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Bridgwater Mercury 6th January 1915
Bridgwater and the War

ENLISTMENT FOR ROYAL ENGINEERS
 Enlisted 10 men for the Wessex Divisional Royal Engineers.

BRIDGWATER PRIVATE'S LETTER FROM THE FRONT

Pte J **Burgess**, C Company, 1st Somerset Light Infantry – Bath Rd, Bridgwater – letter to sister Miss M **Burgess** - describes conditions in the trenches and wishing her an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

BRIDGWATER PRIVATE'S CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES – SOMERSETS AND GERMANS FRATERNISE

Pte Stanley **Broughton**, 1st Somerset Light Infantry – 18 years old – letter to mother Mrs Bloodworth, 162 St John's St, Bridgwater – gives details of the meeting between soldiers on Christmas Day and Boxing Day

BRITISH V GERMANS – FOOTBALL MATCH ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Col HO **Trevor**, Army Medical Service – letter to brother Col Edward **Trevor**, Bridgwater – refers to unofficial truce – shook hands, exchanged gifts, played football - German troops gave a barrel of beer to the British.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SOMERSET TERRITORIALS IN INDIA

Letter from Bernard J **Whitby**, employed in Bombay, to father FF Whitby, Bridgwater, enlisted in the Bombay Light Horse.

ROYAL GIFTS TO THE SOLDIERS – BRIDGWATER GUNNERS APPRECIATION
 Gunner Lot **Sparkes**, Garrison Artillery, with the BEF in France – sent Christmas card to wife that was sent to him by the King and Queen – to be framed and given pride of place at home – later letter describes trench conditions and Princess Mary's gift.

ARRIVAL OF THE MULES IN BRIDGWATER
 Over 400 at Petherton Park – short article.

WELL-KNOWN TOWNSMAN JOINS THE YEOMANRY

Harold **Hastings**, Bridgwater Joined the North Somerset Yeomanry

LIEUT SMJ **WOODS** IN BRIDGWATER – WELL KNOWN CRICKETER AND FOOTBALLER
 commission in the 6th Somersets

RECRUITS FOR KITCHENER'S ARMY

19 men enlisted in Bridgwater – since Christmas a similar number enlisted in the Wessex Divisional Royal Engineers and 10 or 12 Bridgwater men also

enlisted at different places – a total of 50 or more joining the King's army since Christmas

CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES –
INTERESTING LETTER TO A MOORLYNCH
LADY

Pte F **Townsend**, 2nd Grenadier Guards – writing to his aunt Mrs Collins, Hill House, Moorlynch – gives details of conditions in the trenches – describes Christmas Day in the trenches

BRIDGWATER PRIVATE WOUNDED IN
FIGHTING THE TURKS

Letter from Pte H **Creedy**, 16th Infantry Brigade, Dorset Regiment to his aunt saying he had been shot through the arm

SHOOK HANDS WITH THE GERMANS –
WESTONZOYLAND PRIVATE'S EXPERIENCES
ON BOXING DAY

Letter from Pte E Bawden, 1st SLI to his father,

Bridgwater Mercury 13th January 1915
Bridgwater and the War

OUR TOBACCO FUND – NOW CLOSED

Gives details of number of parcels forwarded to the trenches – total £543 9s 3d – equates to 21,738 and a half packets.

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER RESERVE –
INTERESTING INTERVIEW WITH THE
COMMANDING OFFICER – WORK AND
OBJECTIVES OF THE CORPS

Long interview with Col T Foster Barham, commanding officer Bridgwater Volunteer Corps.

MORE MULES ARRIVE IN BRIDGWATER

Now 600 at Petherton Park.

BRIDGWATER LAD'S GIFTS TO A LONELY
SOLDIER – KINDLY LETTER OF
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Gift sent by Master Fred Richards, jun, Heathfield, Ashleigh Avenue, Bridgwater – letter of thanks sent to him from Cpl FH Dudley, 36th Battery, Royal Field Artillery, 8th Division

RECRUITS FOR KITCHENER'S ARMY

17 more enlist

TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – LETTERS FROM
BRIDGWATER MEN

Letters from Ptes Fredrick Charles **Rudman** and Charles Edwy **Rudman**, 10th Middlesex Territorial Regiment – to father HJ Rudman, headmaster of West St National School, Bridgwater – long article detailing life in India and Voyage to India

OLD MORGANIAN FOR THE ROYAL FLYING
CORPS

Sydney Vivian **Vinten** accepted for the RFC – son of SM Vinten, Fore St, Bridgwater

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION –
SAD NEWS CONVEYED BY COMRADES

Pte Ernest John **Meade**, Somerset Light Infantry – killed by shellfire and instantaneous – 18 years old – eldest son of Ernest John Meade, 52 Polden St, Bridgwater – formerly worker for Messrs Bowerman & Sons

GIFTS FOR THE SOMERSETS – APPRECIATIVE
LETTER FROM AN OFFICER

Mrs Compton, 12 Cambridge Rd, Colchester who is despatching weekly parcels to 1st Somerset Light Infantry is appealing for gifts, either money or warm clothing – article includes letter of thanks for gifts received.

THE GOVERNMENT'S USE OF PIGEONS

Public not to interfere with carrier pigeons whilst on passage – stray birds, message and ring number to be made known to the local police.

THE WESSEX ENGINEERS

22 more enlist.

HAPPY EVENING FOR THE ASC – AT ST
MARY'S PARISH HALL

Entertainment for the Reserve Company of the ASC.

A RELIC OF THE SCARBOROUGH RAID –
PIECE OF SHELL FROM GERMAN RAID ON
SCARBOROUGH

Sent to Geo J Richards, Wembdon Rd, Bridgwater

SOMERSET RESERVES IN INDIA

Reserve Battalion 4th SLI arrived in India on December 12th

HIGHBRIDGE SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

Colour Quarter-Master Sgt Oliver Parsons, Royal Welsh Fusiliers killed in action on October 26th – father resident of Highbridge

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE – HOW A
BRIDGWATER MAN DISILLUSIONED A
GERMAN

Lcpl EF **Lewis**, 1st SLI – letter to wife describing the Christmas truce.

WITH THE 5th SOMERSETS ON THE WAY TO
BURMAH – INTERESTING LETTER FROM
BRIDGWATER SERGEANT

Sgt AW **Robbins**, Bridgwater, 5th (1st Reserve) SLI letter to Geo Williams, Cornhill, Bridgwater dated December 23rd – sent from Port Said describing journey.

WAR RELIEF FUND

Total to date £1,028 4s 7d – list of latest donors

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S POETIC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

C **Hockey**, on receiving present of tobacco sent this poem

Worth its weight in gold is this gift from you,
'Tis a very hard fight and pleasures are few,

A smoke to a Tommy is like gold to a miser,
So I'll smoke to your health and the death of the Kaiser

OUR TOBACCO FUND

Postcard of thanks from Bandsman W **Barrett**, 1st SLI

BRIDGWATER CORPORAL DESCRIBES THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE – 'THE GERMANS ARE FED UP' ENEMY PLAY 'GOD SAVE THE KING' AND 'HOME SWEET HOME'

Cpl Joseph Anglin, A Company, 1st SLI – letter to mother dated December 30th – describes how they brought in their dead and other incidents.

FORMER BRIDGWATER SCOUTMASTER AT THE FRONT

Letter to HG Wyatt, Taunton Rd, Bridgwater from Pte **Jenkins**, London Rifle Brigade – formerly assistant master at the Art & Technical School in Bridgwater – describes conditions in the trenches.

**Bridgwater Mercury 20th January 1915
Bridgwater and the War**

GIFTS FOR THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM LIEUT-

COLONEL CB PROWSE, commanding officer 1st SLI – letter of thanks for the Christmas parcel from assistants at Messrs Meadway, drapers, Eastover – article lists contents of the parcel

LETTER FROM CHEDZOY CYCLIST AT THE FRONT

Pte F **Showers**, Army Cycle Corps, 4th Division – letter to Miss Winder, Fowler's Plot, Chedzoy

BRIDGWATER YEOMANRY MAN RETURNS FROM THE FRONT

Trooper Harold **Sharman**, son of Capt W Sharman, Victoria Rd, Bridgwater – sent home after sustaining injury after horse fell on his leg – he declined to give an interview

MORE RECRUITS FOR WESSEX ENGINEERS
14 more enlist

LOCAL RECRUIT FOR RAMC

AV **Hillborne**, son of EA Hillborne, Outfitters, Eastover

SOMERSET MAN'S LOVE OF HIS COUNTY

Postcard of thanks to WJ Sharkey from Trooper **Watts**, North Somerset Yeomanry

PATRIOTIC YOUNG MEN – sons of Supt WH

Williams, Bridgwater County Police enlisted – both in the Wessex Divisional Royal Engineers – Albert **Williams** and his 15 year old brother Fred **Williams**, who enlisted as a bugler

PATRIOTIC CHEDZOY

7 men enlisted since Christmas – Ern **Collard**, Will **Collard**, Sidney **Baker**, Fred **Stokes**, Leonard **Phillips**, Will **Griggs**, and Harry **Newton**, - now 22 with the colours from Chedzoy including Cpl Albert **Tambling**, Coldstream Guards and Sgt Ernest **Fry**, 1st Grenadier Guards killed in action – article contains letter dated December 22nd 1914 from Sgt **Fry**

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

Pte W **Hamblin**, SLI killed in December in Ypres – Reservist – leaves widow and 3 children who live at 3 Court, Albert St

ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE ARMY SERVICE CORPS

At St Mary's Parish Hall

MORE MULES – arrived at Bridgwater

HOME FROM THE FRONT

Sgt A **Hill**, 12th Lancers – wounded at Ypres and Ptes J & W **Purse**, all of Bridgwater and Cpl Cross of Combwich – all of the Somersets

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – LIFE IN AMBULLA

Letter from Pte JW **Colsey**, Bridgwater Territorials – letter dated December 16th describing life in India

**Bridgwater Mercury 27th January 1915
Bridgwater and the War**

WITH THE ARMY SERVICE CORPS AT THE FRONT – WOUNDED BRIDGWATER DRIVER'S EXPERIENCES

Driver JP **Locker**, ASC wounded at Armentieres on December 14th – from Blacklands, Bridgwater – aged 22 – long interview describing experiences – recently married – 2 brothers serving Cpl Geo **Locker**, Royal Marine Light Infantry and Walter **Locker**, Gunner in the Garrison Artillery – brother-in-law serving on British Submarine C33

FIVE SONS IN THE ARMY – BRIDGWATER CORPORATION EMPLOYEES (SIC) FINE

RECORD – J **Biddiscombe**, 119 Chilton St, Bridgwater five sons serving – 1 in the 1st Coldstream Guards, another in the 2nd Welsh Fusiliers, a third in the 3rd Royal Welsh Regiment, a fourth as a driver in

the Royal Engineers and the fifth with the Somerset Territorials in India

BRIDGWATER PRIVATE'S INTERESTING LETTER FROM THE FRONT – CONTRADICTS RUMOURS THAT HE WAS KILLED

Pte W **Bonney** (925), H Coy, 1SLI – 2 letters to mother at 25 Polden St, Bridgwater – confusion in the casualty lists a Cpl **Bonning** being killed – one letter reassuring her and the other describing conditions in the trenches

RECRUITS FOR KITCHENER'S ARMY
25 more in the last fortnight

MORE MULES
Latest arrivals total 176

MORE BELGIAN REFUGEES ARRIVE
2 families consisting of 10 – total now roughly 50

TOBACCO FOR THE SOMERSETS
Letter of thanks to TW Markham, tobacconist, Fore St & High St, Bridgwater from Lt Col **Prowse**

THE SINKING OF HMS FORMIDABLE – FORMER CANNINGTON SCHOOLBOY'S LUCKY ESCAPE
John **Donovan** old boy of Cannington Technical School transferred to another ship

ASC ENTERTAINED AT ST JOHN'S HALL – MEN FROM THE WESSEX RESERVE COMPANY
Also entertained at St Mary's Hall the previous evening

CURIOS FROM THE FRONT – A BRIDGWATER PRIVATE'S COLLECTION
Pte AE **Bennett** (6987), C Coy, 1 SLI – sent to wife at 4 Bath Terrace, Eastover – collection of things found plus gifts from Princess Mary – letter dated January 19th describing conditions

SOMERSET CRICKET CLUB'S FINE RECORD
Gives details of all those serving from SCC

IF THE ZEPPELINS COME TO BRIDGWATER
To be considered at a Town Council Meeting

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR
Some parcels sent not received – postcard from Lcpl S **Southwood** to wife acknowledging receipt of her parcel

BRIDGWATER SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION
1 officer and 8 men to date – Lt JD **Pattison**, 5th Dragoon Guards; Sgt C **Dennett**, Somersets; Cpl W **Pugsley**, 3rd Coldstream Guards; and Ptes J **Hoyal**, **Hamblin**, **Mead**, S **Smith**, **Baker** and Alec **Heard** all of the Somersets

THE ASC AT CODFORD – PROMOTION OF BRIDGWATER MEN

List of promotions in the South Western (Service) Company, ASC, Wessex Divisional Train – 11 Bridgwater men promoted names listed

SKATING RINK HOSPITAL

Inspected and approved by Government Inspector – not known when it will be required.

THRILLING NARRATIVE BY SGT C **WILCOX**, HOW HE EARNED THE DCM – COOLNESS OF THE SOMERSETS UNDER FIRE – STRIKING TRIBUTES TO OFFICERS AND MEN

Sgt C **Wilcox**, A Coy, 1stSLI – awarded DCM – long interview – wounded at Le Gheer – gives details of his experiences and other Bridgwater men.

LOCAL PRISONER OF WAR IN GERMANY

Lcpl E **Cooze**, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry – POW at Doeberitz camp – postcard to wife at 21 Victoria Rd, Bridgwater thanking her for her parcel.

SOMERSETS IN THE NAVY

Seaman WH **Payne**, HMS Colossus – from Moorland – sent photo of Somersets serving – photo not reproduced

THE BRITISH NAVAL VICTORY –

WESTONZOYLAND MEN ON BOARD THE LION AND THE NEW ZEALAND

Hubert **Bryant**, (HMS *New Zealand*) and Marmaduke **Ling** (HMS *Lion*) – in naval engagement in the North Sea

'OUR COUNTY'S FINE RESPONSE' – reference to the numbers from Somerset serving

RECRUITS FOR THE WESSEX ENGINEERS
70 MEN ENLISTED BY LT HJ **GARBUTT**
19 more enlist – total now 70

Bridgwater Mercury 3rd February 1915 Bridgwater and the War

OUR TOBACCO FUND FOR THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT - NOW CLOSED

Another generous Donation from Mr WB **Broadmead**, JP, Enmore Castle - £5 – total to date £548 19s 3d

BRIDGWATER NATIVE'S GRAPHIC STORY – HOW THE "QUEEN'S" MET THE PRUSSIAN GUARD

Pte Wm Richard **Temblett**, Royal West Surrey Regiment (Queen's) – 9 Quantock Terrace, Bristol Rd, Bridgwater – narrative of his experiences – wounded October 22nd in the ankle – fully recovered returning to regiment – brother-in-law of Sgt C Wilcox, DCM, 1st Somersets

LOCAL NATIONAL RESERVE CALLED UP

20 men from Bridgwater National Reserve selected for duty at Tidworth, Salisbury Plain

RECRUITS

9 more for Kitchener's Army this week

WEST SOMERSET YEOMANRY

16 recruits accepted at HQ in Clare St, Bridgwater

PRACTICAL SYMPATHY

Contributions donated by employees of Messrs Baker, Eveleigh & Co, Coal Merchants, provided a pair of crutches for Pte **Phillips**, who had his leg blown off at the knee – he was a former employee of the company

SKATING RINK HOSPITAL – fortnightly practices to be held at the Rink from Tuesday 9th February

Departure of the Local ASC – have been training in Bridgwater

SONS OF PROMINENT TOWNSMEN ENLIST

Gerald CW **Bishop**, only son of FW Bishop, Solicitor, Bridgwater joined the Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Naval Volunteers – Victor Helps, son of EW **Helps**, Chartered accountant, Bridgwater, joined Motor Cyclist Despatch Riders Section – has brother at the Front

TROOPS FOR BRIDGWATER- PROBABLE BILLETING OF A DIVISIONAL TRAIN

600 Men and 400 Horses – Troops expected on Friday or Saturday – Long Report – should prove financially profitable to the town – 2s 6d per day per man for billeting troops in homes

PROPOSED CONCERTS FOR SOLDIERS

Letter to editor asking for his assistance to provide entertainments

NATIONAL WAR RELIEF FUND

List of donors and amounts – total to date £1,051 17 s 3d

RETURN OF LOCAL INVALIDED ENGINEER – SAPPER C DUDDRIDGE, WESSEX DIVISION ROYAL ENGINEERS, HAMP CRESCENT, TAUNTON RD, BRIDGWATER

Declined to make public his impressions and experiences – short article

BELGIAN REFUGEES

Thanks for furniture contributions for 2 houses in Halesleigh Rd, Bridgwater

BRIDGWATER MAN IN RECENT NAVAL ACTION – 'IT WAS A GREAT BATTLE'

Seaman Gunner Tom Redwood, HMS Lion – son of CPO Wm Redwood, 57 Bailey St – involved in North Sea action – extract of postcard to mother

WITH THE TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – MORE INTERESTING LETTERS FROM BRIDGWATER MAN – HOW CHRISTMAS DAY WAS SPENT

Letters from Pte Fredk. Chas. **Rudman** and Chas. Edwy. **Rudman**, B Coy, 10th Middlesex Regiment, to father – stationed at Fort William, Calcutta – very long article containing extracts from several letters detailing life in India

ANOTHER LOCAL RECRUIT FOR THE ROYAL FLYING CORPS

Gerald **Hoyal**, son of Joseph Hoyal, West Quay, joined the Mechanical Branch of the RFC

SHOCKING RAILWAY TRAGEDY NEAR BRIDGWATER – WELSH SOLDIER KILLED ON THE LINE AT HUNTWORTH

Long article including inquest report

Bridgwater Mercury 10th February 1915

THE POSSIBLE BILLETING OF TROOPS IN BRIDGWATER – NOTHING DEFINITE TO DATE
Report on preparations

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE – BRIDGWATER RECRUIT'S TRIBUTE
article calling for recruits – extract of letter from WH **Holland**, RNVR, Russell Pl, Bridgwater detailing conditions in training

THE TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – BRIDGWATER MAN'S ARDENT LOYALTY

Pte H **Frost**, C Coy, 5SLI, serving in India – letter to father J Frost, 2 Court, Albert St – saying how they have been told they are to go to the Front

THE WESSEX ENGINEERS – COMMISSIONS FOR BRIDGWATER GENTLEMEN

Frederic HJ **Gabbutt** and Wm H **Tamlyn**, jun, of Tamlyn & Son Auctioneers to 2nd Lt in the 1st Field Company of the Wessex Divisional Royal Engineers

ANOTHER LOCAL COMMISSION

Arthur G **Coombes** to Lt in the Royal Garrison Artillery, son of the late John and Mrs Coombes, Castle St

WELL-KNOWN SCHOOLMASTER JOINS THE ARMY

JM **Edgar** enlisted in one of the Scottish Regiments – was assistant master at Dr Morgan's School

SIX SONS SERVING THEIR COUNTRY –
PURITON WIDOW CONGRATULATED BY THE
KING

Mrs **Stockham**, Downend, Puriton – names are Arthur, George Clifford, Robert, Thomas And Frank and son-in-law Sgt Wm Harris of the Somersets – Frank is a POW in Germany – she received letter from the King dated February 3rd – letter is printed in full

THE NORTH SEA NAVAL VICTORY – LOCAL
MIDSHIPMAN’S ACCOUNT OF THE FIGHT
Midshipman CWV **Gooding**, HMS Tiger – letter to parents at The Elms, Durleigh, Bridgwater – son of WF Gooding, JP – short extract detailing action

WELL-KNOWN TAXI DRIVER ENLISTS
WA **Watkins** joined the Mechanical Transport section of the Army

ARRIVAL OF THE SOMERSETS IN BURMAH –
PTE RM **ROBINS**

Letter to parents in Church St detailing voyage to Burma

NATIONAL WAR RELIEF FUND
List of donations – total to date £1, 052 6s 2d

MORE BELGIAN REFUGEES ARRIVE
Arrival of another family

LOCAL PO CLERKS JOIN ENGINEERS
H **Davis**, W **Henby**, **Leslie Baker** and E **Wheeler**, clerical staff at Bridgwater Post Office

DEPARTURE OF LOCAL NATIONAL
RESERVISTS
35 Bridgwater National Reservists left for duty at Tidworth Barracks – amongst them CSgt Geo. **Ennis** who is 73

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS AT
KENILWORTH
Members of the ASC – article reproduced from the *Coventry Herald*

BELGIAN REFUGEES IN BRIDGWATER
47 now accommodated at King Sq and Halesleigh Rd

Bridgwater Mercury 17th February 1915

THE FALKLANDS NAVAL VICTORY –
HUNTWORTH SEAMAN’S INTERESTING
STORY
Seaman James **Adams**, HMS *Cornwall* – son of Robert Adams, Huntworth Park – letter to parents giving description of the naval battle off the Falkland Islands

BRIDGWATER FAMILY’S FINE RECORD –
FOUR BROTHERS WITH THE SOMERSETS AT
THE FRONT

Sons of Mr and Mrs Frederick Lewis, Gloucester Pl, Friarn St – Lcpl Edward Frederick **Lewis**, Ptes William J **Lewis**, Ernest **Lewis** and Henry **James Lewis** all serving with the 1st Somerset Battalion

THE TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – ‘THE ARMY
DOES ONE THE WORLD OF GOOD’

Pte Harry **Winslade**, G Coy, 7th Hampshire Regiment – letter to brother Austin Winslade, Parsonage Farm, West Lyng – long extract describing service in India

WITH THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT –
BRIDGWATER LANCE-CORPORALS
INTERESTING LETTER – HOT TIME UNDER
SHELL FIRE

Lcpl EF **Lewis**, 1stSLI (Machine Gun Section), extracts from 4 letters to wife at Gloucester PL, Friarn St describing conditions and life at the Front

Bridgwater Mercury 24th February 1915.
Bridgwater and the War.

