

## Draft Notes for Ernest Albert E Rouse in Freshford Great War Heroic Dead.paw

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**E Rouse**, Corpl. Somerset L.I. <sup>1</sup>

**Ernest Rouse** d. 1st July 1916 Somme. <sup>2</sup>

1881 Birth of **Ernest Albert E** [or R <sup>3</sup>] Rouse registered Bath. <sup>4</sup>

1881 Census shows Willam Rouse head age 34 Baker b. Bath Somerset living at 14 Oak Street, Lyncombe and Widcombe, Bath with wife Elizabeth age 28 b. Cleeve, Somerset and children Amy age 8 Scholar, Louisa age 6 Scholar, William age 4 Scholar, Amelia age 2 and **Earnest** [sic] age 2mo. all b. Bath, also lodgers Frederick Carter age 21 unm. Stone Mason b. Calne, Wiltshire and Robert Fentrios unm. age 28 Mashinist [sic] Iron Works b. Marton, Yorkshire. <sup>5</sup>

1891 Census shows William Rouse [sic] head age 44 Baker b. Bath Som. living at 25 Oak Street, Bath Ecclesiastical Parish St Marks with wife Elizabeth age 39 b. Cleeve Som. and children Amy age 18 Machinist, Louisa age 16 Dom. (Home Work), William age 14 Port Errand Boy, Amelia age 12 Dom. Servant, **Ernest** age 10 Scholar, Lizzie age 5 Scholar and Beatrice age 3 Scholar all b. Bath, Som. also Rbt. Fentress boarder single age 39 Iron Plainer [sic] b. Yorkshire. <sup>6,7</sup>

1899 Militia Attestation of No. 5295 **Ernest Rouse**, 4th Battalion P S Somerset Light Infantry. Name: **Ernest Rouse**; Parish & Town: St Marks, Bath, Somerset; British Subject: yes; Residence: 26 Oak Street, St Marks. Bath, Somerset (resided there for the last 12 months); Former Master: Mssrs Stothert & Pitt, Bath, Somerset; Age: 18yrs 1 month; Trade: Turner; Apprentice: no; Notice: yes, Clr Sgt Richards, Staff Recruiter; Willing to be attested for *six* years in *Somerset* to serve in the *Som. L. I.*: yes. Declaration signed, oath taken, and certified 20 Mar 1899. <sup>8</sup>

1910 **Rouse Ernest E A** [sic] Asst. Pman. nominated to the Bath situation of the British Postal Service in Feb 1910. <sup>9</sup>

1911 Census shows William Rouse age 64 Baker worker b. Bath, Somerset living at 26 Oak Street, Bath (3 rooms) with wife Lizzie age 60 (married 36 years, 8 children born alive, 1 died) and children **Ernest** age 30 Postman worker, Beatrice Olive age 23 Assistant in Corset Trade worker, both single b. Bath, Somerset and boarders James Johnson age 30 single Macnine Man, Iron Foundry b. Manchester and Joe Bailey single age 22 Labour[er] Sewage Works b. Hawkridge, Wilts. <sup>10</sup>

1911 **Rouse Ernest A E** Pman. nominated to the Freshford situation of the British Postal Service in June 1911. <sup>11</sup>

1912 Admitted to Freshford School on 29 Apr 1912 **Rouse Ernest John**, father **Ernest** of Freshford Hill Postman date of birth 20 Dec 1899 [note the birth certificate says 18th, see below] Baptised: yes; Last School: Bath; Highest Standard there presented: III. [Note: No information recorded regarding standard reached at Freshford School, nor date of leaving.] <sup>12</sup>

1914 Birth of **Beatrice Elizabeth Primrose Rouse** on 19th April 1914 father Ernest Albert Edward Rouse, Letter Carrier, mother Hannah Rouse formerly **Dowding** Informant: EAE Rouse, father, of Freshford registered 19 May 1914 at Bath. <sup>13,14</sup> Note: this pre-marriage child may explain the Register Office wedding, and the lack of the Rouse relations as witnesses.

