



Dennis and Albert Maxey

30 White Street

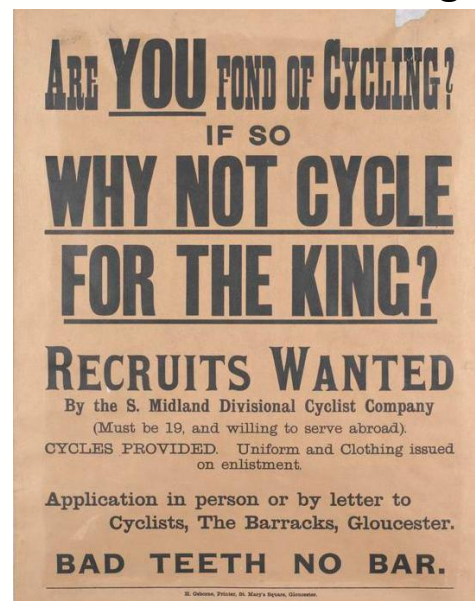
Some older residents still remember Dennis Maxey from the early 1960s riding his motorbike in the area, or walking around wearing a flat cap and a long coat.

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.

Albert waited to be conscripted in 1916. He served as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery but few details about where he served are known. He was reported as wounded in May 1918. and he was certainly still away on military service in 1919.

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

Dennis volunteered for the Army Cyclist

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.