LIEUT DONALD K **FORBES** KILLED IN
ACTION – BRIDGWATER CONNECTIONS –
NEPHEW OF HW CHAPMAN, BRIDGWATER
SOLICITOR.

Lived for a time with grandmother at Wembdon Rd – aged 23 – elder brother Lt AW [Alec] **Forbes**, Royal North Lancashire Regiment.

NINE BROTHERS SERVING THEIR COUNTRY –
EDINGTON FAMILY’S FINE RECORD – 7 IN
MILITARY SERVICE .

1 policeman and 1 Special Constable, both too old to join up – Sgt Ed **Moore**, Drill Instructor, Duke of Wellington’s Depot, Halifax – CSgt Wm **Moore**, Saskatoon Volunteers, Canada - Pte John B Seaforth Highlanders, 1st Canadian Contingent - Pte Victor **Moore**, Seaforth Highlanders, 1st Canadian Contingent – Pte Arthur **Moore**, 2nd Canadian Contingent – Sapper Frank **Moore**, Royal Engineers, Kitchener’s Army – Pte HJ **Moore**, 6th Welsh Regiment – Sam **Moore** with the Metropolitan Police and Frank **Moore**, Special Constable both too old for military service.

WITH THE ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY AT THE
FRONT – A DOCTOR’S MIRACULOUS ESCAPE
Gunner Reginald **Comley**, Royal Horse Artillery (South Midland Brigade) – letters to uncle JW Comley, ‘Avalon’, Wembdon Rd describing life at the Front.

DEATH OF A YOUNG BRIDGWATER SOLDIER
AT CHRISTCHURCH – SAPPER IN THE WESSEX
ROYAL ENGINEERS .

Sapper Francis Ralph **Hawkins**, 2nd Field Company, Wessex Royal Engineers – son of Charles **Hawkins**, St John St – aged 19 – died of meningitis – buried at Wembdon Rd Cemetery.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – LETTER FROM COLOUR-SERGEANT F LOXTON .

CSgt F **Loxton**, C Coy, 5SLI – stationed at Amballa, India – letter to editor thanking him for copies of the Mercury but asking him to stop sending as copies are being obtained from friends and family.

BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER AT THE FRONT
Driver L **Rossiter**, RMAC.

4 SONS ON ACTIVE SERVICE - SONS OF MR AND MRS LOT VERMONT, WOOLAVINGTON .
Edward **Vermont**, Stoker, HMS *Cornwall* – Harold Lot **Vermont**, Gunner in the Royal Marine Artillery – Cecil Arthur **Vermont**, Royal Artillery and Clifford **Vermont**, Royal Irish Regiment – also 2 nephews Fred **Hooper**, Coldstream Guards and Leonard **Hooper**, Territorials.

DISABLED BRIDGWATER SOLDIER ARRIVES IN ENGLAND.

Pte F **Stockman**, 1SLI of Chilton St, exchanged with an equal number of German POWs as unfit for further service.

DEATH OF BRIDGWATER OFFICER .

Lt Arthur Edward **Devas**, SLI – nephew of Col E **Trevor**, VD – aged 37 – died at Oxford after having been taken ill.

BRIDGWATER & DISTRICT TEACHERS AND THE PRINCE OF WALES FUND

List of contributions.

BRIDGWATER BOY SCOUTS ON DUTY IN CORNWALL – MEMBERS OF THE 3rd BRIDGWATER TROOP .

E **Banks**, R **Sheppard**, C **Babbage**, W **Babbage**, H **Chinn** and E **Bovett**.

MEMENTOES FROM THE FRONT.

Sgt AJ **Lovington**, 2 Coldstream Guardsa – sent mother at Bridgwater mementoes from the Front – contains list of items.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS NAVAL VICTORY – INTERVIEW WITH A HUNTWORTH STOKER
Leading Stoker J **Adams**, HMS *Cornwall* – account of the action.

WEST SOMERSET NATIONAL RESERVE – PROMOTIONS IN 'K' COMPANY – K COY, 5TH SLI – LIST OF PROMOTIONS.

AWARD FOR SERVICE IN THE FIELD – CATCOTT OFFICER GAINS MILITARY CROSS
Lt RJA **Henniker**, Duke of Wellington's Regiment – son of late JG **Henniker**, The Manor, Catcott.

BRIDGWATER NAVAL OFFICER COMMENDED – BRAVERY AMIDST THE MINES.

Commander Lionel JG **Preston** RN, HMS *Skipjack* – whilst on minesweeping duties – has residence in Bridgwater.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIERS MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

Sgts C **Wilcox** and J **Anglin**, SLI.

THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT – LETTERS FROM BRIDGWATER MAN .

Pte WG **Fudge** (6721), C Coy, 1SLI – letter to wife at the Volunteer Arms, Union St – plus Christmas card from the King and Queen and Princess Mary's Gift Box.

Bridgwater Mercury 3rd March 1915. Bridgwater and the War.

CANNINGTON MAN WITH THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS- PRIDE IN HIS BATTALION.

LCpl E **Chilcott** (10,210), 3 Coy, 3 Coldstream Guards (2nd Division, 4th Brigade) – letter to his sister at Durleigh describing how they are driving back the enemy, has been in France with the BEF since the beginning.

SIXTEEN RELATIVES IN THE ARMY AND NAVY – A CANNINGTON RECORD .

Ex CSgt Geo **Somers**, Rose & Crown Inn, Cannington – Ex Royal Marine- has 16 relatives serving including his son CPO Geo **Somers**, HMS **Dublin** and his son-in-law Joseph **Barrett**, Rifle Brigade, now a POW – list of other relatives names serving.

FORMER BRIDGWATER MAN KILLED IN ACTION.

Pte **Harwood** – parents live at Newtown, Bridgwater.

FATHER AND SON IN THE SAME REGIMENT
PTE **G Clark** & Pte **AV Clark** – both with 3rd SLI – from Puriton.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR AIRMEN – BRIDGWATER BOMBARDIER'S LETTER.

Bombardier **DH Curry**, Garrison Artillery – letter to E **Wadmore**, headmaster Wembdon School – describes conditions at the front and the work of the airmen.

LIVING CLOSE TO THE FIRING LINE – FRENCH GENTLEMAN'S VIVID LETTER TO A SPAXTON LADY.

Letter to Miss Ethel M Harman, Spaxton Rectory

from a French friend living amongst the British lines – a long translation of the letter.

LIEUT DONALD K **FORBES**, SUFFOLK REGIMENT – KILLED IN ACTION.

Photo plus extracts from a letter to his aunt Mrs Prideaux – see *Bridgwater Mercury* February 24th for full details.

**Bridgwater Mercury 10th March 1915.
Bridgwater and the War.**

FORMER BRIDGWATER ART MASTER'S GALLANTRY – GERMAN FLAG CAPTURED SINGLE-HANDED.

Cpl TH Jenkin, London Rifle Brigade captured German flag – was former assistant master at Bridgwater Art & Technical School – article contains a picture and a report that appeared in a London daily newspaper.

WITH THE SOMERSETS IN THE TRENCHES – INTERESTING LETTERS FROM PRIVATE WJC DENNETT.

Extracts of letters to mother at Union St from eldest son Pte Wm Jn Chas **Dennett**, 1stSLI – brother Sgt Reginald Francis Arthur **Dennett**, 1stSLI killed in action at Plugsteart Woods, 19th November 1914 – aged 20 – also brother Driver Harold **Victor Dennett**, ASC – article contains photos of all 3 men – Pte **Dennett** sent home souvenirs with letters – describes life in the trenches.

PATRIOTIC BOY SCOUTS – NAMES OF 3rd TROOP MEMBERS SERVING .

Contains a list of names and the units in which they are serving.

RECRUITING IN THE BRIDGWATER DIVISION – JOINT COMMITTEE FORMED.

A Parliamentary Recruiting Committee formed to promote recruiting in various parishes comprising the Bridgwater Division – article gives details of committee members.

REMARKABLE ACCIDENT ON BRIDGWATER BOUND VESSEL – SEAMAN INJURED BY SHOT FROM BARRY FORT.

Man had leg shattered by mistake when a shot was fired at a Greek steamer by Barry Fort.

“BIG MOVE ON BEFORE LONG” – BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S OPINION .

Pte WG Fudge, (672) (sic), C Coy, 1SLI, BEF – letter to wife at the Volunteer Arms, Union St.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN BURMA – HEARTY RECEPTION AT MEIKTILA .

Pte Ernest **Heste**, 5thSLI Territorials, letter dated 4th February 1915 to uncle ES **Jones**, High St describing

voyage.

MISSING SINCE THE BATTLE OF MONS.

Pte Francis John **Rowe**, 1stSLI from Woolavington – wife has had no communication from him or had any information about him since then.

EGGS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS – AN APPEAL; FROM THE MAYOR .

Letter appealing for eggs to be collected for despatch to wounded soldiers in French Hospitals – letter printed in full.

BRIDGWATER SERGEANT KILLED IN ACTION – MENTIONED-IN-DESPATCHES FOR GALLANTRY.

Last Letter to his Mother – Sgt Joe **Anglin**, (9566), 1stSLI, killed in action on March 4th – shot in the head, later died of wounds, brothers Jack and Pat were present – letter to mother 3 Court, Albert St from Lt GR Leacroft, 1stSLI giving details of death also last letter from Joe to his mother dated on the day of his death.

LETTER WRITING IN THE TRENCHES – BRIDGWATER SOLDIER INTERRUPTED BY BULLETS.

Pte W **Bonney**, 1stSLI – letter to mother in Polden St – also letter to aunt & uncle – describes life in the trenches.

BRIDGWATER ROLL OF HONOUR- FORM OF CENSUS PAPER APROVED .

Decision made to compile a list of Bridgwater men serving – census paper to be left at every household – article contains proforma of census paper.

A WOOLAVINGTON FAMILY'S PATRIOTISM – MR & MRS LOT **VERMONT**, IVY COTTAGE, WOOLAVINGTON HAVE 4 SONS SERVING **Edward John**, HMS Cornwall, **Harold Lot**, gunner on HMS Warrior, **Cecil Arthur**, private in the Royal Marine Artillery and **Clifford**, Royal Irish Regiment – also have 6 nephews serving – contains list of names.

NEWS OF A PRISONER OF WAR.

Pte H Gillard, SLI – postcard to wife at Union St – POW at Doeberitz Camp.

**Bridgwater Mercury 17th March 1915.
Bridgwater and the War.**

OUR TOBACCO FUND – SUBSCRIPTION FROM OVER STOWEY .

Contains list of donors and amounts.

THE LATE SERGT J. **ANGLIN** – COMMANDING OFFICER'S TRIBUTE – BROTHERS' NARRATIVE OF HOW DECEASED WAS KILLED – Sgt J **Anglin**, 1stSLI – 19 years old – tribute from

Sgt C Wilcox, 1SLI – letter to mother from commanding officer D **Kenworthy**, Commanding B Coy, 1SLI – also letter written by LCpl J [Jack] **Anglin** to aunt & uncle – describes death and funeral – also letter to mother from Mrs Bond, Taunton who's late son Joe **Anglin** tried to help when he was fatally wounded – article contains photo.

WESSEX ROYAL ENGINEER AT THE FRONT – LETTER FROM SERGEANT **H PURSEY** .
Sgt Pursey, 2nd Wessex RE – letter to parents at 21 Wembdon Road.

LOCAL PRISONER OF WAR .
Pte H **Gillard**, (7,129), 1stSLI – postcards to wife – POWs allowed to write twice a week – relatives can write more often.

PROMOTION FOR LIEUT RJA **HENNIKER**
Promotion to Captain in the West Riding Regiment – well known squire from Catcott.

THE EXPLOITS OF CORPL TH **JENKIN**.
Extract of an article that appeared in last week's *Punch*.

THE ARMY SERVICE CORPS – MORE RECRUITS WANTED .
Appeal for 42 more recruits including 2 Wheelwrights, 2 Farriers and a Saddler.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER WOUNDED – **Pte Robert Biddiscombe**, Coldstream Guards – wounded in both legs – has 5 brothers serving.

SAVED FROM HMS *BAYANO* .
Mr Abner **Whitcombe** – ships' painter – brother-in-law of W **Davis**, Boot Maker, St John's St.

BOY SCOUTS FOR DUTY IN CORNWALL – 5TH B TROOP BOY SCOUTS .
4 members left for Fowey for patrol duty.

HOW LIEUT DONALD **FORBES** WAS KILLED IN ACTION – INFORMATION FROM LT ALEC **FORBES**.
Shot whilst leading platoon – article contains 'In Memoriam' by Alec Forbes.

SOMERSETS IN THE TRENCHES – INTERESTING LETTERS FROM BRIDGWATER MAN.
Pte F **Baker**, B Coy, 1stSLI, of Polden St – letters to various relatives describing life in the trenches.

LETTERS FROM SOMERSETS IN BURMA.
Letters printed on page 2 which is not included in the Museum's collection.

Bridgwater Mercury 24th March 1915. Bridgwater and the War.

BRIDGWATER TEACHERS AND WAR SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Total contributed to date £93 6s 5d – list of schools and amounts.

WITH THE CANADIANS AT THE FRONT – INTERESTING LETTERS FROM PRIVATE HERBERT **SMITH** – WITHIN SHOUTING DISTANCE OF THE GERMANS .

Pte Herbert **Smith**, Cameron Highlanders (Canadian Contingent) – letters to father WH Smith, Saddler, High St – long letter dated February 18th giving details of journey to the Front.

THE SOMERSETS IN INDIA – LOCAL MAN'S VIEW OF THE SITUATION.

Pte E Cook, 5th Somersets, former local resident – view of the European War.

WITHIN 200 YARDS OF THE GERMANS.

Pte J Burgess, 1stSLI – letter to parents in Bridgwater – short account of experiences in the trenches.

EGGS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS .
Depot at 38 High St for the collection of eggs – 1,000 sent this week.

HOT WORK AT THE FRONT – INTERESTING LETTER TO A BRIDGWATER RESIDENT .
CSgt Maj Geoff **Gravenor**, C Coy, 3rd Monmouth Regiment with the BEF – 2 letters to brother PA Gravenor, Wembdon Rd – first dated March 7th and describes life in the trenches – Second dated March 9th describes life behind the lines whilst on rest.

THE LATE SERGEANT J **ANGLIN**.
Letter to his mother in Albert St from Maj W **Watson**, 1stSLI – letter printed in full – also letter from LCpl J [Jack] **Anglin**, A Coy, 1stSLI to his mother describing Joe's death and returning his effects to her with promise to send photo of his grave.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REBELLION – INTERESTING LETTER FROM AN OVER STOWEY MAN.

Mr C Warren Culverwell writing to his sister – describes rebellion in detail.

BRIDGWATER MAN ON HMS OCEAN – BELIEVED THAT 2 OR 3 SAILORS WERE ON HMS *OCEAN* WHICH WAS LOST IN THE DARDANELLES, ALSO BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SAVED .

James **White**, sweet manufacturer, Bridgwater has received a wire to say son is safe.

Bridgwater Mercury 31st March 1915.
Bridgwater and the War.

WITH THE 5th SOMERSETS – FROM ENGLAND TO BURMA – BRIDGWATER PRIVATE'S DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT .

Pte WD **King**, 5thSLI, stationed at Meiktila, Upper Burma – very long letter to parents Councillor JE & Mrs **King**, Polden St describing journey to Burma.

AN AUXILIARY CRUISER'S PART IN FALKLANDS BATTLE – BRIDGWATER PETTY OFFICER'S GRAPHIC STORY.

PO Thomas **Yendell**, HMS *Macedonia* – letter home to 13 Halesleigh Rd describing his experiences in the British Naval Victory at the Falklands.

A BRIDGWATER RECORD – SIX BROTHERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Article contains photos of father Jno Biddiscombe and sons, Gunner Walter **Biddiscombe**, Royal Field Artillery, Pte **Raymond**, 5th Royal Irish Regiment, Sapper **Henry**, Wessex Royal Engineers, LCpl **Arthur**, SLI, Pte **Ernest**, 1 Coldstream Guards, and Cpl **Robert**, Royal Welsh Fusiliers – also short account.

BRIDGWATER MAN'S EXPERIENCES AT THE FRONT – GRAPHIC NARRATIVE BY PRIVATE AE **BENNETT** .

Pte **Bennett** (6,987), C Coy 1stSLI – long letter to wife describing his experiences from the Battle of Mons to the present time.

HOW THE SOMERSETS RECAPTURED A VILLAGE - 'RARE SPORT' FIGHTING THE HUNS

Bridgwater Man's Interesting Letter .

Pte **J Saunders**, Maxim Gun Section, 2nd Dragoon Guards – letter to parents at 103 Albert St, describing fighting at the front – also asking about a parcel containing a cake received without details of the sender, mother verified that it was from Mr C Taylor, High St Restaurant who he had previously worked for.

THE LUCKY BATTERY AND THE MAD MAJOR – FORMER BRIDGWATER BOY SCOUTS LETTER.

Cpl RJC **Black**, 9th Royal Scots, parents live at Goathurst – letter to WH Phillips, Scoutmaster 3rd Bridgwater Troop – describing fighting and life in the trenches.

KILLED IN ACTION – PURITON SOLDIER FALLS.

LCpl HP **Webber**, City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) killed March 13th. aged 26 – son of Mr & Mrs W Webber, 'Fairview', Puriton.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE – Local Railway Official's Bereavement – LCpl Wm **Margetts**, 2nd Devon Regiment – son of Mr HE Margetts, Cranleigh Gardens.

THANKS FOR TOBACCO.

Cpl HJ **Webber**, Army Cycle Corps, 4th Division – postcard on behalf of several Bridgwater men, transferred from 1stSLI.

A *BAYANO* SURVIVOR.

Mr Abner **Witcombe**, brother-in-law of W Davis, St John St – describes how he escaped..

