

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

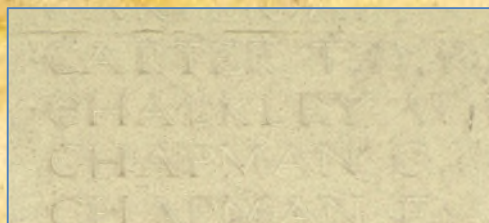
Name: William Francis Chalkley

Rank: Private

Service Number: 25606

Date of Death: 25th April 1917

Age: 22



Regiment/Service: 6st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment

Award: British War and Victory medals.

Grave/Memorial Reference: Bay 5

Cemetery/Memorial: Arras Memorial, France

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

Pre War:

His grandmother lived at 42, Hitchin Hill, Hitchin. He had lived with his mother-in-law, Mrs Bird of Mossbury, Stevenage, after his wife died in 1915. His father was Samuel Chalkley who was killed on the 19th April 1916.

Prior to joining the army, he worked for the Hitchin Electric Lighting Company. Born and resident in Hitchin, he volunteered in October 1915 in Bedford.

Wartime Service:

William was allocated Regimental Number 15606. The CWGC shows it as '25606'. He was sent to the Western Front in December 1916 and fought on the Somme. He was killed in action at Arras.

According to 'Soldiers died' database he was in the 6th Bedfords but the National Roll states that he was in the 4th Bedfords. He was killed by shrapnel.

It is difficult to know which version is correct as the two Battalions were in the same area. The 4th Battalion attacked and captured Gavrelle on the 23rd but was counterattacked and severely shelled on the 24th and drove the enemy off. It was relieved on the 25th.

The 6th Battalion was also in trenches fighting in the Arras sector at the time and although the 25th was quiet this doesn't mean that there were no casualties.

He has no known grave, but is remembered on Bay 5 of the Arras Memorial to the Missing in France.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

