

**Private William Francis (Frank) Jenner<sup>©</sup>**  
**Regimental number: 6469**  
**8th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)**

**born: 1888–died: 22 May 1916**

On 22 May 1916, William and Louisa Jenner lost their only son.<sup>1</sup> Private William Francis Jenner (known as Frank) was born in 1888 in Godstone, Surrey.<sup>2</sup> His father William (born in Oxted, Surrey, in about 1863) and his mother, the former Louisa Elena Ridley (born in about 1868 in Nutley, Sussex)<sup>3</sup> had been married in 1887 in Godstone.<sup>4</sup>

In 1891, Frank and his parents were living on Chapel Farm in Newchapel, near Godstone, where Frank's father was a miller.<sup>5</sup> In 1901, the family had moved into Godstone and was living at Hedgecourt Mill Cottage—William was now a journeyman miller. Ten years later, Frank's parents were still in Hedgecourt. Frank was not living at home, but his cousin, Richard Jenner, was living with Frank's parents.<sup>6</sup> It is not known where Frank was living in 1911.

Frank's cousin Richard Frederick Jenner (born in 1900 in Brighton, Sussex)<sup>7</sup> was the son of Newington and Edith (nee Holmes) Jenner. Newington, William Jenner's brother,<sup>8</sup> married Edith in 1894<sup>9</sup> and they had at least four children<sup>10</sup> before Richard. Richard's mother died in 1903, when he was just 3.<sup>11</sup> In 1911, Richard (known as Dick) was living with his uncle and aunt. His father and one of his brothers were living with Frank's grandparents in Brighton.<sup>12</sup>

Frank enlisted as a private in The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) in Guildford, Surrey, on 28 August 1915.<sup>13</sup> He was working as a groom and living at 10 Smith Road, South Park, in Reigate, Surrey, at the time. He embarked for France on 22 December 1915 and joined his battalion on 9 January 1916. He survived less than six months at the Front.

At the beginning, he perhaps had difficulty adjusting to military life. For an unknown offence, he was awarded three days of field punishment No. 2 on 18 January 1916. This punishment involved the soldier being placed in restraints for up to two hours a day.<sup>14</sup>

At the beginning of May 1916, Frank's battalion was in the trenches in northern France. On the evening of 14 May, it was relieved by the 8th Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment, and went into Brigade Reserves, where it was involved in training. About this time, seven of Frank's comrades were awarded medals—one a Military Cross, one the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and five the Military Medal.

On 19 May his battalion returned to the trenches, relieving the 8th Royal West Kent Regiment. Although a gas alert was the order for most of the time, the tour from 20 to 24 May passed quietly. However, it was not quiet for Frank. He was wounded on 20 May and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died two days later of a gunshot wound to the head. He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot I, Row A, Grave 13).<sup>15</sup>

No. 1 CCCS was stationed in Bailleul at the time and Reginald may have been the one soldier who died there that day.<sup>16</sup> Bailleul is in France, but near the Belgian border, about 15 kilometres southwest of Ypres. It was occupied in October 1914 and became an important hospital centre, not just for No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station but also for No. 1 Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations.<sup>17</sup>

When Frank died at No. 1 CCCS he had no papers with him and his next of kin could not be identified. As a result, a letter to announce his death was sent to the officer in charge of his unit.<sup>18</sup>

After the war, his parents were living at Yew Tree Cottage on Reigate Road in Dorking, Surrey. His father requested the following inscription for his gravestone:

HE CARETH FOR YOU<sup>19</sup>

His father received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death<sup>20</sup> and the few possessions that he left—a disc, two watch keys, two pipes, a purse and a pouch.

**JENNER.—In ever Loving Remembrance of our dear son, William Francis (Frank) Jenner, of Yew Tree Cottage, Reigate-road, Dorking, who was killed in action in France, May 22nd, 1916.**  
**'Tis sweet to know we'll meet again where partings are no more,**  
**And that the son we loved so well is only gone before;**  
**Christ shall clasp the broken chain closer when we meet again.**  
**—From his ever loving Mother, Father, and Dick.** da2576

Private Jenner's death notice

Source: "British Newspapers," *Findmypast*

Frank was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>21</sup>

Two years after his death, his parents put a notice in the Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser to honour the anniversary of their son's death.<sup>22</sup>

Frank's mother died on 14 December 1933 and his father had died sometime before that.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 17 August 2018), entry for Jenner, F.

<sup>2</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 13 September 2018) entry for Jenner, William Francis, Registration district: Godstone, Volume 02A, Page 197

<sup>3</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 August 2018), entry for William Jenner, Registration district: Godstone, Registration district number: 28, Sub-registration district: Godstone, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel:10, Household schedule number: 213, Piece: 3253

<sup>4</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 September 2018), entry for William Jenner, Registration district: Godstone, Inferred county: Surry, Volume: 2a, Page: 322

<sup>5</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 January 2018), entry for Francis Jenner, Registration district: Godstone, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 583, Folio: 43

<sup>6</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 August 2018), entry for William Jenner

<sup>7</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 13 September 2018) entry for Jenner, Richard Frederick, Registration district: Brighton, Volume 02B, Page 178

<sup>8</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 September 2018), entry for Newington Jenner, Sub-registration district: Shoreham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 29, Piece: 821, Folio: 115

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- <sup>9</sup> "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 14 September 2018), entry for Newington Jenner, District: Marylebone, County: London, Volume: 1A, Page: 998
- <sup>10</sup> Kathleen Emo, born in 1895 ("GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 19 September 2018) entry for Jenner, Kathleen Emo, Registration district: Brighton, Volume 02B, Page 240); Newington Holmes, born in 1896 ("GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 19 September 2018) entry for Jenner, Newington Holmes, Registration district: Brighton, Volume 02B, Page 237); and Ella May (born in 1899 ("GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 19 September 2018) entry for Jenner, Ella May, Registration district: Brighton, Volume 02B, Page 193).
- <sup>11</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 September 2018), entry for Edith Elizabeth Jenner, Registration district: Brighton, Inferred county: Sussex, Volume: 2b, Page: 111
- <sup>12</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 September 2018), entry for Newington Jenner, Registration district: Steyning, Registration district number: 80, Sub-registration district: Preston, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 14, Household schedule number: 214, Piece: 5166
- <sup>13</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 August 2018), entry for William Francis Jenner. Unless otherwise noted, all information about Frank's military career comes from this source.
- <sup>14</sup> "Field punishment," *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field\\_punishment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_punishment): accessed 1 April 2015)
- <sup>15</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 3 December 2018), entry for Beardsley, Reginald, Service No: 6535
- <sup>16</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G))
- <sup>17</sup> "Bailleul Community Cemetery, Nord," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 17 January 2017)
- <sup>18</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 17 August 2018), entry for Jenner, F.
- <sup>19</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 17 August 2018), entry for Jenner, William Francis, Service No: G/6469
- <sup>20</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 August 2018), entry for William Francis Jenner
- <sup>21</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 August 2018), entry for William F. Jenner
- <sup>22</sup> "British newspapers," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 14 September 2018), entry for William Francis (Frank) Jenner, *Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser*, 25 May 1918
- <sup>23</sup> "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 August 2018), entry for Louisa Ellen Jenner