

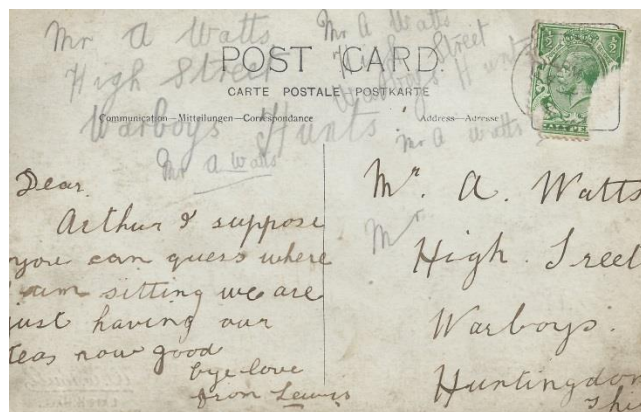
Lewis King

964, 1st/1st Bedfordshire Yeomanry: KIA 28th January 1916 aged 21

Lewis was born in Warboys on 22 September 1894. He was one of seven children the eldest son of Thomas and Betsy Ann (nee Fletcher) King. His father was a carpenter and his mother a dressmaker. The family lived in Mill End then Heath Hill, Warboys. From 1st April 1901 he attended Warboys Board School. After leaving school Lewis worked as a farm labourer.

Lewis was a lad with a sense of adventure whose nickname was 'Danger King'. He enlisted immediately war was declared and opted for the Bedfordshire Yeomanry because they had horses. A detachment of the Regiment was stationed in Ramsey.

He joined the 1st Battalion which was part of the Eastern Mounted Brigade which was stationed at Hatfield Peverel and Stansted until June 1915.



It is likely that this is when he sent this card. Lewis is the one holding the plate.

On 9th June 1915 the Brigade sailed from Southampton landing in France to become part of 9th Cavalry Brigade /1st Cavalry division.

There Lewis fought in many important engagements including the battle of Loos in the autumn of 1915.

He was killed in action on 28 January 1916 when German attacks were being repulsed north-east of Loos. He was aged 21 when he died and is buried in Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

He is commemorated on a silver shield in Bedford County Offices along with Sidney Hatcher (also on the War Memorial) who served in the same regiment.

His parents continued to live in Heath Hill Warboys, Betsy Ann dying in 1929 and Thomas in 1954.



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