

ARTHUR CHARLES FARROW

Born: 9th February 1898, Wroxham¹

Enlisted: Not known

Medals: Not known²

Arthur Charles Farrow was born in 1897 and baptised on the 7th April 1898 in Wroxham parish church, the son of Benjamin and Charlotte Easter Farrow (see Figure 1). Arthur was baptised along with his sister, Ethel Kate (born in 1894).³

1898 April 7 th No. 126.	Arthur Charles	Benjamin Charlotte Easter	Farrow	Wroxham	Pulham	W. Boddington Vicar
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Figure 1: Extract from the Wroxham Baptisms, 1898

Although Arthur appears on the Wood Norton War Memorial, it has not yet been possible to identify the details of his war service (and many of the WW1 British Army Service Records were destroyed in the London Blitz). The Medal Roll index cards for the period have survived, but there are several men named Arthur and Arthur Charles Farrow, so it is not possible to identify him with any certainty. We do, however, know something of his life before and after the war.

Further research indicates that Arthur's father, Benjamin Farrow, was born in Gresham, Norfolk, in 1867, the son of Benjamin and Benjamin and Phoebe Farrow, and baptised on the 3rd November 1867 in Gresham parish church.⁴ Benjamin married Charlotte Easter Skinner 20th June 1888 in Pulham St Mary parish church; he was aged 21 and a policeman.⁵ Charlotte was born on the 11th April 1868 in Pulham St Mary, and baptised on the 28th June 1868 in Pulham St Mary parish church, the daughter of Charles and Ellen Skinner.⁶ By the time of the 1939 Register, Benjamin is a widow and living in Court Villa, Rollesby,⁷ Charlotte having died in 1928 aged 60.⁸ Benjamin died on the 1st December 1952, in Great Yarmouth, aged 85.⁹

¹ England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-84 (www.ancestry.co.uk) gives his date of birth; FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1898, St. Faith's, Vol. 4b, p.105* (www.freebmd.org.uk); 1911 census, Rockland St Peter, Attleborough (www.ancestry.co.uk) gives place of birth.

² Without Arthur's service record, it is not possible to tell if he was awarded any medals. If he served in a theatre of war aboard, he would have received at least the British War Medal and Victory Medal; service at Home, unfortunately, did not necessarily qualify for the award of a medal. There are several men named Arthur and Arthur Charles Farrow listed on the Medal Roll Index Cards, but without a service number it is impossible to tell, which if any, is this Arthur.

³ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1894, St. Faith's, Vol. 4b, p.100* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Baptisms Register, Wroxham 1898 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1867, Erpingham, Vol. 4b, p.65*.

⁵ Marriage Register, 1888, Pulham St Mary (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁶ Baptism Register, 1868, Pulham St Mary (www.findmypast.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1868, Depwade, Vol. 4b, p.221* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

⁷ 1939 England and Wales Register, Blofield and Fleg, Enumeration District TRAR, Schedule 22 (www.ancestry.co.uk);

⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1928, Yarmouth, Vol. 4b, p.45* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

⁹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1952, Gt. Yarmouth, Vol. 4b, p.468* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

In the 1911 census for Rockland All Saints, Benjamin lists himself as a 'Merit Class Police Constable' with the Norfolk Constabulary. The census records that they had nine children (one of whom had died by 1911). From this census, and the 1901 census for Hingham,¹⁰ it can be ascertained that Arthur's siblings were:

Gertrude Ellen	Born in 1889, baptised 31 st March 1889, Bressingham. ¹¹ She died in 1908, aged 19. ¹²
Albert Edward	Born in 1891, Bressingham. ¹³
Ethel Kate	Born 1894, Wroxham. Baptised 7 th April 1898, Wroxham (with her brother, Arthur). ¹⁴
Bertha May	Born 13 th October 1895, Startson, baptised 18 th October 1901, Hingham. ¹⁵
Benjamin William	Born 24 th March 1900, baptised 18 th October 1901, Hingham. ¹⁶ In the 1911 census, he is aged 11, and at school.
Rose Mary	Born 21 st February 1901, baptised 18 th October 1901, Hingham. ¹⁷ In the 1911 census, she is aged 9, and at school.
Leonard	Born 12 th December 1903. ¹⁸ In the 1911 census, he is aged 8 and at school. Leonard died in 1977, aged 73. ¹⁹
Clifford	Born 9 th December 1905. ²⁰ In the 1911 census, he is aged 6, and at school. He married Edna May Nichols in 1932 in Rollesby parish church. ²¹ He died in 1973, aged 67. ²²

