

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: Walter Smith
Rank: Sergeant
Service Number: 6507
Date of Death: 14th March 1916
Age: 32
Regiment/Service: 2nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment



Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: II. D. 13.

Cemetery/Memorial: CERISY-GAILLY MILITARY CEMETERY, FRANCE

UK Cemetery/Memorial:

Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
British Schools Museum, Hitchin
Not on the Sandon Memorial

Pre War:

He was the son of Mrs A. Smith of Old Park Road, Hitchin. He was born in Sandon, but lived and enlisted in Hitchin. For eight years he had been a regular soldier and a further eight years as a reservist. He had served in the 2nd Battalion of the Bedfords in the South African (Boer) War and was later a Police Constable in Sheffield.

Wartime Service:

In the Great War he was again posted to the 2nd Battalion of the Bedfords this time with the Regimental Number 6507. He was Mentioned in Despatches for conspicuous bravery at Hulloch in the Loos Sector from 25th September to 1st October 1915. He was killed in action in France by a shell during the night of the 14th March 1916 when it exploded near the building where he was sleeping and he was struck on the head.

At the time of his death, and until the 15th March 1916, the 2nd Battalion were alternately holding the line north of Maricourt and moving back to Maricourt and Suzanne or Etinghem.

He is buried in Plot 2, Row D, Grave 13 in Cerisy-Gailly Military Cemetery, Somme in France.

Additional Information:

He had an older brother George who served in the Dublin Fusiliers in Salonika and a younger brother Percy who served in the Royal Garrison Artillery at Tring.

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

