

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES

Frank Hatter

Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery. Joined the Forces October 1914. Served with the B.E.F. in France. Transferred to the East Surrey Regiment. Killed in action, August, 1916. 1914-15 Star and British War Medal.



FRANK WAS BORN IN 1881 in Corsham, the eldest child of William and Lucy Hatter, who at the time of his birth were living at 2 Hastings Road. William was recorded as being a brewer's labourer. By 1891 the family were living in Priory Road, William was listed as a labourer and there were

No. 6151256
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Army Form B. 104-82a.

Infantry Record Office,
 Horse Guards
 29 Aug 1917

Sir

It is my painful duty to inform you that no further news having been received relative to (No.) 10425 (Rank) Private (Name) Frank Hatter (Regiment) East Surrey who has been missing since 12-8-16, the Army Council have been regretfully constrained to conclude that he is dead, and that his death took place on the 13-8-16 (or since).

By His Majesty's command I am to forward the enclosed message of sympathy from Their Gracious Majesties the King and Queen. I am at the same time to express the regret of the Army Council at the soldier's death in his Country's service.

I am,
 Sir
 Your obedient Servant,

W. Hatter
 Priory St
 Corsham
 Wilt

J. P. Rawlin

Office of the
 Adjutant-General
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The letter that all families dreaded to receive.

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four further children – Catherine, Flora, Alfred and Edwin. In 1901, still living in Priory Road, William was working as a stone quarryman and Frank, now 19, was employed as a footman. His younger brothers Edwin and Alfred were still at school. In 1907 Frank's mother died and by 1911 Frank had left Corsham. When he enlisted in the Army in November 1914, aged 33, he was working as an indoor servant in London.

His service record shows that he was initially a member of the Royal Garrison Artillery based in the United Kingdom; he was certainly in Belfast in January 1915, when he was officially admonished for being 'drunk in town at about 10pm'. He was transferred to the Surrey Regiment in June 1915 and was posted to the war front in October 1915. He was reported missing and presumed dead on 13th August 1916, during the extended Battle of the Somme. Frank Hatter is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial.

Frank's brothers Edwin (Edward) and Alfred also served during the war, and the former was also killed on active service in June 1917.