

SHIPLEY TIMES AND EXPRESS

19 October 1917

A PATRIOTIC FAMILY

PTE W H PATCHETT MISSING

FATHER, SONS AND WIFE'S RELATIVES' LOYALTY Patriotism has been proved to be a predominant characteristic of a Shipley family named Patchett, many members of the family and also their best friends, being in the service of the country. Unfortunately, the satisfaction of patriotic service which comes to the relatives has this week been dimmed by the news that one of the number, Private **William Henry Patchett** of 8 Smith Street, Shipley, has been reported wounded and missing. The official news was received on Sunday morning, and read :-

I am directed to inform you that enquiries have been made, and it is now reported from the base that Private W H Patchett was wounded and has been missing since August 16th. It is regretted that the fact that he was missing was not reported earlier, but in the circumstances of fighting in the field, it is not possible for the commanding officers always to know whether a man known to be wounded has been picked up by his own stretcher bearers. I am to express the sympathy of the Army Council with you in anxiety, and to enclose for your information a leaflet showing the steps taken by the base hospital with a view to obtaining reliable information regarding missing soldiers. Any further information that may be received will be communicated to the next of kin by the officer in charge, No 1 Infantry Record Office, Lichfield.

The official notification states that "Patchett has been reported wounded and missing since August 16th 1917".

MEN WHO HAVE ANSWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL.



1, Pte. Wm. Henry Patchett, 8, Smith St., Shipley (wounded and missing); 2, Pte. Willie Gibson, Albion St., Shipley; 3, Pte. Frank Foster, Valley Rd., Shipley; 4, Pte. Isaac Patchett, 8, Smith St., Shipley; 5, Pte. Arthur Wright, 17, Raglan St., Shipley; 6, Pte. Alfred Wright, Mountain St., Windhill; 7, Gunner John Wm. Wright, Piccadilly, Shipley; 8, Pte. Thos. Hy. Wright, 19, Piccadilly, Shipley; 9, Pte. Albert Goldsborough.

Patchett was 19 years old, and before the war worked for **Mr Robert Foster**, boat owner, Valley Road, Shipley. Mr Foster has lost his own son in the war.

Patchett was called up last January. He was married last Christmas, and went to France in May. As a boy, he attended the Young Men's Institute, Windhill. He was a finely built young man, and was held in high respect.

An eloquent letter of sympathy has been received from Staff Captain Mary Booth of the Salvation Army, who wrote :-

Dear Mrs Patchett – We have been making enquiries about Private Patchett, and very much regret to say that he has been reported wounded and missing since August 16th. Enquiries shall be instituted, but seeing these may take some time to conclude, I am writing to assure you that your case is receiving attention. May I say how deeply we sympathise with you in the weary suspense of

waiting for news. We do not want to raise your hopes too high, for out of the numbers who are missing, alas, so many are never traced. Should this be your case, we do pray that you may be amongst the number who sorrow not without hope, but who have the assurance that there is coming a great day of reunion, when you will meet your loved one again.

We shall be pleased if any of our correspondents at the Front can assist in relieving the anxiety from which the family are suffering, and we will gladly forward any communications to Mrs Patchett.

Pioneer **Edward Patchett** is the father of Private W H Patchett, and a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. He went out to France two years ago from September last, and was invalided home in March last, suffering from rheumatic fever, and has been discharged on pension. He is 45 years of age, and is back again at work. His home is at Smith Street, Shipley.



Mrs Patchett, the mother of Private W H Patchett, has four brothers, all of whom are serving with the colours.

Private Alfred Wright (39), married, lives at Mountain Street, Windhill. He is a plasterer, and before the war was employed by Mr W Green. He enlisted twelve months ago last Christmas, and is now in Egypt.

Gunner **John William Wright** (36), whose home is in Piccadilly, Shipley, is Mrs Patchett's brother. He enlisted three years ago, and before the war was a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. He is now in France. A married man, he has a family of two children.

Private Arthur Wright (29) of 17 Raglan Street, Shipley, is another of Mrs Patchett's brothers who is serving. Before the war, he was employed by Mr Tom Hodgson, metal broker, Shipley. He enlisted twelve months ago last Christmas, and is one of the soldiers who have been loaned by the Government to the farmers in Norfolk.

Private Thomas Henry Wright (33), another of the Wright brothers, is a shoeing smith in the army,

and is stationed at Grantham. He is married with four children, and resides at 19 Piccadilly, Shipley. Since he enlisted 18 months ago, his home has been shadowed by bereavement, two of his children being buried within five weeks.

Mr Patchett's brother, Private **Isaac Patchett**, whose home is at 6 Smith Street, is also serving in France. He too was a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and enlisted nearly three years ago. He is married with three young children. Death has also struck his family severely, for since he joined the colours three of his children (two two year old twins and another child four years old) died within four months of each other.

In addition to members of the family, their best friends are also with the colours. Private Richard Cowman, 27 Piccadilly, Shipley, has been invalided home from service in France suffering with rheumatism.

Private Alfred Cockshott, Leeds Road, Windhill, joined the army at the same time as Mr Patchett's son, and was killed in December last. He was a widower, and left four sons, two of whom are serving in France, the other two being under military age.

Private George Cowman, 9 Piccadilly, is a married man with one child, and enlisted at the same time as Mr Patchett. He is the fourth of the quartet of chums.

Private Frank Foster (21), son of Mr Robert Foster, lives in Valley Road, Shipley, and before the war was a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. He and Private W H Patchett worked together on the same boat.

Private **Willie Gibson**, whose home is at 5 Albion Street, Shipley, was a chum of Private W H Patchett. He is 21 years of age, and enlisted early in the war. He is now serving in France. He also was a boatman on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and is married.

Albert Goldsborough (40), single, is a cousin of the Wrights, and has been in the army nearly 21 years. He was gymnastic trainer to the Devons in India. He is a Shipley man, is now with the Green Howards in India, and is well known in Shipley.