

# Charlie Bateman

*70464, Chestnut Troop, Royal Horse and Field Artillery. Died 2 September 1918, aged 26*

Charlie was born 20 December 1892, fourth of five children of Tom Bateman, an agricultural labourer, and Emma (nee Barrett). His father Tom died in July 1893 when Charlie was still a baby. His mother Emma married Shelton Ruff in the spring of 1898 and Shelton was listed as Charlie's father when he started at Warboys Board School 22 April 1899 with his older brother **John William**.

The family lived in Pope's Lane then Sansom's Yard, High Street, Warboys.

Charlie was a horse keeper until he joined the Royal Regiment of Field and Horse Artillery before the war on 22 October 1912.

His application describes him as 5'8" with brown hair and blue eyes. His employer, S. Saunders of Ballantine Farm (the father of **Robin Saunders**) gave him a reference.



He went to France 15 August 1914, was home for four months that Christmas, perhaps injured, and returned to France 2 April 1915.



The RHA was responsible for light, mobile guns that provided firepower in support of the cavalry and Charlie served with them through most of the major battles in France and Flanders during which time he was promoted to Corporal.

After serving through the whole of the war Charlie was killed in action 2 September 1918 just a few weeks before the armistice. He was buried where he fell with two others from his troop in a single grave. In 1920 his remains were identified and re-buried at Peronne Military Cemetery, in the Somme.

His older brother **John William Bateman** had been killed 22 August 1916. His mother Emma died in 1936 and his stepfather Shelton in 1950.