

Richard Edward Baldock

19537, 7th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Died 26 June 1916, aged 33

Richard, known as Edward or Eddie, was born 17 December 1883, eldest son of the seven children of Richard Baldock, a labourer, and Sarah Ann (nee Robinson). The family lived at Mill End then at Newton's Drive, Station Road, Warboys. Eddie was baptised at Warboys Church 4 May 1884 and on 12 September 1890 he was admitted to Warboys Board School.



Eddie joined the 7th Battalion of the Bedfordshire regiment, which was formed in September 1914 as part of Lord Kitchener's second call to arms for another 100,000 men to leave their civilian lives and enlist. The Battalion arrived in France and Flanders after training in July 1915 and quickly won a reputation as one of the British Army's best units.

The Battalion was heavily involved in the battles of the Somme in 1916. Eddie was killed in action on 26 June 1916 at the start of the Battle of Albert, an advance that was later criticised as “uncoordinated, tactically crude and wasteful of manpower”. Both sides sustained heavy losses.

Eddie was buried at Carnoy Military Cemetery, France; he was 33 years old. The cemetery was in German hands March to August 1918 and there are some German burials among the British.



His younger brother **George Baldock** was also killed in September 1916. Their cousins **Charlie Baldock** and **John Robinson** died in 1918.

Their mother, Sarah Ann, died in 1931 and their father, Richard, in 1932.