

George Harvey Richardson

253 Hunts Cyclist Bttn., 307726, 1/8th Bttn Royal Warwicks. Regt. KIA 27 Aug. 1917 aged 24

George was born in Ramsey in 1889 to Harvey and Emma (nee Bunnage) Richardson. By the time he was 1 year old the family had returned to live in Warboys His father was a sawyer and George worked as a farm labourer for William Stratton.

In April 1914 George enlisted in Ramsey into The Hunts Cyclist Battalion. His medical report says he was 5 foot 4 and a half inches tall with good vision and of good physical development. The Cyclist Battalion was mobilised for home defence and went to their base at Grimsby in August 1914 from where they patrolled the coast from Grimsby to Scarborough. On the 25th September 1914 the local paper reported;

“The Hunts Cyclist Battalion which forms part of the East Yorkshire Mounted Brigade continues to carry out its work of coast patrol under conditions which are gradually getting less favourable. Sunday night was a particularly rough night and in some cases it was impossible to ride cycles against the wind.”

George, like **Wilfred Newman** and **Alfred Redgrave**, was sent to France on 29th July 1916 to join the 1/8th Battalion of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

He managed to survive a whole year longer than the other two but exactly one year to the day after their deaths the Battalion was involved in a follow up operation to the Battle of Langemarck. They were to attack at 13 55 with an artillery and machine gun barrage. There had been heavy rain during the morning and the ground was waterlogged making it difficult to move. Although the objective was finally achieved after several hours, it was at the cost of sixty six lives one of whom was George.

George was initially listed as missing in the Times Casualty List of October 1917. His family placed the following advert in the local newspaper on 27th October 1917

“.Private G.H. Richardson 307726 Royal Warwicks Regiment son of Mr and Mrs H Richardson, Station Road, Warboys, Hunts has been reported missing since August 27th. Any information on the above named soldier would be gratefully received at the above address.

In 1920 the family was officially informed that George was deemed to have died on the first day of the battle. His body was found in an unmarked grave and he was identified by his paybook. He was reburied in Tyne Cot Cemetery which was greatly enlarged after the Armistice by graves brought in from several smaller burial grounds. The responsibility for his headstone was with his sister Mrs Annie Wyatt of Station Road who decided on the inscription;

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN ANNIE



George remembered at his graveside by Cyril Dyer on a British Legion Pilgrimage 2002

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