

## **Herts at War**

([www.hertsatwar.co.uk](http://www.hertsatwar.co.uk))

**Name:** William Jeffrey Sell

**Rank:** Private

**Service Number:** 265330

**Date of Death:** 18<sup>th</sup> August 1918

**Age:**

**Regiment/Service:**

5<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Bedfordshire Regiment

**Award:**

In addition to the Military Medal, he was entitled to the Mons Star, British War and Victory medals.

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** West Grave 171

**Cemetery/Memorial:**

Hitchin Cemetery, Hertfordshire

Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin

**UK Cemetery/Memorial:**

St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)

Hitchin Territorials Memorial, Hitchin

Town Hall Memorial, Hitchin

**Pre War:**

His home was 13, Chapman's Yard, Hitchin.

**Wartime Service:**

He volunteered in August 1914 and was given the Regimental Number 265330. He went to France in September of that year. He fought on the Marne, Aisne, Festubert, Albert and on the Somme in 1916 and was a stretcher-bearer. He was wounded and gassed in the Advance of 1918 and was returned home where he died. His survival for four years is little short of miraculous. Strangely, he is not mentioned in the 'Soldiers died' database. The C.W.G.C. states that he was in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment, but he is not mentioned in that volume of 'Soldiers died' database either. This suggests that he may have been discharged from the army as a result of his wounds.

The award to him of the Military Medal for bravery in the field is recorded in the London Gazette 19 17-4-11342 which suggests that it resulted from bravery on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917 when the Hertfordshires were decimated at St. Julien.

He is buried in Hitchin Cemetery, Grave W.171.

**Additional Information:**

**Acknowledgments:**

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

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