

Ernest Edward Rose

*186 Hunts Cyclist Battalion: 20713, 267498, 1/1st Bucks Battn Ox and Bucks Light Infantry
KIA 16 April 1917 aged 19*

Ernest was born in Warboys on 16 May 1898, one of 9 children, to Charles and Betsy (nee Bedford) Rose. They lived on the Fen at Broadpool Farm and he was a cousin of **Thomas Hodson**. His family had farmed there for generations. He began at Warboys Board School on 1st April 1907 the same day as **George Payne**.

He probably joined the Hunts Cyclist Battalion before war was declared along with **Wilfred Titman**, as, like him, he was entitled to the Territorial Forces Medal. This is the rarest of the medals awarded to the men of World War 1 and was for those who had been a member of a Territorial Force when war was declared and who had served abroad.

With the Hunts Cyclist Battalion he probably patrolled the east coast of Britain with the other lads from Warboys and was then sent with them as part of the detachment of over 600 men who left by train from Scarborough to Southampton on 28th July 1916. Ernest and **Wilfred** joined the 1/1st Bucks Battalion, part of the draft of 97 men sent to this battalion in August 1916, mostly drawn from the Hunts Cyclist Battalion.

Their first battle was on 13th August when the battalion endured a 9 hour bombardment which systematically destroyed everything along the trenches they were occupying. They were involved in further heavy fighting during the rest of that month and then had a period of rest from intensive fighting..

In January 1917 the battalion took part in the advance through Peronne towards the Hindenburg Line. On 15th April orders were received to attack Tombois Farm the following night. The attack began at 11 30 pm in the pitch dark in pouring rain and with a gale blowing. At 11 45pm the Germans began a barrage of machine gun and rifle fire but the attack was successful and by 3 00 am on 17th April both farm and orchard were clear.

Sometime during this battle Ernest was killed and buried in an unknown place his grave marked by a cross. In August 1919 his body was removed and reburied in Unicorn Cemetery Vendhuile.

Unknown visitors to Unicorn 1920s (Paul Reed Flicker)

There is evidence that Ernest's elder brother Charles went to France July 1915 and died there in 1918 but his name is not on the War Memorial. He has no known grave and is remembered on Pozieres Memorial.



© Mary Tringham and Joan Bennett 2014

Link to go to [Warboys Historical Pictures and Documents Home page](#) if .pdf is full screen