

Biographical Record

Walter Charles ROSE (1896 – 1978)

Represented the Gloucester Deanery of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association on the Central Council from 1932 -1935 and attended 4 Council meetings

Walter was born in Wyke Regis, Dorset on 20th November 1896. His father was a clerk but Walter trained as an engineer. He probably learnt to ring in his early teens, since a notice in The Ringing World 4th June 1915 included “Walter C Rose of Wyke Regis, Mechanical Transport A.S.C. now at Grove Park, Kent” in “a further list of ringers serving with the Forces”.

He moved to Prestbury, near Cheltenham, and on 5th April 1920 married Ellen Elizabeth Parker, who had grown up in Prestbury. The Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association lists him as ringing at Prestbury between 1925 and 1934, and at St. Mary’s Cheltenham from 1943-1945.

He rang 25 peals for the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association, but did not conduct any of them. In 1934 he rang in a peal of Plain Bob Major at Charlton Kings, Cheltenham (the first on the bells for 15 years) which is recorded as a birthday compliment to him.

He is believed to have served in Burma during the second world war, because a soldier who came from Cheltenham and fell ill with malaria wrote in a wartime reminiscence: ‘... my No2 Walter Rose carried me and my equipment 3 miles ...’ (See: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/87/a5640987.shtml>).

After the war he appears to have left Cheltenham and may have returned to the Weymouth area, where he died in 1978.

His identity is confused by references to Walter E Rose in Central Council records, but in the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association records, apart from one occasion, he is referred to as Walter C Rose, both in membership lists and in peal records. Since there was only ever one W Rose as a member of the G&B DA at any one time, it is concluded that references to Walter E Rose were errors.