

(George) Ernest Burbridge

*123679, 49th Division Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery.
Died 28 November 1917, aged 20*

Ernest was born in Pidley 12 September 1896 the sixth of eight children of John Thomas Burbridge, a farm foreman, and Mary Ann (nee Stratton). The family lived at Howe's Farm, Pidley and then near The Station, Warboys. Ernest attended Warboys Board School from 11 April 1904 and then became a farm labourer.

Ernest joined the Royal Horse and Field Artillery 49th Division where he served as a driver in the ammunition column. The horse-drawn RFA was responsible for medium calibre guns and howitzers deployed close to the front lines. The 49th Division fought in the major Somme battles and at the third battle of Ypres which culminated in the Battle of Poelcapelle in October 1917.



The ground conditions were horrendous which made moving artillery and supplies extremely difficult. Ammunition supply columns were dangerous places to serve and Ernest was killed in action 28 November 1917 age 20.

He is buried in Vlamertinge New Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium. Vlamertinge village was just outside the range of German shellfire for much of the war and was used by artillery units and field ambulances as well as for burials.



Ernest's older brother John also served and survived the war. Their father John was sent £7.00 from Ernest's "Soldier's effects" in 1919, he died in 1929. Their mother Mary Ann died in 1935.

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