

## *William Frank Hemmings*

A.B., Royal Navy. Joined the Navy on February 28th, 1910. During the Great War served in Russia. Died at home, March 7th, 1920. General Service and Victory Medals.



**W**ILLIAM FRANK HEMMINGS was born in June 1894 in Corsham. His parents were Henry and Selina (née Miles) and, with their daughters Florence and Emmeline, they lived in Priory Road (Priory Street). Henry was a stone miner. In 1911 they were still living in Priory Street,



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

in Ashford Cottages, and William, aged just 16, had already joined the Navy. Henry was now a jobbing gardener.

William had signed up as a boy sailor, and his record shows that he was an Indoor Servant. He served on ships including HMS *Impregnable*, HMS *Revenge*, HMS *Queen Mary* and HMS *Monarch*, and also Naval establishments. He completed a series of six-month tours during his career, which included a number of disciplinary cases and a court martial in 1917. He last served on HMS *Victory* and appears to have been invalided out of service in September 1919. He died at home after the war, on 7th March 1920. He was 25.

William's service and death is included in *War Records of Corsham* in the section listing men and women who survived the war. He is, however, named on the town's War Memorial, and is buried in Ladbrook Cemetery in Corsham with a military headstone.