

# Ralph Bitten

*G40831, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment.  
Died 26 March 1918, aged 35*

Ralph was born in Pidley 29 January 1883 the third of eight children of William Bitten, a brickyard labourer, and Ann (nee Lee). The family lived at the Royal Oak, Pidley and Ralph attended Pidley school from 22 February 1886. They moved to Newton's Terrace, Station Road, Warboys and Ralph became a brickyard worker like his father. He married Agnes Bedford in the autumn of 1906, they had two children, Evelyn and Mabel, and set up home in Station Road, Warboys.



Ralph joined the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment with his friend **Alfred Bond**. Ralph was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion which served on the Western Front throughout the war. Ralph would have fought in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle 1915, the Battle of Albert 1916 and the German retreat to the Hindenberg Line in 1917. Ralph's father William died in 1915 while Ralph was serving

in France.

Ralph was killed in action when the Germans retook the village of Pozieres in the Somme on 26 March 1918, he was 35 years old.



Ralph's widow Agnes never remarried and lived until 1970, his mother Ann died in 1939. Ralph's daughters both grew up and married, Evelyn in 1928 and Mabel in 1935.

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