**Francis William Ernest Hemming**

Francis William Ernest Hemming, born in Paddington, London in 1885, was the son of Francis Joseph Hemming and his wife Annie, the eldest of four children. His father was an accountant and the family moved to Hertfordshire from Acton, Middlesex during the 1890s, living initially at ‘Granville’, King Street, Watford. By 1911 they had settled at 58 Kingsfield Road, Oxhey, where they had two boarders and a domestic servant. Francis was employed as a commercial clerk in a chocolate factory and lived at home.

In the summer of 1913 he married Jessie Kipling, the eldest daughter of Walter and Laura Kipling, of Falconer Road, Bushey. John Lionel Calvert Booth, an artist from the Herkomer Art School, was a lodger at their house. Francis and Jessie made their home at 44 Rudolph Road, Bushey.

Francis enlisted as a Private in the Essex Regiment and later transferred to Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 14th Battalion as Private 55953. He was killed in action on 18 September 1918, aged 33. His final resting place is unknown but his name listed on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial in northern France. He is commemorated on the St Matthew’s Church Memorial in Oxhey. Jessie later moved to 29 Rudolph Road, Bushey.

