

ERNEST CHARLES HARVEY

Born: 13th February 1896, Wood Norton¹

Enlisted: 5th February 1915, Norwich: Army Service Corps (Private M2/048348)²



Medals: 1914-15 Star; British War Medal; Victory Medal³



Demobilised: 8th March 1919⁴

Ernest Charles Hunt Harvey was born on the 13th February 1896 and baptised on the 12th April 1896 in Wood Norton, the son of Ernest and Edith Mabel Harvey. It is interesting to note that on his baptism record Elstree in Hertfordshire is given under the heading 'Abode' (see Figure 1). Ernest's father, also Ernest (a gamekeeper), was born in 1875 in Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk,⁵ the son of Henry (also a gamekeeper) and Lavinia Harvey.⁶ Ernest Charles married Edith Mabel Hunt on the 29th April 1895, in St John the Baptist, Hoxton (Middlesex).⁷ Edith was born in Wood Norton, in 1872, the daughter of Charles and Frances Hunt.⁸

1896.	Ernest	Ernest		Elstree.	Gamekeeper.	Henry, &
12 th	Charles	&	Harvey.	(Herts.)		Rogers.
April.	Hunt.	Edith				
No. 660.		Mabel				

Figure 1: Extract from the Wood Norton Baptisms, 1896

¹ Baptisms Register 1896, Wood Norton (www.ancestry.co.uk); Great Britain, Royal Aero Club Aviator's Certificates, 1910-1950 (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD Quarter to March 1906, Aylsham Vol.4b, p.90 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

² British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³ British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴ British Army Pension Records 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁵ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 201) (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, Quarter to September 1875, Sudbury, Vol.4a, p.486 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

⁶ 1881 census, West Woodhay (Berkshire) (Page 2) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁷ Marriage Register, 1895, Hoxton (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, Quarter to June 1895, Shoreditch, Vol.1c, p.148 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

⁸ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 201) (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, Quarter to September 1872, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.73 (www.freebmd.org.uk).

In the 1911 census, Ernest is aged 15 and living in Wood Norton with his widowed grandmother Frances Hunt, who is recorded as a laundress. He is an apprentice motor mechanic.⁹ His aunt, Miriam Jane Hunt (aged 26) is the Head Teacher at Wood Norton school. His parents are also living in Wood Norton, with Ernest's two younger siblings, Christmas Miriam (his sister, aged 7), and Leslie George (his brother, aged 1).¹⁰

The British Army WW1 Service Records and the British Army Pension Records (1914-1920) have survived for Ernest, and show that he enlisted on the 5th February 1915, under the name *Charles Ernest Harvey*, aged 19 years 11 months, and 5' 8" tall. His father's address (as next of kin) is recorded as Fowles Wood, Castle Rising (near Kings Lynn). Ernest notes on his enlistment papers that his occupation is motor driver and mechanic, and his pension records show that his employer before joining the army was Mann Egerton & Co. Ltd, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich, where he was a 'fitter ... working as driving instructor and tester'.¹¹ He enlists in the Mechanical Transport section of the Army Service Corps (as indicated by the M2 prefix to his service number), as a 'fitter for lorries'.

Ernest embarked for France on the 19th August 1915 on board the S.S. *Viper*, arriving in Rouen on the 20th August 1915, attached to the 307 Company Guards Division, Ammunition Sub Park. He had a couple of periods of leave (5th December 1916 to 15th December 1916, and 31st December 1917 to 14th January 1918) but served in France for 3 years and 106 days, from the 19th August 1915 to the 13th October 1918. There were a few trips to the general hospitals in September 1918 (he seemed to suffer a couple of instances of urticaria), but on the 14th October 1918 he was invalided back to England to the 2/1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham, where he spent 44 days in hospital (from which he was granted 10 days furlough) with *headache*, due to frontal sinusitis – the cause was given as 'exposure due to army duties'. On the 6th December 1918 Ernest was transferred to 2 Company RASC (the Army Service Corps received the 'Royal' prefix in late 1918), Norwood Depot, Mechanical Transport. He was discharged from the service on the 8th March 1919, aged 23.

In addition to the British War medal and Victory medal, Ernest was awarded the 1914-15 Star, issued to servicemen who served in any theatre of war against Germany between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915. The qualifying date given on his Medal Roll index card is the 19th August 1915 (see Figure 2).

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
HARVEY Charles CE	RASC	Pvt	M2048348
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	RASC 101094 9976	622	8-3-19
BRITISH	1914-15 STAR	RASC/B2/819	
15 STAR			
Theatre of War first served in	France		
Date of entry therein	19-8-15		

Figure 2: Medal Roll index card for [Charles] Ernest Harvey

⁹ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 207) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁰ 1911 census, Wood Norton (schedule 201) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹¹ British Army Pension Records 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

Following demobilisation, it appears that Ernest returned to live and work in Norfolk. In June 1930, he is living at 2 Greyfriars Road, Norwich, and holds a flying licence (certificate) from the Royal Aero Club (24th June 1930). The Club is the national organisation for air sport, including private and recreational flying (see Figure 2).¹² The local club that Ernest joined, the Norfolk and Norwich Aero Club, celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2017, so he achieved his flying licence in the early days the club's existence.

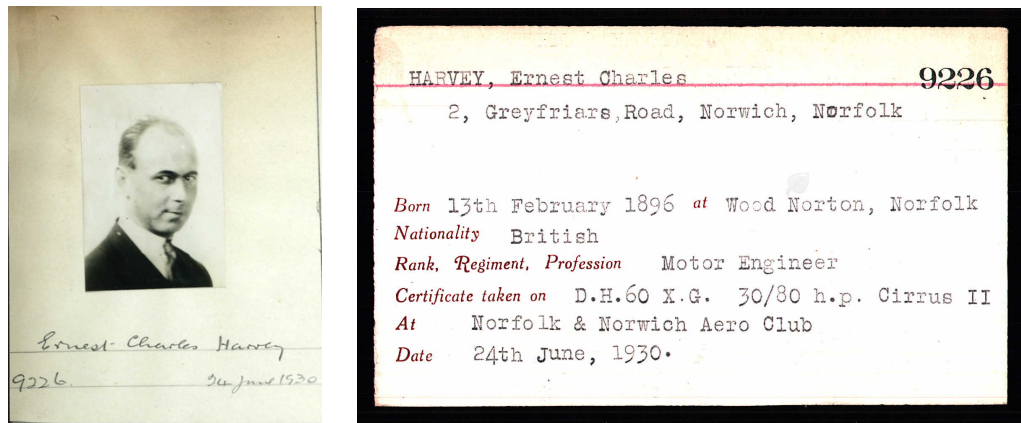


Figure 2: Royal Aero Club Aviators' photograph and certificate for Ernest Charles Harvey

In the 1939 Register, Ernest is still living at 2 Greyfriars Road, Norwich. He is single, and a motor mechanic.¹³

It appears that Ernest never married. He died in 1961 aged 65, and is buried in Wood Norton.¹⁴

¹² Great Britain, Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificates, 1910-1950 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹³ 1939 England and Wales Register, Norwich CB, Enumeration District TPNC, Schedule 113 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁴ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1961 (p.133); FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1961, Fakenham Vol. 4b*, p. 446 (www.freebmd.org.uk).