



Dennis George Maxey and family

30 White Street

Some older residents still remember Dennis Maxey from the early 1960s riding his motorbike in the area, or walking around wearing a flat cap and a long coat.

The Maxey family moved from Kedleston Road to 30 White Street in about 1904. By the time of the 1911 census Dennis (although only 15) was already employed in the Engineers' section of the Midland Railway, joining his father, Albert Edward, a secretary, and older brother Albert James Vernon, who worked for the Midland Railway Hotel Department.

Dennis had two sisters, Clarice and Winifred, and they and their mother, Alice, would have felt the impact of the two boys serving in the war, though Albert James waited to be conscripted in 1916. We think he served as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery, and he was certainly still away on military service in 1919.



© IWM (Q 5058) Troops of the Army Cyclist Corps resting in Courcelles, Belgium, March 1917

Dennis volunteered for the Army Cyclist Corps, and was posted to France in late February 1915, when he was still only 19.

The main role of the cyclists was reconnaissance and communications work. A cyclist carried everything with him on his bike as he took messages between forces and trenches: his rifle, his kitbag of rations, an emergency tool kit to repair his bike, and his cape and groundsheet for protection from rain – a self-contained fighting unit.



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When they were overseas they helped trenches and camps to become established. They were cycling in dangerous and often muddy conditions, wearing their full uniforms, and doing vital work to help their "comrades in arms".

On his return after the war, Dennis married Marion Grace Frith in 1925 and they had two children - Kenneth and Joan. Dennis died in Derby in 1969, aged 74. His brother Albert also married and had two children - he died in Chesterfield in 1973, aged 80.