BRIDGWATER .

A series of short notices relating to life in Bridgwater.

Bridgwater Mercury 7th April 1915.
Bridgwater and the War.

MIDST SHOT AND SHELL – BRIDGWATER AMBULANCE MAN'S EXPERIENCE.

Pte GH **Clements**, C Section, 24th Field Ambulance, 8th Division – writing to Mr Margetts describing his work at the Front.

CANNINGTON PRISONER SOLDIER'S APPEAL FOR FOOD.

Pte J **Barrett**, 1st Rifle Brigade, POW at Doeberitz – letter to wife asking for food as they are hungry.

TOBACCO FOR THE SOLDIERS .

Letters of thanks from Cpl F **Founds**, 2 Section, H Coy, 1stSLI, Pte E **Alsbury**, C Coy, 1stSLI, Sgt WJ **Phillips**, B Coy, 1st SLI and also Ptes E **Atyeo** and E **Burge** of SLI.

CHINESE SCHOOL BOY'S ESSAY ON THE WAR
Essay and accompanying letter from school master.

BRIDGWATER BOY SCOUTS IN CORNWALL – Interesting Account by Ex- Patrol Leader CM **Babbage** – account that appeared in *The Morgonian* is reproduced describing duties and life.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER WOUNDED.

LCpl **Fred Lewis**, SLI – son of Mrs Lewis, Gloucester Pl – severe gunshot wound to the hand.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS RETURN HOME .

Pte Frank **Stockham**, SLI – Chilton St – part of an exchange of wounded prisoners – lost right arm at Mons, LCpl H **Giles**, SLI, Polden St – shot in the leg at Armentières.

BRIDGWATER MAN WITH SIX BULLET WOUNDS.

Story of his Experiences at the Front – The Great Fight at Ypres – name not disclosed – wounded by machine gun fire – long interview describing his experiences.

EGGS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

Received 1,952 eggs for wounded soldiers at the Front.

COMMISSION FOR MR JM **EDGAR**.

2nd Lt in the 6 South Staffordshire Regiment – member of staff at Dr Morgan's School.

WOUNDED ON SENTRY DUTY.

Pte Arthur **Brooks**, SLI – brother-in-law of Mr Hooper, hairdresser, St John St – wounded in the face – letter from Commanding Officer, H Coy, SLI – also other letters – letter from Boulogne Hospital saying he is recovering.

A TRAGIC POSTCARD.

Delayed postcard sent by Sgt J **Anglin** to Bridgwater resident thanking them for tobacco – received after his death.

ARRIVAL OF MORE BELGIAN REFUGEES.

5 more consisting of 2 families – going to a home on Southgate Ave, Old Taunton Rd.

**Bridgwater Mercury 14th April 1915.
Bridgwater and the War.**

THE TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – BRIDGWATER MAN'S INTERESTING DIARY.

Pte FC **Rudman**, 10th Middlesex Territorial Regiment – extracts from letters to father HJ Rudman – very long article describing life in India.

BRIDGWATER FRIENDS MEET AT THE FRONT – LETTER FROM A LOCAL CYCLIST .

Pte Harold A **Symons**, Cycle Corps, 6th Division – letter to friend in Bridgwater – describing life at the Front and meeting Herbert **Smith**.

THE ZEPPELIN RAID ON PARIS – EXPERIENCE OF A BRIDGWATERITE .

Letter to newspaper staff from H **Routley**.

LIGHTING ORDER CANCELLED.

From Monday.

NEWS OF THE BRIDGWATER ASC MEN .

Driver F **Pierce**, ASC Transport Section, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, 86th Brigade, 29th Divisional Train – letter to H Hurford, Eastover.

'FINE SPORT SHOOTING GERMANS' – LETTERS AND POSTCARDS GIVING THANKS FOR CIGARETTES .

Pte FJ **Baker**, B Coy, 1stSLI to FW Mountjoy, 16 Fore St, also LCpl 'Pat' **Anglin**, 1stSLI, Cpl C **Huntley**, A Coy, 1stSLI, and Pte AJ **James**, 4th Division Army Cyclist Corps.

DEATH OF A BRIDGWATER ASC SERGEANT – Sgt Henry **Cummings**, ASC, from Bond St – leaves

widow and 1 child – buried at Wembdon Rd Cemetery – account of the funeral.

'DAREDEVIL OF THE SOMERSETS' – Reproduction of an article that appeared in 'Tit-Bits' about Sgt Joe **Anglin**, 1stSLI.

BRIDGWATER TRADESMAN ENLISTS .

Paul S **Nicholls**, High St China Shop – enlisted in the Army Ordnance Corps.

FIRST AID CLASSES.

First Aid Section of the Bridgwater Volunteer Corps will not meet for practice until after the public meeting to be held on April 26th.

BRIDGWATER LADIES' GIFT.

Bridgwater Ladies Bridge Club - £5 towards a 'Somerset Bed' in the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER A PRISONER IN GERMANY – 'SEND BREAD OR A BURIAL PARTY' .

Cpl H **Rainey**, SLI, POW at Hameln on the Weser – letters and postcards to mother Mrs H Rainey, Polden St – asks for food – says disease has broken out in the camp – also describes conditions.

KILLED IN ACTION.

Drummer C **Saunders**, B Coy, 2nd Lincoln Regiment – old boy of Cannington Technical School – probably killed at Neuve Chapelle – school casualties to date 5 killed, 27 wounded and 4 POWs.

TO THE HEROES OF NEUVE CHAPELLE.

Poem written by PO WH **Tucker**, HMS *Illustrious* (Bridgwater) – poem printed in full.

**Bridgwater Mercury 21st April 1915.
Bridgwater and the War.**

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT ENLISTMENTS.

12 enlisted including HC **Turner**, W **Downing**, Ray **Murch**, W **Chalice**, G **Cope** and V **Richards** – all employees of the Bridgwater Motor Company Ltd.

RECRUITING IN BRIDGWATER

18 in the past week.

CIGARETTES FOR THE SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT – GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT
Collected by TW **Markham**, Tobacconist, High St & Fore St – 2 letters of thanks.

WITH THE 5TH SOMERSETS IN BURMA – LOCAL MAN'S INTERESTING LETTER.

Pte AG **Bellringer**, 2 Coy, 5SLI – stationed at Rangoon – dated March 21st – gives details of voyage – article states that there are other letters on page 7 however page 7 is not with the collection.

THE LATE LIEUT DONALD FORBES – LAST LETTER TO HIS PARENTS IN INDIA .

Letter to friend in Bridgwater from Lt Forbes' mother – giving details of his last letter – his mother was daughter of Samuel **Chapman**, Solicitor of Bridgwater.

THE SINKING OF HMS OCEAN – BRIDGWATER LAD'S EXPERIENCES IN THE DARDANELLES

Harold **White** – letter to parents at 55 St John St – now serving on HMS *Canopus* – aged 18 – Reproduction of part of the letter detailing his experiences.

MOTOR AMBULANCE TRAIN IN BRIDGWATER

23 Red Cross ambulance cars and repair wagons stopped over night in Bridgwater on the way to Taunton from Reading.

EGGS FOR THE WOUNDED.

1,600 eggs collected this week.

VEGETABLES FOR THE FLEET.

Short report on the amounts received.

FORMER BRIDGWATER SCOUT AT THE FRONT – WOUNDED MAN'S HEROISM DESCRIBED –

Cpl RJC **Black** – letter to WH **Phillips** describing shelling in the trenches.

WITH THE CANADIANS AT THE FRONT – MORE LETTERS FROM PRIVATE HERBERT SMITH .

Pte H **Smith**, Cameron Highlanders (Canadian Contingent) – extracts from letters to father WH Smith, blacksmith, High St dated March 26th, March 31st, April 3rd, April 9th, giving details of life at the Front. Reverse of clipping contains general war news.

**Bridgwater Mercury 28th April 1915.
Bridgwater and the War.**

WITH THE WESSEX ENGINEERS AT THE FRONT – BRIDGWATER SERGEANT'S

GRAPHIC LETTERS – THE HORRORS OF WAR – Sgt Harry J **Pursey**, 2nd Wessex Royal Engineers, 27 Division, extracts from letters to his parents Mr & Mrs JT Pursey, 21 Wembdon Rd, dated 17th April, 21st April detailing life at the Front – extract from letter to cousin Stanley Masding, 'Harcourt', Durleigh dated April 18th.

SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT – LETTERS FROM BRIDGWATER PRIVATE .

Pte H **Bonney**, H Coy, 1stSLI – extracts from letters to mother at 25 Polden St – gives details of life at the Front.

THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY – ANOTHER APPEAL FOR FOOD Postcard forwarded by Sgt J **Sully**, 3rd Royal Irish Rifles from POWS in Germany requesting bread and margarine every week if possible.

THE WESSEX ENGINEERS – OVER 100 MEN AND OFFICERS SERVING FROM THE DISTRICT Also gives details of others serving in other branches of the armed forces.

BRIDGWATER SCOUTS ON COASTGUARD DUTY .

4 members of the 5th Bridgwater Troop stationed at Polruan .

'THE COUNTY WILL BE PROUD OF THE SOMERSETS' .

Short extract from a letter from Sgt EH **Turner**, 1stSLI to Miss **Norman** of Cannington .

THE SOMERSETS IN BURMA – LETTER FROM BRIDGWATER MAN .

Pte FC **Snell**, 2 Coy, 5thSLI stationed at Meiktila, Burma – extract from letter to parents Mr & Mrs F **Snell**, Devonshire St – gives details of life in Burma.

'NOTHING GOES BETTER THAN A SMOKE'

Extracts from letters from LCpl **W Thomas**, 1stSLI and Bandsman T **Hook** to employees at the Somerset Wicker Co Ltd, Fryern (sic) St thanking them for gifts of tobacco and cigarettes.

BRIDGWATER TEACHERS AND THE NATIONAL FUND .

Total £104 2s 4d – article lists schools and amounts contributed.

5TH SOMERSET LI (SUPERNUMERARY COMPANY) .

4 more men required over the age of 45 for guarding vulnerable points.

THE REGISTRATION OF LODGERS & GUESTS . Guests required by order to legally register when staying at an hotel, inn or boarding house &c..

EXPERIENCES UNDER SHELL FIRE – LETTER FROM FORMER BRIDGWATER SCOUT .

Extract from letter from Cpl RJC **Black**, 9th Royal Scots dated 22nd April to H Wyatt 'The Willows' Taunton Rd gives details of life at the Front.

BRIDGWATER RECRUITING COMMITTEE

Public Meeting at North Petherton – Stirring Appeals for More Men – long detailed article.

Bridgwater Mercury 6th May 1915.
Bridgwater and the War

WITH THE BRITISH MEDITERRANEAN
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE – LETTERS FROM
BRIDGWATER RESIDENT .

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Courtney **Smith**, 3
Coy, ASC, 29th Div. Train – serving with the British
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, camped 4 miles
from Alexandria – extracts from several letters to
father, WH Smith, Saddler, Bridgwater – describing
conditions and life in the desert – long and detailed
article.

BRIDGWATER ASSISTANT SURVEYOR IN THE
TRENCHES – TRIBUTE TO HIS OFFICERS
Sapper AT **Williams**, 2nd Wessex Field Coy, R.E., 27th
Division – serving with the BEF at the Front - son of
WH Williams, Bridgwater County Police – letter to
parents dated April 18th – short letter praising officers
and NCOs.

THE CANADIANS' HARD FIGHTING – LETTER
FROM PRIVATE HERBERT SMITH .
Pte Herbert T **Smith**, Cameron Highlanders
(Canadian Contingent) – letter to parents, dated April
28th – short extract reassuring them that he had come
through the fighting at Ypres.

BRIDGWATER ARTILLERYMAN AT THE FRONT
– EXPERIENCES UNDER SHELL FIRE .
Gunner DC Tottle, Gloucestershire Royal Field
Artillery, South-Midland Division – letter dated April
26th to a Bridgwater friend – extract giving details of
life in the trenches .

A TOMMY ASKS FOR CIGARETTES.
Driver W **Rich**, Royal Field Artillery – letter to Miss
K **Turner**, Cattle Market, Bridgwater asking for some
cigarettes to be sent to him as he is a native of
Bridgwater .

COMMISSION FOR A WOOLAVINGTON
SOLDIER – TWENTY YEARS' MERITORIOUS
SERVICE RECOGNISED .
Extract from the 'London Gazette' – 2nd Class
Master-Gunner H **Fletcher**, RGA to 2nd Lieutenant –
son of C Fletcher, Woolavington.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCE OF
POISON FUMES – INTERESTING LETTER
FROM THE FRONT .
Cpl H **Webber**, Army Cycling Corps, 4th Division –
extract of letter to parents in Union St detailing
German use of poisonous gas.

TOBACCO FOR SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT .
8s 6d collected by F **Day** of the Rose & Crown Hotel,
Nether Stowey – list of contributors and amounts
given.

THE FIGHTING ON THE YSER – LETTERS
FROM WOUNDED BRIDGWATER PRIVATE.

Pte W **Bonney**, H Coy, 1st SLI – extracts from letters,
dated April 25th and April 29th, to mother C **Bonney**,
25 Polden St, Bridgwater – wounded in the foot
whilst rescuing wounded comrade – not serious –
also describes the fighting .

POEM ON "NEUVE CHAPELLE" – COMPOSED
DURING BATTLE BY FORMER BRIDGWATER
RESIDENT.

Company Sgt Maj E **Tucker** – former resident of
Bridgwater and old Morganian – recovering from
wounds at Le Havre – father Geo Tucker of Pedwell
– poem quoted in full.

THE RECORD OF THE *SYDNEY* – INTERESTING
LETTER FROM OLD BOY OF CANNINGTON
TECHNICAL SCHOOL .

Letter to GL Harding (superintendent at Cannington
Technical School) from Francis W Whelan, seaman
gunner on HMS *Sydney*, old boy of the school – ship
was involved in the destruction of the German Raider
Emden – describes life in the Australian Navy and his
experiences..

LIBERAL AGENT ENLIST .

Alan J **Herbert** enlisted in the West Somerset
Yeomanry.

WITH THE 5TH SOMERSETS IN BURMA –
INTERESTING LETTER FROM FORMER
BRIDGWATER SCOUT .

Signaller F **Gillson**, 2coy, 5th (R) SLI, stationed at
Rangoon, Burma – letter dated March 21st to
Scoutmaster W Barnett – gives details of life in
Burma and his experiences.

THE LATE SERGT J ANGLIN – A TRIBUTE
FROM SOUTH AFRICA .

Letter to Mrs Anglin from her brother DJ Lonergan –
unable to read full extract as the paper has
deteriorated and parts are missing.

TWICE WOUNDED AT THE FRONT – LETTER
FROM FORMER CANNINGTON TECHNICAL
SCHOOLBOY.

Lcpl TAP **Willis**, 1st Manchester Regiment – dated
April 15th – gives details of how he was in India and
then at the Front – how he was wounded and the
death of his cousin GW Osborne also a former pupil
at the school – paper is deteriorating .

SOMERSETS AND GURKHAS AT FOOTBALL IN BURMA .

Article gives details of a football match between the 2/5th Battalion SLI and the Gurkha Regiment at Meiktila, Burma, gives names of goal scorers also names of the Somersets team and where they are from.

BRIDGWATER RED CROSS HOSPITAL.

Short article of meeting held – ‘a communication from the county director was read to the effect that it was not considered necessary to hold over the rink any longer for hospital purposes’.

LOCAL OFFICER WOUNDED .

2nd Lt HF **Westmacott**, 1st Battalion RW Kent Regiment – son of Col WE Westmacott, Edington House near Bridgwater .

**Bridgwater Mercury 12th May 1915.
Bridgwater and the War**

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS – AFFILIATION DECIDED UPON.

Very long article of first committee meeting held at the Town Hall – Col T Foster Barham VD elected chairman – article gives details of other committee members and lists the provisional rules – to meet on Monday evenings at the Rink at 8 o’clock .

NORTH PETHERTON SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES – BRITISH AND GERMAN REPORTEE – ON SENTRY DUTY AMIDST BURSTING GRENADES – .

Pte W **Cridge**, Gloucestershire Regiment – long letter to sister Miss D Cridge, The Manse, North Petherton – gives details of life in the trenches, including the effect of rifle grenades.

THIS WEEK’S RECRUITS.

20 more enlisted from Bridgwater.

LOCAL PASSENGERS ON THE LUSITANIA – NORTH PETHERTON LADIES’ TERRIBLE EXPERIENCES – SIX MONTH OLD BABY MISSING .

Local passengers were Mrs Sarah Fish, wife of Lt Fish, Canadian Contingent, her 3 children and sister Miss Elizabeth Rogers and Harold Venn – Mrs Fish and Miss Rogers are daughters of the late J Rogers of North Petherton - article give details of the ladies’ experiences .

HOW THE NORTH PETHERTON FAMILY WERE RESCUED .

Extract from the ‘Bristol Evening Times and Echo’ – long detailed account of how they were rescued.

A LOCAL COMMISSION – FROM THE *LONDON GAZETTE* .

Louis H **Palmer** to 2nd Lt in the Somersets – son of WH Palmer auctioneer of Bridgwater, Wells and Glastonbury.

BRIDGWATER YOUNG GENTLEMAN DROWNED – MR HAROLD **VENN** – MISSING FROM THE LUSITANIA.

Youngest son of George Venn of Messrs Colthurst, Symons and Co, Brick and Tile Manufacturers, Bridgwater – aged 28 – left Bridgwater 6 years ago – father now resides at Burnham.

WHAT HAPPENED TO A MAIL FROM HOME – BURIED BY A ‘JACK JOHNSON’ .

Pte Stanley Broughton, H Coy, SLI – extract from letter to mother Mrs Bloodworth, 162 St John St, Bridgwater – says her parcel possibly buried by German shell.

THANKS FOR TOBACCO .

Postcard received thanking paper for tobacco from Edward **Teagle**, H Coy, SLI, Pte CE **Briffett**, B Coy, SLI and Pte A **Buckner** D Coy, 1st Hants Regiment.

HOW A GALLANT BRIDGWATER SOLDIER FELL – LETTERS FROM AN OFFICER AND AN RAMC PRIVATE – ‘WE CARRY IN THE GERMAN WOUNDED AS OUR OWN’ .

LCpl Margetts, 2nd Devon Regiment died of wounds received at Neuve Chapelle – letter to father HE Margetts chief booking clerk at Bridgwater GWR station from Maj JD Inglis, Commanding Officer, giving details of his death – also letter from Pte GH Clements, RAMC, former assistant booking clerk at Bridgwater GWR station, also giving details of his son’s death.

WITH THE BRIDGWATER ASC IN THE MEDITERRANEAN –

Cpl CD **Clarke** (Bridgwater), ASC Supply section, 29th Divisional Train with the BEF in the Mediterranean – extract from letter to WJ **Hurford**, Eastover, Bridgwater – giving details of life in the Mediterranean.

THE SOMERSETS IN INDIA – JELLALABAD DAY CELEBRATIONS – MILITARY SPORTS: Bridgwater Winners – although headline states India article refers to the 2nd- 5th SLI (Territorial Reserve) based at Rangoon, Burma – gives details of celebrations and lists winners of organised sports.

THE FIFTH SOMERSETS IN INDIA – PRAISE FROM A GENERAL .

Extract from letter dated April 8th from Maj DS Watson, 5th SLI to Col T Foster Barham of Bridgwater – gives details of training under taken by the

regiment which was passed with credit.

FLEEING FAMILY WIPED OUT – BRIDGWATER CAVALRYMAN'S AWFUL SIGHT.

Pte W Gillard, B Squadron, 10th Royal Hussars – letter to Mrs Gillard, Union St, Bridgwater gives details of a family's plight.

EGGS FOR THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS .
2,074 eggs sent to the High St depot this week..

Bridgwater Mercury 19th May 1915.
Bridgwater and the War

BRIDGWATER YOUNG GENTLEMAN LOST ON THE LUSITANIA – SKETCH OF A PROMISING CAREER .

