



MALPAS 100 YEARS ON
LEST WE FORGET

'What did my Dad do in the war?'

Baby Florence never knew her father.

For **Charles Bebbington** from No Mans Heath was killed, aged 21, in action in France in the January before her summer 1917 birth.

Another 27 young children are known to have been left by fathers among the 58 men on

the Malpas War Memorial to grow-up without them.

They included the one year old son of **Ambrose Chetwood** (22), of Higher Wych, who was killed in action in France in November 1915.

Three more children lost their fathers as the ongoing Battle of the

Somme continued to claim lives.

Young Charles was soon to celebrate his second birthday when **Robert Ankers**, aged 34, was killed in October 1916.

And the following month **Jack Johnson** (36), from Malpas, was killed leaving two infants under the age of four.

Together in life - and death

Two friends, **David Davies** and **John Hopley**, were killed by the same shell.

They volunteered together in September 1914 and served alongside each other for almost 30 months.

They were drivers of the

horses which the Royal Field Artillery used to move its guns.

The parents of both David (29) and 23 year old John lived in Cuddington Heath. Their sons died in April 1917 at the Battle of Vimy Ridge and are buried in France in adjacent graves.