

William Arthur Carter

Private, Royal Marine Light Infantry. Joined early in the war.
Killed in action on *H.M.S. Amphion*, August 6th, 1917 [sic].

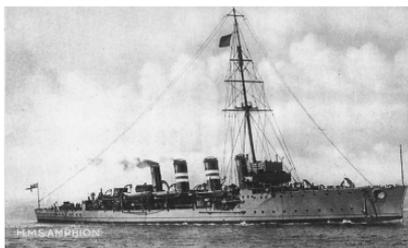


WILLIAM WAS BORN in 1882 to George Carter and Annie Maria (née Mail) from Hilmarton in Wiltshire;; his birth was registered in Chippenham, but the family lived in Easton in Corsham. His father was a local man, born in Corsham, and was a cattleman on a local farm. By 1901 William, still living in Easton with his family, was working as a freestone quarryman, and had four younger siblings – Alice, Maud, Henry and Florence. In 1903 he married Florence Hayward and they soon had three children, Hilda, Ivy and Allace.

According to the 1911 census William was already in active service as a Royal Marine, while his wife and children were living with her parents, still in Easton.

At the age of 32, serving as a Private in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, William was on board HMS *Amphion* at the very start of the war. HMS *Amphion* was the first British ship to be sunk in World War I, only one day into the war. The cruiser had been involved in a successful action to destroy a German ship that was laying mines off the Suffolk coast. Having picked up survivors from the German ship, the *Amphion* was returning to port when it struck mines laid by the same German ship and sank after a series of damaging explosions. Some 151 British lives were lost, together with 18 of the German prisoners.

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES



*HMS Amphion – the first British ship lost in World War 1 –
sank on 6th August 1914.*

The men of HMS *Amphion*, including Frank Fisher, also from Corsham, are remembered on the Plymouth War Memorial.

William's younger brother Henry, born in 1890, was a Lance Corporal in the Wiltshire Regiment. He died on 21st March 1918 at Pozières in the Somme and is commemorated at the Pozières Memorial. Surprisingly, Henry is not named on the Corsham War Memorial.