

George Austin

9952, 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. Died 2nd November 1914 aged 29.



George was born at the end of 1885 at Eye near Peterborough, the oldest of eight children of Arthur and Sarah Jane (nee Brian). His father was a farm foreman and the family lived first at Thorney, later at Fen Drayton and Chatteris. George, a horse keeper, married Elizabeth Upchurch of Warboys 8 October 1910 and set up home in Puddock Road. Their son George was baptised at Warboys soon after. Sadly their baby died the following year aged 8 months.

George had been a soldier at the end of the Boer War and was called up as a reservist 15 August 1914 to the 1st Battalion Northumberland Regiment, embarking immediately to France. **Reuben Whitby** joined the regiment with him.



The Battalion was fighting in the 1st battle of Messines and the 1st battle of Ypres at the time George suffered a serious gun shot wound to the abdomen. He died of his wounds 2nd November 1914, age 29. George is buried in Ballieul Communal Cemetery which was near a large military hospital in 1914. He was one of the earliest of the local young men to die.



George's younger brother **Arthur** also died 1 June 1916 and is commemorated on the Chatteris war memorial. His widow Lizzie remarried and remained in the local area. His mother lived until 1936 and his father until 1943.