

William Clarke

*197, Hunts Cyclist Battalion, 20713, 1/5th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
Died 11th November 1916, aged 19*

William was born in the spring of 1898 the only son of Charles Clarke, a miller, and Rebecca (nee Camps). William only had one older sister, Flora. The family lived at Mill End and then Station Road, Warboys.

William enlisted with the Hunts Cyclist at Warboys on 13 August 1915 with **Horace Brown** and several other Warboys lads. After training on the east coast he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 1/5th Battalion.



The battalion landed at Le Havre 22 March 1915 and became part of the 143rd Brigade, 48th Division. After a fairly quiet winter William was wounded on 19 June 1916 during the preparations for the First Battle of the Somme.

The battalion was heavily involved in the Somme engagements and William was killed in action on 11 November 1916, age 19, in the Battle of Ancre, the last battle of that year's Somme campaign. Over a million young men were wounded or killed on the Somme in 1916.

William was buried where he fell with the other young men around him. In 1920 his remains were identified from a temporary wooden cross and moved to Warlencourt British Cemetery, France. His mother chose the words for his war grave "**In The Midst of Life We Are in Death**".



His mother, Rebecca died in 1926 and his father Charles in 1927. His sister Flora married and lived until 1974.