

Newspapers listed

The Blake Museum, Bridgwater, possesses a file of clippings from the Bridgwater newspapers – the *Mercury* and the *Independent* – covering the Great War (1914-1918). In the main they are the “Bridgwater and the War” columns from the *Mercury* which record local war news. The headings of the news stories are given here. While most are dated not all have the papers' titles..

War was declared at midnight on Monday 3 August. The following day the editorial staff of the *Bridgwater Mercury* compiled Agency reports of developments which featured greatly in the edition published the following day, Wednesday 5 August. There was very little local news about it..

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Bridgwater Mercury 12 August 1914 Bridgwater and the War

YEOMANRY AND ASC MOBILISED.

PURCHASE OF HORSES FOR THE ARMY.

A RUN ON THE SHOPS – RUSH FOR PROVISIONS – RESERVISTS CALLED UP
Nearly 20 from the postal service, PC **Fry**, Capt BA **Warry**, JP, CA of Shapwick called to the Reserve of Officers.

BRIDGWATER NAVAL OFFICER
Lt **Routh** .

CANNINGTON ‘OLD BOYS’ AND THE WAR

BRIDGWATER SHIPPING AND THE WAR

GUARDED RAILWAY BRIDGE
Somerset Bridge kept guarded day and night.

PRICE OF BREAD NOT TO BE RAISED.

25 MORE MEN WANTED – 5TH SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS RETURN TO SALISBURY PLAIN.

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT

The VAD accepted an offer of the Bridgwater Rink and Club in St Mary St as an hospital capable of holding 72 beds, an operating theatre, &c. Somerset Cabinet Works, Church St offered 18 men at the disposal of the VAD and to make a number of beds if required. There was also the fitting out of railway carriages as ambulance vans being carried out at the Somerset & Dorset station.

DEPARTURE OF THE YEOMANRY AND ASC.

REGISTRATION OF GERMANS.

BRIDGWATER LABOUR PARTY AND THE WAR.

BRIDGWATER DIVISION CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Lt Col RA **Saunders**, MP.

WEST SOMERSET YEOMANRY AND ASC AT ST MARY’S CHURCH

Full details of the service and the Sermon.

BRIDGWATER LADIES' EXCITING EXPERIENCE IN FRANCE

Description of a weekend visit by Miss KL **Everdell**, Miss **Roberts**, and Miss FA **Waddon** to France at the beginning of the crisis arriving back at Southampton on Bank Holiday morning (Bank Holiday Monday was 3rd August in 1914).

BRIDGWATER GENTLEMAN'S FLIGHT FROM GERMANY.

ACCIDENTS – TWO

Both connected with the purchase of horses for the military.

FOOTBALL TO BE POSTPONED

Bridgwater RFC postpone start of programme of matches.

Bridgwater Independent 15th August 1914.

DEPARTURE OF THE ASC

For Salisbury Plain.

DEPARTURE OF THE WEST SOMERSET YEOMANRY

For Winchester.

THE WAR AND THE EFFECT ON LOCAL TRADE – UNEMPLOYMENT FEARED

Brick yard to be closed and all single men discharged. Married men to be transferred to other yards owned by the company. Fear of unemployment in the collar factories and in shipping. Also there was the opening of a local fund in connection with the Prince of Wales for dealing with 'distress consequent upon war'.

BRIDGWATER VAD

Rink & Club offered as hospital (See 12 August 1914). Cannington Branch request use of Cottage Home, Cannington if needed.

LECTURES ON FIRST AID AND NURSING

FOOTBALL POSTPONED

Bridgwater RFC also includes a list of players who have left for active service..

SKITTLES LEAGUE

Opening of season postponed.

LT COL RA SAUNDERS MP AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

**Bridgwater Mercury 19 August 1914.
Bridgwater and the War**

AN EVENTFUL WEEK DEPARTURE OF THE A.S.C AND YEOMANRY

Detailed account.

MOTOR CYCLISTS CORPS ORGANISED – GERMAN ARRESTED IN THE TOWN.

LUSITANIA'S DASH ACROSS THE SEA

BRIDGWATER SKITTLES LEAGUE

Season postponed due to the call-up.

GERMAN ARRESTED IN THE TOWN

Court case of Henry **Hannack** an elderly itinerant musician with a wife in Cheltenham – Remanded pending reports..

GERMAN'S WIFE ARRESTED

Mrs Alice **Von Berks** arrested at Nether Stowey for failing to Register..

NOTE ABOUT RESIDENTS TRAPPED IN GERMANY

ACTIVITY OF THE VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT

LECTURES ON FIRST AID AND NURSING AT BRIDGWATER HOSPITAL

LOCAL FOOTBALLERS SERVING THEIR COUNTRY –

Bridgwater Club – **J. Barbour, J. Reed, F. Tapper and F Spriggs**

Albion Club – **T. Billings, J. Dibble, A. Holman, E. A. H. Churchill.**

SPECIAL SERVICE AT SAINT MARY'S FOLLOWING SUNDAY

Collection for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Col E. **Trevor**, the local representative soliciting subscriptions.

ROYAL NORTH DEVON HUSSARS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE

Note that the West Somerset Yeomanry have been transferred from Winchester to Colchester.

BRIDGWATER ARMY SERVICE CORPS

Letter from **Major A. H. Peace**, now at Durrington Camp, Lark Hill, Wilts, requesting contributions for comforts.

NOTE ABOUT THE JAPANESE ULTIMATUM TO GERMANY TO MOVE HER WARSHIPS FROM JAPANESE AND CHINESE WATERS.

MORE HORSES FOR THE ARMY

60 or 70 brought into the town..

BRIDGWATER AND THE NATIONAL RELIEF FUND – THE MAYOR'S APPEAL – SPLENDID DONATIONS.

Quotes the telegram to the Mayor from the Prince of Wales and saying that £200 1 0 had been received so far.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

A Bearer Company to be formed in he town.

BRIDGWATER SEWING SOCIETY

Letter about the formation of the group whose object was to make items for the Red Cross and similar organisations.

BRIDGWATER POLICE RESERVE

Letter from **Mr Wm J. Davey**, Head Constable asking for volunteers.

NOTE ABOUT A PRIVATE MEETING OF THE SOMERSET COUNTY WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE.

HELP FROM THE BRIDGWATER VARIETY ARTISTS HOLDING A HORSE PARADE AND SPORTS AT THE ALBION GROUND

Proceeds to the local relief fund.

THE WAR AND LOCAL TRADE.

Worry about a trade recession. Advisory committee formed.

WORK FOR BOY SCOUTS

“COME AND DO SOMETHING”

Text of appeal from **Sir Robert Baden-Powell**, Chief Scout, appealing for scouts and scout masters.

RECOGNITION OF BOY SCOUTS

Note about the War Office recognition.

BOY SCOUTS GUARDING THE RAILWAY LINE IN THE TAUNTON AREA

Appeal for the donation of rations.

BOY SCOUTS ACTIVITY IN BRIDGWATER AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Guarding the reservoir on Wembdon Hill, the waterworks at Ashford, railway bridges and the line near Highbridge and Durston stations. Cannington Industrial School offered to provide boys.

AN APPEAL FOR TENTS AND RATIONS FOR THE BRIDGWATER SCOUTS

WORTHY AND DESERVING OBJECTS

Detailed report on the setting up of the Bridgwater Sewing Society.

USEFUL WORK BY THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Account of their guarding duties.

BAND PERFORMANCES FOR CHARITY

Mogg's Military Band from W-s-M and the **B. A. Christy** Band booked to play in Blake Gardens.

YEOMANRY HORSE STRANGLER

Report that the animal had fallen in the railway waggon on the way to Winchester and strangled itself.

BRIDGWATER DOCTOR VOLUNTEERS FOR SERVICE – **Dr Price**, in partnership with **Dr H. S. Pope** had offered his services.

QUEEN MARY AND UNEMPLOYMENT
Mentions the fear that the formation of sewing groups would cause unemployment among sempstresses.

Bridgwater Mercury 26 August 1914. Bridgwater and the War

A WEEK OF USEFUL WORK

Red Cross Association Meeting
Fully Equipped hospital to be provided
Great recruiting gathering on the East Quay.

BRIDGWATER'S THOUGHT FOR THE WOUNDED – Report of the public meeting to set up the temporary hospital at the Bridgwater Rink in Saint Mary Street.

THE CALL TO ARMS

GREAT RECRUITING MEETING IN BRIDGWATER

SPEECHES BY MAJOR **ARCHER-SHEE** AND COLONEL **TREVOR**

Very full report. The meeting was called as the result of Kitchener's appeal for volunteers.

THREATENED INVASION OF ENGLAND IN 1756

Text of a loyal address from the Borough published in the *London Gazette* 24 April 1756 on the occasion of the threatened French invasion.

A GOOD SUGGESTION

St John's Church to ring bell at 12 noon on each day to remind people to say a prayer for the soldiers and sailors engaged in the war.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Bridgwater Traders' Association appeal to customers not to hoard.

SERVICES OF INTERCESSION

Note that all local churches held intercession services the previous Friday..

THE MOTOR CYCLISTS CORPS

Report of a meeting of this group.

MUSIC IN AID OF THE RED CROSS FUNDS

Reports with detailed programmes of the two Band concerts held in Blake Gardens the previous week.

ARMY SERVICE CORPS RATIONS – Evidently reports had been circulating about the Rations of the A. S. C. – List of daily rations quoted, namely Bread, 1lb 5ozs, or 1lb of biscuits, or 1lb of flour Meat (fresh), 1lb 4ozs

Bacon 4ozs

Cheese, 3ozs

Peas, beans or dried potatoes, 2ozs

Tea, 5/8 of an ounce

Jam, 4 ozs

Sugar, 3 ozs

Salt, ½ oz

Mustard, 1/20 oz

Pepper, 1/36 oz

Lime juice essence 1/10 oz

Half-a-gill of rum and tobacco not exceeding 2ozs for those who smoke, issued at the discretion of the G.O.C.

Fresh vegetables when obtainable will be issued at the rate of ½ .lb per ration. When these are supplied peas, beans or dried potatoes and lime juice will not be supplied.

THE NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

Bridgwater's response – list of subscribers. Total to date £489 10s.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES IN THE COUNTY – LARGE NUMBER ENROLLED AT BRIDGWATER.

Note that not many were from Bridgwater itself.

Continued on P 5.

SOMERSET AND THE WAR – FORMATION OF THE COUNTY RELIEF COMMITTEE – IMMEDIATE STEPS TO BE TAKEN

List of names of the Committee members.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR ABOUT THE SEWING CIRCLE TAKING WORK AWAY FROM LOCAL SEMPSTRESSES.

Bridgwater and the Great War (Continued from P 6).

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S PROMOTION

Frederick **Marker** who was in the Royal Field Artillery promoted sergeant.

CATCOTT OFFICER AT THE FRONT

Lt R. J. A. **Henniker**, in the Duke of Wellington's Light Infantry. His uncle, Major **Henniker** in the Royal Engineers.

BEARER COMPANY RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Weekly orders.

SALVATION ARMY COLLECTIONS

The band raised £1 15 0 for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund.

MORE HORSES FOR THE ARMY

52 despatched by the GWR for Tidworth, on Salisbury Plain..

BRIDGWATER NEEDLEWORK GUILD

Letter about the meeting last week, with list of names of donors.

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

Announcement that the Salvation Army band would play in Blake Gardens for Red Cross funds.

MR C. K. TYNTE'S GENEROUS OFFER. – CEFN MABLY AS A CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL
Mr Charles Kemeys Tynte of Halswell offered the property, [on the outskirts of Cardiff] to the authorities.

UNREGISTERED GERMAN IN BRIDGWATER
Case Dismissed [See last week].

COLLECTION AT SAINT MARY'S

Previous Sunday £22 13 3; Chilton Trinity £1 6 1.

LOCAL LADY IN GERMANY

Wife of Mr E. Godfrey **Page**, [the architect] safe with friends in Germany [see last week]. Hopes to return soon.

BAND PROCEEDS

List of money taken at the two band concerts in Blake Gardens the previous week..

Bridgwater Mercury 2nd September 1914. Bridgwater and the War

THE CALL TO ARMS IN BRIDGWATER. GREAT RECRUITING MEETING IN BRIDGWATER TOWN HALL

Big batch of Police reserves enrolled.

INTERESTING INCIDENTS

Describes the mood of the town as anxious and subdued although the Red Cross appeal warmly responded to.

PATRIOTIC SPEECHES BY DISTINGUISHED
GENTLEMEN – including Lord St. Audries.

RECRUITS FROM OTTERHAMPTON AND COMBWICH.

BRIDGWATER BUILT AMBULANCE WAGONS
Bridgwater Motor Co Ltd at their coach works are building 2 ambulance wagons for the Red Cross.

NATIONAL WAR RELIEF FUND – LOCAL RESPONSE

List of donors and donations given.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES FOR BRIDGWATER
78 townsmen enrolled.

LT ERIC **WESTMACOTT** , HMS *ARETHUSA*
– ‘KILLED IN ACTION LAST FRIDAY AT THE
BATTLE OF HELIGOLAND’

Nephew of Maj Gen Westmacott of Edington.

BRIDGWATER MOTOR CO LTD

Enlistment of 7 men to act as drivers for the ASC.

BRIDGWATER RECRUITS – 150.

BRIDGWATER CURATE'S OFFER

Rev BF **Davies** as army chaplain– refused as over subscribed.

BRIDGWATER DENTIST'S PATRIOTIC ACTION

Mr WH **Phillips** – offered free dental treatment to those being refused enlistment on account of their teeth.

BRIDGWATER RUGBY CLUB – cancel fixture due to the war.

BRIDGWATER OFFICER'S FLYING EXPERIENCE.

PARLIAMENTARY RECRUITING COMMITTEE – Mr RA Saunders MP.

LOCAL RED CROSS SOCIETY APPEAL

For beds, materials and also money.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIAL FORCE "C" COMPANY

Extract from orders week ending 5th September 1914.

