

FREDERICK STONARD

Pte. 33087, 1ST Battalion, Hertfordshire Regiment

Died 8th October 1918, Masnieres, age 22



There are now no Stonards in the village, but in the early 1900s there were many. Frederick was 2nd oldest of 8 children and next door at Pirbright Cottages in 1911 was his uncle with 7 more.

Both Fred's father William and his uncle Henry were then working at Brookwood Asylum as stokers of the steam boiler there. William was born in Pirbright in 1874 before his parents moved to Normandy, where younger brother Henry was born, but moved back to Pirbright when William married Harriet Stevens in 1893. The Stevens family were even more numerous than the Stonards, so Frederick would not have been short of aunts, uncles and cousins. William and Harriet set up home in one of Searle's Cottages, small 4-roomed bungalows at the Green end of Chapel Lane, built by William Blatchford twenty years before.

This was their address in 1901 with 4 of their children and William a navy. By 1908, with 4 more, it was time to move to no 8, Pirbright Cottages, next door to brother Henry, who had gone to no 7 four years before. In 1911, the 14-year-old Frederick had just left school and become a golf caddy, probably at the Worplesdon club and his youngest brother Gilbert was then just 10 months old.

When Frederick joined up in 1916, he was employed at the Friary Brewery. After he died near Cambrai, the Surrey Advertiser reported on his death on the last day of the war, November 11th 1918 -

PTE. STONARD KILLED.
Pte. Frederick Stonard, 1st Herts Regt., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Stonard, 8, Pirbright Cottages, was killed in France on Oct. 8th by machine gun bullets in the thigh and stomach while he was sniping. Pte Stonard, who was 22 years of age, joined the Queen's under the Derby scheme on January 20th, 1916, and went out to France at the beginning of the following December. He was subsequently transferred to the Bedfordians and afterwards to the Hertfordshire. He was employed at the Friary Brewery, Guildford, before joining, and had many friends in both Guildford and Pirbright.