1915 Marriage solemnized at the Register Office in the District of Bath in the Counties of Bath & Somerset on 6th March 1915 between **Ernest Rouse** age 36 bachelor Turner at Iron Foundry, of 72 Avon Street Bath father William Rouse, Baker and **Hannah Jane Dowding** age 44 spinster of 72 Avon Street, Bath father William Dowding (deceased) Labourer by certificate before me *William*

*Hayward* (Registrar) in the presence of Arthur Owen Dowding, x the mark of Rosina Dowding. <sup>15, 16, 17</sup>

### ***Hannah Jane Dowding & family***

1900 Birth in the Registration District of Walcot in the County of Bath on 18 Dec 1899 at 21 Milk Street of ***Ernest John*** boy, mother Hannah Dowding a Laundress [no father named] informant H Dowding of 21 Milk Street Bath registered on 29 Jan 1900. <sup>18, 19</sup> [Though no father is named, it is considered likely that Ernest Albert was the father, from the Christian name, and eventual marriage. Without access to birth certificates, it is not possible to discover whether Hannah had any other children out of wedlock.]

1901 Census shows ***Hannah Dowding*** single age 29 Charwoman b. Bath, Somerset living at cottage rear of 21 Milk Street, Bath, Ecclesiastical Parish St. Paul, with her father William age 51 General Labourer b. Bath, Somerset, mother Emily age 49 Charwoman b. Bath, Somerset and 6 brothers and sisters. <sup>20</sup>

1911 Census shows ***Ernest John Dowding*** age 11 b. Bath as a pupil at Sutcliffe Industrial School. <sup>21, 22</sup>

1933 Marriage of ***Beatrice E P Rouse*** and Ernest G Abbott registered Oxford. <sup>23</sup>

1933 Death of ***Hannah Rouse*** registered Bath. <sup>24</sup>

1973 Death of ***Beatrice Elizabeth P Abbott*** b. 19 Apr 1914 registered Abingdon, Berkshire. <sup>25</sup>

### **First World War**

Somerset Light Infantry 1st Bn: 04.08.1914 Stationed at Colchester as part of the 11th Brigade of the 4th Division and then moved to Harrow. 22.08.1914 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre and engaged in various actions on the Western front including; 1914 The Battle of Le Cateau, The Battle of the Marne, The Battle of the Aisne, The Battle of Messines 1914. 1915 The Second Battle of Ypres 1916 The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Le Transloy. <sup>26</sup>

1915 Twice wounded in the head. Mr. W. Rouse, of 26, Oak Street, Lower Bristol Road, has been notified that his son, Corporal E. Rouse, of the 2nd Somerset L.I., has been wounded in the face. Corporal Rouse served in the South African war, where, strangely enough, he was also wounded in the face. After the Boer campaign he served four years in India. Before the present war he was a postman at Freshford, but he was called up as soon as the hostilities began. <sup>27</sup>

1916 Death of ***Rouse, Ernest*** private S No. 5489 d. 1 Jul 1916 Somerset Light Infantry 1st Bn Panel ref: Pier and Face 2 Thiepval memorial. <sup>28, 29</sup>

1916 ***Ernest Rouse*** - Somerset Light Infantry. Birth town: St Marks, Bath; Nationality: British; d. 01/07/1916; killed in action; Rank: Private, S No. 5489, Duty Location: France & Flanders. <sup>30</sup>

1916 ***Ernest Rouse*** b. St. Mark's Bath; d. 1 Jul 1916; Place of death: France & Flanders; Enlistment Place: Taunton; Rank: private; Regiment: Somerset Light Infantry; Battalion: 1st Battalion; Regt No. 5489; Killed in action, Western European Theatre. <sup>31</sup>

1916 ***Ernest Rouse*** 1/Som LI Pte Reg. No. 5489: Victory Medal Roll: C/2/102B.16 Page 1915. [19]14 Star Roll c/2/4 Page 106. Remarks Ass'd dead 1.7.16. <sup>32</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Plaque on Freshford Village war memorial sited on the village Tynning.