GUARDSMAN FROM ST AUDRIES

Mr George Rymer.

PATRIOTIC LOCAL PEOPLE

People in the employment of Messrs. H. J. & C. Major – brick and tile makers contributing portion of their wages each week to the Prince of Wales.

LOCAL SEAMAN ON BOARD HMS HIGHFLYER
AB A. **Letherby** of Northgate. HMS *Highflyer* sank the *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*.

THE WAR AND THE BUILDING TRADE

Due to the serious effect of the war on the building trade, increase in cost of materials, stoppage of contracts could result in unemployment .

A RECRUIT FROM STOGURSEY

Joseph **Millard**.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

L.H. **Hayter** – Liberal objection to Soldiers' votes

John McGowen – The Call to Arms

J. **Cooke-Hurle** – Appeal to Men of Somerset – Sheriff of Somerset

Lt Col WF **Westmacott** – the pressing need for more recruits

A SOMERSET LADY – RECRUITMENT APPEAL TO FARMERS, NORMAN **OLDFIELD**, WESTON-SUPER-MARE – SOMERSET WAR COMMITTEE – APPEAL TO EMPLOYERS OF LABOUR.

Bridgwater Mercury 9th September 1914. Bridgwater and the War

BOOM IN RECRUITMENT

New Territorial Companies formed.

RECRUITING BOOM IN BRIDGWATER

Large numbers join Territorial Forces.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES.

SPORTS AND HORSE PARADE

Funds for local effort.

BRIDGWATER OPERATIC SOCIETY

Performance abandoned.

FARMERS AND THE WAR

Supply of food stuffs.

LADIES AT WORK – WESLEYAN SECTION – BRIDGWATER SEWING SOCIETY.

MR GEO. **GILES**

Four sons serving in the somerset regiment.

BRIDGWATER SONS OF PUBLIC MEN

RESPONDING TO THE CALL.

BRIDGWATER EX ALBION CAPTAIN – MR HAH

CHURCHILL – Canadian Expeditionary Forces.

BAPTIST CHURCH – NON CONFORMIST– STRONG CONTINGENT.

LOCAL CRICKETERS' ENLIST.

PREFERENCE FOR KITCHENER'S ARMY.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Subscription of £1 from Mr Mark **Harman**, North St.

ROYAL ENGINEERS POPULAR

2 members of staff from Bridgwater Electric Light Co. enlisted Saturday last.

ANXIOUS ABOUT A FOOTBALLER

Lt RJA **Henniker** of Catcott.

BRIDGWATER MEN SERVING THEIR COUNTRY

650 in the Regular Army, Navy, Kitchener's Army and the Territorial Army. 100 Special Constables with the present mood of the town this should easily increase to 1000.

INSTRUCTOR CALLED UP

Colour Sgt Instructor **Paisey** and **Gamlen** as Instructors for Kitchener's Army.

MOTOR CYCLISTS CORPS

Bridgwater Motor Cyclists Corp took test on efficiency to Cheddar Sunday last.

MORE SPECIAL CONSTABLES

31 more sworn in.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Monies received from Frank **Hill**, also those collected by Mr Raynsford **Everard**.

EFFORT BY CARNIVAL GANGS

raised £2.

BAND PERFORMANCE FOR RED CROSS FUND

In Blake gardens.

A GOOD SEND OFF

31 members of the 2nd Bridgwater Company of the Army Service corps left for Salisbury Plain.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND – List of monies collected.

A PATRIOTIC STREET – 73 MEN FROM ALBERT ST ENLISTED

Messrs **Lewis (4), Cook (3), May, Howard, Jarvis (3), Creedy (2), Saunders (3), Salway (2), Hamlyn, Woodland, Chorley (2), Young (2), Kirk, Manley, Batley, Tapper, Lee, Letherby, Thomas, Porter, Turner (2), Frost (2), Salisbury, Dymont, Parsons, Hurford, Mullins, Slocombe, Staples (2), Pulsford, Kerslake, Rossitter, Coles, Longland (3), Parsons, Day Wall, Chapman, Court, Phillips, Smith and Lang..**

ASSISTANT SURVEYOR ENLISTS

Mr Owen **Barry**, Assistant Surveyor for Bridgwater Rural District Council enlists in Kitchener's Army.

FOOTBALL ON THE PLAIN

Bridgwater RFC sent 15 rugby shirts for use by soldiers on Salisbury Plain.

EMPLOYEES KINDLY ACTION

Employees of Tone Vale Manufacturing Co. contribute £1 6s to local Red Cross funds.

SOMERSET RECRUITS REQUIREMENTS

MR H **Hickman**, Chemist of Eastover forwarded to the Ladies Committee at Burnham supplies of Vaseline, ointments &c. for the new recruits at Taunton.

FLOWER SHOW ABANDONED

Bridgwater, Wembdon & District Horticultural Society abandon Autumn Show.

FOOTBALL CLUB DISBANDED

Bridgwater AFC disbanded until further notice.

TWENTY-EIGHT PLAYERS SERVING THEIR COUNTRY

List of members of Bridgwater Rugby Club who enlisted bringing the total to 28.

OHMS BEARER CO.

To meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7pm at Dr Morgan's School.

BRIDGWATER RESPONSE TO KITCHENER'S APPEAL

Over 100 men enlist this week.

WEST SOMERSET YEOMANRY

Need 150 more recruits for foreign service.

A FIRM'S GOOD RESPONSE

6 staff from J **Hook** & Son, Grocers, Fore St have enlisted, compelling shop to close for 1 hour at lunchtime due to a shortage of staff. The company was sure the people of the town would understand.

HONOUR FOR BRIDGWATER MAN

One of 6 special despatch riders attached to Sir John French's staff is believed to be a Bridgwater man.

LOCAL GENTLEMEN IN KITCHENER'S ARMY – SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY BATTALION
HB Peace, G Foley, Paul M Reed and H Burrington.

BRIDGWATER BOROUGH RED CROSS

Response to appeal for equipment for proposed hospital for sick and wounded at the Bridgwater Rink.

LOCAL RESERVIST WOUNDED

Pte Tom Parkman of Somersets from Wembdon, local postman.

BRIDGWATER TRADESMAN'S PATRIOTIC OFFER – HICKMAN'S DRUG STORE, EASTOVER.

An advertisement for a collection being made in aid of the National Relief Fund, Wives of soldiers on active service to get medicine for free..

**Bridgwater Mercury 16th September 1914
Bridgwater and the War**

RECRUITING PROGRESSING STEADILY

Slowing down – totals now 700.

BRIDGWATER MEN WITH THE CANADIANS

Ernest A **Hollister** formerly of Bridgwater, Herbert T **Smith** of High St, Bridgwater.

BRIDGWATER RURAL WAR COMMITTEE.

WOUNDED OFFICER'S LOCAL CONNECTION –

Capt **Besant**, Royal Warwickshire Regiment – nephew of Col T **Foster Barham**.

BRIDGWATER SWIMMING CLUB'S FINE RESPONSE

List of names of those who have enlisted.

RECRUITMENT MEETING IN THE VILLAGES
Cannington, Spaxton, Huntspill, Chilton Polden .

BELGIAN REFUGEES

Offer of hospitality by local residents.

SONS OF PUBLIC MEN SERVING THEIR
COUNTRY –

Foster, Corder, Helps, Westbury.

MOTOR DRIVERS FOR THE FRONT –
BRIDGWATER MOTOR WORKS CO.
5 men.

LOCAL TERRITORIALS ON LEAVE.

RIVAL TO ALBERT ST RECORD

West St (Does not mention numbers enlisting from
West St).

LOCAL OFFICER WOUNDED

Capt JYM **Broderip.**

IMPORTANT CONTRACT FOR LOCAL FIRM
Bridgwater Motor Works – order for transport motor
wagons .

LUCKY ESCAPE

Chas **Creeedy**, HMS *Pathfinder* and HMS *Heela*.

SOCCER PLAYER SERVING KING AND
COUNTRY – Bridgwater Thursday Association
Club.

INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL WOUNDED
SOLDIER

LCpl F **Hooper** from Chilton Polden – detailed
account.

WAR RELIEF CONCERT

Town Hall, 28th September in aid of Prince of Wales
Fund.

MORE SPECIAL CONSTABLES.

COMMISSION FOR MR HC **HICKS**

Former Liberal Candidate Bridgwater Division .

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Letter from Herbert T **Smith** of High St, Bridgwater.

A KINDLY ACT

Fruit and vegetables for the territorials on Salisbury
Plain from FJ **Shere** of Penel Orlieu.

PATRIOTISM OF GAS COMPANY'S
EMPLOYEES

**Howell, Redstone, Evitt, Perry, Gilson, Corder,
Hayward, Hill** – plus others giving weekly
contributions to the War Relief Fund.

LETTER TO MESSRS **SQUIBBS & SON**,
BRIDGWATER, FROM BELGIAN FIRM.
STOGURSEY RECRUITS.

FORTHCOMING CONCERT

In aid of Prince of Wales Fund, to be held in the
Town Hall, Bridgwater.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

Further Local Donations – list of donors and monies
given

BENEFIT AT THE BIJOU THEATRE

Announcement

FORTHCOMING CONCERT AT THE TOWN
HALL

Announcement

**Bridgwater Mercury 23rd September 1914.
Bridgwater and the War**

BELGIAN REFUGEES RECEIVED AT
WEMBDON

8 – detailed account on separate clipping.

MORE MEN REQUIRED FOR HOME SERVICE.

RECRUITING MEETINGS.

RETURN OF LOCAL WOUNDED WEMBDON
SOLDIER

Pte Tom **Parkman**– with photograph – wounded
after the Battle of Mons – detailed account.

LETTER FROM MR A W **FORBES**,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT AT THE
FRONT– TO MR WH CHAPMAN, BRIDGWATER
SOLICITOR, HIS UNCLE

Alec Forbes was a well known Rugby player in
Bridgwater – details of how he escaped injury, also
asking for 'Woodbines' as tobacco is poor and
expensive.

COMMISSION FOR A BRIDGWATERITE
Mr JL **King** of Wembdon Rd – 2nd Lt in the 7th
Service Battalion Somerset Light Infantry.

MISHAP TO YEOMANRY RECRUITS

On Taunton Rd involving a motor cycle and side car
ridden by LW **Carder** and a horse and cart owned by
Mr S Gambling.

Local Lady's Experience in Germany

Mrs **Page** of London formerly of Bridgwater.

PATRIOTISM OF BRIDGWATER LADS IN
CANADA

Letter to the *Mercury*, 2 men from Polden St with the
48th Highlanders.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY – APPEAL FOR BLANKETS

160 needed – letter from Harold S **Dosson**, Quartermaster.

PUBLIC MEN’S SONS WHO HAVE ENLISTED

Haggett, Trotman.

COMMISSION FOR LOCAL GENTLEMAN

AJ Petrocchino of Huntworth – 2nd Lt Army Service Corps south Western Brigade .

Bridgwater Doctors for Active Service

Dr EB **Hartnell** of Church St as a Surgeon Captain in a Cavalry Mounted Field Ambulance, called for training. It is understood that this mounted ambulance will be at the front within a month. Dr **Price** who volunteered has a temporary commission as a Lieutenant with the RMAC.

TONE VALE EMPLOYEES AND WORKMEN

Of 63 men employed by Tone Vale Manufacturing Co Ltd at Bridgwater and Taunton 28 have enlisted in the Army. Mr Harry **van Trump, jnr**, who served for two and half years in the Boer War, has enlisted in the ‘Colonial Infantry’ Battalion of the Regular Army. The firm is holding their jobs open until they return.

GALLANT LITTLE BELGIUM

Letter from HMB **Ker**, dated 21st September 1914, secretary of the Bridgwater Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, Shipping & Agriculture, stating a donation of £5 5s had been sent to the Belgian Relief Fund.

RECRUITS WANTED FOR THE ARMY SERVICE CORPS

50 more needed for the Bridgwater Company of the Army Service Corps.

BRIDGWATER RANGERS AFC

11 members serving with the forces includes list of names.

WAR RELIEF CONCERT – AT THE TOWN HALL
Announcement.

NATIONAL WAR RELIEF FUND

The Bridgwater Appeal – list of donors – Total of Fund to date £887 14s.

BRIDGWATER ARTILLERY MAN WOUNDED –

Gunner F **Baker**, Quantock Terrace , Bristol Rd, injured and in a military hospital at Devonport – wounded in 3 places but recovering.

GIFTS FOR LOCAL TERRITORIALS

Truck load of fruit and vegetables despatched to Salisbury Plain on Wednesday. It was sent by Mr FJ **Sheere** of Penel Orliou from gifts from farmers and residents of Bridgwater and the neighbourhood. Mr DG **Denman** of Haygrove, Durleigh also sent a truck load of apples.

**Bridgwater Mercury 30th September 1914.
Bridgwater and the War**

LOCAL TERRITORIALS TO PROCEED TO INDIA
– NEW ARMY SERVICE CORPS COMPANY
RAISED

Under the first 2 headlines there is a general paragraph on Bridgwater and the War. Appeal by ASC raised nearly 100 men. Bridgwater now has nearly 600 men serving out of a population of between 16,000 and 17,000 – only 2nd week of the war.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS SELECTED FOR
INDIA SERVICE

Full report plus list of those leaving for India.

COMFORTS FOR LOCAL TERRITORIALS

Appeal from Major Aglen H Peace.

BRIDGWATER MAN KILLED IN ACTION

Pte. Sidney **Smith** D Company – 1st Somerset Light Infantry at the Battle of Mons. Lived in West St prior to moving to Highbridge, parents live at Southbourne Terrace, North St. Leaves wife and child – article contains excerpt from last letter to his parents.