In the 1911 census, Arthur is aged 13 and living with his parents in Rockland St Peter, Attleborough, along with four younger siblings.²³

It appears that a relative of Arthur's - a Benjamin Farrow and his wife, Eleanor Kate - came to live in Wood Norton around 1920, as they appear in the Spring Register of the 1920 Electoral Roll, where their residence is recorded as 'Near Church'.²⁴

¹⁰ 1901 census, Hingham

¹¹ Baptism Register, 1889, Bressingham (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1889, Guiltcross, Vol.4b, p.244* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹² FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1908, Wisbeach, Vol.3b, p.324* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹³ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1891, Guiltcross, Vol.4b, p.249* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁴ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1894, St.Faith's, Vol.4b, p.100* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Baptism Register, 1898, Wroxham (www.ancestry.co.uk)

¹⁵ Baptism Register, 1901, Hingham (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1895, Depwade, Vol.4b, p.221* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁶ Baptism Register, 1901, Hingham (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁷ Baptism Register, 1901, Hingham (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁸ 1939 England and Wales Register, Watford MB, Enumeration District DEWQ, Schedule 46 (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1904, Wisbeach, Vol.3b, p.560* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1977, Gr.Yarmouth, Vol.10, p.1302* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁰ 1939 England and Wales Register, Forehoe and Henstead RD, Enumeration District TRLM, Schedule 126 (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1906, Wisbeach, Vol.3b, p.530* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²¹ Marriage Register, 1932, Rollesby (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²² FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1973, Noriwch, Vol.4b, p.2012* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²³ 1911 census, Rockland All Saints, Attleborough (Schedule 65) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁴ Spring Register, 1920, Northern Parliamentary Division of the County of Norfolk, Polling District of Foulsham (R.), Parish of Wood Norton (www.findmypast.co.uk); the Autumn Register, 1922, Northern Parliamentary Division of the County of Norfolk, Polling District of Hindolveston (X.), Parish of Wood Norton (www.findmypast.co.uk) gives Eleanor Kate Farrow's name in full.

It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that Arthur married in Wood Norton parish church, having a connection with the village. He married Nora Grace Winterbone on the 24th September 1924.²⁵ Arthur was aged 26, a gamekeeper, and resident of Wood Norton, Nora was aged 20. Her uncle, a witness at her wedding (and possibly best man), was Sidney Alec Winterbone (Nora's father, William John Winterbone, was Sidney's eldest brother). Sidney was aged 29 at the time of Arthur and Nora's marriage, and although he had enlisted in 1915, he had been discharged from the service due to sickness in 1916; he is also commemorated on the Wood Norton War Memorial. Arthur and Nora went on to have two children, Ronald (born in 1924)²⁶ and Rosemary (born in 1928).²⁷

In the 1939 Register, Arthur is living with his wife Nora and his two children in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, in Keepers Cottage, and is a gamekeeper.²⁸ Nora died, aged 57, on the 27th March 1961; at the time of her death their address was given as 1 East Hall Cottages, St. Pauls Walden, Hitchin.²⁹

Arthur died in Hitchin, Hertfordshire in 1980, aged 82.³⁰

²⁵ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1924 (p.104).

²⁶ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1924, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.127* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁷ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1928, Hollingbourn, Vol.2a, p.1524* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁸ 1939 England and Wales Register, Hitchin RD, Enumeration District DFKO, Schedule 84 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁹ England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1848-1985 (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1961, Wood Green, Vol.5f, p.629* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

³⁰ England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 (www.ancestry.co.uk).