ALBERT CHESHAM January 1896 – 27/7/1916

AND

BERTRAM (BERTIE) CHESHAM July 1897 – 9/4/1917

It is always a sad moment to hear two same surnames follow each other as we think of those lost during WW1.

Albert and Bertie Chesham were brothers born just 18 months apart and died within 8 months of each other.

The boys parents were George and Mary Ann Chesham.

Mary Ann (nee Briant) was brought up in Lytchett Matravers as her father, John Briant was a Market Gardener in Eddy Green Road. Mary Ann met George Chesham when he moved to Morden from Essex to work as a Gamekeeper. The couple married in Morden in 1894.

Their first of six children, Mabel, was born later that year. Albert was born in early 1896. By 1897 the family had moved to Winterbourne Houghton where George was employed as a Gamekeeper and it was there that Bertie was born, followed in 1899 by a daughter Minnie. Another daughter, Kate was born in 1903 (she was baptised at Winterbourne Clenston in May 1904).

The Chesham family moved to Langton Herring when George secured a career as Gamekeeper there and it was there that their youngest son Charles was born in 1905.

This was how the family was recorded on the 1911 Census for Langton Herring.

Hillside Cottages	**CHESHAM**	George	Head	17 years	M	40`	Gamekeeper	Essex	Clavering
	CHESHAM	Mary Ann	Wife	17 years	F	39		Dorset	Poole
	CHESHAM	Mabel	Daughter	Single	F	16		Dorset	Cold HarbourWareham
	CHESHAM	Albert	Son	Single	M	15	Domestic Chauffers Assistant	Dorset	Cold Harbour Wareham
	CHESHAM	Bertie	Son	Single	M	13	School	Dorset	Winterborne Houghton
	CHESHAM	Minnie	Daughter	Single	F	12	School	Dorset	Winterborne Houghton
	CHESHAM	Kate	Daughter	Single	F	7		Dorset	Winterborne Clenstone
	CHESHAM	Charles	Son	Single	M	2		Dorset	Langton Herring

Sometime after 1911 the family moved from Langton Herring. Mabel Chesham married John Gosling at St. Clements Church, Bournemouth on 6th December, 1913 and soon after came to live in Wareham Road, Lytchett Matravers.

Albert embarked for France as Private 9316 in the 1st Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment on 2nd February 1915.

His brother, Bertie, joined Duke of Edinburgh(Wilts) Regiment on 14th July, 1915.

Unbelievably sad times were ahead for the family!

Mary Ann Chesham died on 21st July 1916, she was buried in Lytchett Matravers churchyard (so it can be presumed the family were living in Lytchett at that time).

Just a week after his mother's death Albert was killed at The Battle of the Somme, on 27th July 1916. He is remembered at The Thiepval Memorial, in Picardie.

It is doubtful that he was aware of his mother's death before he met his own.

Meanwhile eight months later on 9th April, 1917, Bertie was also killed in action at The Battle of Arrass. He died 3 months before his 20th birthday. His brother Albert had died aged 20.

In Memory Of

Lance Corporal

BERTIE CHESHAM

Service Number: 29597

"D" Coy. 2nd Bn., Wiltshire Regiment who died on 09 April 1917 Age 20

Son of George and Mary Annie Chesham, of "The Woodlands," Lambourn, Berks.

Remembered with Honour

BUCQUOY ROAD CEMETERY, FICHEUX

VI. L. 2.



Written by Hilary Hayes, October, 2025.