

## Ralph WATSON

<b>Born</b>	1880
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	9th May 1915, age 35
<b>Buried</b>	Grave VI. K. 39., Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Cuinchy, Pas de Calais, France
<b>Unit</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment
<b>Rank</b>	Acting Sergeant, Service Number 5948
<b>Awards</b>	1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal



**Ralph Watson** (1890 Stuntney) was the youngest of the nine surviving children of James Watson (1842 Stuntney) and Elizabeth (nee Thompson 1842 Stuntney). Like Ralph, his older siblings were all born in Stuntney, these were: Susannah (1868); William (1870); James (1873); Rosetta (1875); Charles (1876); John (1876); Jane (1878); and Mary Ann (1878). James Watson was a farm worker and, in general, the sons of the family initially followed their father into farm work and the daughters went into service at some point. Later, however, they took up different employment, Rosetta as a dressmaker, John as a builder's labourer and later a gardener, and Charles as a stationary engine driver.

By the 1901 Census James and Elizabeth had moved into Ely where they became the publicans of "The Wheatsheaf" in Cow Lane (off West Fen Road), although James had to supplement their income by working as a general labourer. At this stage only Rose and John were living with their parents as nineteen year old Ralph had enlisted in the Northamptonshire Regiment at Peterborough on 9th October 1899 and was then abroad.

The Cambridgeshire Times of 21st May 1915 summarised Ralph's military record as follows: "*(he) went through the South African War, gaining both the Queen's and the King's Medal. He was afterwards drafted to India, where he completed his twelve years' service.*"

In the 1911 Census Ralph is listed as being back in Ely at the culmination of his twelve years of service with the Northamptonshires. He had moved into the Wheatsheaf with his parents, Rosetta, John and Charles. His mother Elizabeth died a couple of years later in October 1913. At this time Ralph began "walking out" with his young lady—Annie.

With war in the offing Ralph was recalled to the Northamptonshire Regiment on August 1st 1914 and, before going to the front as a corporal, acted as drill instructor at Yarmouth for about two months. He was later made acting sergeant while serving in France. 1915 was a year of disasters for the Northamptonshires who took heavy casualties in the catastrophic attack at Aubers Ridge in which Ralph could have taken part. He was killed in action at Richebourg L'Avoue during the Battle of Aubers Ridge.

A Cambridgeshire Times article gives further details :

*"The news of his death was conveyed in a letter from driver W. Cross, Army Services Corps, who was attached to the same Regiment, and who, with the deceased, were the only two Ely men, we believe in the Northamptonshires. Writing on the 10th inst. driver Cross stated that Sgt Watson was killed on the previous day being hit in the head. In a previous letter the driver had expressed pleasure at meeting another Ely man in the same Regiment. Sgt Watson was well known in the city and highly respected."*

Later the family received a letter from Private Hawkins who wrote about the last moments of his "chum" Ralph who had been together with him in both India and France. Ralph was "killed in action while leading his men to take a trench and that he died like a hero, being loved by all the men in his platoon...It was the hottest day we have had since we have been out here....."

Ralph's father James was sent his effects amounting to £17 6s 9d with a further £8 in 1919. James

himself died in December 1920.

Ralph is commemorated on the Ely Market Place Memorial and the St Mary's Memorial. His brothers and sisters also added the name of "our dear brother" to their mother's gravestone in Ely Cemetery.

## Sydney WATTS

<b>Born</b>	1897
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	5th May 1917, age 19
<b>Buried</b>	Grave VI. L. 1., Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
<b>Unit</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> /1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment
<b>Rank</b>	Private, Service Number 328080
<b>Awards</b>	British War Medal and Victory Medal

**Sydney Watts** (1897) was from a Littleport family; his father was Carter Watts (1872) and his mother Mercy Laws (1873). Sydney's surviving siblings were: Mildred May (1894) ; Reuben (1898); George (1902); and Florence (1906 –born after the family move to Prickwillow). Sydney was the second boy in the family to carry the name, as the family's first son, Sydney Carter Watts, lived less than a year.

When Sydney was born his father was an agent for Prudential Insurance and his mother was working as a machinist in the local shirt making factory. The family was living in Littleport High Street and his uncle Herbert Laws (1879 Littleport) was also living with them; Herbert was a farm labourer. Sydney's father Carter had also been a farm worker for many years, and this was something he was to go back to a few years later.