BRIDGWATER MEN WOUNDED

Cpl DJ **Gillespie** – reservist – Somerset Light Infantry of Saltlands Avenue, Chilton St and Frank **Stockham** – also with the Somersets – Saltlands Avenue, Chilton St . F **Baker** – Gunner – Quantock Terrace, Bristol Rd – Battle of Mons – wounded in the leg and left hand – article contains excerpt of letter to parents from hospital. Lcpl S **Southwood** – Somerset Light Infantry – wounded on 26th August – parents live at Corporation Buildings. Pte **Rainey** – Polden St.

HUMOUR IN THE FLEET

Mr **Pike**, Crowpill Cottage Chilton St, serving aboard HMS *Talbot* sent copies home of ‘*The Talbot Observer*’ – article has excerpts from some issues.

PETHERTON SERGEANT WOUNDED

Sgt **Lang** – Coldstream Guards – Battle of Aisne – son of Thomas Lang, Shearston, North Petherton.

RECRUITING MEETING IN THE FAIR FIELD.

BELGIUM REFUGEE FAMILIES IN BRIDGWATER

Mr & Mrs **Moleworth**, 'Belle Vue' Wembdon, house 2 families.

REFUGEES INTERVIEWED

Story of their experiences.

A LOCAL ARMY SERVICE COMPANY RAISED

Army Service Corps – more men needed – 65 men responded – big send off from S & D Station.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM TROOPER WS

HOOK – 12TH LANCERS

son of Mr CJ Hook, grocers of Bridgwater & Yeovil.

RECRUITS FOR KITCHENER'S ARMY

In the last 3 weeks 50 recruits sent to Taunton

LOCAL FOOTBALLER FOR THE FRONT

Mr Walter **Roman** – former captain of Bridgwater RFC also served in the Boer War.

MR ECM POYNTZ – GAZETTED TO THE BEDFORDSHIRES

Formerly of Bridgwater – one time captain of Bridgwater Albion FC.

PATRIOTISM IN A LOCAL BRICKYARD

Messrs Barham Bros – out of 40 employees 12 have enlisted assured jobs will be open for them on their return.

SINKING OF THE HOGUE – SOMERSET BRIDGE MAN'S EXPERIENCE

MR R **Symons** – gunner in the Royal Marine Artillery.

CANNINGTON WOUNDED AND MISSING –

John **Scully** – Rifle Brigade – wounded

Fred **Elworthy** – 1st Devons –wounded

Joseph **Barrett** – Rifle Brigade – missing

Fred **Williams** – Rifle Brigade – missing .

MAGISTRATES AND THE WAR – appeal for money and recruits.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER MISSING

Pte **Cooze** – Somerset Light Infantry – Halesleigh Rd

NORTH PETHERTON SOLDIERS MISSING

Pte Tom **Roberts** – Somerset Light Infantry –

Missing on 26th August – father lives at Queen St, North Petherton

Pte Edward **Elder** – Somerset Light Infantry – was rural postman before moving to Pontypridd.

FIRST LOCAL AMBULANCE BODY FOR THE FRONT

Sgt Maj W **Jones**, native of Bridgwater, brother living on High St.

A GOODLY PROPORTION

4 employees of Mr EH Hooper, draper, High St, have responded to the call. 3 left with the new ASC Company on Monday last.

YOUNG LADIES KINDLY ACT – On Wednesday

last, market day, Misses D & E **Denman** and M **Smith** solicited cigarettes and tobacco to be sent to Somerset troops at the front. They collected 880 cigarettes and £4 in money which was used to buy 5,000 cigarettes. These have all been sent to the front.

HOW TO BECOME EFFICIENT

call to ordinary people to attend instruction in the use of the rifle, signalling and first aid in case of the need to defend home soil.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS HOME FROM THE FRONT

Several in the Bridgwater district – article contains no details.

PATRIOTIC LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAM

Bridgwater Association Football team have disbanded for the present season about 20 members have enlisted – article included list of names.

NATIONAL WAR RELIEF FUND

Further local subscriptions – list of donors – amount to date £911 15s

THE 7TH BUFFS –

Lt RDR **Troup** of Wembdon granted a commission in the 7th Buffs (Bucks & Hants).

**Bridgwater Mercury 7th October 1914.
Bridgwater and the War**

DEPARTURE OF LOCAL TERRITORIALS EN ROUTE FOR INDIA

Recruiting efforts during the Fair .

BRIDGWATER INDIA BOUND TERRITORIALS –
Enthusiastic departure scene – detailed account.

GENEROUS GIFTS FOR THE TERRITORIALS – INITIATIVE OF ALDERMAN WILLS

Bridgwater Territorials going to India received gifts of tobacco, cigarettes, a pipe and a box of matches.

THE QUEEN'S THANKS TO A BRIDGWATER GIRLS' SCHOOL

Bridgwater Secondary Education Classes for Girls donated £5 for vests and socks for the troops.

BRIDGWATER OIL MILLS EMPLOYEES AT PRESENT SERVING AT THE FRONT

HC **Yeandle**, J **Barbour**, C **Barbour**, E **Bell**, T **Rugg**, W **Gratton** – all with the Territorials India Contingent

J Thomas, S Burt, R Burt, R Searle – with the Army Service Corps
E Ferris – with Kitchener's Army .

THOUSAND MULES TO BE SENT TO BRIDGWATER

1000 mules purchased from South America to be billeted at Bridgwater.

AUSTRALIANS IN BRIDGWATER
passed through on Wednesday Morning.

THE SOMERSET ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY
Those wishing to enlist apply to Bridgwater Police Station on Monday next.

ALLEGED GERMAN ATROCITIES
Refutes previous tales of German atrocities.

LOCAL TERRITORIALS MARRIED
F Berry and Bugler **Slocombe** – at St Mary's on Thursday morning – no other details.

MORE MEN FOR THE ASC
10 more men enlist.

YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND THE WAR – ST MARY'S ST – SERVING IN VARIOUS BRANCHES OF HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES

G Bishop, OW Berry, JW Colsey, LW Carder, E Cook, GT Eveleigh, J Elsey, CC Grant, CC Harris, FE Hawkes, TVV Hook, HL Hillier, AE Mead, C Smith, B Strange, J Strange, EM Wheller, C Waddleton, WB Colthurst.

KITCHENER'S ARMY RECRUITS
48 hours Leave – Mr Jack **Dunning**, ?? of the 2nd Somerset Battalion.

LOCAL MEN WOUNDED AND MISSING –
Wounded – Cpl A **Tambling** – Coldstream Guards – Chedzoy, Pte **Biddiscombe** – Coldstream Guards – Bridgwater, Pte **Blacker** – Somerset Light Infantry – North Petherton, Missing – Pte **Gray** – Somerset Light Infantry – Enmore .

Old Boy of Cannington Technical School Wounded – Sgt **J Scully** – Royal Irish Rifles – letter detailing wound.

SALE OF POEM –
Mr WJ Sharkey – donated £1 to the Red Cross.

WEMBDON SCHOOLS' GOOD RECORD –
E Biddiscombe, A Biddiscombe, R Biddiscombe, Raymond Biddiscombe (all of one family), **S Coles, G Coles, C Coles**, (all of one family), **PArthurs, P Baker, W Baker, B Shakespeare, R Pepperall, F Woodley, J Male, A Parker, F Parsons, P Lorway, G Sellick, H Reed, C Dibble, T Billing, F Lee, A**

Soloman, S Towler, B Temblett, A Curry, W Curry, S Hill, H Lynham, D Gillespie, F Gaylor, J Jeffries, S Berry, I Vickery, F Crossman, A Tabrett, E Price, J Haste, A Culverwell, Arthur Culverwell, W Bull, S Pearce, B Pearse, J Pitman, B Pitman, S Smith.

BRIDGWATER NEEDLEWORK GUILD
Letter detailing work completed for the Red Cross dated 6th October 1914.

THE FIRE BRIGADE AND THE WAR
3 members serving their country – one on active service in France and reported missing.

SOMERSET TERRITORIALS AND FOREIGN SERVICE – A DISAPPOINTMENT
Members of the 4th & 5th Somerset Light Infantry now not all going to India.

REPORTED GERMAN PRISONERS FOR TAUNTON DISTRICT – A CAMP FOR MULES.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM MR ALEC W **FORBES** – HOW CIGARETTES ARE APPRECIATED .

SECOND LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS
Total collected £68 14s.

GOOD WORK AT WEMBDON
Wembdon branch of St Mary's Sewing Guild – doing work in connection with providing comforts for the troops

Bridgwater Mercury 14th October 1914. Bridgwater and the War

LOCAL TERRITORIALS SAIL FOR INDIA – INTERVIEWS WITH WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN THE DISTRICT – GENEROUS BRIDGWATER RESPONSE TO OUR TOBACCO FUND
Headlines followed by a general paragraph.

NORTH PETHERTON SOLDIERS EXPERIENCE – SAVED BY HIS CIGARETTE CASE
Detailed article giving Pte **Chamberlain's** experiences. Pte H **Chamberlain** – 1st Devons – wounded in the right knee. Lcpl **Taylor** – Rifle Brigade – wounded in the arm.

GWR AND THE WAR
Has run 2229 troop train since the outbreak of war.

MULE DEPOTS NEAR BRIDGWATER
To be situated at Mr **Norman's** Petherton Park and Mr **Tilley's**, Alstone Court, Huntspill – grooms wanted to look after the animals.

CARNIVAL COMMITTEE AND THE WAR
No Carnival this year – Concert for War Relief Fund on November 5th at the Town Hall.

BRIDGWATER GUARDIAN [of the poor]
OBTAINS COMMISSION – Mr **Ponsonby** of
Pawlett – in the Reserve West Yeomanry Regiment .

MORE RECRUITS FOR THE ARMY SERVICE
CORPS
Staff of Messrs Phillipps & Co – BL **Hurst**, CW
White, C **Symons**, – Army Service Corps Andover –
also Mr Digby **Goldie** .

LIFE IN THE TRENCHES
Pte Arthur **Parsons** – 2nd Coldstream Guards –
brother of PC Morgan **Parsons**, Bridgwater Borough
Police – asking for cocoa and matches.

PRINCE OF WALES NATIONAL RELIEF FUND
Bridgwater Teachers Association – list of schools’
contributions.

WEMBDON SCHOOL RECORD
Two more old boys – Ernest **Chipp** and Herbert
Webb.

A PRISONER
Capt JWM **Broderip** – with the Somersets – son of
Mr E **Broderip** of Cossington House, Bridgwater.

THREE SONS SERVING THEIR COUNTRY
Mr WG **Richards** – Mechanical Section ASC, Mr
CG **Richards** – 5th Somersets, Mr AG **Richards** – 6th
Battalion Manchester Regiment.

THE BRIDGWATER MOTOR CYCLE CORPS
more members.

LETTER FROM A SOMERSET CORPORAL
Cpl **Wilcox**, A Company Somerset Light Infantry –
letter to his mother at Middlezoy.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS SAIL FOR INDIA
In the early hours of Saturday morning the Company
of the Territorials, as part of the Wessex Brigade
sailed for India.

BRIDGWATER RELIEF SUB – COMMITTEE –
LETTER FROM THE MAYOR, DATED 12TH
OCTOBER 1914
For the relief of cases of distress arising on account
of the war – for civilians – list of committee
members.

FORTHCOMING FOOTBALL MATCH –
ANNOUNCEMENT
For local relief fund.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER KILLED
Pte Alec **Heard** of the Somerset Light Infantry –
parents reside in Old Taunton Rd, Bridgwater – Pte
Heard worked as a baker in Glastonbury .

MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER’S APPEAL
Additional subscriptions on behalf of the Prince of
Wales Fund – total now £971 7s 6d .

N.B. Piece of an article missing which gives details
of the experiences of Pte **Pitman** – wounded – only
the end of the article is with the clippings.

Bridgwater Mercury 21st October 1914. Bridgwater and the War

WOUNDED SOLDIERS RETURN TO THE
DISTRICT – INTERESTING INTERVIEWS.

RETURN OF BRIDGWATER RESERVIST –
INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF
THE RIVERS
Pte E **Biddescombe** – 1st Coldstream Guards – of 9
Chilton St – wounded in the left leg by a shell
splinter at the Battle of Aisne – long detailed account
of his experiences.

FURTHER BRIDGWATER REFUGEES
Mr & Mrs HI **Humphry** offered accommodation to a
Belgian couple.

BRIDGWATER LADS WITH THE CANADIANS
Rev WW **Bell** Charlynch, Mr RJ **Foley**, JP
Bridgwater, Mr WH **Smith** , Bridgwater, Mr W
Robbins, Bridgwater and Mr JN **Trayler**, Bridgwater
– have sons serving with the Canadian Expeditionary
Force.

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION –
Tom **Purseley** of the Somersets – mother received a
note written on a piece of wood which arrived safely
through the post – due to lack of notepaper and
envelopes at the front.

OBTAINS A COMMISSION – MR ALEC **FORBES**
– ROYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT –
FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT ON THE FIELD
OF BATTLE – Letter to his Aunt and Uncle , Mr &
Mrs Chapman of Ashley Villa, Wembdon.

SOMERSET SERGEANT’S NARROW ESCAPE
Sgt C **Wilcox** of A Company Somerset Light Infantry,
Writing to his mother who lived at 109 Bristol Rd He
had the pack cut off his back by a shell – asks for
thick woollen socks and says that Tom **Packman’s**
account in the Bridgwater Mercury of the 23rd
September was correct as he was with him – see
letter for full details.

WOUNDED SOLDIER – COSSINGTON
Pte **Theobald**, 2nd Coldstream Guards – sister Mrs
Hallet, post mistress at Cossington – wounded in the
left knee – detailed account of his experience.

WEMBDON SCHOOL RECORD

Edwin **Young**, Herbert **Webb**, Edward **Price**, Clifford **day**, Henry **Green**, Edward **Culverwell**.

THE DEFENCE OF ANTWERP

Polden Hill Marines Take Part – Ptes CJ **Pitney**, E **Pitney**, and F **Chilcott** of Chilton Polden and **Brown** of Moorlynch – detailed account by CJ **Pitney**.

