

## Re-examining the past

[KATIE MORTER]

I heard the postman come and I knew that it would be a letter for me so I ran down in me nightdress and opened the door, and snatched the letter off the postman. And run in, shut the door, in me nightdress and me bare feet. I opened the letter and it was from his sergeant and it just said 'Dear Mrs Morter, I am very sorry to tell you of the death of your husband.'

Well that was a far as I could read, you see, I couldn't read anything else. So I didn't know just for a few minutes what happened but I ran out of the house as I was, in me bare feet, and I banged on the next door. The next door neighbor was a Mr and Mrs Hurst and they let me in and 'whatever's to do?' she said. And I said, 'will you read this letter? Mrs Hurst, read this letter' and 'oh' she says 'you poor child.'

[NARRATOR]

Lance Corporal Percy Morter was killed on the Somme on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1916.

[KATIE]

Eventually the baby became to be born. It was born at home but I don't remember it being born at all. I had a very bad time. I had two doctors and I don't remember the baby being born and I felt I didn't want to live. I had no wish to live at all because the world had come to an end for me, because I'd lost all that I'd loved.

[NARRATOR]

Katie named her son Percy Edward. He too christened his son Percy Edward after the father he had never met. Katie married three more times. She survived all of her four husbands.