Mr **Harold S Venn**, youngest son of Mr and Mrs **Venn**, the Hollies, Jaycroft Rd, Burnham formerly of Bridgwater – article gives account of his life and why he was aboard the Lusitania.

FORMER BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER WOUNDED – ATTENDING THE WOUNDED AMIDST HEAVY SHELL FIRE.

Sgt WH Phillips, Somersets – former player for Bridgwater Rugby Club – wounded at the Front – letter to Mr **R Washer**, Nags Head, West St, Bridgwater, dated May 10th – wounded on April 29th by a piece of shrapnel in the right thigh – letter gives details of how he sustained the wound .

BRIDGWATER RESIDENT'S TWO BROTHERS WOUNDED – BOTH HIT ON THE SAME DAY
Very detailed article – letter to brother Mr **PA Gravenor**, 'Sherwood', Wembdon Rd, Bridgwater from **Cpl LA Gravenor**, Monmouthshire Regiment, dated 12th May – brothers wounded at the battle of Ypres, both badly wounded by shrapnel and gas bombs, **Cpl Gravenor** in the left leg just below the knee and his brother Geoff in the right thigh – in hospital together, in adjacent beds, in Chichester – long detailed account .

COMMISSION IN THE INDIAN ARMY – FOR A FORMER BRIDGWATER RESIDENT .

Stanley Burn – 2nd Lt in the Royal Engineers of the Indian Army .

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT .

C Hooper, AT Harding, H Law Jun, and Griffiths all of Bridgwater – joined the ASC, Mechanical Transport Section in London.

SAD SCENES BEHIND THE FIRING LINE – BRIDGWATER SAPPER'S INDIGNATION AT GERMAN INHUMANITY – VIVID LETTER FROM THE FRONT .

Sapper CE Browning, South Midland Royal Engineers – letter to mother at 29 Old Taunton Rd, Bridgwater gives details of German shelling of village and civilians .

BRIDGWATER CORPORAL THRICE BURIED BY 'JACK JOHNSONS' – COINCIDENCE OF A LETTER IN THE 'MERCURY' .

Cpl HJ Webber, Army Cyclist Company, 4th Division, BEF – short letter to parents at 15 Union St, Bridgwater – gives details of his time in the trenches when they collapsed due to shelling and curious incident of having his letter read to him from the 'Mercury' by another Bridgwater soldier.

'LIKE HELL BROKE LOOSE' – BRIDGWATER MAN IN TERRIBLE FIGHTING .

Pte Wm Fry, 2nd Welsh Battalion – two letters to parents at 27 Bailey St, Bridgwater giving details of his time in the trenches.

A NIGHT WITHIN TWELVE YARDS OF THE GERMAN LINES – BRIDGWATER GUARDSMAN'S UNIQUE EXPERIENCE – COULD HEAR THE HUN TALKING AND SINGING .

Pte Percy Goodland, 2nd Coldstream Guards – letter to parents in Edward St, Bridgwater – gives details of time at the Front – also brief account of his life before the war – has brother serving at the Front a Sergeant Major in the Royal Field Artillery.

LOCAL CASUALTIES AMONG WESSEX ENGINEERS – BRIDGWATER MAN REPORTED KILLED – SAPPER **RJ KERSLAKE**, WESSEX ROYAL ENGINEERS.

Letter to relative stating he received a minor wound but fellow soldier was killed, reported it to be 'Tom Brimson's son' – on enquiry Mr **T Brimson**, 4 Redgate St, Bridgwater had had no communication that his son **Sapper Fredrick Brimson**, Wessex Royal Engineers had been killed .

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS SELECTED FOR SPECIAL SERVICE – VOLUNTEERS CALLED FROM FROM THE 5TH SOMERSET TERRITORIALS STATIONED AT AMBALA, INDIA TO SERVE IN THE PERSIAN GULF .
Those picked were from Bridgwater Coy or C Coy and were Ptes **JW Colsey, JH King, WA King** and **J Barbour**.

BOROUGHBRIDGE SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION.

Pte Alec Hector, SLI killed in action on April 28th –

son of Joseph P Hector, Stathe Rd, Boroughbridge.
COMMISSION FOR DR PENROSE WILLIAMS
OF BRIDGWATER .

Granted special commission for 12 months as
lieutenant in the RAMC.

SOMERSET BRIDGE SOLDIER DIES OF
WOUNDS – KINDLY LETTER FROM A
HOSPITAL NURSE .

Pte Wm **Keirle**, (9831) SLI died of wounds at
Boulogne sustained in the left arm and left leg –
parents received letter from 2nd Nurse May Bradford
dated May 2nd detailing wounds – 2nd letter sent May
3rd stating he had died of his wounds and offering her
sympathy to his family.

JELLABAD DAY AT AMBALLA – BRIDGWATER
SOLDIER ATHLETIC CHAMPION OF THE
SOMERSET BATTN (SIC) – CHALLENGE
SHIELD WON BY THE BRIDGWATER CO.

Article giving details of the 5th Somersets Jellalabad
celebrations – lists winners' names and gives details
of events.

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS
– HANDSOME DONATIONS TO FUNDS .

Account of meeting held at the Rink and lists donors'
names and amounts given – plus orders from T Foster
Barham, Commandant dated May 18th.

BRIDGWATER AND DISTRICT TEACHERS AND
THE WAR FUNDS – LISTS DONORS, AMOUNTS
AND FUNDS THAT BENEFITED.

LOCAL RED CROSS NURSES FOR THE FRONT
– NINE YOUNG LADIES PASS THE TEST .

9 volunteered for the VAD to serve at the Front and
passed required test – Misses **Ashley, D Denman, E
Helps, Hill, Hitchcock, Porter, B Shenton, N Willis
and M Winslade.**

SOMERSET OFFICER KILLED – LIEUT CECIL
BANES-WALKER OF NORTH PETHERTON .
2nd Lt Cecil Banes-Walker, 2nd Devons, machine gun
officer - eldest son of H Banes-Walker CC, 'Verriers',
North Petherton – killed in action in France on
Sunday May 9th, aged 26 – article gives details his
life prior to joining up – photo is included with the
article.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER GAS POISONED – 'IT
IS AWFUL STUFF' .

Lcpl John **Anglin**, 1stSLI - brother of the late Sgt Joe
Anglin – mother resides at 18 West St, Bridgwater –
letter gives details of his injuries from the gas .

THE SINKING OF THE *GOLIATH*- FIVE LOCAL
MEN ON BOARD – THREE REPORTED SAVED
Goliath sank in the Dardanelles – those saved were

Leading Stoker Edwin **White** of Mount St, George
Salmon formerly of Bridgwater and William **Baker**,
son of James Baker of 71 Barclay St – those feared
lost are John **O'Brien**, formerly of Bridgwater and
Arthur John **Fudge**, Royal Marine, parents live at 79
Wellington Rd – article included extracts from letters
recently received from Arthur **Fudge** and Edwin
White .

BRIDGWATER GENTLEMAN GRANTED
COMMISSION .

Mr P Cedric **Hagon** a commission in the SLI.

LOCAL RECRUITING OFFICERS .

Names local recruiting officers for the Royal Naval
Division.

SOMERSET'S SOLDIER PRISONERS – AN
APPEAL .

Letter from Col Edward Trevor dated May 17th
appealing for food for British POWs in Germany.

BRIDGWATER MAN TWICE WOUNDED .

Pte Ernest **Biddiscombe**, 1 Coldstream Guards –
wounded by a shot through the left wrist – son of J
Biddiscombe, 119 Chilton St, Bridgwater .

BOROUGHBRIDGE SOLDIER KILLED IN
ACTION .

Pte A **Hector**, SLI killed in action April 28th .

FORMER BRIDGWATER SERGEANT
INSTRUCTOR'S PROMOTION - FROM THE
RANKS TO CAPTAIN AND ADJUTANT .

F. J. **Hill**, sergeant instructor of the Bridgwater
Company of the Territorials promoted to rank of
captain and adjutant in the Royal Irish Rifles.
Reverse of paper contains articles of general war
news.

Bridgwater Mercury 26th May 1915. Bridgwater and the War.

BRIDGWATER ENGINEER KILLED IN ACTION –
KINDLY TRIBUTE FROM LIEUT GR ATKINS .
Sapper Fredrick James **Brimson**, No 4 Section, 2nd
Coy, Wessex Royal Engineers killed in action –
article contains letter received from Lt GR **Atkins** in
charge of No 4 Section – article accompanied by
photo.

SACRIFICED HIS STRIPES FOR THE SAKE OF
HIS REGIMENT – BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S
INTERESTING LETTER .

Pte Wilbert **Richards** – parents live at 'Fernbank',
Wembdon Rd, Bridgwater – long letter to his cousin
Mrs H Hamlin – dated May 16th – decided to take
demotion when strength was reduced by 40 to enable
him to remain with his unit.

‘LIKE BEASTS FROM THE WILDS OF AFRICA’ –
BRIDGWATER SOLDIER AND THE HUNS’
OUTRAGES .

Lcpl EFM **Lewis** – recovering from wounds in France – several letters to wife at Gloucester Pl, Friarn St, dated May 7th and May 15th – says he will be returning to the front soon – also gives details of German inhumanity .

OLD BRIDGWATER BOYS’ BRIGADE LADS AT
THE FRONT – INTERESTING LETTERS TO
CAPTAIN HS DOSSON .

Article contains extracts from letters from Sapper AH **Bond**, Wessex Royal Engineers giving details of his experiences at the front and Gunner W **Tottle**, 2nd Battery (Glos) also giving details of life at the Front.

CYCLIST CORPS IN BRIDGWATER – NEARLY
200 OFFICERS AND MEN BILLETED IN THE
TOWN .

192 officers and men of the 2nd First Cyclist Corps (South Midland Division from Gloucester)were billeted overnight in the town.

‘THEY ALL FORGET TO SEND DAINTIES’ –
SOLDIERS’ NEED AT THE FRONT – .

Gunner WC **Tottle**, Gloucester Artillery, Bridgwater man – letter to friend in the town – giving details of life at the Front – at end of letter asks for cake as ‘they all seem to forget the dainties’..

WITH THE BRITISH MEDITERRANEAN FORCE
– BRIDGWATER MAN’S LETTERS .

Driver WH **Day**, ASC, British Mediterranean Force – letter to father at Victoria Rd, Bridgwater – gives details of life with the British Mediterranean Force..

THE LATE LIEUT CECIL BANES-WALKER –
MEMORIAL SERVICE AT NORTH PETHERTON –
Details of the service and a list of those present..

LANDING ON THE GALLIPOLI PENINSULA –
BRIDGWATER ASC TAKE PART IN THE FEAT –
Pte Frank **Pitman**, No 3 Company (248Co) ASC – who is with the British forces in the Dardanelles – letter to father Wilfred Pitman, butcher, Cattle Market, Bridgwater, dated May 1st – gives details of life in the Dardanelles also asks for cigarettes .

MR RY **FOLEY**’S SON WOUNDED AND A
PRISONER – REASSURING NEWS FROM
GERMANY – Pte EB **Foley**, 7th British Columbia Regiment, Canadian Division – postcard to family, dated May 15th, from Bruderhaus, Paderborn, Germany – he is in hospital shot in both arms – twin brother Captain Frank **Foley** at present serving in the Dardanelles.

HEAVY BATTERY PASSES THROUGH
BRIDGWATER.

The Howitzer battery that had been stationed at Taunton stopped in Bridgwater for dinner as it passed through to a new destination .

THE SOMERSETS IN THE GAS FUMES –
WESTONZOYLAND SERGEANT MIRACULOUS
ESCAPE – ‘WE ARE FIGHTING DEVILS’ .

Sgt J **Pitman**, SLI – letter to brother at Lake Wall, Westonzoyland – states that he and Bert another brother are well – long extract giving details of his experiences in the trenches and the effects of poison gas.

THREE CASUALTIES IN ONE FAMILY – 3 OF 4
MEMBER OF THE LEWIS FAMILY WHOSE
PARENTS LIVE IN GLOUCESTER PL,
BRIDGWATER ARE IN HOSPITAL .

LCpl EFM **Lewis**, wounded in the hand by a bullet – Pte HJ **Lewis** wounded in the head on May 11th - Pte WJ **Lewis** suffering from myalgia (cramp) – ages range from 18 to 23.

PURITON BROTHERS GIVEN COMMISSION –
PROMOTION FROM THE RANKS .

Ptes CD and LA **Webber** – sons of Mr W Webber, ‘Fairview’, Puriton have been promoted to 2nd Lt in the 11th Devons.

COMMISSION FOR MR ASHLEY **DUKES**
commission in the Duke of Cornwall LI – father Rev EJ **Dukes** formerly minister at the Fore St Congregational Church – was private in the RAMC.

A PLEASANT SURPRISE .

Members of the Bridgwater ASC in Alexandria were attended at the hospital there by Dr EB **Hartnell** of Church St, Bridgwater, who joined the RAMC.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER WOUNDED – BY A
SHELL THAT LANDED IN THE SOMERSETS
TRENCHES .

Pte Stanley **Broughton**, SLI, severely wounded in the Back, thigh, hand, leg and foot– letter to mother Mrs Bloodworth, St John St, Bridgwater .

CIGARETTES FOR THE SOMERSETS – GIFTS
THAT WERE ACCEPTABLE .

Postcards of thanks received by Mr HJ **Major**, JP, Northfield, Bridgwater from Sgt WJ **Roman**, Sgt J **Geen** and Pte RWF **Chilcott**.

CHILTON POLDEN CANADIAN WOUNDED –
HIS EXPERIENCES IN THE HISTORIC FIGHT .
Jack **Moore**, Canadian Highlanders – wounded in the leg, broken bone – found by brother Victor **Moore** – leg was saved.

STAWELL SOLDIER KILLED

Pte **Wills**, Dorsets – killed in action – reservist .

EGGS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS .

1932 eggs were deposited at the High St depot this week.

PRIVATE HT SMITH IN HOSPITAL .

Pte Herbert T **Smith**, Canadian Expeditionary Force – in hospital at Rouen suffering from a chill and the effects of poison gas – father WH Smith, saddler, High St, Bridgwater.

BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER IN EGYPT –
‘FULL OF ENTHUSIASM’.

Staff-Sgt Major P **Kendal**, ASC letter from Alexandria dated May 8th to a member of staff at the ‘Bridgwater Mercury’ – sent his greetings to all through the pages of the ‘Mercury’ General war news on reverse of cutting.

Bridgwater Mercury 2nd June 1915.

Bridgwater and the War

**N. B. There is a page missing from this edition
(Page 7).**

INTERESTING TROPHY FROM THE FRONT –
BRIDGWATER MAN SENDS HOME A GERMAN
HELMET.

Rifleman V **Sear**, 1st Royal King’s Rifles – sent helmet home to family asking them to display it in the hope that it may aid recruitment- it was displayed in the shop window of Messrs Waddon & Sons, Eastover – The helmet has a bullet hole in it and a piece of blood stained rag had been placed inside – also sent was the cloth cover used on active service – Sear’s home address was 117 Taunton Rd, Bridgwater before he enlisted.

BRIDGWATER MOTOR LORRY DRIVER AT THE
FRONT – IMPRESSIONS OF THE COUNTRY
AND PEOPLE.

J **Williams**, Motor Lorry Driver in the Mechanical Transport (ASC) – native to Bridgwater - letter home giving details of life at the Front .

WITH THE ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION ON
ACTIVE SERVICE – INTERESTING LETTER
FROM A BRIDGWATER SOLICITOR’S SON
Gerald CW **Bishop**, Public School Corps, RNVR – letter to father FW Bishop, dated 15th May, posted in Gibraltar – gives details of his experiences since enlisting – possibly destined for the Dardanelles.

WITH THE SOMERSETS IN BURMA –
BRIDGWATER MAN’S IMPRESSIONS OF
RANGOON AND ITS PEOPLE .

Pte **AT Came**, 2/5th SLI, stationed at Rangoon – letter to brother Frank Came, 9 Silver St, Bridgwater –

giving details of life in Rangoon.

NORTH PETHERTON MARINE WOUNDED –
STRUCK BY SHELL IN THE DARDANELLES.

Pte FG **Cockram**, RMLI, Plymouth Battalion – son of Mr and Mrs W Cockram, Farringdon, North Petherton – wounded in action 10th May – small superficial shell wound in the left hand – his condition reported as good.

LOCAL RESIDENT SEVERELY WOUNDED
LCpl RN **Wilkinson**, 12th London Regiment (The Rangers) – severely wounded in the forehead, right eye, shoulder, and foot at St Julien near Ypres on May 4th – currently at No5 temporary Hospital, Exeter – progressing favourably – son of Thos Wilkinson, Hoxton House, Wembdon.

AN EAST QUANTOXHEAD MAN AT THE
FRONT – MORE RECRUITS WANTED .

Pte A **Hunt**, 1st Dorsets – letter to parents Mr and Mrs E Hunt giving details of experiences in Flanders.

BITTER FEELING AGAINST THE GERMANS –
BRIDGWATER LADY’S NEPHEW’S STRONG
LETTER .

Mrs AA **Broadrick**, wife of the late Rev **Broadrick**, minister of the Unitarian church, Bridgwater now resident at Sutton Coldfield .

‘BUCK UP’ – AN APPEAL FROM A NORTH
PETHERTON SOLDIER – .

Sgt E **Chidgey**, 1st Signal Company, Royal Engineers, 1st Division – son of George Chidgey – letter to father

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS
– SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR FUNDS FOR THE
BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS
List of subscribers and amounts donated.

THE SINKING OF HMS *TRIUMPH* –
BRIDGWATER SEAMAN DIES OF WOUNDS –
Able Seaman Lawrence C **Loubo**, HMS *Triumph* in the Dardanelles – died of wounds possibly sustained when the torpedo exploded – leaves a widow, 2 sons and a daughter, eldest son in the ASC.

LOST ON THE *PRINCESS IRENE* –
BRIDGWATER SHIPWRIGHT’S DEATH.

Mr Wm **Gamlen**, native of Bridgwater brother-in-law of Samuel **Burridge**, St John St, lost his life at Sheerness dockyard when the auxiliary steamer ‘Princess Irene’ blew up – was formerly employed by FJ Carver, shipbuilder, East Quay – leaves a widow and 3 children.

NORTH PETHERTON ENGINEER ‘GASSED’ -
Sapper J **Hurley**, Wessex Engineers – in hospital in France suffering from the effects of gas.

SON OF WELL-KNOWN TOWNSMAN ENLISTS
Mr Arnold M **Foster**, son of Alderman FC Foster, JP,
CC of Broxholme, Wembdon, Bridgwater – enlisted
in the 9th Lincolns.

BRIDGWATER YOUNG CAVALRYMAN KILLED
– TOUCHING LETTER FROM A COMRADE .
Pte Frederick **Blackburn**, 2nd Dragoon Guards
(Queen's Bays) – killed in action in France on May
13th – eldest son of Mr Henry Blackburn, umbrella
manufacturer, High St, Bridgwater – mother received
letter from Pte AH Sprouting – letter printed in article

FORMER ALBION FOOTBALLER WITH THE
CANADIANS .
Pte Fred **Hoare**, 2nd Canadian Contingent – former
player with the Bridgwater Albion Rugby Club was
on leave in Bridgwater last weekend.

WITH THE WESSEX ENGINEERS AT THE
FRONT – BRIDGWATER SAPPER'S LETTER –
Sapper MJR **Sage**, 2nd Field Coy, Wessex Royal
Engineers – letter to mother at Bath Rd, Bridgwater –
gives details of his experiences in the trenches.

BRIDGWATER TROOPER SEVERELY
WOUNDED – OWES HIS LIFE TO A
COMRADE'S BRAVERY .
Pte W Gillard, 10th Royal Hussars – letter to mother
at 57 Union St, Bridgwater – was wounded in the
throat, chest and left arm - is recovering in hospital in
Manchester.

BRIDGWATER SCHOOLMASTER ENLISTS .
Mr Walter L **Barnett**, assistant master at Eastover
Council School, Bridgwater enlisted in the RAMC.