By 1911 Carter Watts was the farm bailiff of Great Shell Farm at Prickwillow where the family had farm accommodation. Mildred, Sydney and Reuben were working on the farm with their father.

Sydney attested under the Derby Scheme in December of 1915 and was called up with other eighteen year olds early the next year. He joined the local Cambridgeshire Regiment (originally as service number 6758) and would have fought with them on the Somme. He was killed near Hill Top Farm, Ypres, at a fairly "quiet" period when the battalion was engaged in making and mending roads, which makes it probable he was killed by shelling or a sniper. .

The local newspaper reported: "Two days before his death Pte. Watts wrote to his little sister (Florence), on the occasion of her birthday, a very cheery letter in which he said he hoped to be home for his birthday, and was looking forward to better times. He also mentioned that he was "in the line" once again, and that there would be many a happy home in June, hoping he would be one of them." Unhappily Sydney was proved wrong,

Mercy was sent her son's effects of £3 8s 6d, with a further £3 in 1919.

Sydney is remembered on the Ely Market Place Memorial and the Prickwillow Memorial.

*Sydney's brother George Watts is also named on the Ely Market Place Memorial, as he was the first Ely casualty of World War Two—he died in a road accident in France on 5th October 1939 when serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps.*

## Alfred Walter WAYMAN and George Thomas WAYMAN

*Brothers Alfred and George Wayman were first cousins of James Wayman and more distant cousins of Frederick Wayman who were also killed in action*

<b>Born</b> <i>Alfred</i>	1897
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	31st July 1917,    age 20
<b>Commemorated</b>	Panel 50 and 52., Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
<b>Unit</b>	"D" Company, 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment
<b>Rank</b>	Private,    Service Number 325302
<b>Awards</b>	Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

<b>Born</b> <i>George</i>	1894
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	25th April 1918,    age 23
<b>Commemorated</b>	Panel 47 to 48 and 163A. , Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
<b>Unit</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment
<b>Rank</b>	Private,    Service Number 220461
<b>Awards</b>	British War Medal and Victory Medal

**Alfred** (1897) and **George** (1894) Wayman were sons of John Wayman (1855 Ely) and Betsy (nee Mallion, 1858 Ely) In the 1901 Census, the first in which the brothers appear, the family lived in Annesdale, Ely and John was working as a general labourer. The boys' brothers and sisters were James (1878), Sarah (1879), Isabella (1881), Eliza (1883); May aka Mary (1887), Lily aka Tibby (1892). and Charles (1899). It appears that in his youth George was known for a period by his second name of Thomas, but reverted to "George" later in life.

In the 1911 Census the family had moved to 6 Potters Lane, where they continued to live for many years. The home was convenient for the railway station where John was working as a platelayer for Great Eastern Railways. The young people in the house at this point were Lily, who was working at the Jam Factory, George, who had become a farm worker, Alfred, who was an errand boy, and Charles, who was still at school.

The family attended St Peter's Church in Broad Street, Ely, and it was here that Alfred was a member of Harold Archer's catechism class, although how well he had learnt his lessons is debatable, given that Alfred appeared in the Ely Juvenile Court in April 1913 when he and his friend Francis Wood were charged with stealing 12s worth of lead from Mr Cross' yard in Station Road and selling it on to Mr Seth's marine stores on Forehill. The theft was planned as Alfred had borrowed his employer's handcart to move the lead, and both boys admitted the crime. The news article in the Cambridge Independent Press concludes: *"Supt. Royrhorne gave both boys a good character, and Mr Cross had also asked that they might be dealt with leniently. - Both boys and their fathers were bound over, Mr Wayman and Mr Cross agreeing to pay half the costs each. - The Chairman addressing Mr Seth, the marine store dealer, said he could not understand his buying lead like that from boys. He had only himself to blame for losing the money. He had no business to buy it off them."*

Alfred was the first of these two brothers to enlist, and he reached France on 14th February 1915 with the Cambridgeshires. Alfred was part of the 1/1st Battalion which earned twenty-seven Battle

Honours for the Regiment and received over three hundred awards for gallantry. Forty-one of these medals were awarded to the Cambridgeshires on the Somme for their part in the storming of the Schwaben Redoubt on 15th October 1916- this appears to be a record for the most awards earned in a single day's action. The redoubt was a series of German trenches and dug-outs and machine gun posts sited on a high point overlooking the British lines which was of great strategic importance and had already been fought over many times previously with great loss of life. Private Percy Cornwell of "D" Company who was also an Ely man (and brother of Arthur Cornwell who appears on the Ely Memorial), fought alongside Alfred in this battle, and they both received Distinguished Conduct medals. Alfred's citation read: *"For conspicuous gallantry in action. He carried a most important message under very heavy fire. He has previously done fine work."* It was reported that he had successfully carried the message when several other soldiers had tried and failed. General Haig recounted the attack as being "one of the finest feats of arms in the history of the British Army".