SPIES AND GUY FAWKES DAY

Due to probable visits from Zeppelins Guy Fawkes celebrations cancelled – Carnival already cancelled therefore cannot be used as a guide to any ‘German aerial fleet’.

LETTER WRITTEN UNDER SHELL FIRE – BRIDGWATER SOLDIER’S VIVID EPISTLE – PTE W **CULVERWELL** 2ND BATTALION COLDSTREAM GUARDS – SON OF MR WJ **CULVERWELL**, BEAUFORT ARMS, ST JOHN’S ST

Excerpt from letter written from billet one and a quarter miles behind the trenches – within reach of the German ‘big’ guns.

RESUSCITATION OF THE BRIDGWATER RIFLE CLUB

Detailed account

LOCAL SOLDIERS MISSING

Pte **Gray**, Somersets of Enmore, Pte **Randle**, Somersets of Huntspill – te **Gray** reported missing now officially informed he is a POW in Germany .

THE TOWN AND THE BELGIAN REFUGEES

Meeting held to consider the question of offering hospitality.

LETTER FROM CANNINGTON GUARDSMAN – HERBERT **WAKELY** 2ND BATTALION COLDSTREAM GUARDS

Mother matron at the Cottage Home, Cannington received a letter dated 9th October 1914 – been fighting since 13th August .

WEST SOMERSET YEOMANRY – COMMISSION

Mr CB **Greenhill** of Puriton Manor, Bridgwater as a Lieutenant .

A SCHOOL’S SPLENDID RECORD – CANNINGTON NATIONAL

51 old boys serving in his Majesty’s Forces.

A NIGHT WITH THE BRIDGWATER MEN ON SALISBURY PLAIN

Correspondent's account of ASC Territorial Force, B company Wessex Brigade at West Down South Camp, Salisbury Plain, where his brother was serving – detailed account of an aspect of camp life – preparing for the arrival of the Canadians.

INTERESTING INTERVIEW WITH M. RENE **AUROUSSEAU**

Belgian Refugee – detailed account.

BRIDGWATER OFFICER OF DRAGOONS KILLED IN ACTION

2nd Lt JD **Patteson**, 5th Dragoon Guards – originally from Norwich – was in Bridgwater learning brewing with Messrs Starkey, Knight & Ford Ltd – whilst in Bridgwater he resided with Mr Cop in St Mary’s St.

BRIDGWATER RED CROSS DETACHMENT

Details of equipping and repairing the Rink & Club as a hospital – also an appeal for a guarantee fund and appeal for mattresses and blankets.

MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER’S LIST

List of donors – total amount to date £979 5s.

A GENEROUS GIFT

Mr WB **Broadmead** JP of Enmore Castle – £70 to the special fund of the West of England Sanatorium, Weston-super-Mare, in connection with the war.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

Maj AM **Henniker** – brother of the late MR JG Henniker of Catcott.

THE VOLUNTEER RESERVE – LARGE ADDITION OF RECRUITS – WEST OF ENGLAND CABINET WORKS

42 employees and the principal, Mr HI Humphry have joined the Bridgwater Volunteer Reserve.

RECENT RED CROSS CONCERT

Thanks to organisers.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTS TO OUR BRAVE DEFENDERS

Communication received by the Mayor from the ‘Vegetable Products Committee’ London requesting the setting up of a committee to supply fruit and vegetables jams, preserves &c free of cost to warships, army corps and depots, hospitals and other institutions.

TOBACCO FOR SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT fund has raised a total of £209 6s 3d equating to 8372 and a half packets.

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER RESERVE

To take part in a route march to North Petherton on Thursday evening.

A CHILD’S CALL TO THE MANHOOD OF OUR COUNTRY

A Poem by Hilda Harwood, Eastover Council Girls School, Bridgwater.

Bridgwater Mercury 28th October 1914 .
Bridgwater and the War

TOBACCO FOR THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT

Total sum to date £284 1s 9d.

MORE BELGIAN REFUGEES TO BE ENTERTAINED.

CHEDZOY WOUNDED SOLDIER'S GRAPHIC STORY – VIVID SCENES OF THE BATTLEFIELD – PATHETIC HOSPITAL MEETING – Cpl AJ **Tambling** 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards – wounded in left knee at the Battle of the Rivers – very detailed account of his experience.

WITH THE BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS ON THE WAY TO INDIA – AN INTERESTING DIARY – LIFE ON BOARD A TROOPSHIP
Pte Clement **Carver**, Somerset Territorials, of Church St Bridgwater, – detailed account of his experiences on the troop ship.

BALTIC STEAMER ARRIVES AT BRIDGWATER – HOW THE GERMANS WERE DUPED

Monday 19th October arrival at Dunball Wharf, Bridgwater from Sundsvall the Swedish steamer *August*, with timber for Messrs Geo Hooper & Co Ltd, Bridgwater – description of how the vessel was boarded by German officers – when the Captain said he was bound for Bridgwater the officer thought he meant Bridgewater America.

THE KAISER'S DREAM – POEM WRITTEN BY MR WJ **SHARKEY**, BRIDGWATER
Copies sold for the Bridgwater Mercury Fund for tobacco and cigarettes for the Somersets at the front – contains excerpt from the poem.

CANADA AND THE WAR – BRIDGWATER LADY'S STIRRING LETTER

Mrs VJ **Soper**, native of Bridgwater now resident in Edmonton – written to friends in Bridgwater detailing numbers enlisted.

BRIDGWATER MEN IN 'BRISTOL'S OWN' GLOUCESTERS

Mr HW **Cash**, MR F **Ballinger**, and Mr H **Crossman**.

A BATTALION FOR MEN OVER 45

Gunner JW **Turner**, Pawlett – men wishing to serve but over 45.

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Continues to grow.

'JUMP FOR JOY FOR A GOOD SMOKE'

Driver W **Tucker**, 107th Battery Royal Field Artillery – letter home detailing the appreciation of tobacco also description of conditions at the front.

PROMOTION FOR CAPT HAROLD **HICKS**
Former Liberal Candidate – to 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

BELGIAN REFUGEES AT WEMBDON
1 family left for Bath.

AN ERRONEOUS REPORT

Driver **Osborne** of Leicester not Bridgwater – awarded the VC.

A GERMAN TIMBER CARGO

Captured by the British, part of which has been bought by the West of England Cabinet Works, Bridgwater.

LT ALEC **FORBES**

Wounded – shrapnel not serious.

BRIDGWATER BELGIAN GUESTS

Arrival of more refugees.

Bridgwater Mercury 4th November 1914.
Bridgwater and the War

TOBACCO FOR THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT

Our Fund Reaches nearly £370. Fifteen Cases Already Despatched – sum already received is £367 1s 3d equating to 14,682 and a half packets – Messrs Martin Ltd, London have despatched 15 cases up to the 27th October – Each case contains 160 parcels plus matches – Lcpl **Anglin** wrote to his mother in Albert St saying that the first consignment had arrived and how much it was appreciated.

ARRIVAL OF BELGIAN GUESTS

Belgian refugees arrive in Bridgwater and are accommodated in Kings Sq – gifts in kind and money and promises have been received.

INTERESTING LETTERS FROM THE FRONT – SOMERSET OFFICER'S EXCITING EXPERIENCES

Sub headings followed by general paragraph .

BRIDGWATER LANCE-CORPORAL'S INTERESTING LETTER – VIVID DESCRIPTION OF BATTLE OF MONS – 'WE HAVE GOT THEM GROGGY NOW!'

Lcpl J **Anglin** attached to A Company Somerset Light Infantry and went to France with the first British Expeditionary Force – letter to his mother who lives at 11 Court, Albert St, Bridgwater – gives detailed account of his experiences at the Battle of Mons – says 'Stan', Lcpl **Southwood** – parents live in Penel Orliou, Bridgwater, was wounded – they enlisted together a year or so ago – Mrs Anglin has 2

other sons serving – Pat and – Jack who are stationed with the 3rd Somersets at Devonport and expected to proceed to the front shortly.

BRIDGWATER PRIVATE'S EXPERIENCES AT THE FRONT – 'UNDER SHOT AND SHELL EVERY DAY'

Pte WG **Fudge** of the 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry – was landlord of the Volunteer Arms, Union St, Bridgwater – went out with the 1st British Expeditionary Forces – was at Battle of Mons – letter giving details of his experiences.

LOCAL SOLDIER'S NARROW ESCAPE – WOUNDED MAN'S HAIR SINGED BY A SHELL

Pte Walter **Smith** of the 1st Battalion Gloucester Regiment – went out with the 1st British Expeditionary Forces – staying with relatives at 101 Wellington Rd, Bridgwater – wounded by a bullet in the left thigh and by a shell in the right thumb – detailed interview of his experiences.

CHARLYNCH MAN WOUNDED

Pte **Tucker** Coldstream Guard – of Charlynch wounded in action.

'WE HAD TO SMOKE OUR TEA'

Pte J **Grey** of the Northumberland Fusiliers – letter home from the front detailing how he smoked 2 tea allowances due to lack of tobacco.

WITH THE LOCAL TERRITORIALS ON THE WAY TO INDIA – AN INTERESTING LETTER

Pte Graham **Eveleigh** – son of Mr T Eveleigh, Wembdon Rd, Bridgwater – on his way to India with the Somerset Territorials – gives details of his trip on board the troopship and the sights he saw.

BRIDGWATER RESERVIST'S NARROW SHAVE – STRUCK IN THE TOE BY A SHELL

Pte W **Temblett**, Royal West Surrey Regiment – of Bath Rd, Bridgwater – letter detailing his experiences in the trenches also refers to the need for cigarettes – was a reservist and was employed by the West of England Cabinet Works, Bridgwater before being called up.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND – LOCAL LIST

List of donors and amounts given – total fund to date £1,014 12s 5d.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN BRIDGWATER – LOCAL VOLUNTARY AID TO HOLD THEMSELVES IN READINESS

Wounded soldiers expected in the next week or so – temporary hospital to be ready at 24 hours notice.

CIGARETTES FOR THE SOMERSETS – LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE FRONT

To Miss E Denman from Maj CP **Prowse** of 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry – thanking her, her sister and Miss Hill for the Cigarettes they set – see report Bridgwater Mercury 30th September 1914.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' CORRESPONDENCE

Asking for interesting letters from soldiers and sailors on active service for publication.

A MONTH IN THE TRENCHES

Pte J **French** of the Coldstream Guards – letter to his mother at Sutton Mallet – had not had clean shirt for ten weeks.

WOUNDED IN STORMING GERMAN TRENCHES

Pte A **Parsons** of the Coldstream Guards – brother of PC GM Parsons, Bridgwater Borough Police Force – wounded in the right leg whilst storming German trenches on October 21st .

WEMBDONIAN'S SON WOUNDED

Pte William **Sellars** of the Somerset Light Infantry – son of Mr Charles Sellars, Tower House, Mount Redford, Wembdon – Pte Sellars married and lived in Pontypridd – is a reservist.

FIREWORKS AND BONFIRE PROHIBITION

No large squibs or aerial fireworks after 8 o'clock any night – also applies to bonfires .

IN TRAINING AT THE WHITE CITY –

Letter from Rifleman **Dursdon** of the 12th County of London Battalion – formerly employed in Bridgwater – brother Bob serving with the Somerset Light Infantry .

WARRIORS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS –

Bridgwater Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen voted to support the 'Daily Citizen' campaign of £1 a week for dependants of every soldier and sailor killed or permanently maimed by fighting.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN

Churches paid tribute to the fallen last Sunday – St Mary's rang a muffled peal in honour of the British soldiers who have fallen.

LOCAL MEN PRISONERS OF WAR

Pte **Rendall** (West Huntspill), Pte **Wilkins** (Spaxton), both of the Somersets and J **Barrett** (Cannington) are POWs of the Germans .

BRIDGWATER TRADESMAN WOUNDED

Cpl **Trulufe**, Cameron Highlanders – wounded in the left foot – Reservist – had a hairdressing business in the High St, Bridgwater before being called up.

GENEROUS WORKPEOPLE

Employees of Messrs HW Pollard & Son, Contractors, Bridgwater have collected £1 4s 5d for the Bridgwater Red Cross Fund – the same workmen also raised £5 to supply tobacco for soldiers at the front.

ARMY SERVICE CORPS – MORE MEN ENLIST – Bridgwater is supplying about 300 men to the ASC – some of the recruits are Messrs LJ **Facey**, EWE **Wilcox**, S **Reading**, F **Patch**, H **Preece**, C **Ford**, C **Tottle**, R **Preece**, R **Payne**, H **Morris**, F **Sellick**, CC **Hartley**, WA **Geen** (see 11th November 1914 edition for correction), PF **Jarman**, T **Nash**, F **Baker**, J **Chipp**, A **Durston**, WT **Bowles**, C **Bale**, EW **Sparkes**, T **Bale**, J **Facey**, H **Burt**, and BJ **Jones** – all of the men are from Bridgwater except Hartley who is from Over Stowey.

EFFORT TO AID BELGIAN REFUGEES

Ladies of Bridgwater selling bows in the Belgian colours, up to 15,000, on Wednesday and Thursday to raise money for the local fund for housing Belgian refugees.

RECRUITING FOR KITCHENER'S ARMY – IN THE LAST WEEK 20 MORE RECRUITS

Since the war began about 250 from Bridgwater have enlisted in Kitchener's Army – Bridgwater's contribution to all the services is now well over 1,000.

ON LEAVE – LARGE NUMBERS OF SOLDIERS WITH KITCHENER'S ARMY AND TERRITORIALS HOME ON LEAVE

Made Bridgwater look like a garrison town.

BRIDGWATER CANADIANS HOME – 2 MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AND NATIVE TO BRIDGWATER HOME ON LEAVE

Pte FJ **Davis**, 48th Toronto Highlanders and Pte A **Spriggs**, 78th Royal Nova Scotia Highlanders.

