

John William Richardson

26094, 3rd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment

Died 12th March 1916 aged 19

John was born in Warboys in 1896 the son of Robert James and Mary (nee Hodson) Richardson the youngest of their 7 children. They lived on the Ramsey Road neighbours of **Charles Taylor** and **Charles Reed** both also on the War Memorial.



John's father Robert was unusual in that he was neither a labourer on a farm or in the brickyard but worked as a goods porter on the railway. John also had a different occupation from the majority, working as a doctor's lad.



John joined the 3rd (Reserve) battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment. This battalion did not serve abroad but was posted to Landguard Fort Felixstowe as part of the East Coast Defence Force.

Bedfordshire Regimental Website



Here they provided coastal defences against the threat of invasion whilst finding and training recruits and retraining those wounded on home soil. Conscientious objectors were also held here. Much of the Battalion's war was spent guarding the local transport structure with air raids providing combat.

Coastal Defences and a Zeppelin Raid in Felixstowe

David Kindred on Flickr



John died on 12 March 1916 aged 19 in the Isolation Hospital Felixstowe from cerebro spinal fever after being ill for 4 days, and is buried in a War Grave in Warboys Church Cemetery. The inscription "**In Heavenly Love Abiding**" was chosen for his headstone.

His parents later moved to Alconbury where Mary died in 1935 and Robert in 1943.

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