COMBWITH MAN KILLED IN ACTION .
Pte Frank Robert **Johnson**, 2nd Devons – killed in
action May 9th – was 26 years old.

BRIDGWATER HOSPITAL .
List of presents and donations received.

THEFT BY HOUSEKEEPER AT BRIDGWATER
Report.

THE DISASTER TO THE *PRINCESS IRENE* –
VIVID NARRATIVE FROM A BRIDGWATER
ENGINEER.
Account from Pte WJ **Munckton** – long account of
the events that occurred to the 'Princess Irene' .

EGGS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS – LETTER
FROM A RECIPIENT IN FRANCE – .
Letter to Miss Ashley, Wembdon Rd, Bridgwater, one
of the ladies in charge of the egg depot in the High St
, her address was scribbled on an egg – letter received
from Pte L Herbert, Machine Gun Section, 2nd KOS
Borderers, General Hospital, Etretat, France thanking

her for the eggs sent out to the wounded.
THE AUSTRALIAN VICTORY OVER TURKS –
PURITON MAN'S EXPERIENCES IN
DESPERATE FIGHTING.

Letter to Mrs Wm **House**, Nut Tree Farm, Puriton
from son Horace who went to Australia 4 years prior
to the outbreak of war – serving with the Australians
at Gallipoli – letter dated May 6th gives details of the
fighting and his experiences. General war news also
on this page.

Bridgwater Mercury 9th June 1915. Bridgwater and the War

KILLED IN THE DARDANELLES FIGHTING –
BRIDGWATER ASC PRIVATE SHOT IN THE
NECK –.

Pte Henry James **Cross**, ASC – killed in Gallipoli on
April 29th – shot through the neck- aged 20 – father
landlord of the Bunch of Grapes, St John St,
Bridgwater .

THE LANDING AT THE DARDANELLES – THE
FIRST GRIM STRUGGLE WITH THE TURKS –
Vivid Letter from Former Bridgwater Boys' Brigade
Member – Bugler WS **Manchip**, 10th Battalion, 3rd
Brigade, 1st Australian Imperial Force – Bugler
Manchip is native to Bridgwater -letter sent from the
Al Hayat Convalescent Hospital Heiouan, Egypt as
recovering from a bout of illness - letter to Capt HS
Dosson, commanding 1st Bridgwater Company of the
Boys' Brigade – describing the early fighting on the
Gallipoli Peninsula – long and detailed account.

NAVAL PROMOTION .
HJ **Canner** – to sub-lieutenant – son of Mr and Mrs
W Canner, St John St, Bridgwater .

THE DARDANELLES STRUGGLES – EXCITING
FIGHTS WITH THE TURKS – DESCRIPTIVE
LETTER FROM A BRIDGWATER SOLDIER .
Pte AG **Richards**, 6th Battalion Manchester
Regiment, part of the East Lancs Division – letter to
home Mr George Richards, Fernbank, Wembdon Rd,
Bridgwater – long letter describing the action and
conditions at Gallipoli .

CHEDZOY FARMER LOSES SON – DIED OF
WOUNDS RECEIVED IN DARDANELLES
FIGHTING – **Pte Leonard Ashford**, 13th Infantry
Brigade, Australian Imperial Force – died of wounds
received at Gallipoli – father Mr Jos Ashford, West
End Farm, Chedzoy – brother serving in the West
Somerset Yeomanry.

BRIDGWATER RESIDENT'S RECORD FLIGHT –
MR CECIL HILL GAINS HIS CERTIFICATE

Reproduction of an article that appeared in the magazine *Flight* – Cecil **Hill** obtained his Royal Aero Club certificate – is a member of the firm Real, Medland and Wills, St Mary St, Bridgwater.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT – .

Jack **Carver** has enlisted in the Mechanical Transport section of the ASC – son of H **Carver**, managing director of Bridgwater Motor Company.

LOCAL LADIES DRAFTED TO A MILITARY HOSPITAL – .

Elsie **Helps** and Ninian **Wills** – recently qualified Red Cross Nurses – drafted to the Military Hospital, Oxford.

BRIDGWATER COUNCILLOR'S SON WOUNDED .

Trooper Valerie **Trayler** , Royal Canadian Dragoons – son of Councillor JN **Trayler**, JP, Bridgwater .

LIEUTENANT LH **MAJOR** WOUNDED.

Lt LH **Major**, Canadian Contingent – wounded in the head and leg – youngest son of C **Major**, JP, Wembdon – extracts of letters to father.

BRIDGWATER MEN IN THE DEVONS – 11 MEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE SOMERSETS TO THE 10TH DEVONS – .

LCpl J **Morris**, Ptes B **Smith**, F **Duddridge**, W **Geen**, B **Dyer**, W **Smith**, H **Hobbs**, R **Russell**, F **Hobbs**, L **Dart**, J **Harris** – article states that the paper had received a photograph this however is not reproduced .

YOUNG TOWNSMEN ENLIST .

Roland A **Burnell** enlisted in the North Somerset Yeomanry- son of A **Burnell**, Taunton Rd, Bridgwater – brother L Graham **Burnell** serving with the Territorials in India, stationed at Amballa – brother-in-law with the Norfolk Regiment.

FOUR SONS IN THE ARMY

T **Pitman** has 4 sons serving – Hedley **Pitman**, RAMC, Sidney **Pitman**, 5th Somersets, Jack **Pitman**, Wessex Field Ambulance, Victor **Pitman**, Gloucestershire Regiment .

MORE RELICS FROM THE FRONT – RELICS FROM THE FRONT ARE ON DISPLAY AT WADDONS AND SONS, EASTOVER .

They include a German helmet sent home by Rifleman **Sear**, 1st King's Royal Rifles, shell time fuses sent home by Pte H **Davis**, 1stSLI.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S HEROISM –
CARRIES HIS WOUNDED OFFICER FROM
DANGER – EXTRACT FROM A WARRINGTON
NEWSPAPER .

Lt **Hatton**, 4th Lancashire Territorials carried to safety by Sgt **Hansford** and Pte **Caesar** – Sgt **Hansford** is son of Frederick **Hansford**, North St, Bridgwater – article also includes a letter from mother of Lt **Hatton** to Sgt **Hansford**.

Bridgwater Mercury 16th June 1915.
Bridgwater and the War

SOMERSETS AND THE GAS FUMES – HOW
THE GERMANS GOT 'THE SURPRISE OF THEIR
LIVES' .

LCpl John **Anglin**, A Coy, 1stSLI, - extract from letter to mother at 18 West St, Bridgwater detailing life in the trenches.

THE LATE PRIVATE LEONARD JOSEPH
ASHFORD – FURTHER PARTICULARS OF HIS
DEATH .

Pte Leonard Joseph **Ashford**, 13th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, - wounded by a bomb in the arm and left leg, arm was amputated, died from losing too much blood later on the hospital ship HM Hospital Ship Gascon, 10th May, buried at sea 3 miles off Cape Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli – son of Jos **Ashford**, West End Farm, Chedzoy.

BRIDGWATER NATIVE KILLED IN ACTION –
LAST LETTER TO PARENTS .

Pte Wm **Fry**, D Coy, 2nd Welsh Regiment – killed in action June 5th - parents live at 27 Bailey St, Bridgwater – he resided at Abertillery, Mon – leaves widow and 3 children – article contains extract of his last letter – article contains photograph.

PROMOTION .

Shoering-Smith H **Fry**, Royal Field Artillery – to Shoering-Smith Corporal.

THANKS FOR THE CIGARETTES –
INTERESTING LETTERS FROM BRIDGWATER
MEN AT THE FRONT – 'SOMERSETS NEVER
KNOWN TO LOSE A TRENCH.

Cigarettes and tobacco collected at the Volunteer Arms, Bridgwater and sent to the front – extract of letter from Pte WG **Fudge**, 1stSLI, licensee of the Volunteer Arms , dated June 6th thanking the customers .

'THE OLD TOWN HAS ANSWERED VERY
WELL.

Cpl HJ **Webber**, Army Cyclist Corps – letter to Mrs **Fudge** at the Volunteer Arms, dated May 30th, thanking her for the cigarettes and tobacco.

WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN FORCE

Driver A **Taunton**, ASC, No3 Coy, Supply Column, 29th Div Train, BEF – letter dated May 22nd, thanking people for the cigarettes.

‘LOOKING FORWARD TO COMPLETE VICTORY’ .

Driver W **Tucker**, Royal Field Artillery, dated June 3rd – letter giving thanks for the cigarettes.

‘PLEASED WITH A GOOD OLD ENGLISH WOODBINE’ .

Driver TW Woollan, ASC, 29th Div Train, BEF .

WITH THE RAMC IN FRANCE – LETTER FROM SERGT E WADMORE .

Sgt E Wadmore, 27th Sanitary Section, RAMC - extracts from letter to father Edwin Wadmore headmaster of Wembdon School – gives details of his experiences.

ANOTHER BRIDGWATER MAN KILLED IN ACTION .

Pte Frederick **Hurford**, 1st Devons – killed in action on May 1st in Northern France - son of Frederick Hurford, No 3 Court, Albert St, Bridgwater – lived near Pontypridd, leaves widow and 2 children.

CANNINGTON SERGEANT KILLED IN ACTION – SYMPATHETIC LETTERS FROM THE FRONT – **Sgt H Gibbs**, SLI – killed on May 28th – parents live in Blackmore Lane, Cannington – extracts of 2 letters to parents offering condolences .

EGGS FOR THE WOUNDED .

24,231 eggs collected since the depot in the High St, Bridgwater opened on March 17th – also £6 2s 5d donated and used to buy further supplies of eggs.

BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER JOINS THE ENGINEERS .

DR **Brook** enlisted in the Royal Engineers – was on the clerical staff at Alfred Peace Ltd, Bridgwater – .

YOUNG BRIDGWATERITE ENLISTS IN LONDON.

Howard **Kitch** enlisted in the 15th Battalion County of London (Prince of Wales’ Own) Civil Service Rifles – son of WH Kitch Blake Place, Bridgwater.

MARRIAGE OF MAJOR AH PEACE OF BRIDGWATER .

Maj Aglen H **Peace**, ASC - eldest son of the late Alfred **Peace** JP, ‘Penlea’, Bridgwater – married Elizabeth Olga **Dowty** of Russell Crescent, Horley – the marriage took place in Horley – article gives details of the wedding and who attended.

PATRIOTIC FILM AT THE BIJOU THEATRE – RECRUITING SPEECH BY COLONEL H T DANIEL.

The film ‘Wake Up’ based on the novel by Laurence **Cowen** and sanctioned by the War Office was shown, followed by a speech from Col HT **Daniel** – article gives details of both .

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS Orders for week ending 21st June 1915.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS IN SOMERSET Question of a County Association. General war news on the reverse of the cutting.

Bridgwater Mercury 23rd June 1915.
Bridgwater and the War

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER FALLS IN BATTLE – PRIVATE F HURFORD .

Pte F Hurford, Devons – killed May 1st – son of Frederick Hurford, 3 Court, Albert St, Bridgwater – lived in Pontypridd – leaves widow and 2 children – short article with photograph.

CANNINGTON SERGEANT KILLED IN ACTION – **Sgt H Gibbs**, SLI – killed May 28th – parents live in Blackmore Lane, Cannington – short article with photograph.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SOMERSETS Letter to the editor from H Growthage.

THE SINKING OF HMS *TRIUMPH* – BRIDGWATER SEAMAN DIES OF WOUNDS Able Seaman Lawrence **C Loubo** - died from wounds sustained when a torpedo hit HMS *Triumph* in the Dardanelles– lived in Penel Orlieu, Bridgwater – leaves widow and 3 children – eldest son in the ASC – photograph included with the article.

FEEDING 50,000 SOLDIERS IN TWO HOURS – LETTER FROM A BRIDGWATER GUNNER . Gunner WC **Tottle**, Gloucestershire Artillery – from Bridgwater – letter to friend in Bridgwater – describes life and conditions at the Front.

THE CONTRASTS OF WAR – VIVID NARRATIVE BY BRIDGWATER CORPORAL – TOMMY THE OPTIMIST –

Cpl Wilbert G **Richards**, West Riding Division Supply Column, ASC serving with the BEF – letter dated June 8th to his father GJ Richards, ‘Fern Bank’, Wembdon Rd, Bridgwater – very long letter asking for goggles for protection against the dust and gives details of life at the Front – also extract from a later letter .

COMBWICH NAVY MAN'S DEATH – DIES OF FEVER IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

Able Seaman John Burnett **Parsons**, HMS Comet – died from enteric fever .

BRIDGWATER ENGINEER AT THE FRONT – REFERENCES TO A BATTLE .

Sapper Arthur **Stacey**, Royal Engineers – letter to father J Stacey, 17 Northgate, Bridgwater – short extract giving details of a battle .

BRIDGWATER AND DISTRICT TEACHERS AND THE WAR FUND .

Gives details of donors and lists donations given.

BRIDGWATER SERGEANT WOUNDED – GALLANT ACT RECALLED .

Sgt Geo **Hansford**, 4th Lincs (Territorial), wounded in the neck and back by shrapnel– letter to father Fredk Hansford, North St, Bridgwater .

WITH THE BRITISH MEDITERRANEAN FORCE LETTERS FROM A BRIDGWATER MAN – .

Driver CR **Marker**, ASC – letters to his wife at 86 Wellington Rd, Bridgwater – gives details of life with the Mediterranean Force.

‘WE HAVE THE MEASURE OF THE TURKS’ BRIDGWATER SERGEANT-MAJOR’S OPTIMISTIC LETTER .

Staff Sgt Percy **Kendal**, 29th Divisional Train, ASC– letter from Alexandria to friend in Bridgwater – gives details of life there.

BRIDGWATER MAN WOUNDED IN THE DARDANELLES .

Driver EB **Andrews**, Bridgwater ASC – wounded on the Gallipoli Peninsula – believed to be progressing well – lives in Barclay St.

ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION – INTERESTING FILM AT THE EMPIRE .

Film showing the RND at work and at play – also asking for recruits for the RND. General War news on the reverse of the cutting.

Bridgwater Mercury 30th June 1915.
Bridgwater and the War

ANOTHER CANNINGTON MAN KILLED IN ACTION – DURING FIRST SPELL IN THE TRENCHES.

Pte Benjamin Barrett, 1stSLI – killed Sunday June 13th – was about 30 and unmarried – third son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Barrett, Ched’s Lane, Cannington – article accompanied by a photograph.

TWO NETHER STOWEY SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION .

Struck by the same shell – believed to be Pte Walter **Knight** and Pte Walter **Chidgey** – both of the Somersets – letter from Pte Ernest **Stacey**, the Somersets to JR **Glover**, Globe Inn, Nether Stowey gives details – both men were married - Pte Walter **Chidgey** leaves a widow and 4 children - Pte Walter **Knight** leaves a widow and 1 child.

COMBWICH NAVY MAN'S DEATH.

AB John Burnett **Parsons**, HMS *Comet* – died of enteric fever in the Persian Gulf – article accompanied by a photograph.

CANADIAN SOLDIER'S VISIT TO BRIDGWATER .

Pte Cecil **Letherby**, Canadian Contingent – son of RJ Letherby of the Town Clerk’s office.

BRIDGWATER CANADIAN A PRISONER OF WAR – .

Pte Edward **Foley** of the Canadians – son of RY **Foley**, JP – is a POW and is also recovering from wounds.

A BRIDGWATER LAD IN THE TRENCHES .

Pte C **Bale** and Pte R **Exon** . - letter from Pte . Bale to Supt WH Williams thanking him for cigarettes and tobacco sent by him.

BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER JOINS THE YEOMANRY – .

T **Widlake** joined the West Somerset Yeomanry.

LITERATURE FOR THE TROOPS.

List of donors of books for the troops.

BRIDGWATER VICAR'S SON'S COMMISSION .

CC **Bazell** commission in the 9th SLI, – son of the Rev Prb C Bazell, vicar of St John’s Church, Bridgwater .

BRIDGWATER ASC DOING THEIR BIT IN THE DARDANELLES – LETTER FROM A LOCAL DRIVER – A SHELL THAT SPOILED A CUP OF TEA .

Driver W **Manchip**, No3 Coy, ASC, 29th Divisional Train – letter to parents at 60 Union St, Bridgwater – giving details of life in the Dardanelles.

WELL-KNOWN CRICKETER ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Captain HS **Poyntz** – promoted to major in the Bedfordshire Regiment .

STRAWBERRIES FOR THE NAVY.

FJ **Hayward**, fruiterer, High St, Bridgwater sent a quantity of strawberries to HMS *Skipjack* on June 15th, they arrived on June 20th in good condition.

FORMER BRIDGWATER FAMILY'S GOOD RECORD – THREE SONS IN THE ARMY – SONS OF ALFRED NICHOLS, FORMERLY OF BRIDGWATER NOW OF BURNHAM HAS 3 SONS IN THE ARMY .

Ray **Nichols**, commissioned in the Royal Engineers, the other 2 are serving with the Somersets in the Persian Gulf and a heavy battery of Artillery at Bristol respectively.

BATTALION ATHLETIC CHAMPION – .

Pte JH **King**, C Coy, 5SLI won a silver cup as athletic champion of the battalion in India – now on display in the shop window of TW **Markham**, tobacconist, Fore St, Bridgwater .

WITH THE SOMERSETS IN BURMA – WEMBDON SOLDIER'S INTERESTING LETTER
Pte H Lynham, 5thSLI, stationed at Meiktila, Burma – former pupil at Wembdon School long letter to headmaster Edwin Wadmore describing life in Burma.

THE SNIPER PEST IN THE DARDANELLES .
Pte Gerald C W **Bishop**, Hawke Battalion, RNVR – letter home to father FW Bishop – gives details of life in the Dardanelles.

EGGS FOR THE WOUNDED .

Number received at the High St Depot this week was 1,688.

MORE MEN WANTED FOR THE SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY .

Letter to the editor calling for recruits.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

SGT TRC Wallace, ASC was stationed in Bridgwater before war broke out.

BREAD FOR PRISONERS OF WAR – BRIDGWATER TRADESMAN'S EXPERIMENT
Bread sent to POWs has been arriving in an inedible condition due to the length of time it has taken to get there – Edwin **Bryant**, baker, Eastover, Bridgwater has produced an 8lb loaf that will keep fresh for 28 days and will take orders – he will supply it free for transmission for any Bridgwater man who is a POW.

FORMER BRIDGWATER SHOP ASSISTANT KILLED .

Pte Frank L **Webb**, Queen's Westminster Rifles (TF), worked for Mr Hooper in the High St, Bridgwater – was 21 years old – parents live in Cirencester.

BACK IN ENGLAND AGAIN PRIVATE HERBERT SMITH IN A TAPLOW HOSPITAL .

Pte Herbert T **Smith**, Canadians - postcard to father WH **Smith**, saddler, High St, Bridgwater – in hospital

suffering from the effects of gas.

GRATITUDE FROM THE DARDANELLES .

Letter of thanks from Maj HG **Shorto**, commanding officer 29th Divisional Train, British Mediterranean Force to TW Markham, tobacconist, High St and Fore St, Bridgwater for a parcel of cigarettes .

Bridgwater Mercury 7th July 1915.

Bridgwater and the War

THE ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION – THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT FILM – EXCELLENT RECRUITING RETURNS IN BRIDGWATER – ABOUT 40 HAVE APPLIED TO JOIN THE RND
Letter to Supt **Williams** from JH **Burge**, 2nd Battalion RND detailing life with the RND.

SERGT JACK **DUNNING** KILLED IN ACTION – PROMOTER OF THE SOMERSET PALS' COMPANY – STRUCK BY A SHELL WHILST TRYING TO SAVE A GUN.

Sgt Jack **Dunning**, 6thSLI – youngest son of Mr and Mrs JH **Dunning** – aged 31 – article gives details of how he promoted a Pals' battalion and also how he was able to enlist even though his eye sight was poor – article also contains letters of tribute.

OLD MORGANIAN'S GALLANTRY AT THE FRONT – REFUSAL TO LEAVE A WOUNDED COMRADE – GRAPHIC STORY OF THE FIGHTING .