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Reserve now to meet at the Butter market as the Rink and Club is needed for the Red Cross hospital – article gives details of the meeting.

BRIDGWATER NEEDLEWORK GUILD

Details of a letter from Mrs ES Ware, hon. secretary of the Bridgwater Needlework Guild to the Bridgwater Steam Laundry thanking them for the full use of the laundry for articles for the local Red Cross hospital.

SHAPWICK

All saints Day service in remembrance of those who have died in the war .

SOMERSET WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE

Meeting at Bridgwater – Trade Unionist Representation on the local Committee – The employment of Belgian Refugees – Inadequate Pensions for Soldier's Widows – full detailed report of the meeting .

SOMERSET'S SPLENDID RECORD

1 in 5 men between the ages of 18 and 45 serving in either Kitchener's Army or the Territorials.

BRIDGWATER'S BELGIAN GUESTS – SEVENTEEN ARRIVE IN THE TOWN – CIVIC RECEPTION AT THE RAILWAY STATION.

THOUSANDS WELCOME REFUGEES

Detailed report.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE REFUGEES – INTERESTING STORIES OF THEIR EXPERIENCES

Detailed article .

Bridgwater Mercury 11th November 1914. Bridgwater and the War

TOBACCO FOR THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT – OUR FUND REACHES NEARLY £430 Total now £428 19s 3d equating to 17,158 and a half packets – donations from as far afield as Chicago and Toronto – also a parcel of cigarettes of over 1,000 cigarettes collected by Miss Dorothy Apter, Heathfield, North Petherton.

BELGIAN FAVOURS' DAYS IN THE TOWN – STRIKING FINANCIAL SUCCESS – INTERVIEWS WITH WOUNDED SOLDIERS – VIVID STORIES OF THE BATTLEFIELD

Headlines followed by a general paragraph – about £130 raised on Belgian Favours' Days – in the last week 33 more Bridgwater men enlisted.

THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT – WOUNDED BRIDGWATER MAN'S EXPERIENCE – Pte J **Davey** of the Somerset Light Infantry – wounded in the right hand in a fight at la Bassée – returned home to West St, Bridgwater – detailed account of his experiences.

CHEERFUL MESSAGE FROM THE FRONT – 'THE OLD FLAG STILL FLYING: DON'T GET DOWNHEARTED'

Pte F **Blackburn**, 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays), – son of Mr H Blackburn, High St, Bridgwater – excerpt from letter to sister dated 28th October reassuring the family.

RETURN OF LIEUT ALEC FORBES – LOYAL NORTH LANCS – RETURNED TO BRIDGWATER Severely wounded in the fighting around Ypres – now convalescing.

BRIDGWATER GUNNER'S BATTLEFIELD EXPERIENCES – HAND TO HAND FIGHT WITH THE GERMANS – PATHETIC ROADSIDE INCIDENT

Gunner FA **Baker**, 29th Battery Royal Artillery – of Quantock Terrace, Bristol Rd, Bridgwater returned home on Thursday evening bearing several severe scars of the war – wounded at the Battle of Aisne – wounded in the left hand and thigh and 3 places in the back – detailed interview of his experiences.

LIFE IN THE TRENCHES – NEWS FROM A BRIDGWATER RESERVIST

Pte A **Bennett**, Somerset Light Infantry – letter to his wife at Bath Terrace, Eastover, Bridgwater – except detailing life in the trenches.

A CHILD'S LETTER TO WOUNDED SOLDIER
Letter from Irene Kingslake, Paignton, Devon to Sgt **J Scully**, 2nd Royal Irish Rifles – recuperating at Cannington.

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOCAL TEACHERS

List of contributing schools and amounts – total of £17 14s 6d.

RECRUITS FOR KITCHENER'S ARMY

In the past week 14 more enlist in Kitchener's Army – with a total of 19 Bridgwater men enlisting in the week.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS ARRIVE IN INDIA

Cable from Capt DS **Watson**, commanding B Company Bridgwater Territorials, from Bombay – 'Arrived. All Well. Distribute. Watson.'

WITH THE SOMERSET TERRITORIALS INDIA BOUND – DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT BY PRIVATE JW COLSEY OF BRIDGWATER – BRITISH CRUISER'S VIGILANCE

Detailed account from Pte **Colsey**, son of Mr JJ Colsey, Bridgwater of his voyage to India..

NEWS OF BRIDGWATER POSTMAN

Cpl DJ **Gillespie**, Chilton St– letter to his wife informing her that although wounded he was recovering but a POW.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

Cpl Walter **Pugsley**, 3rd Coldstream Guards – mother Mrs I Pugsley, 1 Redgate St, Bridgwater – killed in action 21st October at St Julien.

INTERVIEW WITH STOGURSEY SOLDIER – THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT

Pte E **Harrison**, 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, at present staying with grandmother at

Stogursey recovering from wounds – detailed interview of his experiences.

THE SALVATION ARMY – APPEAL FOR RED CROSS AMBULANCE MOTOR CARS

Fund to be set up for 5 ambulance cars for the front – Salvation Army Band to parade on Friday 13th November in support.

CANADA AND THE WAR – BRIDGWATER GENTLEMAN'S IMPRESSIONS OF TORONTO
Extract from letter to Mr FE Shrimpton, Northfields, Bridgwater from his son Mr Harold **Shrimpton**.

WITH THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS AT THE FRONT – BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER'S EXPERIENCES

Excerpt from 2 letters from Lance Sgt Clifford **Roman**, 2nd Batt. Coldstream Guards, of Bridgwater to his sister in Minehead – detailing life in the trenches.

SOLDIER'S AND SAILOR'S CORRESPONDENCE

Asking for interesting letters from soldiers and sailors on active service for publication.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND – THE LOCAL LIST

List of donors – total fund to date £1,018 4s 1d and a ha'penny.

NORTH PETHERTON ARTILLERYMAN'S EXPERIENCES AT THE FRONT – WOUNDED AT THE BATTLE OF AISNE – Driver WJ **Rich**, 51st Battery, Royal Field Artillery – recovering from wounds – detailed interview.

FRENCH AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY TO SOMERSET SOLDIERS

Sgt WE **Archer** and Sgt GF **Smith** both of 1st Batt. Somerset Light Infantry – the 'Medaille Militaire'.

THE GERMANS MAY BE SORRY FOR THEIR CONDUCT – BRIDGWATER CORPORAL'S INTERESTING LETTER

Cpl Harold **Symons** Leicester Regiment of Bridgwater – letter to his brother serving in the ASC detailing life in the trenches.

BRIDGWATER HUSSAR WOUNDED

Trooper Herbert **Bond**, 10th Hussars – son of Mrs Chas. Bond, Polden St, Bridgwater – wounded by shrapnel in the left arm in France.

POLICE RESERVE ROUTE MARCH

'Specials' to march to Cannington and back on Wednesday evening.

INVALIDED HOME

Pte D **Jennings** of the Somersets from Bridgwater invalidated home from the front suffering from rheumatism.

LOCAL MAN ON THE ILL FATED PACIFIC CRUISER

Larson from Huntworth – on the British Cruiser *Good Hope* ‘whose fate in the Pacific is more or less uncertain’.

A GOOD RESPONSE

An appeal for men of the National Reserve to form a new company for guarding vulnerable points in Great Britain – about 14 required from Bridgwater so far 12 have applied.

RED CROSS DEMONSTRATION

Took place in the Town Hall.

BRIDGWATER MAN WOUNDED

Pte John **Gilbert**, South Wales Borderers.

LOCAL PRISONERS OF WAR

Lcpl S [Stanley] **Southwood** (Somersets), Cpl d **Gillespie** (Somersets), Pte **Stockham** (Somersets), Pte A **Gray** (Somersets) Pte **Cooze** (Yorkshire Light Infantry) and Pte SH **Gunningham** (1st Somersets) – extracts from letter from – Pte Southwood to his mother and Pte Gray to his wife in Queen St Bridgwater – who says **Walt Wilkins** of Spaxton also there – Pte Gunningham to his wife in Melbourne Terrace, Bristol Rd, Bridgwater .

A KINDLY CONCESSION

Bridgwater & District Laundry & Co Ltd are washing for the Belgian refugees at half price.

AN APPEAL TO THE NATIONAL RESERVE – 1ST (WEST) SOMERSET NATIONAL RESERVE, C COMPANY

For articles such as socks, gloves, body-belts, mufflers, pipes &c. for the coming winter.

WORTHY SONS OF A WORTHY SIRE

Capt **James** is on the Headquarters Staff and Mr RB **James** has received a commission in the Royal Horse Guards – sons of the late Mr AB James of Shovell Hall, North Petherton.

OPEN TO REFUGEES AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS

The Young Men’s Association, St Mary’s St – offering free use of the reading and recreation rooms to Belgian refugees and local wounded soldiers.

MORE RECRUITS FOR THE ASC – 19 MORE ENLIST

Messrs H **Cridland**, A **Trunks**, CW **Thomas**, S **Cornish**, W **French**, LJ **Porter**, F **Pearce**, ET

Cocker, LT **Toms**, WE **Thorne**, WJ **Hill**, FW **Burget** (Stowey), WH **Singleterry**, W **Lang**, A **Hooper**, E **Pearham**, CH **Perryman**, HA **Barnett** (London), and W **Williams** unless otherwise stated from Bridgwater

A RECORD DAY – RECRUITING FOR KITCHENER’S ARMY

About 20 enlisted last Monday.

FIERCE HAND TO HAND FIGHTING – BRIDGWATER’S CORPORAL’S LETTER FROM THE FRONT

Cpl Joseph **Anglin**, A Company 1st Somerset Light Infantry, to his mother at 101 Albert St, Bridgwater dated 3rd November – brief extract from letter.

THE GLORIOUS FIFTH – BRIDGWATER ABANDONS ITS CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR – CONCERT FOR CHARITY

Detailed account of the Carnival concert held at the Town Hall.

CANADA’S HOSTILE ALIENS

Article detailing situation in Canada with regards to ‘hostile aliens’

A BRIDGWATER OFFICER’S EXPERIENCES IN THE WAR – VIVID IMPRESSIONS OF LIEUT ALEC **FORBES** – THE TRAGEDY AND HUMOUR OF CAMPAIGNING

Extracts fro Lt Forbes diary – nephew of MR HW Chapman, solicitor of Bridgwater – gives details of his experiences in the trenches with the Gloucestershire Regiment .

Bridgwater Mercury 18th November 1914. Bridgwater and the War

RETURN OF A BRIDGWATER ASC COMPANY – MORE BELGIAN REFUGEES TO BE ENTERTAINED

Further letters from the Front – Headlines – followed by general paragraph – 14th week of the war.

BRITISH INFANTRY’S GALLANTRY – SOMERSETS’ SHARE OF THE FIGHTING – WOUNDED PRIVATE’S PLAIN STORY

Pte W **Driscoll**, 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, of Taunton – brother of Mr JD Driscoll, landlord of the Old Cock Inn, St Matthew’s Field, Bridgwater – interview and detailed account.

A SCOUTS’ DEFENCE CORPS – GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR LADS BETWEEN 15 AND 18

Letter from Mr WL Barnett, Scoutmaster of the 4th Bridgwater Troop of Boy Scouts – Scouts’ Defence Corps for home defence – appeal for those wishing to join.

LOCAL MAN WOUNDED

Pte PJ **Gilbert**, 2nd Welsh Regiment – letter to mother at Sydenham Terrace, Bridgwater – 2 shrapnel wounds on 21st October, one between the right eye and nose, the other in the right wrist – progressing well.

BRIDGWATER PRIVATE INVALIDED HOME – HIS EXPERIENCES AT THE FRONT

Pte D **Jennings**, 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, of Barclay St, Bridgwater – invalided home with rheumatic fever – detailed interview – mentions fighting beside Joe **Anglin**, – article also refers to his brother Cpl Geo. **Jennings**, 7th Dragoon Guards of Provident Place, Bridgwater.

BURIED IN A TRENCH – THRILLING EXPERIENCES OF A LANCER – INTERESTING LETTER FROM BRIDGWATER TRADESMAN'S SON

Trooper WS **Hook** – letter to his brother Mr HS Hook of Bridgwater – used as infantry in the trenches – was buried when a shell hit the trench – whilst on patrol was taken for a German soldier by German troops and managed to escape.

LOCAL GIFTS TO WOUNDED BELGIANS

Gifts sent to wounded Belgian soldiers at Weston-super-Mare from Bridgwater Secondary School for Girls .

THE LATE LORD ROBERTS

Bridgwater learnt with regret the death of Lord Roberts .

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT – PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION IN THE TOWN HALL – UNFURLING OF THE FLAG BY COUNTESS WALDEGRAVE

Long detailed report.

TOBACCO FOR THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT

Our Fund Reaches Over £480 – 5,000 Parcels already Despatched – total £480 14s 9d equating to 19, 229 and a half packets – list of donors.

'THE KAISER'S DREAM' – CONTRIBUTION TO OUR TOBACCO FUND

Total £3 11s 6d from Mr WJ Sharkey from sales of his poem 'The Kaiser's Dream'.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR – SPAXTON CORPORAL DIES OF WOUNDS – YOUNGEST OF FIVE BROTHERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Cpl John Alexander **Harris**, 1st Devons, (No. 8685) – son of Mr ET Harris, The Cottage, Charlynch Lane, Spaxton – at Bethune Hospital, France on October 26th as a result of wounds received in action – 22

years of age – highly recommended for the Distinguished Service Medal – buried at Bethune .

CAPTAIN'S SPLENDID TRIBUTE – 'A GLORIOUS PIECE OF QUIET HEROISM'

Letter from Capt Percy R **Worrall**, 1st Battalion Devonshire Regiment, to parents of Cpl **Harris** says he was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal not the Distinguished Service Medal as in the previous article .

RETURN OF THE BRIDGWATER ASC HOME SERVICE COMPANY

From Codford St Mary.

THE VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Route march on Thursday evening visiting Westonzoyland .

