

# Arthur Behagg

*213 Hunts Cyclist Battalion: 203359 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.  
Died 1 October 1918 aged 20*

Arthur was born 19 May 1896 fourth of six children of Joseph Behagg, a labourer, and Annie (nee Whitsey). The family lived at Heath Drove, then Little End, Warboys. Arthur attended Warboys Board School from 3 April 1903 with **Harold Brown, John Mills, Charlie Taylor** and **Ernest Watts**. His mother Annie died in 1904 when Arthur was eight. In 1911 his father, Joe, married Rebecca Adams, the widowed mother of **Dennis** and **Edward Adams** making them his step-brothers.

Arthur worked as a farm labourer until 9 March 1916 when he enlisted at Ramsey with the Hunts Cyclists Battalion. He was then drafted into the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion who served in Egypt in 1916.



In 1917 Arthur with some of his Battalion joined an allied military mission called Dunsterforce after its leader, General Dunsterville. Less than 1000 men went to what is now Iraq to train local forces and prevent the spread of German propaganda.



They were then told to take and hold the Baku oil fields. Arthur died on 1 October 1918 age 20 during what was described as “short but brutal” siege of Baku port by Turkish and Russian Bolshevik forces.

Arthur is buried in the Enzeli Military Cemetery, Iraq. All the graves are obliterated and access is not possible. He is commemorated on the Tehran Memorial, Iraq. His older brother Fred Behagg also served but survived the war, dying in 1935.

His stepbrothers **Dennis Adams** and **Edward Adams** were killed in 1915 and 1916. His stepmother Rebecca died in 1931 and his father Joe in 1952.



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