Having survived the Somme, Alfred was killed instantly by a shell as the Cambridgeshires attacked the German front line at Mouse Trap Farm at Hill 19 as the Battle of Passchendaele opened. Visibility was hampered by fog and the battalion advanced in a hail of shrapnel and bullets with very little support from their own artillery. When they withdrew at the end of the day the battalion had lost, killed or wounded, 16 of its 19 officers and 286 of 451 men—including Alfred who was one of the missing. He had been at the Front for two and a half years. Sidney Strawson of Ely died in the same action.

After conscription was introduced George Wayman followed his brother into the Cambridgeshires (service number 242522), although he was later transferred into the East Yorkshire Regiment.

The Cambridge Daily News of 13th September 1917 carried the news that George had been badly wounded just six weeks after his brother's death :

*"Pte. G.J. Wayman, Yorks. Regt., has been wounded and is now in hospital at Fawley, Hants. He is the son of Mr and Mrs Wayman of Potters Lane, Ely, who have received official notification that he is suffering from wounds, and they have since heard from the hospital nurse that he was hit in the back. Pte. Wayman went to France with the Cambridgeshires, and was subsequently transferred to the Yorkshire Regiment. It will be remembered that a brother, Pte. A. W. Wayman of the Cambs. Regt., was killed in action on July 31st."*

George was also eventually killed during the Battle of Lys on the Ypres Salient, and, like his brother, his body was not recovered. Only 29 men in a 500 strong battalion survived the action that day.

Betsy received Alfred's effects of £30 1s 7d about six weeks before she heard the news of George's death. Late in 1919 she received a further £21 10s, which was the total of George's effects.

Alfred and George are commemorated together on the Ely Market Place Memorial and the Memorial in St Mary's Church. Alfred is also remembered on the memorial in St Peter's Church which just lists the former members of Harold Archer's catechism class.



Alfred Wayman



George Wayman



## Frederick Charles “Fred” WAYMAN

<b>Born</b>	1900
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	30th August 1918, age 18
<b>Commemorated</b>	Panel 3, Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France
<b>Unit</b>	1/22nd (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's), London
<b>Rank</b>	Private, Service Number G/81019
<b>Awards</b>	British War Medal and Victory Medal

**Frederick Charles Wayman** (1900 Ely) was the fifth of John William Wayman (1865 Ely) and Mary Ann King's (1864 Girton, Cambridge) seven children. His siblings were also all born in Ely, these were: John William (1891); Ethel Mary (1895); George Sidney (1896); Kate Evelyn (1898); Albert Edward (1902); and James Alfred (1904). John Wayman senior was a station porter at Ely for Great Eastern Railways. In 1901 the family lived in Walpole Lane in Ely, and by 1911 they had moved to Silver Street. Fred's oldest brother John followed his father on to the railways, and Fred was to go on to become, briefly, Littleport's postman.



When he was eighteen, in March 1918, Fred enlisted at Cambridge in “the Queen's” which was the 1st/22nd Battalion of the London Regiment. He survived the 1918 Battles of the Somme, Arras and Ancre, but was killed in action just six weeks before the Armistice. His parents were informed that he was “with two comrades in the rough trench line we were holding...a shell killed them instantly”.

Frederick's father John received a total of £5 8s 3d as his son's effects.

Fred is commemorated on the Ely Market Place Memorial and the St Mary's Memorial.

## James WAYMAN

*James was the first cousin of Alfred and George Wayman*

<b>Born</b>	1895
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	26th June 1915, age 20
<b>Buried</b>	Grave 4.8., Les Gonards Cemetery, Versailles, Yvelines, France
<b>Unit</b>	"A Company", 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Suffolk Regiment
<b>Rank</b>	Lance Corporal, Service Number 3/8885
<b>Awards</b>	1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Charles Wayman (1865) of Ely was a farm worker. He and his wife Sarah Jane Thompson (1870 Little Downham) had a family of three girls and five boys: Arthur (1888); Eliza (1890); Florence (1894); **James** (1895); Charles (1897); Thomas (1899); Alice (1906); and John William (1907). In 1901 the family lived in Cambridge Road, Ely.