Canadian Contingent – extract of letter from a comrade giving details- long article.

KILLED IN ACTION – PTE WT **COLES** OF STOGURSEY .

Pte Walter T **Coles**, SLI – aged 27 – leaves widow and 4 children – photograph accompanies article.

THE SOMERSETS IN BURMA – INTERESTING FOOTBALL MATCH .

Letter giving details of 2/5SLI match including list of players.

COMMISSION FOR FORMER BRIDGWATER RESIDENT – Lionel WH **Robinson**, as 2nd Lt in the 2nd North Midland brigade, Royal Field Artillery – formerly resident in Bridgwater .

BRIDGWATER SHOP ASSISTANT KILLED . PTE FL **WEBB** .

Pte Frank L Webb, Queen's Westminster Rifles (TF) – killed in action June 4th – aged 21 – worked for Hooper's in the High St, Bridgwater – article accompanied by photograph.

THE TEMPERATURE AT AMBALA –
BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS CORRECT A
MISAPPREHENSION .

Correction to a communication printed from Pte F **Rudman**, Middlesex Territorials that stated Ambala was in the Himalayas when in fact on the plains of India – and the temperature is from 111 to 115 degrees.

LETTER'S WORLD-WIDE TRAVEL.

A letter correctly addressed to Sgt **Harry Burge**, 5thSLI, Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth went via the Canadians on the Plain to France to Ambala, India to Shwebo (Burma) to Bombay to Taunton to arrive at its destination – posted March 23rd it finally arrived at the end of June .

WOUNDED ASC DRIVER BACK IN ENGLAND
Driver ET **Andrews**, Bridgwater ASC – wounded in the Dardanelles now in the Manchester General Hospital – progressing well – home is in Barclay St, Bridgwater.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S DEATH IN
GERMANY – BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED OF
WOUNDS .

Pte Frederick **Young**, SLI – parents are Mr and Mrs Wm Young, 16 Court, West St, Bridgwater received a communication from the commanding officer 1stSLI which reads ‘ I very much regret to inform you that No. 7.570 Pte F Young is reported by the German Government through the US Embassy to have died on October 14th, 1914’ – probably wounded at Mons .

EGGS FOR THE WOUNDED .

N of eggs received at the High St depot this week is 1,675.

Bridgwater Mercury 14th July 1915.
Bridgwater and the War

BRIDGWATER MAN TWICE WOUNDED –
REMARKABLE ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

LCpl E F **Lewis**, 1stSLI – two letters to wife EFM Lewis, Gloucester Pl, Bridgwater – first dated July 2nd thanking her for a parcel and gives details of life in the trenches – second dated July 4th gives details of a wound sustained in his leg below the calf – he has 3 brothers also serving with 1stSLI.

BATTLING WITH THE TURKS IN THE PERSIAN
GULF – BRIDGWATER TERRITORIAL'S
EXPERIENCE –“THE GARDEN OF EDEN” AND
SWELTERING TOMMIES .

Letter from Pte JW **Colsey**, 1st/5thSLI serving with the 2nd Dorsets, Indian Expeditionary Force to his father JJ Colsey proprietor of the Bristol Drapery Co, Fore St, Bridgwater – letter dated June 4th describing his

experiences – also in hospital at Basra with heatstroke – 2nd letter dated 2 days later further describes the terrible heat.

WITH THE BRIDGWATER ASC IN GALLIPOLI –
INTERESTING LETTERS FROM THE
DARDANELLES.

Letter from Driver HG **Moore** to his grandmother at Combwich – letter from Driver Lionel **Patten** to his brother E Patten, 19 Halesleigh Rd, Bridgwater dated July 6th – also 3 letters dated June 7th, June 11th and June 15th from Cpl Frank **Pitman** to his parents and other relatives – all give details of the conditions and fighting in the Dardanelles and the torpedoing of HMS *Majestic*.

BRIDGWATER SOLICITOR'S SON WOUNDED –
SHOT IN THE LEG IN THE DARDANELLES
FIGHTING.

AB Gerald CW **Bishop**, Hawke Battalion, RNVR – son of FW Bishop – postcard dated June 25th. Wounded in the left leg.

LANCE- CORPORAL JACK **DUNNING** KILLED
– FOUNDER OF SOMERSET PALS' COMPANY.
Short article plus photograph.

“A GRAND FELLOW” COMMANDING
OFFICER'S TRIBUTE – LCPL JACK **DUNNING** -
Letter to parents from Lt Col Rawling, commanding 6thSLI dated July 3rd giving details of his death and where he is buried.

WESLEYAN MINISTERS IN THE ARMY –
LOCAL OFFICERS COUSIN AMONGST THE
NUMBER.

Short article 27 ministers appointed as Army chaplains.

CAPTURED THE TRENCHES BUT LOST HIS
PIPE – CANNINGTON SOLDIER'S LAMENT –
Pte Tom **Evans**, 1stSLI – letter to parents.

SIR IAN HAMILTON'S APPEAL FOR HIS
TROOPS – AN EFFORT TO BE MADE IN
BRIDGWATER .

Appeal for gifts for the troops in the Dardanelles.

COUNTY MAGISTRATE'S PATRIOTIC SONS –
Dr **WB Foley** – son of RY Foley, Highlands, Dodington, Bridgwater – a commission as Lt in the RAMC- also letter from his brother Sgt HA **Foley** , 6thSLI to their father giving details of his experiences at the front.

THE SOLDIER AND THE EGG .

One of the Red Cross young ladies put her name and address on one of the eggs destined for the wounded from the depot in the High St, Bridgwater has received a letter from a wounded soldier at Bulford

Military Hospital in Wiltshire.

FORMER BRIDGWATER RESIDENT RECEIVES A COMMISSION .

HE **Lorrimer**, a commission in the Inns of Court Regiment.

BRIDGWATER RAMC MAN HOME ON LEAVE – EXPERIENCES AT THE FRONT – .

Pte **Pippin**, Devonshire Territorial Battalion – gives details of his nine months at the Front- including the fact that he has become a little callous of human suffering and injury due to his experiences.

BRIDGWATER WIDOW'S PROUD RECORD – FIVE SONS IN THE ARMY .

Mrs Mary Woods, 14 Court, West St, Bridgwater – Pte **J Fear**, 5thSLI, LCpl **H Woods**, 2ndSLI, Sapper **Wm Woods**, Royal Engineers, Pte **Tom Woods**, 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, Walter **Woods**, believed to be with the Australian Expeditionary Force – article contains a letter from LCpl Woods .

A LOST POSTCARD FROM THE FRONT .

Found in Eastover and handed into the *Mercury* offices – dated July 6th, 1915 .

THE WESSEX ENGINEERS AT THE FRONT – BRIDGWATER SERGEANT COMMENDED FOR DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT – .

Sgt **HJ Pursey**, 2nd Field Coy, Royal Engineers – son of Mr & Mrs **JT Pursey**, 24 Wembdon Rd, Bridgwater – letter to parents.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER WOUNDED – BUT BACK IN THE TRENCHES AGAIN .

Pte **Reginald Colsey**, Civil Service Rifles – bullet wound in the right hand, not serious – letter to parents .

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION – STRUCK BY A SHELL IN THE TRENCHES .

– Cpl **John Lomax**, H Coy, 1stSLI – formerly landlord of the Crown Inn, St John St., Bridgwater – news came as letter from Pte **WG Fudge** (landlord of the Volunteer Arms, Union St, Bridgwater, to his wife, sister to Pte Lomax.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER FALLS IN BATTLE –

Pte **James Burgess**, SLI killed in action – eldest son of **James Burgess**, Bath Rd, Bridgwater.

COMMISSION FOR A CHARLYNCH GENTLEMAN .

FW **Bell**, Lt in the Canadian Expeditionary Force – son of Rev **WA Bell**, Charlynch, Bridgwater.

SPECIAL BREAD FOR PRISONERS OF WAR – GOOD RESPONSE TO LOCAL FIRM'S PATRIOTIC OFFER .

Special loaves weighing 8lbs and will keep fresh for a month to be baked by Edwin **Bryant** of Eastover, Bridgwater for POWs in Germany.

BRIDGWATER TRADESMAN ENLISTS – .

Ernest **Turner**, 16 Clare St, Bridgwater in the Wessex Royal Engineers – was proprietor of a local oil and hardware business.

CANNINGTON MARINE DIES OF WOUNDS –

Pte **Harry Chidgey**, RMLI – son of **Charles Chidgey**, Cannington .

LITERATURE FOR THE TROOPS – AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM THE FRONT .

Letter received saying that a box of books for the troops had been received at the Front.

Bridgwater Mercury 21 July 1915. Bridgwater and the War

BRIDGWATER AT WAR- BRIDGWATER MARINE DIES OF WOUNDS – HIS BROTHER WOUNDED.

Lce-Cpl. **Harry Chedgey** of Cannington. Wounded at Gallipoli. (Photo). Brother, Pte **Tom George Chedgey**, 1st Canadians wounded in France 22 May. Another brother, **William** of the Marines also in hospital..

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN THE PERSIAN GULF -THE FIGHT FOR KURNA
Interesting description by local soldier. Pte **W King** relates details of battle.

HOW THE SOMERSETS CAPTURED A GERMAN TRENCH

Outlines battle tactics and conditions..

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION -KINDLY LETTER FROM THE DECEASED'S CHUM -"HE DIED A MOST HONOURABLE DEATH".

Moving account of the death of Pte **James Burgess** of the 1st SLI. (Photo).

MORE INTERESTING RELICS FROM THE FRONT -LOCAL BOMBARDIER'S HAIRBREADTH ESCAPE.

Description of war relics brought to Bridgwater by Bombardier **Curry** of the Garrison Artillery who was on leave after several narrow escapes from the enemy.

BRIDGWATER CORPORAL KILLED IN ACTION.

Cpl **John Lomax** of the 1st SLI (Photo) was killed after a few days at the Front.

BRIDGWATER RUGBY PLAYERS ON LEAVE.

Lt J M **Edgar** of the Staffords, and the **Churchill** brothers and Fred **Hoare** of the Canadians all on leave..

6th SOMERSETS UPHOLD THE COUNTY'S NAME.

Account of casualties suffered by the 6th Somerset regiment from Company Sgt Major W H **Gamlin**. Also thanks for tobacco received for his men..

POPULAR BRIDGWATER LICENSEE HOME ON LEAVE.

Private W G **Fudge**, ex landlord of the Volunteer Arms returning to the Front. He served with the 1st Somersets at the battle of Mons. Friends of Private Fudge presented him with a silver cigarette case..

BRIDGWATER ACCOUNTANT'S SON OBTAINS A COMMISSION.

Victor Sully is 2nd Lt in 9th Battalion Beds Regt. His brother, Douglas of the London Scottish has been missing for 9 months.

BRIDGWATER DOCTOR'S LIFE IN EGYPT.

Capt E B **Hartnell**, doctor in the officers' hospital in Cairo writes to thank a friend for his parcel. He describes day-to-day conditions and criticizes 'legalised wholesale murder'.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER WOUNDED.

Private Fred **Durston**'s letter from Boulogne hospital detailing removal of a bullet. The bullet smashed a mouth organ in his pocket and some of the instrument had entered the wound. He writes cheerfully but, 6 days later the Matron writes to his mother to say his condition 'critical'..

THE SOMERSET'S SPLENDID WORK.

Lce Cpl E. **Chilcott** of the Coldstream Guards relates terrible consequences of war in France and praises the splendid 'Somersets' at Ypres.

THE BRIDGWATER A.S.C. IN THE DARDANELLES.

Accounts of actions of the Bridgwater Army Service Corps with list of participants included..

BRIDGWATER OFFICER PROMOTED.

Sec Lieut Wm **Tamlyn** of Bridgwater firm of auctioneers is promoted to temporary Lieutenant..

Bridgwater Mercury 28 July 1915.
Bridgwater and the War

LOCAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS AT THE DARDANELLES – HOW THEY LANDED IN GALLIPOLI – BRIDGWATER N.C. O.'S INTERESTING LETTER.

Very long account (over a column) by S.S.M.P

Kendal about his experiences in Egypt, with some details of the action in Gallipoli..

KING'S VISIT TO THE PLAIN – MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE VISIT TO LARKHILL (see last week).

Privates **Sansom**, **Hole** and **Hobbs** were in the guard of honour.

ANOTHER STOGURSEY SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION.

Pte Simon **Chilcott** of the South Wales Borderers killed on 28 June in the Dardanelles (with portrait).

BRIDGWATER POSTAL OFFICIAL AT THE FRONT. WORKING UNDER SHELL FIRE.

Letter from Mr Harold **Davis**. Appears to be a signaller.

LOCAL MAN INTERNED IN HOLLAND – AN OFFER TO OUR READERS.

Letter from Pte H, **Rich** of Collingwod Btn of the RNVR, a POW in Holland. Offers to make souvenir photo frames for readers..

SOMERSETS IN A HOT CORNER – SHELLED AND GASSED.

Letter from an anonymous member of the SLI about his experiences in the trenches..

NORTH PETHERTON LAD KILLED IN ACTION
Photo of Pte W **Roberts** (see last week).

OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

Note that Mr Arthur H **Baker** son of Mr James Baker of Othery has joined the Inns of Court OTC. He was on the editorial staff of the *Western Morning News*.

WELL-KNOWN TOWNSMAN'S SON KILLED IN ACTION

Rifleman F. B. **Helps** of the Westminsters. News that he had been killed in France..

BRIDGWATER CANADIAN DIES OF WOUNDS. - SON OF FORMER WELL-KNOWN TOWNSMAN.

News that Pte Harley **Burrington**, son of the late G. G. **Burrington** had died of wounds at Boulogne.

BRIDGWATER STAFF SERGEANT'S CHEERFUL TIDINGS - "WE OUGHT TO WIN BY THREE CLEAR GOALS"

Letter from Staff Sgt Arther Rex **Page** of the Royal Engineers. Son of the late E. T. **Page**. He was attached to a battery of the Royal Artillery..

COMMISSION FOR VICAR OF BRIDGWATER'S SON.

Note that Mr Cyril L. M. **Langham** had been commissioned as a 2nd Lt in the ASC Wessex divisional train (Territorial Force). He was a solicitor in London..

“ENTENTE CORDIALE” - BRIDGWATER SOLDIERS PHOTOGRAPHED ON FRENCH GUN.

Cpl J **Anglin** of the 1st SLI sent a photograph to his mother – Included his brother Pat. Sent for the *Mercury*, but too dark for reproduction..

CANNINGTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL BOY AWARDED THE D. C. M. - DEED OF DARING IN SIGHT OF THE ENEMY – SINGLE-HANDED CAPTURES A MACHINE GUN AND AMMUNITION.

Awarded to Lce Cpl T. A. P. **Willis** of the 1st Manchesters. Biographical material about his army service and having been wounded 3 times. Also a note that another ex-Cannington boy, Pte Alexander **Leahy**, of the Gloucesters, had been also awarded the D. C. M..

CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SOMERSET – IMPORTANT STAFF APPOINTMENT. Note that Major H. C. **Metcalf** of the 2rd Btn of the Northamptonshire Regiment appointed at Brigade Musketry Staff Officer for the 1st Thames and Medway Reserve Brigade, Chatham..

ASHCOTT SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION – A RUMOUR THAT PROVED CORRECT.

Lce Cpl Lionel John **Dean** of the DCLI had been killed in France. He was the third son of Mr J. F. Dean and had been working in the Welsh mines before enlisting.

BRIDGWATER R.A.M.C. PRIVATE HOME ON LEAVE. - TRIBUTE TO THE SPLENDID HEALTH OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

Report of an interview with Pte J. **Manchip**, RAMC.

BRIDGWATER LICENSEE ENLISTS.

Mr Tom **Creedy**, licensee of the Green Dragon Inn, Friam Street has joined the Army Pay Dept. Brief biography..

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S DEATH IN ACTION.

Pte James **Burgess** of the 1st SLI – see last week. Some more information..

COMMISSION FOR FORMER BRIDGWATER BOY.

Mr Robert Charles **Case** formerly of Fiddington. Trained as an engineer at the GWR works, Swindon, and now commissioned in the Royal Engineers. Good brief biography.

BRIDGWATER AND DISTRICT TEACHERS AND THE WAR FUNDS.

News about a fund to augment the money given to the dependants of teachers killed or wounded. List of subscriptions.

WAR SERVICE AWARDS AND HONOURS.

News that the *London Gazette* would be available in Bridgwater Library..

**Bridgwater Mercury, 4 August 1915.
Bridgwater and the War**

BRIDGWATER MAN ON ACTIVE SERVICE. – ACCEPTED AS WIRELESS OPERATOR.

Pte L. G. **Burnell** of 1/5th SLI, now in India due to go to the Persian Gulf. 30 men from the 1/5th SLI went there on 13 May and 5 were from Bridgwater.

THE TERRIFIC HEAT IN THE PERSIAN GULF - SOMERSET TERRITORIAL'S EXPERIENCES.

Letter from Lce Cpl Hubert **Parsons** of the Somerset Territorials.

JOINED THE CANADIANS.

Note that Mr Edward Bryant **Burrington** had joined the 54th Batn of the Canadian Infantry. He was the son of the late Mr G. G. Burrington of Bridgwater..

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER KILLED IN THE DARDANELLES – SHOT WHILE LEAVING THE TRENCHES.

Pte Alfred George (“Counsell”) **Richards** of the 6th Manchesters. Quotes the letter from his platoon commander.

FROM CIGARETTES FOR DARDANELLES SOLDIERS.

Letter of thanks from Lady Ian **Hamilton** on behalf of her husband at the Dardanelles.

ASHCOTT SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION.

Photograph of Lce Cpl Lionel John **Dean**. See previous week.

BRIDGWATER MAN KILLED IN ACTION – Rifleman F. B. **Helps** of the Queen's Rifles. With photograph. Quotes letter from an officer.

FOUR SONS AT THE FRONT – BRIDGWATER FAMILY'S UNIQUE RECORD.

Sons of Mrs & Mrs Francis **Caple** of 34 Mount Street. Pts Wm. James, Lce Cpl Henry, Pte Robert and Pte Frederick.

FOUR SONS SERVING – BRISTOL-ROAD FAMILY'S GOOD RECORD.

Sons of Mr & Mrs Edward Cattle of 16 Wyldsborough Terrace, Bristol Road, Bridgwater. Seamen Edward and Ernest; Bertie in the Royal Naval division and Frederick a driver in the ASC.

**Bridgwater Mercury, 11 August 1915 .
Bridgwater and the War.**

DECLARATION OF WAR ANNIVERSARY

Special services in Bridgwater. Brief account of the various church services.

BATH BRICKS IN INDIA – BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS DISCOVERY.

Pte Fred **Rudman** of the Middlesex Territorials found one in an Indian bazaar.

WEMBDON SOLDIER WOUNDED.

Rfln H. **Male** of the King's Royal Rifles wounded in France.

AT THE DARDANELLES – BRIDGWATER MAN'S EXCITING EXPERIENCES.

Letter from Driver H. B. **Stone** attached to the 29th Division Train recounting how he had been under bombardment – 18 horses killed. Saw the *Majestic* sunk..

A YEAR OF WAR. - BRIDGWATER'S ROLL OF HONOUR – LOCAL MEN WHO HAVE DIED FOR THEIR HONOUR.

Lists in chronological order the 49 Bridgwater men who had fallen. NB This list is repeated each year on the anniversary of the start of the War, and updated.

ARMY SPORTS AT TIDWORTH – SUCCESS OF BRIDGWATER MEN.

Account of the Army Ordnance Corps sports day. In the SLI Tug-of-War team were the following Bridgwater men. Pte T. **Davies**, Cpl Oswald **Symons**, Ptes T. **Pollard**, Edward **Hole**, C. **Pope** and E **Heal**.

A GENEROUS GIFT.

Mr W. B. **Broadmead** of Enmore Castle gave a cheque for £20 to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association..

JOINED THE CANADIANS.

Note that Mr W. C. **Martin**, son of the headmaster of the Cannington Schools had joined the 65th Btn of the Canadian infantry..

