

# George Payne

*A/204887, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion., King's Royal Rifle Corps  
KIA 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918 aged 19*

George was born on 8th December 1898 in Warboys to John Robert and Sarah Ann (nee Currington) the fifth of 10 children. His older brother **Herbert** and their cousin **George Chapman** are also on the War Memorial. The family lived at Wood Farm where his father was a shepherd .On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1907 George started at Warboys Board School with **Ernest Rose**

George was initially in the Training Reserve and then became a Rifleman with the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. He made a Soldier's Will before he left for France leaving everything to his mother'

He died on 21 March in 1918 the day on which the Germans started the Spring Offensive. The attack began at 4.40 am with heavy bombardments and gas followed by mass infantry attacks at 9.40am. The day was foggy and the fog and gas combined meant visibility was so poor that the Germans were able to infiltrate behind the lines. The KRRC were part of the reserve and at 1pm they moved to battle areas. Casualties were heavy and the British were forced to retreat.



**British troops retreating during the Spring Offensive March 1918**

George has no known grave and is remembered on the Pozieres memorial. This lists 14000 UK casualties from this time and the Rifle Brigade is the most represented with over 600 names.



Photo by A Manchett

His parents continued to live in Warboys, John dying in 1941 and Sarah Ann in 1940.

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