By the 1911 Census the family had moved to No. 5 Staff Houses in Silver Street and Charles had become a traction engine driver. His older sons were all in work as Arthur was working for a barber, Charles was at the iron foundry, and James himself was working at the brewery as a labourer. The family shortly afterwards moved to Downham Road and then to 2 St John's Road.

James, along with his father and brothers all volunteered for the Front when war was declared. James reached France on 16th January 1915 and then during the harsh conditions of the winter of 1914-15 was invalided home for a period with frozen feet. He was actually promoted to Lance Corporal while he was recovering in England.

James' death when it came was the result of an accident, and the Cambridge Independent Press of 17th September 1915 included three letters which told the story of his passing, the first being his own message dictated to a nurse, followed by a letter from the hospital to say he had passed away, and then a letter from his commanding officer:

*"The deceased, who was in the Suffolks, and whose father and two other brothers are serving their King and country, was accidentally hit, and on being taken to hospital it was found necessary to amputate one of his legs. He only lived a few hours after the operation.*

*A letter from the sister in charge of C Ward, No. 4 General Hospital..."He asks me to send you his love and to say he is getting on all right.... He is very good and patient and we will do our best for him, but it would not be right for me not to tell you that he is very ill.."*

*This letter prepared Mrs Wayman for the worst—in fact before it reached Ely, the Lance Corpl. had passed away.*

*Lieut. E.D.C. Hunt "...I myself had no idea that he was seriously wounded, and his death came as a painful surprise.....He was so popular with us all, both officers and men, and though I had not known him long, I had got to like him very much, and had selected him for further promotion in the near future..."*



Sarah Jane was sent James' effects of £3 14s 11d with a further £3 in 1919.

The inscription on James' grave reads "Gone But Not Forgotten". He is commemorated on the Ely Market Place Memorial and the Memorial in St Mary's Church.

The photograph shows the group of Cambridgeshire men in the 5th Suffolk Reserve Regiment who extinguished and dug up three fire bombs which were dropped on Oulton Broad by a Zeppelin. James' father Charles Wayman is at the left hand end of the front row of standing soldiers.



Charles  
Wayman



## Joseph WEBB

<b>Born</b>	1887
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	30th October 1915 age 28
<b>Commemorated</b>	Panel 37 and 38 , Loos Memorial Pas de Calais, France
<b>Unit</b>	7th Battalion., The Suffolk Regiment
<b>Rank</b>	Sergeant, Service Number 6723
<b>Awards</b>	1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

**Joseph Webb** was the illegitimate son of Sarah Ann Webb (1863 Dullingham) and was born in Dullingham, Cambridgeshire in 1887. In October of 1890 Sarah Ann married Charles Dyson Pearman with whom she had a large family, apparently leaving Joseph to be brought up by other relatives. Sarah Ann and Charles' first child was born a few months before their marriage. Joseph's Pearman half brothers and sisters were all born in Dullingham and were: Robert (1890); Dyson (1892); Daisy (1894); Sydney (1897); Alfred (1899-1901); Maud (1899-1901); Annie (1901); and Jessie (1905).

In the 1891 Census record Joseph can be found living next door to his Pearman family with his widowed grandfather Henry Webb and his uncle Herbert Webb on Cross Green, Dullingham. All the men of the family, Henry, Herbert and stepfather Charles, were farm workers. By the 1901 Census Joseph was living in the Shade in Soham. At this point he was living with his aunt Elizabeth and her husband William Hayhoe. William was a hay trusser and Joseph was also a farm worker.

Joseph did not stay with farm work, instead he enlisted with the Suffolk Regiment at Ely in 1903. It is possible that when he enlisted he was living in Ely itself or one of the neighbouring hamlets in tied farm accommodation and this would explain his presence on the Ely Memorial.

In 1908 Joseph married Ethel Maud Fenner (1890 Bury St Edmunds) at Bury St Edmunds following the birth of their first child Ivy Maud (1908). Four more children followed: Gertrude Mabel (1909); Henry Arthur (1910); and Leslie (1912) and a fifth child was born while the regiment was stationed in Ireland. In the 1911 Census Joseph appears in barracks with his battalion, which was stationed at their depot at Resbygate, Bury St Edmunds, while Ethel and the three young children were at 13 Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds, and Ethel was having to work as a charwoman to make ends meet. The whole family moved to Ireland when the regiment was posted there.



