

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: Philip Henry Thomas Goddard

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Service Number:

Date of Death: 26th September 1916

Age: 20

Regiment/Service: 11th Battalion Royal Fusiliers

Award: British War and Allied Victory Medals

Grave/Memorial Reference: Pier and Face 8C,9A and 16A

Cemetery/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin Boys Grammar School WW1 Memorial, Stained Glass Window, School Library. Grammar School Walk, Hitchin.
Letchworth War Memorial

Pre War:

He was born on the 17th December 1895 and attended Hitchin Grammar School from 1907-1911. His father, Mr H.B. Goddard, was a clerk in the Civil Service and he lived at 'Alverston', Icknield Way, Letchworth. On leaving school he worked in a drawing office at an engineering works.

Wartime Service:

He enlisted in the Hertfordshire Regiment in October 1914 as a Private with the Regimental Number 3433. Later he received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the New Army in June 1915 and was attached to the 15th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

In May 1916, he went to France having transferred to the 11th (Service) Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers and was killed in action while leading his platoon. His Company had been set a difficult task for the 26th September and although Philip did not live to see it, his Company won great distinction in the engagement. His Commanding Officer testified that he was an extraordinarily keen officer, cool under fire and extremely anxious to do his best for his men.

The task to which the Commanding Officer was referring related to the attack on Thiepval village. The 11th Battalion was part of the 54th Brigade of the 18th Division and had orders to attack from the south and to clear the enemy from their network of trenches and dugouts on the left flank. The Brigade was allotted only 300 yards of frontage, but in the area were 144 deep German dugouts in addition to those round Chateau Redoubt. There had been an allied bombardment for three days and the infantry attack began at 12.35pm on the 26th September 1916. The fighting was extremely fierce with a heavy German barrage, but at the end of the day, the great fortress of Thiepval was in British hands. The cost was heavy and included the 11th Battalion's Colonel Lt Col C.C. Carr, Philip and many hundreds of his comrades.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

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