COMMISSIONS FOR LATE CLERGYMAN'S SONS.

Sons of the late Rev. Mr **Montgomery**, late of Shapwick cum Ashcott had joined up. They were Mr James Colin **Montgomery** who was commissioned in the 12th Scottish Rifles, and Mr Robert Maxwell **Montgomery** who was commissioned in the 1st South Midland RFA..

THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION ACT – DELIVERY OF THE FORMS COMMENCED IN BRIDGWATER.

Detailed account of the procedures to be followed in filling out the form.

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY AT THE FRONT – WITTY LETTERS FROM LOCAL RESIDENT'S SON.

Extracts from letters written by Pte. Reg. **Trelease** of the Oxford and Bucks L.I. to his father..

D. C. M. WON BY A NATIVE OF STOGURSEY – THRILLING ADVENTURES – INTERESTING PRESENTATIONS.

Copy of an account published in the *South Wales Echo* of a presentation made at Abercwmboi near Aberdare to Sgt R. J. **Scott** of the Royal Garrison Artillery, attached to the BEF. He was born in Stogursey.

THE LATE CORPORAL ALFRED GEORGE RICHARDS –

Note about the official notification of the death of Cpl Alfred George **Richards** of the 6th Manchester Regiment.

**Bridgwater Mercury 18 August 1915.
Bridgwater and the War.**

BRIDGWATER MAN DIES OF WOUNDS – CHAPLAIN'S TOUCHING LETTER.

Account of the death of Pte W. **Ticknell** of C Company 6th Service Batn of the S.L.I. who died of wounds in France 9 August 1915. With photograph.

COMMISSION FOR MR A. ST.D CORDER – PROMOTION FROM THE RANKS.

Note that Mr Alwn St. Dunstan **Corder** of the ASC had been promoted to 2nd Lt in the 8th Btn of the Worcestershire Regt.

A DISTURBED TEA PARTY – A BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES

Letter from Pte E. **Manchip** of the RAMC, enclosing small pieces of shrapnel.

GERMANS MERRY OVER WARSAW'S FALL

Burnham soldier's letter. Letter from Pte H. **Slocombe** of the South Wales Borderers.

CANNINGTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND THE WAR.

Note that Mr T **Cread**, master tailor at the school had enlisted and that Lt C **Newitt** an 'Old Boy' had been appointed Divisional Coast Defence Officer as Wexford.

CANNINGTONIANS JOIN THE MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.

Note about Messrs P. and G. **Allen**, sons of Police Sergeant Allen of Cannington have joined the ASC, Mechanical Transport.

THUNDERSTORMS ON THE FRONT.

Note about this in letter from Pte W. G. **Fudge**, landlord of the Volunteer Arms, Union Street.

HOME ON LEAVE FROM THE FRONT.

Note that some men were home but no details.

BRIDGWATER BAKER'S PATRIOTIC OFFER – THANKS FROM A BRIGWATER PRISONER OF WAR.

Report that Mr Edwin **Bryant**, a baker of Eastover was offering to send long-lasting 8lb loaves of bread to British POW's held in Germany. Includes a letter from Lce-Cpl Ernest **Cooze** of the KOYLI then in Doebertiz camp thanking him for it.

BRIDGWATER CO.-SERGT. MAJOR DIES OF WOUNDS.

Severe loss to the 6th Somersets – A splendid career in the Army. Account of the death of Co.-Sergt. Major W. H. **Gamlin** at Boulogne General Hospital. Very good biography of him.

CANNINGTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL BOY'S GALLANTRY – BRAVE YOUNG SOLDIER'S VISIT TO OLD SCHOOL.

Report of a visit from Cpl T. A. P. **Willis** D. C. M. to the school where he talked to the boys. Detail account of what he did to get the medal.

THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION ACT. - THE COLLECTION OF FORMS IN BRIDGWATER.

Note that the distribution and eventual tabulation of the information had gone very well.

BRIDGWATER – BIJOU THEATRE

very detailed account of that week's programme at the theatre..

**Bridgwater Mercury, 25 August 1915.
Bridgwater and the War.**

FIVE SONS SERVING THEIR COUNTRY

Note that Mr Ernest **Roberts** of Valetta Place had 5 sons serving. Namely Driver Ernest, ASC, Pte Thomas, Coldstream Guards, Driver Charles, ASC, Trooper Jesse, West Somerset Yeomanry, Driver Bert, ASC. Another son, William worked in munitions n Wales..

THE LATE COY.-SERGT. MAJOR W. H. **GAMLIN** WELL -KNOWN SOMERSET SOLDIER.

(See last week) Photograph of him.

BROOMFIELD SOLDIER'S REBUKE.

Letter from Pte. H. **Cross** of the 1st Btn. Coldstream Guards rebuking slackers at home.

DISCLAIMER FROM A BRIDGWATER SOLDIER – IN GOOD HEALTH DESPITE RUMOURS OF HIS DEATH.

Letter from Driver **Hockey** 2nd Battery RHA to the editor saying he was alive despite what rumour said.

BRIDGWATER YOUNG GENTLEMAN GIVEN A COMMISSION – PROMOTION FROM THE RANKS.

Note that Mr George Lavar **Rowe** had been commissioned in the 7th Dorset Battalion.

A REPLY TO THE PESSIMISTS – BOROUGHBIDGE “TOMMY'S” CHEERY LETTER.

Letter from Lce-Cpl Percy R. **Woodland** of B Company 1st SLI to Rev. C. J. **Jeal** (Baptist Minister at Boroughbridge).

THE EGG COLLECTION IN BRIDGWATER AND DISTRICT – OVER 40,000 RECEIVED SINCE MARCH.

Note about eggs collected for wounded soldiers and sailors through the Red Cross.

CANNINGTONIANS JOIN THE RAMC.

Note that Messrs P & G **Allen** (see last week) had in fact joined the RAMC.

OLD CANNINGTON SCHOOLBOY DIES OF WOUNDS. - THE TENTH TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY

Note about the death in action of Pte Joseph **Squires** of the 2nd South Lancs Battalion. He was 18 years of age.

A GRATEFUL WOUNDED GERMAN PRISONER – HUMBLE SOUVENIR GIVEN TO BRIDGWATER SOLDIER.

Letter from Lce-Cpl E. **Manchip** of the RAMC saying a wounded German prisoner had given him a uniform button in thanks for his help.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[1] The forthcoming Jumble Sale for the Bridgwater Hospital, the Red Cross etc. From Mr Alfred **Berry**, Cannington Park Chairman, Bridgwater Branch NFU.

[2] The Price of Bread, from *Enquirer*.

**Bridgwater Mercury, 1 September, 1915.
Bridgwater and the war.**

A BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER'S APPEAL – A FOOTBALL WANTED AT THE FRONT. .

Letter from Driver Leslie **Rossiter** of the 24th Field Ambulance, 8th Division, requesting a football.

SUNK BY THE PIRATES – BRIDGWATER
ENGINEER'S EXPERIENCE – ELEVEN HOURS
IN AN OPEN BOAT.

Letter from Mr F. **Westlake** first engineer on the Elder Dempster vessel *Bonny* sunk by a submarine off the Tusker light in the Channel.

TRAINING AS AN OFFICER – BRIDGWATER
SCOUT-MASTER'S SUCCESS.

Note that Mr Fred **Pocock** assistant scoutmaster was going to Sandhurst.

BRIDGWATER JEWELLER'S SON WITH THE
AUSTRALIANS

Note that Sgt. Frank **Burgess**, son of Mr Burgess, jeweller, of Eastover, was serving with the Queensland regiment in Egypt.

SUCCESSFUL ARMY CYCLIST – PTE. J.
GODDEN IN FORM.

Pte **Godden** won 4 prizes in the cycling events at an army sports day.

SIX SONS SERVING THEIR COUNTRY –
BARCLAY-STREET FAMILY'S FINE RECORD

Note about the family of Mr & Mrs Noah **Trunks**. 60 Barclay Street who were all serving. Peter **Trunks**, an AB serving on HMS Albion, Leonard, ASC, Walter, 3rd SLI, Noah, ASC, Arthur, ASC and George **Geen**, (a son by Mrs Trunks's first marriage), 3rd Gloucesters. See *Mercury* 22nd September for photographs

WOUNDED AUSTRALIAN SEEKS
INFORMATION – ADDRESSES OF TENT MATES
WANTED

Letter from Pte Joseph **Vimm** of No 55, B Company 8th Btn. 1st Australian Imperial Force, in hospital in Middlesex. He requested the address of Ptes B and T **Meade**, of Bridgwater, who had been in hospital with him.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER HONOURED BY THE
TSAR

Sgt C **Wilcox** of the 1st SLI awarded the Cross and order of St George, (3rd Class). Previously he had been awarded the DCM for gallantry in the field.

PATRIOTIC BRIDGWATER FAMILY

The 5 sons of Mr E. R. **Palmer** of Valetta-place all serving. This corrects an article in the previous week where the family were wrongly named as **Roberts**.

SOMERSETS AT RANGOON

Note about a supper and concert held by the 2/5th SLI Royal Army Temperance Association at Rangoon.

HOME ON LEAVE FROM THE FRONT –
PRESENTATION TO AN ENMORE SOLDIER

Brief note about a presentation of a watch and silver

teapot to Pte F. **Sweet** of the Coldstream Guards.

Bridgwater Mercury, 8 September 1915
Bridgwater and the War

THE COUNTRY'S CALL: LOCAL FAMILY'S
RESPONSE: FIVE SONS SERVING THEIR
COUNTRY.

Photograph of the 5 sons of Mr R. Y. **Foley**, JP, of 'Highlands' Dodington. Lt W. B. **Foley**, RAMC, Sgt H. A. **Foley** 6th SLI, Cpl G. R. **Foley**, Pte E. B. **Foley** of the 1st Canadians (A wounded POW), Capt F. Y. **Foley**.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER ON THE RUSSIAN
NAVAL VICTORY – “IT PUTS A NEW LIFE IN
US”

Extract from a letter to Mr E. **Chorley**, hairdresser of North Street from Driver L **Rossiter** of 24th Field Ambulance – he mentions the Russian action.

CIGARETTES GETTING SCARCE –
BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S LETTER

Letter to Mr T. W. **Markham**, Tobacconist of High Street and Fore Street from Pte Pat Anglin of the machine gun section of the 1st SLI, thanking him for the gift of cigarettes. Says they had a ration of 30 a week, but a good smoker could use them up in a day.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – THE
RUMOUR OF THEIR HOMECOMING

Letter from Sgt. C. **Culverwell** of the Bridgwater Co of the 5th SLI, writing to a friend in Bridgwater from Dagshai, India. Talks about the heat.

PETHERTON SOLDIER UNDER HEAVY SHELL
FIRE – CONTRIBUTION FOR BRIDGWATER
HOSPITAL

Rev David **Lloyd**, pastor of North Petherton Congregational Church had received a letter from Sapper F. **Channing**. Mentions being shelled with a burning liquid, and also a powder that poisons and burns. Sends a P.O. For 3 shillings for the Hospital Fund.

CANNINGTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND THE
WAR – INTERESTING LETTER FROM A
WOUNDED OLD BOY

Mr G. L. **Harding**, Superintendent of Cannington Technical College received a letter from Drummer R. J. **Bowers**, who had been wounded. Mentions a number of old boys, who had been killed or wounded **Osborne, Day, Murphy, McGill, Birmingham**.

FIVE SONS “DOING THEIR BIT” – ANOTHER
BRIDGWATER FAMILY'S FINE RECORD

Note about the sons of Capt. W. **Bell** of Barclay Street. Sapper W. **Bell**, Driver J. **Bell**, ASC, Sapper Geo. **Bell**, Wessex RE, Driver T **Bell**, in the Dardanelles, Mr J **Bell**, involved in Red Cross work .

LOCAL PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY –
RETURN THANKS FOR „LOAVES OF BREAD.

Letters of thanks received by Mr Erwin **Bryant** an Eastover baker who sent abroad loaves of long-life bread. He heard from Cpl S. **Southwood** 1st SLI (in Doeberitz, Pte H. **Gillard** SLI, (in Doeberitz), W, **Coombs** (Paderborn) Cpl D. J. **Gillespie** (in Wurzburg). Also cards from Stoker Chas. **Hill**, RND, (in Doeberitz), J. W. **Whetham** (in Ruhleben) Pte. J. **Hughes**, 1st Wilts (in Doeberitz).

Mr Bryant made 8lb loaves and sent them to POWs. He has had replies from Geissen, Doeberitz, Wittenberg, Celle, Berlin, Munster, Altdam, Paderborn, Gottingen, Wurzburg and Ruhleben.

A FOOTBALL AT THE FRONT – GENEROSITY
OF COL. R. A. **SANDERS**, MP

Note that Col. **Sanders** had bought a football for the troops at the front

A TRIP FROM CODFORD

Note that a party of troops from the ASC had made a trip to Bridgwater by char-a-banc and were able to visit friends

A PLEASING PROMOTION

Note that Mr Charles **Davis** had been promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in the 2/1 South Western Company of the ASC.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – FRUIT AND
VEGETABLES FOR THE NAVY

Letter from Mr W. H. Pain, Local Secretary, Bridgwater and District Farmers' Co-operative Society, asking for surplus fruit and vegetables to send to the Navy.

Bridgwater Mercury, 15 September 1915
Bridgwater and the War

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – A
DRAFT FOR THE PERSIAN GULF

Long unsigned letter from a member of B Coy 2/5 SLI. Bob **Turner** and Bert **Singleton** of Bridgwater mentioned.

WITH THE 1/5th SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY
IN INDIA – N.C.O.s AND MEN FOR ACTIVE
SERVICE.

Lists the names of the men who came from all over the county. Of these, only Cpl **Galley**, Pte **Hook** and Pte **Frampton** came from Bridgwater and district.

WITH THE A.S.C. AT THE DARDANELLES –
BRIDGWATER MAN'S DESCRIPTIVE LETTER
– TRIBUTE TO THE NAVAL DIVISION.

Extracts from 2 letters to his parents, Mr & Mrs S. Hooper of Bath Road, Bridgwater their son Driver A **Hooper** of the ASC. Good account of the shelling of

the enemy, and getting the mules landed. Describes the small boats to land the troops and ferry the wounded

LT-COL. R. A. **SANDERS** M.P. TO PROCEED TO
ACTIVE SERVICE – FAREWELL MESSAGE TO
HIS COINSTITUENTS.

Note that the North Devon Hussars are under orders for active service. List of officers. Text of Col. Sanders's message to his election agent.

BRIDGWATER OFFICER DIES OF WOUNDS –
LIEUT. A. H. N. **CHURCHILL**'S DEATH IN
FRANCE – A PROMINENT LOCAL
FOOTBALLER.

Lieut **Churchill** was a machine gun officer with the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade. Very detailed account, with letters, of his death and funeral, with photo portrait of him. He was the son of Mr & Mrs E. H. **Churchill**, 'The Lindens' Wembdon Road, and was aged 24 when he died

DEPARTURE OF WELL-KNOWN BELGIAN
REFUGEE – TO ENGAGE IN MUNITIONS
WORK IN FRANCE.

An account of M. **Servais**, an electrician, who with his wife and children came to Bridgwater as a refugee. Worked for a while at the Bridgwater Electric Light Works

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN INDIA –
“FORGOTTEN BY THEIR TOWNSFOLK”

Letter from an un-named soldier serving with the Bridgwater Territorials in India complaining about being neglected.

COMMISSION FOR WELL-KNOWN
BRIDGWATER CRICKETER.

Mr Leonard **Brown**, son of Mr Edwin **Brown** J. P. granted a commission in a machine gun section.

CLEVER WORK BY BRIDGWATER
TERRITORIALS

Note about a photo from India – design in small stones showing a design saying “5th Somerset LI Buglers”

ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE
DARDANELLES.

Letter to his mother from Driver Bert **Murch** of the ASC. Is hospitalised with trouble in his legs. Mentions he soldiers coming from the Empire and the abilities of the Turks.

BRIDGWATER AND DISTRICT TEACHERS AND
THE WAR FUNDS

£5 12s 11d contributed this month. Article has some useful statistics about the schools taking part.

BRIDGWATER – BIJOU THEATRE

An account of that week's performances, including a lecture by Horatio **Bottomley**.

Bridgwater Mercury, 22nd September 1915
Bridgwater and the War

RECRUITING ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE
SOMERSET TERRITORIAL FORCES

Men wanted for the Yeomanry, the Engineers and the 5th SLI

BRIDGWATER SCHOOMASTER'S LIFE IN THE
TRENCHES – GRIM AND GAY INCIDENTS OF
THE WAR – HORSE SOLD FOR A PACKET OF
WOODBINES

Letter from Lieut. J. M. **Edgar** of the 2nd South Staffs (once on the staff at Dr Morgan's School) describing his experiences in the trenches.

CANNINGTON FAMILY'S PATRIOTISM – FIVE
SONS SERVING

Note about the sons of Mr & Mrs Henry **Walker** of Pridhams, Cannington. Their sons were Herbert **Walker** of the RFA, Sapper Arthur **Walker**, Gunner Frank **Walker**, Gunner Ernest **Walker** and Driver Fred **Walker**.

GRANTED A COMMISSION.

Mr Clifford Harden **Rainey**, nephew of Mr Edgar Rainey of St John Street granted a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 9th Buffs

GRATITUDE FOR CIGARETTES.

Note about Mr **Markham**, tobacconist of High and Fore Streets sending packages of cigarettes to the Front. Includes text of a letter of thanks from Cpl. J. **Richards** of the Bridgwater ASC 29th Divisional Train

PATRIOTIC FAMILY – SIX SONS IN THE
FIGHTING FORCES.

Photographs of the sons of Mr Noah **Trunks** of Barclay Street. See *Mercury* 1st September for a list of their names

Bridgwater Mercury, 29th September 1915
Bridgwater and the War

TOMMY'S LIKES AND DISLIKES – WITTY
LETTER FROM CANNINGTON D.C.M. – “FED
UP WITH WAR NEWS”

Letter to Mr G. L. Harding of Cannington Technical School from an old boy Cpl T. A. P. **Willis**, 1st Manchesters humorously describing life in the trenches. Cpl Willis was the 2nd Cannington old boy to receive a DCM, the first being Pte Alexander **Leahy** of the Gloucestershire Rgt.

SPAXTON OFFICER'S DEATH AT THE
DARDANELLES – LIEUT J. N. **BRAMELD** DIES
OF WOUNDS

Note that Lieut. J. N. **Brameld** of the King's Own Scottish Borderers died of wounds at the Dardanelles. He was aged 22 years, and was the son of Mr & Mrs C. N. **Brameld** of Pightley. His father was a dentist in Bridgwater

PATRIOTIC BRIDGWATER FAMILY – FOUR
SONS AND A SON IN LAW SERVING

Note about the sons of Mrs **Heal** of Bath Road: Sappers Alfred, and George 2nd Wessex RE; Pte James, Swansea Battn.; Pte Tom Heal, RMLI, HMS *Conqueror*; Bugle-Major C. **Turner**, SLI, India.

BRIDGWATER VOLUNTEER TRAINING
CORPS – FIRST APPEARANCE IN UNIFORM
Report of the Sunday afternoon drill. Col **Foster-Barham** and Col **Daniel** present. The following Sunday, Col **Thrale Perkins** and Col **Napier Perkins** expected to be present.

FOOD AT THE FRONT – STOUT DENIAL OF A
RUMOUR BY A BRIDGWATER SOLDIER.

Extract from an anonymous soldier's letter refuting the opinion that soldiers were underfed.

A BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S PROTEST – RENT
RAISED DURING HIS ABSENCE ON ACTIVE
SERVICE.

Letter passed to the Mercury by Mr S. J. **Plummer**, branch secretary of the Dockers' Union from a union member serving with the 1st SLI. The soldier complained that his rent had been raised, notwithstanding that he was on active service.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIERS MEET AT THE FRONT
– UNEXPECTED CALLERS DUG-OUT.

