



Thame Remembers



2nd Lieutenant Eric William Rose MC

Eric Rose was born in 1898, eldest son of William Cox Rose Esq. a dairy farmer of Moat Farm at Ford near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Eric attended Lord Williams's Grammar School as a boarder from 1909 to 1914. He joined the Artists Rifles on 11th December 1916 as soon as he was 18 and subsequently served with them in the 28th London Regiment. He gained a commission in 1917 as 2/Lt with the 1/8th Lancashire Fusiliers.

On 25th March 1918 11 days before his death having been captured and then escaped he took over command of C company in a counter-attack after his CO was killed. An action for which he was awarded the Military Cross for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty'.

He died in action on 5th April 1918 during fierce fighting at Bucquoy near Arras, but some confusion surrounds his burial place. Despite official reports that his body was never recovered from the battlefield, Rev T B Hardy VC wrote that he had found Eric's body in the ruins of Bucquoy and buried him there. The search for his grave continues by his descendant Michael Rose.



**The
Thame Remembers Cross
was delivered to
Arras Memorial on
1st November 2015
By
Ron Roberts
Thame Remembers**





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Eric is commemorated on Arras Memorial, and remembered on the Lord Williams's School Honours Board and on the War Memorial in Ford

The Officer commanding his battalion after testimony to his gallant resistance and soldierly handling of his brave remnants writes;
"He had the making of a very brilliant officer and was beloved by his ranks. It is a very great loss to the battalion."

"He was one of the best officers I have had, a fine fighter, conspicuously gallant with determination and cool-headedness."

"I am delighted that his Military Cross has come through Corps Orders. I was with him in the fighting for which he won it and I can tell you it was thoroughly deserved. I think that the resistance of 2nd Lieut E W Rose M C and his company when cut off from support and both flanks gone will be one of the most treasured memories in the history of the Battalion."

London Gazette 23 July 1918

Military Cross.

T/2nd Lt Eric William Rose.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action. Although a very junior officer he commanded his company with great courage and ability, and his resolution in leading a counter attack was worthy of the utmost praise.