WITH THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT – PRIVATE'S INTERESTING LETTER – GERMAN WHITE FLAG TREACHERY

Pte EFM **Lewis**, A Company 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, – two letters dated October 25th and November 5th to his wife in Gloucester Place, Friarn St, Bridgwater – detailing life in the trenches – Pte **Lewis** has 3 brothers serving with the Somersets.

BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER AT THE FRONT

Another Letter from Lance Sergeant Roman – Lance Sgt Clifford **Roman**, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards – extract from letter dated November 1st to Mrs Richards, 27 West St, Bridgwater.

BRIDGWATER MAN WITH THREE BULLET WOUNDS

Pte J [Jack] **Young**, (10992, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, – eldest son of Mr C Young, Bristol Rd, Bridgwater – extract from letter to mother detailing wounds in the face, back and wrist.

HOW THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS HAVE BEEN BATTERED

Letter from wounded Bridgwater Corporal – Cpl Steve **Reed** (Bridgwater), 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards – letter to his sister Mrs F Higgins 81 West St, Bridgwater – bullet through the fingers – letter gives details of the fighting.

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER RESERVE – DETAILS AND OBJECTS OF THE MOVEMENT Detailed statement in respect of the Volunteer Reserve.

A BOOM IN RECRUITING AT STOGURSEY – 8 OFFERED AND 7 ACCEPTED FOR THE ARMY Ernest **Binding**, Michael **Binding**, Ambrose **Binding**, John **Rich**, Ernest **Richard**, Edwin **Howe**, Alfred **Payne** and William **Webber** – William Webber failed the medical test.

BRIDGWATER SERGEANT WOUNDED

Sgt Albert **Hill**, 12th Lancers – wounded in action – letter to mother at Southborne Terrace, North St, Bridgwater – wounded in the right arm and hip, right arm also badly fractured – been in the army 15 years.

VIVID STORY OF THE FIGHTING – INTERVIEW WITH MR E TRULUFE – DESPERATE CHARGES AGAINST THE PRUSSIAN GUARD

Cpl E **Trulufe**, Cameron Highlanders, High St, Bridgwater – Reservist called up at the outbreak of war – wounded in the left foot at Ypres on October 24th – was at the Battle of Marne – detailed account of his experiences.

NEWS FROM A BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER

Pte Leslie **Rossiter**, RAMC – played for Bridgwater Rugby Club – letter to Mr R Washer at the Nags Head Inn, Bridgwater – saying he was at the front and in good health.

BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER AT THE FRONT

Norman **Coates**, Adrian **Coates**, motor cycle despatch riders with the British Expeditionary Force also PP **Hope** all have played for Bridgwater Rugby Club.

WELL-KNOWN LOCAL CORPORAL WOUNDED

Cpl **Willcox**, Somersets – wounded – postcard to mother at 109 Bristol Rd, Bridgwater.

PROMOTION FOR MAJOR CB PROWSE, 1ST BATTALION PRINCE ALBERT'S, SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY – FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE FIELD –

Promoted to Lieutenant - Colonel.

BRIDGWATER BOROUGH POLICE RESERVE

Route march to Cannington – between 30 and 40 took part.

LT RJA HENNIKER WOUNDED

Lt RJA **Henniker**, Duke of Wellington Light Infantry, Catcott manor, Bridgwater .

LOCAL PRISONER OF WAR

Pte M **Gillard**, 1st Somersets, Union St.. At Doeberitz Camp, Germany.

**Bridgwater Mercury 25th November 1914.
Bridgwater and the War**

ENTRENCHED ONLY 200 YARDS FROM THE GERMANS – BRIDGWATER GUARDSMAN'S LETTER – Pte J **Culverwell**, Coldstream Guards, Bridgwater – letter to sister Mrs R. Pitman, Cattle Market, Bridgwater – describing conditions in the trenches – says they have only 50 left from their 1st Battalion.

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER RESERVE
drills to take place at Dr Morgan's School.

LOST WITH THE GOOD HOPE

Huntworth Man's Last Letter to his Wife – Gunner Oken Frank **Larson**, Mead's Building, Canal-side, Huntworth – no official communication of his death at this time – letter from Port Stanley on October 8th – extract from letter – personal.

LOCAL RESIDENT IN NAVAL ACTION – THE FIGHTING ROUND TSING-TAU

Leading Stoker W **Larson** [brother of Gunner O F Larson] – letter to mother.

HOW THE PRUSSIAN GUARD WAS CUT UP – BRIDGWATER PRIVATE'S VIVID LETTER

Pte Herbert **Thorne**, 2nd Welsh Regiment – parents live at 125 Bath Rd, Bridgwater – invalided home suffering from rheumatism – letter to mother from Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital dated November – details of time in the trenches .

NEWS FROM A BRIDGWATER POLICE CONSTABLE

Shoing Smith HJ **Fry**, Royal Field Artillery – served with Bridgwater Borough Police – reservist – letter to friend dated November 11th.

SCOUT DEFENCE CORPS – ENCOURAGING RESULTS.

1ST (WEST) SOMERSET NATIONAL RESERVE, C COMPANY

Men needed to guard vulnerable points in Great Britain.

POLICE RESERVE ROUTE MARCH – TO NORTH PETHERTON

50 attended.

BRITISH OPERATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS – INTERESTING LETTER TO A BRIDGWATER LADY

Wm **Ripley**, 1st Class Officer's Steward, HMAS Berriman to sister at Bristol hotel, Bridgwater – details of activities in Australian waters.

SOMERSET TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – B COMPANY'S STATION – FROM THE 'MORNING POST', CALCUTTA CORRESPONDENT

5th Somerset Light Infantry including B Company sent to Madras and Jubbulpore – arrived India November 9th .

ARMY SERVICE CORPS ENTERTAINED – AT ST MARY'S PARISH HALL – ARRANGED BY VICAR AND MRS LANGHAM

Short report.

THE BELGIAN REFUGEES – MORE REFUGEES TO BE HOUSED IN KING SQUARE, BRIDGWATER.

BRIDGWATER RESERVIST SEVERELY WOUNDED

Pte A **Phillips**, 1st Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry – letter from General Hospital, Rouen to Mr Henry Phillips, Fountain Inn, West Quay – right leg blown off as far as the knee on November 5th – has brothers serving.

BRIDGWATER CANADIANS' VISIT

Sgt EA **Hollister**, Mr ANH **Churchill**, son of EH Churchill, Wembdon – are with the Canadian Expeditionary Force – native to Bridgwater .

FORMER BRIDGWATER POSTAL OFFICIAL INJURED – UNFORTUNATE FALL IN A BRICK PIT

Pte W **Pippin**, RAMC – fell down pit wrenching knee and breaking several bones – letter to Mr Wm Creedy, West Quay, Bridgwater.

CHEDZOY SERGEANT KILLED IN ACTION – MUFFLED PEAL ON THE VILLAGE BELLS

Sgt Ernest **Fry**, King's Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards at Ypres – was son of Mr & Mrs Wm Fry, Ward Lane, Chedzoy – last letter to mother dated October 10th.

TERRITORIALS INSPECTED AT TAUNTON
5th (R) Battalion Somerset Light Infantry.

DEPARTURE OF THE ASC HOME SERVICE CO – BEEN BILLETED AT BRIDGWATER
now under orders to move .

BRIDGWATER GUARDSMAN'S EXPERIENCE AT THE FRONT – PROBABLE AWARD FOR GALLANTRY

Pte Elias Villis **Perry**, Coldstream Guards – of West St, Bridgwater – shot through the hand twice at Battle of Aisne – extract from account published in the 'Isle of Wight County Express' – detailing his experiences.

COLDSTREAM GUARD'S REMARKABLE ESCAPE – FORMER RESIDENT OF BRIDGWATER – THRILLING NARRATIVE OF THE FIGHTING

Pte AJ **Down**, 3 Company, 1st Coldstream Guards – formerly of Bridgwater – letter to father in Taunton – wounded at Langhemarck on October 22nd – long detailed letter.

GALLANTRY OF LONDON SCOTTISH – HEROIC ACT OF LOCAL INTEREST

Letter from Pte **Ingram**, London Scottish – detailing help received from Pte **Sully**, who was then shot in both thighs – son of Alfred W Sully, chartered

Accountant, Bridgwater – whereabouts of Pte Scully unknown at this date.

RECRUITS FOR KITCHENER'S ARMY
11 more this week – also over 30 joined the ASC.

ASC AND NATIONAL RESERVE SERVICE
Service held at St Mary's on Sunday last.

TERRITORIALS VOYAGE TO INDIA – ANOTHER INTERESTING NARRATIVE FROM PTE JW **COLSEY**

Long letter detailing voyage.

THE AWFUL SIGHTS AT THE FRONT – BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S LETTER

Pte Albert **Bennett**, 1 Somerset Light Infantry, of Bath Rd, Bridgwater – letter to adoptive mother Mrs E Webb, 3 Dyke's Buildings, Eastover, Bridgwater – dated 16th November.

MORE RECRUITS FOR THE ARMY SERVICE
CORPS THIRTY- TWO MEN LEAVE FOR ANDOVER

Names of recruits are CR **Marker**, JA **Marker**, HJ **Cross**, CH **Gillingham**, LG **Fry**, WH **Nurton**, P **Bull**, J **Taylor**, JH **Smith**, HE **Bond**, B **Hawkes**, HJ **Duckham**, AJT **Boyce**, F **Depledge**, C **Wood**, S **Burgess**, J **Bell**, WJ **Stone**, W **Woollen**, C **Vearnecombe**, FW **Young**, J **Durant**, WH **Manchip**, JF **Cook**, W **Withers**, J **Hill**, W **Board**, SA **Bennett**, GW **Stone**, LC **Hooper**, RW **Beer**, JW **Cresswell**.

BRIDGWATER LANCE-CORPORAL MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES – INTERESTING LETTER FROM THE FRONT

Lcpl J **Anglin**, 1st Somerset Light Infantry – contains communication from Maj Gen Wilson, commander 4th Division British Expeditionary Force – letter to mother dated November 11th – Mentioned in Despatches possible Distinguished Conduct Medal to follow.

BRIDGWATER TROOPER'S BAPTISM OF FIRE – THROUGH THE ORDEAL WITHOUT A SCRATCH

Trooper Harold **Sharman** – son of Capt W. Sharman, Victoria Rd, Bridgwater – only local resident with the North Somerset Yeomanry.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND – THE LOCAL LIST
Total fund to date £1,020 19s 11d.

MESSAGE WRITTEN 5,000 FEET IN THE AIR TO A BRIDGWATER GENTLEMAN

From Cpl HS **Crowhurst**, – to FJ Crowhurst, manager of Bridgwater Motor Company – brother JV **Crowhurst**, Legion of Frontiersmen wounded and in a Red Cross Rest Home in Southampton.

Bridgwater Mercury 2nd December 1914.
Bridgwater and the War

LETTER FROM TROOPER **BOWERMAN** –
WITH THE SOMERSET YEOMANRY
Trooper Cecil **Bowerman**, North Somerset Yeomanry
– to father Duncan Bowerman (of Messrs Porter &
Bowerman, Weston-super-Mare) – dated 23rd
November 1914 – detailing time in action.

‘AN EVENING WITH BELGIUM’ –
INTERESTING GATHERING AT BRIDGWATER –
ADDRESS BY LOCAL BELGIAN REFUGEE – AT
THE BAPTIST SCHOOL HALL, BRIDGWATER
Account of the evening events.

BRIDGWATER RESERVIST KILLED IN ACTION
– DEATH WITNESSED BY BROTHER
Pte Ernest **Baker**, 1st Somersets – killed in action in
Flanders – aged 28 – prior to war was employed by
Mr Robbins, Church St, Bridgwater – leaves widow
and 4 small children, eldest under 9 – living in
Redgate St, Bridgwater – extract of letter sent by
brother Pte Frederick **Baker**, 1st Somersets to sister in
Polden St, Bridgwater detailing his death.

OLD CANNINGTON SCHOOL LADS – ONE
KILLED AND ANOTHER WOUNDED
Cpl **McManas**, 2nd Coldstream Guards – formerly
pupil at West of England Technical School,
Cannington – killed in action at the Battle of Aisne –
‘being blown to pieces’ – death witnessed by Sgt
Lavery, former master at the school who was
wounded in the leg.

THE ‘MERCURY’ AT THE FRONT – AN
APPRECIATION OF THE ‘GOOD OLD PAPER’
Pte AJ **Manchip**, RAMC – letter to mother at 58
Camden Rd, Bridgwater – sent German label home as
a souvenir .

BRIDGWATER MAN WOUNDED – ONE OF
FOUR SONS IN THE ARMY
Lcpl H **Giles**, 1 Somerset Light Infantry – official
intelligence to father Geo Giles, Polden St,
Bridgwater – wounded October 31st – gunshot wound
in the right ankle – has 3 brothers in the army, 2 with
the Somersets at the front and 1 training with the 7th
Somersets .

AN ECHO OF THE 1870 CAMPAIGN – A
‘PRUSSIAN DEFEAT’ IN THE BRIDGWATER
DISTRICT – article about British neutrality in the
Franco-German war of 1870-71.

ALDERMAN’S SON ENLISTS – WILFRED
POLLARD
Son of Alderman HW Pollard – enlisted in the ASC
(Regularly Army). Mechanical support Section.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY
Employees of HW Pollard & Sons – 11s 6d ha’penny.

A JOURNALISTIC CURIOSITY – BRIEF INDIAN
WAR SPECIAL
Amusing anecdote.

WITH THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT –
BRIDGWATER MAN’S NARROW ESCAPE
Pte WG **Fudge**, Volunteer Arms, Union St,
Bridgwater – 2 letters to wife.

PRAISE FOR A BRIDGWATER SERGEANT
In a Bristol newspaper – for treatment received at the
Duchess of Westminster’s Field Hospital in Paris –
where Sgt Maj W **Jones** of F Bearer Company, son of
the late EC Jones, Bridgwater organises dining hall
arrangements.

