

Charles E Taylor

698, Hunts Cyclist Battn., 39266, 1st Battn. Royal Berkshire Regt. KIA 24th September 1916

Charles Edward was born in The Lane Warboys on 18th February 1897 to Arthur and Louise (nee Utteridge) and was baptised at St. Mary Magdalene on 28th March the same year. The family later lived at The Cross Keys Beer House. His father worked on a farm as a portable engine driver and Charles as a farm labourer. Charles began at Warboys Board School on 3rd April 1903 along with **Ernest Watts, Arthur Behagg and Harold Brown.**

On 22nd October 1914 Charles went into Huntingdon and enlisted into the Hunts Cyclist Battalion. This was a home service battalion attached to the Eastern Command which patrolled the East Coast cycling the coastal paths in all weathers. Their work was described in their song written by Private Howson.

**Where the frosty breezes blow,
And the morn come riding in upon the tides;
We are out upon the sands,
And we're up the cliff in bands
Hunting out the sneaking spy where'er he hides.**

On 29th July 1916 over 600 men from this Battalion left Scarborough by train for France. They knew this was to be expected. As their song says;

**We've signed to go to France,
And hope we get a chance,
For we've all come out for duty and for fun
We're the Hunts battalion boys
And we're all our Mothers' joys,
But we're also sons of Britain- everyone.**

Once there they were reassigned to regiments fighting in the front line. Charles became a Private in the 1st Battalion of Princess Charlotte of Wales' Royal Berkshire Regiment. He was killed in action on 24 September 1916 and is buried in the Euston Road Cemetery, as is **Horace Brown** (brother of the **Harold** with whom Charles began school) who was a corporal in the same regiment.



Charles's younger brother Albert George joined the Grenadier Guards when he was 18 in 1918.

His parents continued to live in Popes Lane Warboys, Arthur dying in 1934 and Louisa in 1954.

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