

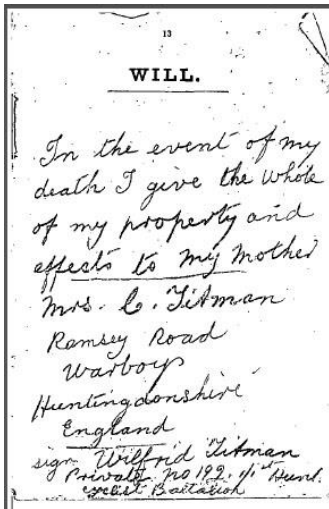
# Charles James Wilfred Titman

**192, Hunts Cyclist Battalion: 267500, 1/1<sup>st</sup> Bucks Bn, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry  
DOW 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 age 23**

Charles James Wilfred, known as Wilfred, was born in Warboys 23 November 1894 the elder son of Charles and Betty (nee Sansom) Titman. He had a twin sister called Sarah and a younger brother John. His father was a milkman with a dairy cart and the family lived in Ramsey Road, Warboys.

Wilfred attended Warboys Board School in the building which is now the library. After leaving there he worked as a farm labourer.

Wilfred was probably already a member of The Hunts Cyclist battalion when war was declared as he was awarded The Territorial Force War Medal. This medal is the rarest of the five British WW1 medals and was awarded to men who were serving with The Territorial Force on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 and had served overseas. He was also awarded the Victory and British medals.



Before he left for France Wilfred made a Soldier's Will leaving everything to his mother. He was likely to have been part of the 600 men who left Scarborough for Southampton July 1916 arriving in France on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Once there he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of The Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry (known as The Lightbobs) along with **Ernest Rose**. In August 1916 this battalion was reinforced by a draft of 97 men, mostly from The Hunts Cyclist Battalion. His first experience of battle was on 13<sup>th</sup> August on the Somme. Wilfred continued with this Regiment for a year becoming a Lance Corporal.

A year after he arrived in France the battalion was involved in The Third battle of Ypres. They spent 15<sup>th</sup> August marching in darkness, under heavy shelling, over ground which was a mass of shell holes full of water to reach their battle positions. The battle began at 4.45 a.m. on 16 August 1917. Extracts from two books about this battle on the Lightbobs website detail what happened.

**“The battalion had many casualties, mostly in the neighbourhood of Hillock Farm, where the men had little cover and the slightest movement was visible to the enemy. Owing to enemy sniping it had been impossible to collect the wounded during the day and a great amount of searching and clearing had to be done that night.”**

Wilfred died of wounds that day and is buried in Brandhoek New Military Cemetery.

His younger brother John enlisted into The Bedfordshire Regiment in February 1916. He saw active service in France and was invalided out as unfit for active service in November 1916 because of a gunshot wound to the head.

After the war Wilfred's family moved to Northamptonshire.