The Bury Free Press of 11th December 1915 summarised Joseph's military career and announced his death in action:

*"A Bury man killed in action*

*We regret to announce the death killed in action of Sergt. Webb on the 30th October. He had been in the Suffolk Regiment 12 years, and was stationed at the Curragh Camp, Ireland. At the outbreak of war he returned to Bury St Edmund's with his wife and children. A fortnight later he was sent to Shorncliffe (Kent) to train Kitchener's Army. He was there until May 1915, when he went out to France. He had been through several engagements, and came home for a few days leave in September. Returning to the Front he met his death. He was greatly respected and was much esteemed by all who knew him. He leaves his wife and five little ones to mourn their loss. His age was 29 years."*

Joseph had gone out to France with the battalion which he had been training, which would have actually included a number of Ely men. They reached France together on 30th May 1915 and took over a section of the front line at Ploegsteert Wood on the 23rd of June 1915. They were in action in The Battle of Loos from the 30th of September, taking over the sector from Gun Trench to Hulluch Quarries consolidating the position, under heavy artillery fire. On the 8th October they repelled a heavy German infantry attack and on the 13th October took part in the Action of the Hohenzollern Redoubt, capturing Gun Trench and the south western face of the Hulluch Quarries. Joseph was killed in action near Hulluch on 30th October 1915. During this period at Loos, 117 officers and 3237 men of the Division were killed or wounded, which included Joseph. He is remembered on the Loos Memorial which commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave.

In 1919 Ethel was sent Joseph's final effects of £9 10s,

As well as in Bury St Edmunds, Joseph is remembered on both the Ely Market Place Memorial and the Soham Memorial. He is not, however, commemorated at his birthplace of Dullingham, although his half brother Dyson Pearman is; Dyson died in 1919 and is buried in the churchyard of St Mary's.

## Fisher Gifford WEBSTER

<b>Born</b>	1891
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	1st December 1917, age 28
<b>Buried</b>	Grave VI. G. 16., Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, Nord, France
<b>Unit</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Welsh Guards
<b>Rank</b>	Private, Service Number 3377
<b>Awards</b>	British War Medal and Victory Medal

**Fisher Gifford Webster** was born in Willingham, Cambridgeshire, on 22nd February 1891 and was baptised on 19th April 1891 at All Saints' Willingham. Fisher's parents James (1847 Swavesey) and Sarah Jane (nee Gifford, 1847 Willingham) Webster ran the Milk Maid Inn in Rampton End, Willingham, where Fisher was born. Fisher was the youngest of the family and his older siblings were: Walter (1866-1866); George (1869); Janet (1872); John (1873); Lucy (1876); Kate (1878-82); Laura (1880); Sarah (1882); and Lillie (1886). Fisher's unusual name was actually an old family name going back several generations, in fact Fisher was the second child of this name in the family, an older Fisher Gifford had been born in 1884 and survived only a year.



The inn was not profitable enough by itself to support the Webster family, and the 1901 Census shows that James Webster also had to work as a general labourer as well as be innkeeper. Fisher's brother George went into farm work and his older sisters took on domestic service. In 1901 the family also had a young child to support, Fisher's two year old nephew Frank.

Fisher's mother Sarah Jane died in November 1907 when Fisher was sixteen.

When Fisher left school he found employment as a groom, and then, on 15th October 1910, he married Emily Hagger (1888 Cambridge) at St Andrews the Less Church in Cambridge. Both parties gave their address as 27 Gloucester Place, Cambridge, which would seem to indicate this was a "below stairs" romance. The groom gave his age as "21" and his bride as "22", whereas, in fact, Fisher was younger and was not yet twenty.

Fisher and Emily set up their married home in Silver Street, Ely and Fisher was employed by his brother John as a coachman and ostler at his establishment on Station Road. The Fishers' first baby, a boy, was born in May 1912 in their next home on Back Hill, but lived for only two days and was not even named. Another son, Frederick, was born in 1914 and died in January 1915 at the age of seven months. Finally a daughter, Lilian, was born in the second half of 1915 and survived. The family later moved to 28 Victoria Street, Ely.