<sup>2</sup> Alan Dodge, *Freshford - History of a Somerset Village* (2000; reprint, Freshford Manor Bath Somerset: Freshford Publications, 2000)

<sup>3</sup> England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983 for Bath, Somerset for 1881 Jan-Feb-Mar Vol 5c Page 605.

<sup>4</sup> Family Search England and Wales, Birth Registration Index, 1837-1920

<sup>5</sup> 1881 England Census RG11/2434 Bath, Lyncombe 1 Folio 10 Page 14 Schedule 93.

<sup>6</sup> FamilySearch England, Scotland and Wales census, index and images, findmypast.co.uk (www.findmypast.co.uk : Brightsolid, n.d.); The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey.

<sup>7</sup> 1891 England Census RG12/1932 Lyncombe & Widcombe, Bath 12 Page 17 Schedule 110.

<sup>8</sup> The National Archives - British Army Service Records 1760-1915 Militia Attestation dated 20 Mar 1899.

<sup>9</sup> British Postal Service Appointment Books, 1737-1969. British Postal Museum and Archive; Series: POST 58; Reference Number: 106.

<sup>10</sup> 1911 England & Wales Census RG14/14690 RG78PN892 RD316 SD3 ED1 Schedule 280.

<sup>11</sup> British Postal Service Appointment Books, 1737-1969. British Postal Museum and Archive; Series: POST 58; Reference Number: 106.

<sup>12</sup> Registers of the Freshford Parochial Church School (Freshford CofE Primary School). Register Book.

<sup>13</sup> Certified Copy of an Entry of Birth given at the General Register Office dated 13 Aug 2014

<sup>14</sup> England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983 for Bath 1914 Apr-May-Jun Volume 5c Page 833.

<sup>15</sup> Certified Copy of an Entry of Marriage given at the General Register Office on 7th Day of August 2014.

<sup>16</sup> "England and Wales, Marriage Registration Index, 1837-1920", index, FamilySearch.

<sup>17</sup> England and Wales, FreeBMD, Marriage Index: 1837-1983 for 1915 Jan-Feb-Mar for Bath, Somerset Vol 5c Page 917.

<sup>18</sup> England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983 for Bath for 1900 Jan-Feb-Mar Volume 5c Page 535.

<sup>19</sup> Certified Copy of an Entry of Birth given at the General Register Office dated 17 Dec 2014.

<sup>20</sup> 1901 England Census RG13/2342 Bath, Walcot 25 Folio 133 Page 12 Schedule 83.

<sup>21</sup> 1911 England & Wales Census RG14/14714 Bath, Walcot 12 Schedule 92.

<sup>22</sup> Sutcliffe Industrial School, 1856: Established January, 1848, in the City of Bath, for the Reception and Reformation of Juvenile Offenders and of Youths in Imminent Danger of Becoming Criminal. Ref: Report dated 1856, available through Google Books.

<sup>23</sup> England & Wales Marriage Index: 1916-2005 for Oxford for Jul-Aug-Sep 1933.

<sup>24</sup> Ancestry.com. England & Wales, Death Index: 1916-2005 for Bath for Sep 1933 Vol 5c Page 508.

<sup>25</sup> Ancestry.com. England & Wales, Death Index: 1916-2005 for Abingdon, Berkshire for Sep 1973 Vol 6a Page 10.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>

<sup>27</sup> Bath Chronicle 17 July 1915 Local News of the Week.

<sup>28</sup> Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Details [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) 810221.

<sup>29</sup> The Thiepval Memorial will be found on the D73, next to the village of Thiepval, off the main Bapaume to Albert road (D929). On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>

<sup>31</sup> Source Information: Military-Genealogy.com, comp. UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919. Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008. Original data: British and Irish Military Databases. The Naval and Military Press Ltd.

<sup>32</sup> Medal Card held in the National Archives.