

Arthur Butterworth

6892, 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Died 20 April 1915, aged 44

Arthur was born early in 1871 at Pye Bridge in Derbyshire. He was the only son of George Butterworth, a labourer of Yaxley, and Elizabeth Grange of Warboys. His father George died in 1875 when Arthur was four, his mother moved back to Warboys to live with her father Joseph Grange, a miller, in George Lane.

Arthur became a farm labourer, living at West End, Warboys, and then enlisted to become a regular soldier by 1901, with the Bedfordshire Regiment which served in China during the Boxer Rebellion. His mother and sister were then living at Ramsey Road. In 1910 Arthur married Margaret Hull and, still in Ramsey Road, was once again a farm labourer.



Arthur and Margaret had two children, Horace and Emma, before Arthur rejoined the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment in 1914. Fighting from the start of the war the original soldiers were known as the “Old Comtemptibles”, they were all professional soldiers and reservists. The regiment fought in Mons, Marne and Aisne in 1914 before being moved to Flanders.



Arthur died during the defense of Hill 60 in Ypres on 20 April 1915, age 44. Regimental war diaries describe “tremendous bombardment” from the enemy’s heavy artillery. He was buried with other Bedfordshires where he fell near Zillebeke and, identified by a cross and clothing, was reburied in 1924 in Bedford House Cemetery, Ypres.

Arthur’s mother Elizabeth died in 1918, his wife Margaret did not remarry and died in 1952. His children both married, Emma dying in 1935, Horace lived until 1971.