

Alfred Llewellyn Redgrave

557, Hunts Cyclist Battalion: 307724, 1/8th Bttn. Royal Warwicks Reg. KIA 27th August 1916

Alfred was a lad who, although born in Swansea Glamorganshire, had, by 1911 made his way to Warboys via London. He was born in 1895 to James and Emma Redgrave who were both Londoners and who returned there, to Shoreditch, shortly after Alfred was born.

In Warboys Alfred lived in the High Street as a boarder with Mary Ann Salmon. She ran her own business as a home decorator and Alfred was her apprentice.



Warboys High Street

Alfred initially joined The Hunts Cyclist Battalion for a period of 4 years in October 1914. At the time he was still apprenticed to Mary Ann Salmon but not bound to her. He was 5 feet 3 inches tall, had a chest measurement of 35 inches with good vision and physical development.

He served with the Hunts Cyclists on the east coast from October 1914 until 28th July 1916 when he became one of the 600 plus sent to Southampton to join The British Expeditionary Force.

They went by train to Southampton where they boarded the SS Alexandria on 29th July. They disembarked at Rouen the next day and spent the first two nights in a camp there. They were moved by train to join their new regiments and on the 7th August Alfred and other Warboys men, including **Wilfred Newman**, were compulsorily transferred to The 1/8th Battalion of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment serving on The Somme. This battalion needed rebuilding after heavy losses during the first battles of The Somme. The men spent time learning basic warfare skills and then engaged in a major battle near Oviller as part of the ongoing attempt to secure Pozieres and Mouquet Farm.

The attack did not go well as with no landmarks to guide them the troops lost direction and ran into their own barrage and there were many casualties. Both Alfred and **Wilfred Newman** were listed as missing after this battle and were finally recognised for official purposes as having died on 27th August 1916. Neither has a known grave and both are remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.

Although an incomer to the village he was sufficiently part of it to be remembered on its War Memorial. He had made a Soldier's Will leaving everything to his mother in London and his belongings were sent to her on 8th September 1917. She received his medals in December 1921.