

## **Herts at War**

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**Name:** Graham Sydney Gilbertson

**Rank:** Second Lieutenant

**Service Number:**

**Date of Death:** 28<sup>th</sup> November 1917

**Age:** 19

**Regiment/Service:** 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion attached to 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Bedfordshire Regiment

**Award:** British War and the Victory Medals

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** Panel 48 to 50 and 162A.

**Cemetery/Memorial:** TYNE COT MEMORIAL, BELGIUM  
Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)  
Hitchin Grammar School War Memorial  
Holy Saviour Church War Memorial, Radcliffe Rd., Hitchin

**UK Cemetery/Memorial:**



### **Pre War:**

He was the second son of James H. and Beatrice M. Gilbertson born on the 19th July 1898. His father was a medical practitioner of 103, Walsworth Road, Hitchin.

In his early years attended the Hitchin Grammar School Kindergarten. Whilst at the school, which was from 1908-1911, he showed himself as a boy of great spirit, well adapted to a life of action and possessing the physique to support it. When he left, he went to H.M.S. 'Worcester' which was probably a training ship. In July 1915 he passed an examination for the Royal Naval Reserve, but was found to be colour blind and was rejected.

### **Wartime Service:**

He then began his army service as a Private with the Regimental Number 6417 in 1 Company 'D' Squadron of the Inns of Court O.T.C. on the 27th September 1915 and went to No. 14 Officer Cadet Battalion on the 27th December 1916. He was commissioned on the 25th April 1917 into the 4th Battalion and attached to the 7th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment. He went to France on the 6th August 1917. The 7th Battalion was in the 54th Brigade, 18th Division of XIX Corps and his death came at the end of the Second Battle of Passchendaele.

At first he was reported "*wounded and missing*" in France, but it was later confirmed that he had been killed in action on the 28th November 1917. He had been killed by a machine-gun bullet. The War Diary states that on the 28th November 1917 the 7th Bedfords were in the front line, in the area of Poelcappelle, having moved up from the Canal bank north of Ypres. No incidents were noted

He is remembered on Panel 48 of the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing in Belgium.

### **Additional Information:**

### **Acknowledgments:**

Adrian Dunne  
David C Baines

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