

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: James Bernard Millard Walch

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Service Number:

Date of Death: 25th September 1915

Age:

Regiment/Service: 2nd Battalion The Queen's
(Royal West Surrey Regiment)

Award: 1914/1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 13-15

Cemetery/Memorial: Loos Memorial, France

UK Cemetery/Memorial:

Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)
Holy Saviour Church War Memorial, Radcliffe Rd., Hitchin
Hitchin Grammar School War Memorial, Hitchin

Pre War:

He was attending Hitchin Grammar School by the Spring of 1904 in the Upper 4th Form, but left in the Summer of the same year. During both terms he was frequently late.

Wartime Service:

On enlistment he served in the Artists Rifles, the 28th City of London Regiment, as a Private with the Regimental Number 1986.

After being commissioned he served with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal West Surreys as a 2nd Lieutenant and arrived in France on the 29th December 1914. He was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Loos. There had been heavy rain in Champagne which made the chalky ground sticky and slithery and there was a heavy mist. The attack by the 7th Division, in which the 2nd Battalion served, was against quarries at Cite St. Elie just north of Hulluch. This was a very strong German position, but the objectives were achieved, albeit with heavy losses. Reserves needed to be brought up immediately to face the massive German counter-attack. Sir John French procrastinated for some hours and, it ultimately cost him his job as Commander of the British Forces - it wasted the efforts and lives of James Walch and so many of his comrades including the Divisional Commander Sir Thompson Capper.

James is remembered on Panel 13-15 of the Loos Memorial to the Missing, in France.

Additional Information:

On the St. Saviour's Church War Memorial he is shown as 'Walsh'.

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