FOR THE REFUGEES IN BRIDGWATER –
THOUGHTFUL NAVAL CONTRIBUTION
From WH Tucker, Mess 43, HMS Illustrious – 18s
from the sale of a poem.

SUCCESSFUL TERRITORIAL SKITTLERS
Report of skittle match between C & B Companies
(Bridgwater), 5th Somerset Territorial Reserve
Battalion at Taunton.

TOBACCO FOR THE SOMERSETS – AN
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM LIEUT-COL CB
PROWSE – ‘THE COUNTRY NEED NOT BE
ASHAMED OF THEIR SONS’ – BRIDGWATER
SERGEANT’S REPEATED GALLANTRY
Letter from Lt Col Prowse expressing thanks for the
tobacco sent by the ‘Mercury’ – plus mention acts of
gallantry including Sgt C **Willcox**, on October 30th –
since severely wounded – parents live at Bristol Rd,
Bridgwater.

BRIDGWATER PUBLIC GENTLEMAN’S FINE
RECORD – FIVE SONS SERVING THEIR
COUNTRY –
RY Foley, JP, managing director of Somerset Trading
Co Ltd - Capt Frank Y **Foley** in command of the
Active Service Army Company at present station at
Bridgwater – Lance Sgt HA **Foley** and Lcpl GR
Foley, 6th Service Battalion, Somerset light Infantry –
Pte EB **Foley**, British Columbia Section of the
Canadian Expeditionary Force and HY **Foley** of
Swinburn, Hammersmith, Orange River County
called up for service with the South African Field
Force.

LOCAL PRISONER OF WAR – TRIBUTE TO
GERMAN KINDNESS
Pte H **Gillard**, Somerset Light Infantry – postcard to
wife at Union St, Bridgwater – brief details of
conditions in the camp – 4 brothers in the army, 2 at

the front, third in the ASC and fourth in the Royal Field Artillery.

LOST ON HMS *BULWARK*

1st Class Petty Officer EJ **Ashford**, brother of PC Geo Ashford – lived in Henstridge.

BACK FROM THE FRONT – BRIDGWATER

SERGEANT MAJOR HOME ON LEAVE
Battery Sgt Maj FP **Marker**, Royal Field Artillery, Ammunition Column, 1st Division – account of fighting at the front.

A WELCOME RELIEF – REST AFTER

PROLONGED TRENCH HOLDING

Lance Sgt C **Rowan** (Bridgwater), 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, 4th Guards Division – letter to sister at Minehead.

WITH THE NAVAL BRIGADE AT ANTWERP – VIVID NARRATIVE OF NATIVE OF BRIDGWATER

Now Interned in Holland – H **Rich** – son of J Rich, Rhode Lane, Durleigh – in action with the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve – letter to the paper – printed in full.

BRIDGWATER RESERVIST AND THE ‘GERMAN BOUNDERS’ – HARDLY HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Shoing Smith HJ **Fry**, Royal field Artillery – letter to Inspector CM Story – won’t be home for Christmas.

SCOUT DEFENCE CORPS – details of events for the week ending December 5th.

RECRUITS FROM SPAXTON – TO JOIN THE ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

Arthur Charles **Lang**, Reginald Thomas **Bruford**, Ernest Edward **Short**, Ernest Cecil **Hall**, and Albert Henry **Mullins**.

GIFTS TO THE BELGIAN REFUGEE FUND

£4 7s from Mrs Robbins, Church St, Bridgwater for the sale of old newspapers – gift of vegetables from the Bridgwater Congregational Sunday School – YMCA gives use of their building to the refugees.

THE RAGTIME FLEET –

Letter to Allan J Herbert, Liberal agent for Bridgwater division from his brother Percy **Herbert**, HMS *Euryalus* – brief account of his experiences.

ARMY SERVICE CORPS RESERVE COMPANY – TWENTY-FIVE MORE RECRUITS – AT

PRESENT STATIONED AT BRIDGWATER
G **Coles**, CJ **Stockham** (Puriton), AH **Owens**, H **Searle**, JG **Ball**, C **Wood**, B **Turner**, L **Loubo**, S **Mumford**, W **Pocock** (Wells), W **Lynham**, WJ

Marks, C **Lewis**, Wm **Frost**, Henry **Hill**, Ernest **Frost**, HJ **Symes**, E **Palmer**, S **Thyer**, TE **Walford**, WJ **Gilbert**, WT **Byrd**, HB **Stoneman**, all from Bridgwater unless otherwise stated.

MORE BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE – DEPARTURE FROM BRIDGWATER ON THURSDAY

5th Somerset Territorial Reserve Battalion to proceed for Foreign Service – Lt Luscombe and 80 Bridgwater members arrive on leave.

FAREWELL SERVICE AT ST MARY’S

To take place on Wednesday for the Bridgwater Territorials leaving for Foreign Service.

DEPARTURE OF 8 BELGIAN REFUGEES FROM BRIDGWATER – GRATITUDE FOR THE TOWN’S HOSPITALITY

Report .

Bridgwater Mercury 9th December 1914.
Bridgwater and the War

LOCAL BREWERY EMPLOYEES (SIC) ENLIST – EMPLOYEES OF THE NORTHGATE BREWERY OF MESSRS STARKEY, KNIGHT & FORD LTD ENLIST IN THE 5TH SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY

Tom **Jennings**, Daniel **Godfrey**, Isaac **Thomas**, Walter **Perry**, Harry **Baker**, and Walter **Thomas**.

THE GERMANS ‘CAN’T BEAT THE GOOD OLD BOYS’ – BRIDGWATER SOLDIER’S MESSAGE HOME

Pte E **Glanville**, 1st Somersets – short letter to friend in New Rd, Bridgwater.

BRIDGWATER GIFT TO HMS SKIPJACK – THE COMMANDER’S THANKS

For fund raised in Bridgwater for the purchase of pipes.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY – BRIDGWATER POSTMAN’S LETTER TO HIS WIFE

Cpl DJ **Gillespie** to his wife at 75 Chilton St, Bridgwater, dated November 20th – asks if Mrs Reed has heard from her son as he has heard he is a prisoner of War – Reed’s letters had been returned and his family had had no news of him.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER KILLED AT THE FRONT

Pte John **Hoyal**, 1st Somerset Light Infantry on November 1st – would have been 20 on November 23rd – mother Mrs Lancaster, Clare Terrace, Bridgwater.

VETERAN'S CHANCE MEETING

5 veterans of the late 2nd Volunteer Battalion Prince Albert, Somerset Light Infantry, all are members of the National reserve.

SCOUT DEFENCE CORPS – EVENTS – WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 12TH.

BRIDGWATER MINIATURE RIFLE CLUB

Orders for week ending December 12th.

A COMPANY VS. B COMPANY

Match was held last Tuesday.

SOMERSET SOLDIERS MENTIONED IN DESPACHES

2nd Lt H **Lane**, 1 Somerset Light Infantry also Sgt WE **Archer** (6437) and Sgt C **Wilcox** (8572) both of the Somerset Light Infantry.

LOCAL OFFICER'S PROMOTION

Lt RDR **Troup**, 7th Battalion the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) to temporary captain – lives The Grove, Wembdon.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE ASC – 2 SOCIAL AND CONCERT EVENINGS ORGANISED.

LIFE AT THE FRONT – BURNHAM SOLDIER'S INTERESTING LETTER

Letter to parents at Burnham.

NEWS OF A BRIDGWATER WOUNDED SOLDIER – A TRIBUTE TO FRENCH NURSES

Pte A **Phillips**, 1st Somerset Light Infantry, letter to sister in Bridgwater – lost leg below the knee .

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE – ENTHUSIASTIC SEND OFF – REPORT OF THE SEND OFF

Names of those who have been home on leave and have been chosen for Foreign Service – Sgt W **Sanders**, Lance Sgts CE **Date**, & AW **Robins**, Cpl C **Brown**, Lcpls W **Channing**, A **Dennison**, A **Lewis** & E **Manley**. Ptes W **Besley**, S **Ball**, AH **Browning**, G **Bradshaw**, AG **Baker**, A **Board**, W **Bostock**, AT **Carne**, J **Clarke**, A **Curry**, PJ **Dodden**, W **Durston**, A **Dyment**, S **Durston**, T **Fudge**, E **Griffiths**, R **Goodman**, F **Gilson**, C **Frost**, WT **Hayman**, F **Hook**, E **Haste**, FA **Hill**, EG **Hill**, C **Hurley**, L **Hurley**, T **Humber**, B **Hubbard**, F **Harper**, AT **Jarvis**, W **King**, J **Lock**, EG **Lynham**, C **Lowman**, E **Lassiter**, H **May**, A **Martin**, WJ **Mumford**, J **Manchip**, W **Mysor**, S **Nurton**, E **Parker**, GH **Prew**, ES **Pole**, R **Riddle**, A **Possiter**, R **Rowles**, RM **Robins**, BJ **Pearce**, F **Pope**, J **Phillips**, C **Parsons**, A **Reed**, CG **Richards**, W **Sandy**, J **Searle**, B **Singleton**, J **Sanders**, H **Sanders**, B **Stone**, G **Searle**, E **Taylor**, FC **Snell**, R **Turner**, A **Tabrett**, G **Vearnecombe**, RJ **Webber**, W **Willis**, C **Woolcott**, H

Wooler, A **Woodland**, TG **Winter**, EJ **Young** and J **Cook**.

THE GALLANT FIGHT OF THE NORTH SOMERSETS – LETTERS FROM A BRIDGWATER TROOPER

Trooper Harold **Sharman** – 2 letters home to Victoria Rd, Bridgwater asking for things to be sent out – suffering from frost bitten toes.

NATIONAL RESERVE CALLED UP – Call-up notices sent out.

LETTER FROM BRIDGWATER SOLDIER – UNIFORM TWICE PIERCED BY BULLETS

Bandsman T **Hook**, 1st Somerset Light Infantry – son of Henry Hook, Bristol Rd, Bridgwater – 2 letters – in hospital unsure if wounded or invalided – mentions brother Percy **Hook**, 17, serving on HMS *Illustrious*.

BRIDGWATER RESERVIST TWICE WOUNDED – BROTHER KILLED IN ACTION

Pte Frederick **Baker**, 1st Somersets – wounded in Flanders in the right shoulder – aged 26 – of Polden St, Bridgwater – brother Pte Ernest **Baker** killed in action – see report in the Bridgwater Mercury dated 2nd December 1914.

WESTONZOYLAND MAN'S INTERESTING LETTER

Lcpl J **Pitman**, 1st Somerset Light Infantry – son of Albert Pitman, Lakewall, Westonzoyleland – letter to sister dated November 27th – feels war will be quite a long affair – gives details of conditions in the trenches.

WAR RELIEF FUND

Total now £1,021 19s 5d.

BRIDGWATER MAN MENTIONED IN DESPACHES

Sgt C **Wilcox**, 1st Somerset Light Infantry – see 2nd December 1914 issue for details.

RECRUITS FOR KITCHENER'S ARMY

Total of 12 last week.

CANNINGTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL – TWO MORE OLD BOYS WOUNDED

Lcpl DM **McDonagh**, Buffs and Bandsman C **McCarthy**, Royal Scots Fusiliers – School's casualties now 10 – 1 killed in action, 5 wounded with the BEF, 1 Prisoner of War, 1 wounded on HMS *Pegasus*, 1 wounded in the North Sea and 1 invalided.

'A SOLDIER OF THE KING' –

Appeal for more men for the army – between the ages of 19 and 38.

MORE BELGIAN REFUGEES FOR
BRIDGWATER – 10 MORE EXPECTED

POEM ‘BELGIUM’ BY WJ SHARKEY OF
BRIDGWATER
Poem printed.

**Bridgwater Mercury 16th December 1914 .
Bridgwater and the War**

OUR TOBACCO FUND – £533 16S RECEIVED
FOR 21,352 GIFTS – FUND NOW CLOSED

Details of latest subscriptions.

APPRECIATION FROM THE FRONT

Pte AE **Bennett**, 1st Somersets –letter to his wife in
Bridgwater.

BRIDGWATER MEN MENTIONED IN
DESPATCHES – CHEERY LETTER FROM A
HOSPITAL

Sgt C **Wilcox**, 1st Somersets – parents live in Bristol
Rd, Bridgwater – letter to R Washer, Nags Head,
West St, Bridgwater – Sgt Wilcox was wounded by a
shrapnel bullet, which ‘went in at the shoulder,
through the lung and was cut out of the centre of the
back close to the backbone.’ – progressing well,
should make a full recovery in less than 12 months.

BRIDGWATER OFFICIALS ENLIST

AE **Wadmore**, assistant Borough Surveyor of
Bridgwater and AA **Hayman** of the Borough
Surveyor's Office – in the RAMC (Sanitary
Company), 2nd London Brigade.

BRIDGWATER & DISTRICT TEACHERS AND
THE WAR FUND

List of donations and schools.

WITH THE ARMY SERVICE CORPS AT THE
FRONT – INTERESTING LETTER FROM
FORMER BRIDGWATER RESIDENT – HOW A
SHELL DISTURBED A DINNER PARTY

Driver Harry **Greenwood**, 68th Company of the ASC
attached to the 1st India Corps, on active service with
the BEF in France – letter to aunt and uncle, Capt and
Mrs H Laver, 54 Monmouth St, Bridgwater – account
of service in France .

RECRUITS FOR KITCHENER’S ARMY

13 more enlist in Bridgwater.

OFFICERS’ PROMOTIONS

Lt GG **Hartwright**, ASC Company, promoted to
Captain and 2nd Lt AJ **Petrochino** of the ASC
Company to Lt .

