

NAMES ON STEEP WAR MEMORIAL: brothers FREDERICK & WILLIAM EADE

10627 Private William Eade, 14th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

Died of wounds 3rd September 1916

12904 Private Frederick John Eade, 14th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

Died of illness 11th December 1916

Frederick and William were the sons of Eliza and Frederick Eade. The boys were both baptised at Steep church. The family lived in Steep, their eldest son, Frederick was born in 1887 and William in 1892. Their father may have worked in the building trade, he was recorded initially as being a labourer, but by 1894 he had become a painter. The family had seven other children who were also baptised at Steep church. The Eades had been an old Steep family. Steep church registers record that the boys' grandparents, Elijah and Jane were married in 1847 and their father was baptised in 1865. Frederick and William both attended Steep village school. As the eldest and perhaps to help family finances, Frederick left school in 1898 at the age of only eleven or twelve years and started working on a farm. William stayed at school until he was thirteen or fourteen years old, leaving in 1906 to become a house and garden boy. Later the Eade family moved to 53 Rushes Road, Petersfield.

Both brothers served as privates with the Hampshire regiment, with William joining at Portsmouth in 1914 and Frederick enlisting later at Fareham. In 1915. William survived the 1915 fighting at Gallipoli and was then transferred to France. He took part in the battle of the Somme on 3rd September 1916, where he received a severe shoulder wound from which he died, aged 24 years. He is buried in Ancre British Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel. He was entitled to the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal 1914-20 and to the Victory Medal 1914-19. Frederick also served in France and may have been a Somme survivor, but later that same year he contracted pneumonia and died on 11th December 1916 aged 30 years. He is buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France. He too was entitled to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

With grateful thanks for information from Lou Romans of Steep School, to Eileen Ellis for her registers work and to David Erskine-Hill and Johnny Kerr for additional information and for this picture of Frederick Eade's headstone.

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