

John William Bateman

*190, Hunts Cyclist Battalion, 20711, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
Died 22 August 1916, aged 29*

John was born 2 November 1888, second of five children of Tom Bateman, an agricultural labourer, and Emma (nee Barrett). His father Tom died in July 1893 when John was five. His mother Emma married Shelton Ruff in the spring of 1898 and Shelton was listed as John's father when he started at Warboys Board School 24 April 1899 with his younger brother **Charlie**.

The family lived in Little End, then Pope's Lane, Warboys. John married Ada Spencer on Christmas day 1910 and they lived with her parents at The W heatsheaf, Ramsey Road. John and Ada had three children, Irene (died age 2), Oliver and Thomas (died a baby).



John enlisted with the Hunts Cyclists on 13 August 1915, and then joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.



The regiment was heavily involved in the battles of the Somme and John was killed in action 22 August 1916, age 29. The Hunts Post reported in September that he had been killed while holding trenches recently captured from the Germans.

John has no known grave and is listed on the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme with over 72,000 other men that died there without a grave. He is also listed on the War Memorial in St. Ives.



John's wife Ada remarried in 1917, his son Oliver lived until 1940.

His younger brother **Charlie** was killed 2 September 1918. His mother Emma died in 1936 and his stepfather Shelton in 1950.

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