

William Farmer

Sergeant, 3rd Battalion Inniskilling Regiment. Enlisted at Dublin, August, 1909. Had seen five years' service when war began. Went to France with Expeditionary Force, August 20th, 1914. Made prisoner at First Battle of Mons, but escaped with Lieutenant Stack. Fought in First Battle of the Somme. Wounded at Guillemont, September 6th, 1916. Died in hospital at Park Hall, Oswestry, November 8th, 1918. Buried at Corsham. Mons Medal and General Service Medal.



WILLIAM FARMER was born in 1892 in St Lukes, London. His parents were James and Miriam Jessie (née Casbard), who had both been domestic servants at Trowle Manor in Bradford on Avon. James was from Melksham but Miriam came from London, where the couple returned to marry and where William was born. James and Miriam came back to Wiltshire and continued to live in the county, but William was resident in Heston in Middlesex in 1901: then aged eight, he was living with his uncle and aunt in The Jolly Farmer tavern.

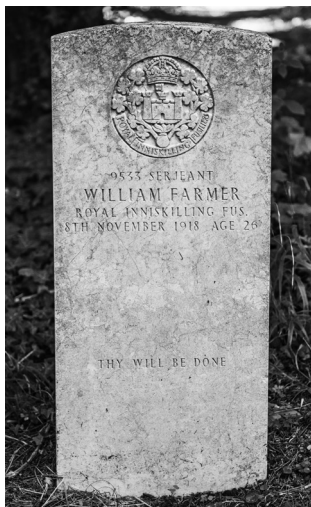
In 1911 William was already in the military as a Private in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, stationed at the Royal Military School of Music in Kneller Hall in Middlesex. In Ireland in 1917 he married Martha Helen Wylie, who lived in Londonderry – they had been married for only a year when he died in November 1918.

William died in hospital in Oswestry, Shropshire, on 8th November 1918, and was recorded as being a Sergeant

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES

Drummer. He was 26 years old. His body was returned to Corsham for burial in the Ladbrook Lane Cemetery. It is known that his mother Miriam was at Half Way Farm, Corsham, when she died in 1940, so it is a presumption that she was living in the locality at the time of her son's death.

War Records of Corsham provides more information relating to William's military record, including his escape from captivity as a prisoner of war and fighting at the Battle of the Somme.



*William Farmer's gravestone
in Ladbrook Lane Cemetery, Corsham.*