

## **Herts at War**

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**Name:** John William Collins

**Rank:** Private

**Service Number:** 33644

**Date of Death:** 5<sup>th</sup> August 1917

**Age:** 22

**Regiment/Service:** 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment

**Award:** British War and Victory medals.

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** Panel 34

**Cemetery/Memorial:** Ypres Memorial Menin Gate, Belgium

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



### **Pre War:**

He was born in Hitchin and the son of Mr & Mrs J. Collins of 48 Alleynes Rd, Stevenage. He worked for Mr F.V. Franklin of Rooks Nest Farm, Stevenage. His wife Daisy and their son lived at 29 Alleynes Rd, Stevenage and later at 17, Dacre Rd, Hitchin. He enlisted in Bedford

### **Wartime Service:**

and was given the Regimental Number 33644. He joined in April 1917 and was posted to the 9th Battalion of the Regiment which was in the 72nd Brigade in the 24th Division of the II Corps of the 5th Army. After brief training he was sent to France and was killed in action after initially being reported as missing at St. Julien during one of his first engagements.

Around the date of his death the Battalion was in the Ypres Salient between the Battle of Pilckem and the Battle of Langemarck. The 24th Division which was to remain on the defensive in the Bassevillebeek was not relieved during the period. Duckboards were needed to move over the area and the mud resulted in numerous drownings. On the day of his death the Germans attacked and captured Jehovah Trench in the 24th Division Sector.

He has no known grave and is remembered on Panel 34 of the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing at Ypres in Belgium.

### **Additional Information:**

### **Acknowledgments:**

Adrian Dunne  
David C Baines

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