

FRED BATCHELOR

**Private, 1st Battallion,
Royal Warwickshire Regiment,
10th Brigade, 4th Division.**

Killed in action at Houplines during the Battle of Messines on Sunday 18th October 1914.

Fred Batchelor was the first Ettington man to fall in the war. He was born in the village in 1889 but he had actually left Ettington with his family in the 1890s when he was about 5 or 6 years old. His parents were **John Batchelor**, a farm labourer, and **Eliza (nee Grantham)**. He had an older brother and three older sisters.

Eliza died in 1893 and the following year John Batchelor was re-married, after which they moved to **Exhall, near Alcester**. They were there in 1901 when Fred was working as a farmhand. Before 1910 he left home to live in **Tibshelf, Derbyshire** where he took a job as a coal hewer.

In 1911 Fred married a Tibshelf girl named **Sarah Hannah Cotterill**. Before the war they had four children, but the third died in infancy.

He enlisted in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment at Alcester. He was buried in the **Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France**. He is also commemorated on the war memorials at Exhall and Tibshelf.

Researched and provided by [Bob and Maureen Allso](#)
email: bobandmaureen64@btinternet.com