

Bertram Yates

16042, 2nd Battn. Northamptonshire Regiment: KIA 14th March 1915 aged 26

Why this man is commemorated on Warboys War Memorial is not clear as he seems to have no known connection with the village but as there is only one Bertram Yates listed on the Commonwealth War Graves site we have to assume that's who it is.

His full name was Bertram Carnac Yates and he was born in Carlshalton the son of William and Mary Blythe Yates. Both he and his father were farm labourers. His father was born in Huntingdonshire and by the 1911 Census the family were living in Hilton.

Bertram enlisted in Peterborough and became a Private in the 2nd Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment. This was a regular army battalion which went to France in 1914. In March 1915 it fought in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle which was the first large scale organised attack of the war by the British army.



Trenches at Neuve Chapelle photo Visa Paris

On 10th March the troops were in place by 4.30 am and at 7.30 there began a 35 minute barrage followed by an attack at 8.05 by the infantry. At first all went well but problems with communications and intelligence meant that the attack slowed and the Germans had time to bring up reinforcements.

Bertram was killed right at the end/just after the battle on 14th March. He has no known grave and is listed on Le Touret Memorial. This commemorates over 13,400 British soldiers who were killed in action along a section of the front line stretching from Estaires to Grenay from October 1914 to late September 1915.



He is also remembered on the Memorial in Hilton along with his brother Lenham Yates who was killed in action on 22 September 1914 aged 21 whilst serving on the submarine HMS Aboukir in the North Sea.

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