

Arthur Bester

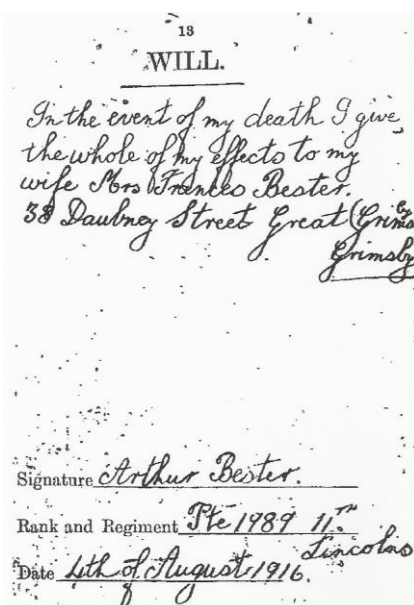
36953, 6th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. Died 11th March 1917, aged 26

Arthur was born 6 January 1891, only son and eldest child of Henry Bester, a labourer, and Sarah Ann (nee Emery). Arthur had four younger sisters and the family lived at Mill End, Warboys. He attended Warboys Board School from 22 February 1898. By 1911 Arthur and his sister Nellie were working at their uncle's dairy in Grimsby where Arthur was "assisting in the business". It was there that he met and married Frances Mumby in the autumn of 1914. His father Henry died a few weeks later.



Arthur joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment, 6th Battalion and began training at Shorncliffe in Kent. In 1915 the battalion was sent to Mametz on the Somme where they worked day and night to excavate mines under the trenches taking out 3000 bags of chalk each day.

Arthur survived through the 1916 Somme engagement but was killed in action 11 March 1917, age 26, during the Battle of Boom Ravine where the 6th Battalion fought so well that they had to pull back because they were getting ahead of the rest.



Arthur has no known grave and is listed on the Thiepval Memorial in the Somme. His will leaves his effects to his wife Frances Bester.

His widow Frances remained in Grimsby and later remarried; his mother Sara Ann remained in Popes Lane, Warboys and lived until 1945.

© Joan Bennett and Mary Tringham 2014

Link to go to [Warboys Historical Pictures and Documents Home page](#) if .pdf is full screen