His gravestone also bears the private inscription "*Their glory shall not be blotted out*".

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne
David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

