

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: William James Odell
Rank: Private
Service Number: 27321
Date of Death: 6th November 1917
Age: 19
Regiment/Service: 8th Battalion Norfolk Regiment
Award: British War and Victory medals
Grave/Memorial Reference: XIII. B. 6.
Cemetery/Memorial: DOZINGHEM MILITARY CEMETERY
UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)



Pre War:

Born 1898 in Hitchin to William and Maria Odell of 2 New Brickfield Cottage, Hitchin Hill, Hitchin, Herts. and enlisting in Hitchin in January 1917. Another address for his parents appears to be 56, Hitchin Hill, Hitchin.

Wartime Service:

He was born and went to the Western Front in April 1917. He joined the 8th Battalion of the Norfolks and was given the Regimental Number 27321. He was killed in action during the time that the Battalion was part of the 53rd Brigade in the 18th (Eastern) Division of the XIX Corps of the 5th Army in the Second Battle of Passchendaele during 3rd Battle of Ypres.

The 18th Division had been heavily engaged in the area of Poelcappelle from the 22nd October 1917 onwards.

He was buried in Plot 13, Row B, Grave 6 in Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium. Dozinghem served several Casualty Clearing Stations in the area and was situated north of Poperinghe and is a British Army play of words on the Flemish language. A private inscription on the CWGC headstone reads "*Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the World*". He is also remembered on his parents' headstone in Hitchin.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne
David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