DISABLED LOCAL SOLDIERS HOME FROM
THE FRONT

Pte Herbert **Thorne** (Bath Rd, Bridgwater), 2nd Welsh
Regiment – Pte A **Parsons**, (brother of PC GM
Parsons, Bridgwater Borough Police Force), 2nd

Coldstream Guards – Pte F **Baker**, (West St,
Bridgwater), South Wales Borders – Thorne from
rheumatism, Parsons from bullet wound in the left
knee, Baker wounded by a shell in the left knee –
article gives their observations of life at the front –
‘soldiers have got so accustomed to death and wound
that reference to the fall of a comrade is now as
casual as the comment on the weather at home’.

BRIDGWATER SERGEANT KILLED IN ACTION
– ‘HE DIED LIKE A BRAVE AND GALLANT
ENGLISHMAN’

Kindly Letter from the Commanding Officer – Sgt
Reginald Francis Arthur **Dennett**, 1st Battalion
Somerset Light Infantry – killed in action at Ypres on
November 19th – 20 years old – parents Mr and Mrs
Fredk Wm, Dennett, Union St, Bridgwater – in letter
from his brother also serving at the front it is believed
that he was killed by a bullet whilst returning to the
trenches after breakfast – letter dated December 6th to
Mrs Dennett from Lt Col CB Prowse printed in full –
article gives short account of Dennett’s army career.

THE ASC AT CODFORD – BRIDGWATER GIFT
OF TOBACCO – APPEAL FOR CHRISTMAS
FARE

Gifts of cigarettes and tobacco sent to the South-
Western ASC Company from the people of
Bridgwater – article contains a letter from Capt C
Phippen thanking people for the gifts – also telegram
received asking for Christmas fare for the men on
duty over Christmas – article gives details of the
presentation of tobacco.

SCOUT DEFENCE CORPS

Orders for the week ending December 19th.

BRIDGWATER MINIATURE RIFLE CLUB

Orders for the week ending December 19th.

A COMPANY VS B COMPANY – RESULTS OF
THE CONTEST.

OHMS BEARER COMPANY

orders for the week ending December 19th.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER WOUNDED – Pte H

Creedy, Dorset Regiment, serving with the Indian
Expeditionary Force – wounded November 17th –
information from Mr and Mrs Price, Chandos St,
Bridgwater(aunt and uncle with whom he has always
lived) – degree of wound unknown – surmised that he
was wounded in the encounter with the Turkish
Forces .

THE NORTH SOMERSET YEOMANRY’S FIGHT
– HUNTSPILL WOUNDED TROOPER’S RETURN
Trooper WJ **Baker**, son of WH Baker, Huntspill –
wounded at Ypres – Mrs Baker received a postcard to

say he was in hospital in Leicester and was wounded in the mouth.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – LIFE IN A NAGPUR FORT

Vivid letter from Private JW **Colsey**, – Letters to father JJ Colsey, Fore St, Bridgwater – long extract from several letters – article takes up a complete column.

BRIDGWATER PRIVATE'S INTERESTING LETTER FROM THE FRONT – SOMERSETS CHEERFUL IN SPITE OF MANY DISCOMFORTS – HOW THE 'SMOKES' ARE APPRECIATED
Pte AE **Bennett**, C Company, 1st Somerset Light Infantry – letter to wife at 3 Bath Terrace, Eastover, Bridgwater, dated December 9th – details conditions in the trenches, the water, the mud and the cold – gives excellent impression of the terrible conditions that were faced and how morale was upbeat.

THE HARDSHIPS OF THE TRENCHES – WESTONZOYLAND SOLDIER'S INTERESTING LETTER

Lcpl J [Joe] **Pitman**, Somersets – letter to mother at Lake Wall, Westonzoiland – long letter giving details of conditions in the trenches including the weather .

WITH THE SOMERSETS IN THE TRENCHES – BRIDGWATER MAN'S NARROW ESCAPE
Pte **Lewis**, A Company, 1 Somerset Light Infantry – 2 letters to wife Mrs EFM Lewis, Gloucester Pl, Friarn St, Bridgwater – one dated November 22nd – gives details of conditions in the trenches.

1ST (WEST) SOMERSET NATIONAL RESERVE – C COMPANY

Letter from Col E **Trevor** – giving details of members failing to carry out their obligations.

SOMERSET AUTOMOBILE CLUB'S GENEROUS GIFT

Meeting at Weston-super-Mare – £50 towards providing a motor ambulance for war purposes.

BRIDGWATER NEEDLEWORK GUILD – SOLDIER'S PILLOWS WANTED

Letter from G **Langham**, president and ES **Ware**, secretary dated December 15th – appeal for making pillows – gives details of how they are to be made, size and where to send them.

THE TROOPSHIP IN WHICH BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS SAILED – A COMPLAINT

'Truth' – details the appalling conditions aboard the *Alnwick Castle* in which some of the Bridgwater Territorials sailed to India.

BRIDGWATER AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY – ENJOYABLE AND SUCCESSFUL CONCERT – Long detailed account – proceeds to go to aid the Belgian refugees and the local relief fund.

Bridgwater Mercury 23rd December 1914.
Bridgwater and the War

OUR TOBACCO FUND – NOW CLOSED – £536 3S 6D RECEIVED FROM 21,447 GIFTS – details of monies received.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – MORE GRAPHIC LETTERS – FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF EASTERN EMPIRE
Pte Graham **Eveleigh** – son of T Eveleigh – letters to parents and sister dated November 12th and November 15th – long detailed extracts giving details of life and conditions .

RECEPTION OF THE SOMERSETS IN INDIA
Interesting Letter from Drummer H **Haysham**, 5th Battalion, C Company, Somerset Light Infantry – son of W Haysham, Wembdon Rd, Bridgwater – stationed at Jubbulpore – letter dated November 16th – details life and conditions.

'THE TIGER'S DANCE' IN INDIA – BRIDGWATER TERRITORIAL'S DESCRIPTION
Pte WJ **Colsey**, letter to father – details life and conditions .

'NOT THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT THE ALLIES WILL WIN' – BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S CONFIDENT LETTER
Pte Harold **Symons**, formerly Leicestershire Regiment now attached to the cycle company of the 6th Division – letter to his brother Cpl Cecil **Symons**, ASC – details role of the cycle company and life at the front.

SOLDIER'S MIRACULOUS ESCAPE – INTERESTING PRESENTATION TO A HUNTSPILL NURSE
Nurse Clara **Highnam**, East Huntspill, Queen Alexandra's Nurses at the Front – presented with a Testament by Soldier – a bullet past through the Testament and his pay book saving his life.

COMMISSION FOR DR CUTHBERT **DUKES** – Son of Rev EJ Dukes, formerly of the Fore St Congregational Church – temporary Lieutenant in the RAMC in charge of local military hospital in Tring, Bucks.

THE VOYAGE TO INDIA – HOW 'BRIDGWATER BOYS' CELEBRATED THE FIFTH
Extract from letter to Mr and Mrs W Champion, Middle Burnham from son Bruce – '... when a procession passed along the Bridgwater boys

wrapped in blankets and carrying brooms, rattling plates and generally making themselves a nuisance’.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER’S GRIM EXPERIENCES – FOURTEEN HOURS WOUNDED IN A WOOD
Pte F **Baker**, South Wales Borders – returned to West St, Bridgwater – seriously wounded in the left thigh possibly permanently disabled at Landrecies – interview describing experiences .

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER INJURED AT THE FRONT

Trooper Harold **Sharman**, North Somerset Yeomanry – parents live at Victoria Rd, Bridgwater – accident on December 14th – horse fell and rolled on him.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO FOOTBALLERS
Christmas cards sent from Bridgwater RFC to playing members on active service – gives inscription in the cards.

A DOCTOR’S WORK AT THE FRONT – INTERESTING LETTER TO A BRIDGWATER LADY – letter to Mrs Dowdewell, 3 Alexandra Villas, Bridgwater from brother Dr WB **Bannerman** (Borough Medical Officer of Health at High Wycombe), now serving at the Front with the 3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance, 1st Cavalry Division – describes his work and conditions at the Front .

THE ASC AT CODFORD

Appeal for Christmas Gifts – extract of letter from commanding officer appealing for food for Christmas dinner for those on duty over Christmas .

BRIDGWATER MAN’S ESCAPE FROM A SHELL
Driver Percy **Locker**, ASC, of Bridgwater – short extract from letter to an assistant at Messrs Nicholls & Co, Cornhill, Bridgwater.

HUNTWORTH MAN KILLS GERMANS

Pte J Rich, 2nd battalion Coldstream Guards – letter to father John Rich, Huntworth dated December 15th – giving details of experiences in the trenches – ‘I think the war is going to last a long time’ .

ARTILLERY DRIVER INVALIDED HOME

Driver **Willis**, Royal Artillery – 37 Barclay St, Bridgwater – invalided home with broken ribs – short article as he declined to make a statement about his experiences.

AT THE FRONT WITH THE RAMC –

BRIDGWATER MAN’S PROMOTION – ‘MANY MORE MEN NEEDED AT ONCE’ –
Cpl E [Edward] J **Manchip**, RAMC (13th Field Ambulance, 5th Division) – extracts from letters to mother at 39? Camden Rd, Bridgwater – giving details of life at the Front – asking for shirts and the Bridgwater Mercury.

BRIDGWATER CORPORAL’S NOVEL CHRISTMAS CARD – FAMILY’S FINE MILITARY RECORD

Cpl HJ **Webber**, 1st Somerset Battalion now attached to the cavalry Brigade as a scout – parents live in Union St, Bridgwater – extract from letter giving details of conditions – also Christmas card made from a postcard and a piece of his tunic cut in the shape of a heart and sewn on to the card – on it he wrote .

1914 A Merry Xmas

Just a piece of khaki all tattered and torn,
Cut from a coat that a soldier has worn,
It is not a gilt-edged or hand-painted card,
But still it conveys my kindest regard.

RECRUITS FOR KITCHENER’S ARMY
9 during the last week.

OLD MORGANIAN’S SERVING THEIR COUNTRY

Over 70 old pupils of Dr Morgan’s School serving in the army.

THE MERCURY AT THE FRONT – PIERCED BY A GERMAN BULLET

Pte J **Gilbert**, 2nd Welsh Regiment – wounded at Ypres on leave in Bridgwater – interview describing details of his injuries and how they were sustained – how a bullet past through his pack shredding ‘The Mercury’ .

COLONIAL OFFICER VISITS HIS OLD HOME –
Lt Herbert **Osborne**, King Edward’s Horse – son of the late Edward Osborne of Bridgwater.

BRIDGWATER GENTLEMAN IN WHITBY –
Colin E **Brown**, son of Brown, JP was in Whitby when it was shelled by the German Fleet.

VEGETABLES FOR THE FLEET

Branch of the Vegetable Products Committee established in Bridgwater – appeal for contributions.

LYNG

Children of the Lyng Council School made small articles for sale for the Belgian Refugee Fund – raising £1 3s

Bridgwater Mercury 30th December 1914.
Bridgwater and the War

LIFE IN AN INTERNMENT CAMP –
INTERESTING LETTER FROM LOCAL RESIDENT ‘WE ENVY ALL OUR COMRADES AT THE FRONT’

Pte H **Rich**, (3224) RNVR, Collingwood Battalion of Rhode Lane, Durlough – Letter to the paper date December 17th giving details of life in an internment camp in Holland.

COMMISSION FOR SPAXTON SERGEANT –
MEMBER OF THE HARRIS FAMILY

Sgt Wm Tom **Harris**, 1st Royal Scots – commission in the same regiment – son of Company Sgt Maj ET Harris, The cottage, Spaxton – brother of Cpl John A **Harris**, 1st Devons killed in action on October 26th at Givenchy.

GIFT FROM NEW YORK LADY – PARCEL OF
SOCKS FOR SOLDIERS

Parcel of 23 pairs of socks from Emily J Allen, Auburn, New York.

SOMERSET MAN'S BRAVERY AT THE FRONT
Praise for Trooper WS [Billy] **Hook**, 12th Lancers – son of CJ Hook and brother of HS Hook – tribute from Sgt Bert **Stevens**, Yeovil, 'gone to base with the drums of his ears gone wrong'

NAVAL COMMISSION OF OLD MORGANIAN
Commission to Sub-Lt in the Royal Naval Reserve to RA **Connor** – son of Mr and Mrs W Connor, St John's St, Bridgwater.

RECRUITS FOR THE ARMY –
Very slow lately, only about 6.

HOME ON CHRISTMAS LEAVE
Several hundred returned on leave.

COMMISSION FOR A BRIDGWATER
SOLICITOR'S SON –
PM **Reed**, commission to Lieutenant in the 6th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry – joined as a Private and was promoted to Corporal prior to commission.

LETTER FROM BRIDGWATER BOMBARDIER
Bombardier WH **Curry**, Garrison Artillery (Heavy Brigade) – extract of letter to mother in Bridgwater giving details of experiences.

READING MATTER FOR OUR SOLDIERS AT
THE FRONT
An Appeal – for light literature for the troops during their 'off' time.

COMMISSIONS FOR LOCAL GENTLEMEN'S
SONS – to HJ **Cann** (son of JH **Cann**, Gotherlney, Bridgwater) in the Royal North Lancashire Regiment and HC **Daniel** (son of HT **Daniel**, JP, Manor House, Stockland, Bridgwater) in the 17th Lancers.

LETTERS FROM A BRIDGWATER PRIVATE – Pte
F **Lewis**, A Company, 1 Somerset Light Infantry – extracts from letters to wife Mrs EFM **Lewis**, Gloucester Pl, Friarn St, Bridgwater dated December 15th and December 21st – giving details of life in the trenches and parcels received and how they are appreciated .

MEN WANTED FOR THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

Details of an advertisement that appears elsewhere in the issue.

AT THE FRONT WITH THE RAMC –
BRIDGWATER MAN'S APPEAL FOR RECRUITS
– 'MERCURY' THE FAVOURITE PAPER

Cpl EJ **Manchip**, RAMC – extracts from letters to mother at 58 Camden Rd, Bridgwater – Mercury read by others from Somerset – gives details of weather and appalling conditions