Once war had broken out Fisher's brother John was employed to travel around the county buying up horses for the army—these were then boxed up and shipped back to Ely where it was Fisher's role to look after them and send them on the next stage of their journey. In this way as many as 200 horses a month could be passing through the Websters' stables.

Following the introduction of conscription, Fisher's group was called up in July of 1916. John attempted to have his brother exempted from serving, deeming him to be a key worker, and the Urban Tribunal gave Fisher a few months of exemption to 30th November 1916. The military representative contested Fisher's exemption and this was taken to appeal at the Isle of Ely Appeals Tribunal in late September. Major F J Nicholson of the army buying department wrote a letter of support for the important work the Websters were doing, and John argued that his brother was an experienced horseman and horse dealer of many years standing—without him the only staff he had left were a slaughterman (who was also expecting to be called up) and an old man who fed the pigs.

The Appeals Tribunal was of the belief that John could both source and care for horses, and allowed the army representative's appeal. They gave the Websters just three weeks to organise things before Fisher would be called up in mid-October.

Fisher enlisted at Bury St Edmunds and was placed in the Welsh Guards, where he fought alongside his friend Walter Norman. Over 1917 his battalion fought in some of the battles of Third Ypres and at Passchenedaele. Fisher was killed in action in the attack on Gonnelleu during the Battle of Cambrai, his widow was told :*"your husband was killed by machine gun fire in an attack on German trenches, instantaneously I understand"*.

Fisher was buried near the battalion's headquarters.

Fisher died in the same action as Walter Norman, but Walter's body was not recovered.

Fisher's widow Emily was sent his effects of £6 12s 7d and a further £4 in 1919.

Fisher is remembered on the Ely Market Place Memorial and Holy Trinity Memorial, and at his birthplace of Willingham.

## John William WEST

<b>Born</b>	1894
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	1st July 1916, age 22
<b>Buried</b>	Grave V.A. 10., Merville Communal Cemetery, Nord, France
<b>Unit</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment
<b>Rank</b>	Lance Corporal, Service Number 2631
<b>Awards</b>	1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal



William West (1858 Barway, Soham) and his wife Mary Ann Bates (1861 Ely) raised a family of six children in Stuntney; John was their third son. The West children were: Arthur (1888); Herbert (1890); **John** (1894); Emily (1898); Gladys (1901); and George (1905). William was a farm worker and the family lived next door to the "Lord of the Manor" public house in Stuntney. The young West men also became farm workers, including John.

John was one of those who volunteered in the early stages of the War and he reached the Front along with many other local men in the Cambridgeshire Regiment on 16th February 1915. They fought at St Eloi, and the Second Battle of Ypres, then the news reached home that John had been wounded in the Line:

Ely Standard 26th May 1916

*"The casualties announced in the official lists issued on Friday night included the name of Lance-Corporal J. W. West (Stuntney), 1st Cambs. Regiment, among the wounded. Upon enquiry, we were informed that his injury was only a slight one, and that he had since rejoined his platoon."*

The news less than two months later was not so good, as John had been seriously wounded on 30th June in an attack near Richebourg l'Avoue and had died the following day at the field hospital at Merville. The news reached Stuntney in stages, with the first news being a telegram stating that he was wounded, and then a telegram and letters communicating the news of his subsequent death.

Ely Standard 14th July 1916: *"Lance-Corpl. John William West, 1st Cambs. Regt., of Stuntney, was killed in action on June 30th. The first telegram his parents received reported him "dangerously wounded", he having been struck in the head by a bullet. Pte. William J. Norden, who saw him borne on a stretcher, wrote that he seemed to suffer little, and was "quite cheerful," but within an hour he lost consciousness and passed away. The Field Hospital Sister wrote a touching letter to his parents. Everything possible was done for him, without avail. He was buried, along with six others, on July 3rd. He had been a member of the Stuntney choir, and was held in high esteem."*

Ely Standard 21st July 1916

*"..The other letter (to John's parents) was from Second-Lieut. J. M. ?, 1/1 Cambs. Regt. "at present in charge of the Battalion Snipers" who said that he knew the deceased well. He was in his platoon for nearly a year, and was promoted, on the officer's recommendation, to be Lance-Corporal. "He was a good soldier" added the Lieutenant, "and a thoroughly good fellow, and I am deeply grieved to hear of his death."*

John is remembered on the Ely Market Place Memorial and the Stuntney Memorial.