

Herbert Payne

700, HCB: 39265, Princess Charlotte of Wales 1st Bn. Royal Berks Reg. KIA 5th September 1916

Herbert was born in Wennington in 1896 the son of John Robert and Sarah Ann (nee Currington) Payne, one of 10 children and the brother of **George Payne** also on the War Memorial. They lived at Wood Farm, Warboys where his father was a shepherd.

On 7 April 1902 he became a pupil at Warboys Board School along with **Herbert Broughton** and **Dennis Adams** who are also listed on the War Memorial.

He initially enlisted in Huntingdon into the Hunts Cyclist Battalion as did many other local boys. With them Herbert would have patrolled the East Coast around Scarborough, Whitby. and Filey

**We come from a little county
But we muster a thousand men,
Recruited in town and village,
And away from the flat bleak fen;
We patrol the Eastern coast sir,
We are the boys who do not shirk
Though the wind blows stiff
Yet we guard our cliff,
For that is the Hunts. Boy's work.**

**G.N.R. to Grimsby,
Bicycle up to Hull,
Pedal on to Hornsea,
A forty-five mile pull,
Or ride down south to Spurn,
We'll do our job for a daily "bob,"
But we've more than our pay to earn.**

Written by the Chaplain Rev Knowles

He made a Soldier's Will leaving everything to his mother living at Wood Farm Warboys. These wills were generally made prior to leaving on active service. As the will is dated 8th August 1916 Herbert probably left for France just afterwards. Once there he joined the 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment

This Battalion was part of the 2nd Division who were fighting in the Somme Battles. At around 2300 hours on 4 September 1916 the Germans mounted a random attack with hand grenades on a party of the Royal Berkshires. There was one wounded, 2 captured and 7 reported killed, one of them Herbert.



These soldiers are all buried together in the same grave at Hebuterne Communal Cemetery.

His parents continued to live in Warboys Sarah dying in 1940 and John a year later.

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