Letter from Cpl E.J. **Manchip** of the R.A.M.C. writing to his mother, saying he had met chaps called **Cook** from Union Street; **White** from Bath-Road; **Hurford** of Albert Street and **White** of St Matthew's Field. They are all in 6th Battn P.A.S.L.I. Also Sgt **Foley** whose picture had been in the *Mercury*. He has met a chap called **Reed** whose parents had kept a shoe repairing shop in St Mary Street.

BURNHAM OFFICER'S DEATH IN FRANCE –
SON OF A FORMER BRIDGWATER
GENTLEMAN.

Death reported in the 14th General Hospital, Wimereux, France, of Major Charles Savidge Annand **Akerman**, RE son of Mr Charles W. Savidge **Akerman** formerly of Bridgwater and now of Burnham. Major **Akerman** had gone to France with the BEF, and had been one of the first wounded.

BRIDGWATER OFFICER SLIGHTLY WOUNDED

Note that Lieut J. M. **Edgar**, late of the staff of Dr Morgan's School, had been slightly wounded, and had been repatriated to England.

AN UNCONFIRMED RUMOUR

Note about a rumour in the town that Pte. Harry **Scribbens** of the Monmouth Regiment had been killed in action. He was the son of Mr & Mrs Edwin **Scribbens** of Bailey Street.

Bridgwater Mercury, 6th October 1915
Bridgwater and the War

PATRIOTIC BRIDGWATER FAMILY – FOUR SONS AND A SON-IN-LAW SERVING.

Photographs of the family of Mrs **Heal** of Bath Road. See 29th September for a list of names.

CANNINGTON FARMER'S SON WOUNDED – SEVERE INJURIES FROM SHRAPNEL.

Note that Pte Harold **Berry**, 6th SLI, son of Mr Alfred Berry of The Park, Cannington was wounded by shrapnel.

COMMISSION FOR ALDERMAN F. C. **FOSTER'S** SON – PROMOTION FROM THE RANKS.

Mr Arnold Martin **Foster** gazetted as 2nd Lieut in 3/1 5th SLI. He originally enlisted in the 8th Btn of the Lincolnshire Rgt.

COLONEL **SANDERS'** GIFT OF A FOOTBALL – LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE FRONT.

Letters received by Mr E. **Chorley**, hairdresser of North Street from Driver L **Rossiter** of 24th Field Ambulance; Lce Cpl E. J. **Manchip** R.A.M.C. And Driver B. **Ackland**, ASC. Some quotations given.

WITH THE MECHANICAL TRANSPORT IN FRANCE – BRIDGWATER TRADESMAN'S CHEERY LETTER

Letter quoted from Pte A. T. **Harding** of the Mechanical Transport Section. Before joining up he had a cycle and motor business in Eastover. Good biographical detail.

WEMBDON SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS – RECEIVED IN ACTION IN THE DARDANELLES

Account of the death of Sgt Clifford **Day** 5th Btn Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. He was the son of Mr Walter Henry **Day** of Church Road Wembdon. Some biographical detail. Mentions his brother, Walter in the RNAS;

CRICKETER AS STOKER – LIEUT S.M.J. **WOODS'** FEAT IN THE DARDANELLES

Note that Lieut **Woods** had worked for six hours in the heat of a stoke hold when the regular stokers were overcome by heat. He was a Somerset and International cricketer and rugby forward.

FORMER BURNHAM OFFICER KILLED – SHOT AT GALLIPOLI

2nd Lieut Walter Bennet **Morgan** was killed in the Dardanelles on 9th August. He was in the 13th Division. His elder brother, Capt F. H. L. **Morgan**, adjutant to the 17th R.F.A Brigade 29 Division was also killed on 1st #May. Useful biographical material.

BRIDGWATER OFFICER'S WOUND.

More information about Lieut J. M. **Edgar** and his wound (see 29th September) He was tossed in the air by a trench mortar bomb which wounded his arm.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S VALOUR – SUGGESTED TESTIMONIAL

Letter from the Mayor, Councillor F. G. **Haggett** suggesting that Sgt Willcox be presented with a gold watch.

BRIDGWATER ARTILLERY MAN KILLED – MEMBER OF A PATRIOTIC FAMILY – FIVE SONS IN THE ARMY.

News that Driver Wm. **Manchip** of the Royal Garrison Artillery was killed on 3rd September. Useful biographical material about him and the family.

WELL-KNOWN LOCAL FOOTBALLER WOUNDED

News that Pte Tom **Woods**, 3rd Battn Grenadier Guards was wounded in the hand but recovering well. He was an ex-Bridgwater Albion, Somerset County and International player.

OTHER BRIDGWATER MEN WOUNDED

Note that Pte Edward **Kirk**, SLI and Frederick Charles **Stoodley** of the Wessex Engineers had both been wounded.

PATHETIC PICTURE POSTCARD

Mercury received from Pte H. **Gillard** of the Somersets a picture postcard showing a military funeral at the Doeberitz POW camp, Germany.

RECRUITING EFFORT AT BRIDGWATER – MEETINGS DURING THE FAIR – TOWN VISITED BY SOMERSET HEROES.

Very long account of the proceedings. Meetings were held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Band of the 3/1 5th SLI and speeches from: Sgt C. **Wilcox** DCM and Russian Grand Cross; Cpl **Newberry**, DCM, 2 South African medals, Coronation Medal and the Russian Grand Cross; Sgt-Maj **Dye**, South African Medal; Colour-Major **Guest**, Sgt **Burge**, DCM; Sgt **Archer**, DCM and French Medaille Militaire. Lce Cpl **Kavanagh**, Sgt **Davis**, Russian Order; Sgt W. **Phillips**.

THURSDAY'S PROCEEDINGS

Col **Trevor** presided. Noted that 12 recruits were gained.

RUGBY FOOTBALL – 5TH SOMERSET L.I. v A BRIDGWATER XV – IN AID OF THE SOLDIERS' FUND.

Full list of both teams.

**Bridgwater Mercury, 13th October 1915
Bridgwater and the War**

ANOTHER PATRIOTIC BRIDGWATER FAMILY – FIVE SOLDIER SONS

Set of photographs of the sons of Mr & Mrs James **Manchip** of Old Taunton Road. Driver William, RGA (killed in action); Bugler Walter Stanley, 1st Australian Contingent; Sapper Ernest, Wessex RE; Sapper Frank, Wessex RE; Driver Harry, ASC.

BRIDGWATER OFFICER KILLED IN ACTION – SECOND LIEUT. R. H. **BASKER**.

With photograph. Is a good biography of some length. He was a dentist and worked in Bristol. He was the younger son of Mr J. A. **Basker**, chemist and mineral water manufacturer of Fore Street. He served with the 8th SLI.

MORE EGGS WANTED FOR THE WOUNDED

Report about the Egg Collection Depot. 49,876 collected in Bridgwater to date.

ANOTHER STOGURSEY SOLDIER KILLED

Brief report (with photograph) of Pte. R. E. P. **Howe**, of Stogursey.

BRIDGWATER RESIDENT INJURED AT THE FRONT – MOTOR CAR FALLS INTO A “JACK JOHNSON” HOLE.

Letter to Capt **Alexander** of Eastover from Pte James **Runnells** of the Mechanical Transport, who drove his motor car into a shell hole while delivering ammunition, injuring himself.

WEMBDON SERGEANT'S DEATH – SUCCUMBS TO WOUNDS RECEIVED IN THE DARDANELLS

Photograph of Sgt Clifford **Day** of the 5th Battn Inniskilling Fusiliers (See October 6th)

SYMPATHY OF LADY **LONSDALE**

Letter to the parents of Sgt **Day** from Lady Grace C. Lonsdale, of Lowther Castle, Penrith, where Sgt **Day** had worked as a gardener. Encloses a letter to his parents from Lce Cpl Robert **Clarke** of the same unit who had been wounded at the same time.

EXCITING EXPERIENCES IN THE DARDANELLES – RECORD OF BRIDGWATER AUCTIONEER'S NEPHEW.

Detailed account of the service of PO H. **Stiling** of HM Australian Navy, a submariner. He was the nephew of Mr W. Stiling the Bridgwater auctioneer. He was a torpedo instructor. He served in New Guinea and the Dardanelles

A PROTEST FROM THE TRENCHES

An unsigned letter supporting Mr S. J. **Plummer** of the Dock Workers' Union over the increase in rent of a serving soldier. (see September 29th)

COMMISSION FOR WELL-KNOWN BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER

Frank J. **Barton** eldest son of Mr. T. J. **Barton** of Street, late of Bridgwater had been gazetted to the Wessex RE. His brother H. R. **Barton** had been promoted to Sergeant Dispenser of the 80th Field Ambulance of the RAMC in France.

MISSING CANNINGTON SOLDIER SAFE.

Pte Edward **Berry**, one of the 4 sons of Mr Alfred **Berry**, who had been reported missing in France, was reported as safe.

THE LATE LIEUT. RUDOLPH SYMONS – A.S.C. SYMPATHY FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN

Extract from a letter by Driver S. F. **Evans**, ASC 29thj Divisional Train to his father of St John Street expressing his condolences to the family, and wishing to be remembered to Sgt **Lockyer**.

AEROPLANE OVER BRIDGWATER

Very brief report of an aeroplane seen over Bridgwater.

STOGURSEY SOLDIER WOUNDED

Brief report that Pte John **Rich**, son of Mr & Mrs J Rich of Well Cottage, Stogursey had been wounded in action in France.

BRIDGWATER MAN WOUNDED

Report that Pte W **Flack**, 2nd Battn Grenadier Guards had been wounded in France by shrapnel. Text of postcard.

RUSSIAN FLAG DAY IN BRIDGWATER

Letter from the Mayor Cllr F. G. **Haggett** saying a flag day for Russia was to be held on 27th October.

**Bridgwater Mercury, 20th October 1915
Bridgwater and the War**

THE “SOMERSETS” IN INDIA: A BRIDGWATER RUGBY TEAM.

Photograph of the team of the 1/5 SLI stationed at Dagshai, India. All the players are from Bridgwater Names are: F. **Haysham**; C. **Durant**; C. **Marden**; B. **Crocker**; R. **Williams**; J. **Haste**; W. **Frampton**; F. **Howard**; S. **Kendal**; A. **Irish**; J **Manchip**; W. **Perry**; J. **Slocombe**; G. **Dyer**; F. **Wills** and H. **Manchip**

KILLED BY A MINE EXPLOSION – LOCAL MAN KILLED IN FRANCE

Report of the death of Pte Bertie Albert **Woolen** of the 1st Devons and attached to the REs. He was the son of Mr & Mrs Henry John **Woolan** of

Wyldeborough Terrace, Bristol Road.

SHOT BY A SNIPER – FATE OF A BRIDGWATER
TEACHER'S HUSBAND

Report of the death of Pte Marcus **Pike**, of the Grenadier Guards. He was killed in France on 6th October. His wife was a teacher at St Mary's Girls' and Infants' School. They had married in June 1914

HUNTSPELL SCHOOLMASTER WOUNDED
AND MISSING – ANXIETY FELT REGARDING
SGT NORMAN J. **REYNOLDS**.

News that Sgt **Reynolds** 8th Bttn SLI, head teacher at West Huntspill Council School reported as missing. Good biography

BERROW SOLDIER'S DEATH IN THE
TRENCHES – “ONE OF THE BEST MEN IN THE
COMPANY”.

Report that Lce Cpl A. J. **Harris** had been killed by shelling in France He was the son of Mrs J. Harris of Brent Road, Berrow.

BACK FROM THE FRONT – BRIDGWATER
POLICE CONSTABLE HOME ON LEAVE.

Shoering Smith H. J. **Fry** of the RA home on leave.

WESSEX ENGINEERS RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB

Note that 2 matches were played at Ilford Camp

AN APPEAL – 4TH BTN S. W. BORDERERS

Note that Mrs **Kitchen** of Oakford House, Nether Stowey was appealing for comforts for the troops in Gallipoli.

OLD MORGANIAN DIES OF WOUNDS – PTE
CYRIL **HENDERSON**

He was in the 9th H.L.I. (Glasgow Highlanders) and was killed in France. He had been at Dr Morgans as a boy and was a grandson of Dr M. **Shannon**, a Bridgwater resident.

GRATITUDE FOR CIGARETTES – READY TO
MOVE FORWARD AND “DO IN THE HUNS”

Note that Mr T. W. **Markham**, tobacconist of High Street and Fore Street had received a letter from Cpt Henning of the SLI.

ROMANCE OF THE BATTLEFIELD –
INTERESTING WEDDING AT BRIDGWATER
Report of a marriage between Sapper Ernest **Hooper** RE, and Mlle Marie **Swindaw** of Bailleul, France at St John's Church. Sapper Hooper's family lived at Polden Street

A WORD FROM THE FRONT TO ELIGIBLES

Extract from a letter written by Cpl E. J. **Manchip** RAMC commenting on the small number of men who volunteered at the recent recruiting drive at the Fair

AN APPEAL FOR OUR SAILORS AND MINE-
SWEEPERS.

Letter from Mr W. H. **Pain** of the Vegetable Products Committee requesting fruit and vegetables for sailors on duty in the North Sea.

RUGBY MATCH BEHIND THE FIRING LINE –
BRIDGWATER PLAYERS HELP TO BEAT THE
WARWICKS

Letter from Lce Cpl W **Bonney** 1st Battn SLI describing a rugby match.. With list of players. Pte **Anglin**, Lce-Cpl **Roman** and Pte **Alsbury** were from Bridgwater

A RUMOUR CONTRADICTED

Note from Mrs **Bailey**, 29 Polden Street to say that her son Pte W. G. **Bailey** of the 3rd Btn Coldstream Guards was safe and well, with an extract from his letter.

ARMY SERVICE CORPS FOOTBALL MATCH –
BRIDGWATER TEAM SUCCESSFUL

Brief note about a match at Codford. Names were Cpl **Jarvis**, 2nd Cpl **Manchip**, 2nd Cpl **Hellier**, 2nd Cpl **Turner**, Pts **Hoyal**, **Neath**, and Drivers **Pearce**, **Ross**, **Hobbs**, **Hampson** and **Gillingham**.

COMMISSION FOR BRIDGWATER RESIDENT'S
SON.

Brief noted that Cpl Victor W. **Helps** of the Signal Corps had been gazetted as a 2nd Lieut in the SLI. He was the son of Mr E. W. Helps, “Westleigh”, Durleigh Road, Bridgwater

Bridgwater Mercury, 27th October 1915
Bridgwater and the War

PATRIOTIC BRIDGWATER FAMILY

Photographs of 3 Sons and one son-in-law of Mrs **Geen**, Friarn Street: Pte W. **Geen**, 10th Devons, Sgt G. **Geen**, 1st Somersets; Pte T. **Geen**, Coldstream Guards; Pte J. **Hooper**, 8th SLI

WITH THE CANADIANS AT THE FRONT –
ADVENTURE OF A RECONNOITRING PATROL.

Interesting letter from Pte A. J. **Ford** of the 31st Battn. Canadian Expeditionary Force to sister, Mrs **Wilcox** of Halesleigh Road. He describes some action in France.

FOOTBALL AT THE FRONT

Brief note about a letter from Pte J. **Anglin** concerning the football match noted last week.

WITH THE 6th SOMERSETS IN THE GREAT
ATTACK – BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S
EXPERIENCES

Letter from Pte T. **Kirk** of the 6th SLI about the attack that began on 25th September 1915. He was writing to Mr L. **Goodand** of North Street.

WITH THE 7TH SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT –
LETTER FROM A BRIDGWATER SERGEANT
Letter of thanks to TW **Markham**, tobacconist, Fore
St & High St, Bridgwater from Sgt A. W. **Howell** of
the 7th Battn SLI commenting on fighting in the
trenches.

BRIDGWATER BORN SOLDIER KILLED IN
ACTION – HIS SECOND VISIT TO THE FRONT
Note that Pte Leonard **Nowell** of the Welsh Guards
had been killed in action. Resident at Llandaff, he
had been born in Bridgwater, his father being
employed by the Corporation.

FRESH VEGETABLES &c FOR THE FLEET –
REMARKABLE RESULTS ACHIEVED IN A
YEAR.

Report of the Vegetable Products Committee from Mr
W. H. **Pain** of Chilton Trinity. Detailed financial
statement.

PATRIOTIC MESSAGE FROM THE STATES
Letter from Revd T. W. **Buckley**, Rector of the
Church of the Epiphany, Sedan, Kansas, USA. It
concerns his nephew Sydney Bucklee **Hauser**, of
Burnham, who had been gazetted.

BRIDGWATER SERGEANT AWARDED THE
D.C.M – THE SECOND LOCAL SOLDIER TO
WIN THE DISTINCTION.

Report that Sergt G. **Hill** of the RAMC had been
received the award. His parents lived at Moat Lane.
Useful interview he gave the paper.

ADMIRAL **JELLICOE** AND THE CHILDREN –
TRAFALGER DAY MESSAGE
Text of message he sent to all the children of the
Empire.

WITH THE R.H.A. AT THE FRONT –
BRIDGWATER MAN DESCRIBES HIS
EXPERIENCES – THE LUCKY BATTERY.
Report of an interview given by Driver Charles
Hockey of the R. H. A. (Z Battery). He lives at 131
St John Street.

PROMOTION FOR LOCAL MAN.
Pte J. **Wilkins**, A.S.C (Motor Transport) promoted
Lance Cpl. He lived at 65 Halesleigh Road.

BRIDGWATER SEA SCOUTS ON ACTIVE
SERVICE
Second E. **Turner** and Scout E **Squire** of the 4th
Bridgwater sent to Cornwall for coastguard duties. 11
members serving in the forces or on coastguard
duties, namely Scoutmaster W. L. **Barnett**, RAMC;
Asst Scoutmaster E. **Bell**, 5th SLI; Patrol Leader F.
Gillson and Second F. **Hook** 5th SLI Signallers,
Burma; Patrol Leader C. **Haste**, 4th SLI; Second J.
Hembury, King's Royal Rifles; Scout E. **Williams** R.

N. Division Signallers; Scout L. **Cattle**, RND;
Second E. **Turner** and Scout E. **Squire**, coastguard
duties.

CANNINGTON MAN SERIOUSLY WOUNDED
Pte G. **Tucker** of the 6th SLI son of Mr G. Tucker,
Frog Street, Cannington reported as seriously
wounded.

Bridgwater Mercury, 3rd November 1915 Bridgwater and the War

FOUR BRIDGWATER BROTHERS SERVING
Photographs of the 4 sons of Mr & Mrs T. **Pitman**,
17 Blacklands. Pte Hedley **Pitman**, RAMC (France);
Bugler Sidney **Pitman** 1/5th SLI (India); Driver Jack
Pitman ASC; Pte Victor **Pitman**, 3rd Gloucesters.

CANNINGTON FAMILY'S PATRIOTISM – 5
SOLDIER SONS

Photographs of the sons of Mr & Mrs Henry **Walker**
of Pridhams, Cannington, Driver Herbert **Walker**
R.F.A. (BEF); Sapper Arthur **Walker**, RE; Gunner
Frank **Walker**, HQ Staff, (BEF), Gunner Ernest
Walker R.F.A (BEF); Driver Fred **Walker** (BEF)

FOUR BROTHERS SERVING – NATIVES OF
DUNWEAR

Photograph of the 4 sons of Mr Stephen **Britton** late
of Dunwear. Pte Ted **Britton** (Australian Contin-
gent); Pte Charles **Britton** (Royal Marines); Pte Bert
Britton (Australian Contingent); Pte Fred **Britton**
(Australian Contingent).

SUCCOURING THE WOUNDED IN THE
DARDANELLES – BRIDGWATER CORPORAL'S
EXPERIENCES – THE EMPIRE'S GREAT
RESOURCES

Report of an interview with Cpl L. **Bryer**, RAMC.
He was the son of Mr Charles **Bryer** of Friarn Street.
He served on a hospital ship

FOOTBALL BEHIND THE TRENCHES –
BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S LETTER
Letter from Pte C. **Kirk** 6th SLI. Mentions knowing
Ern **Cook**, Bill **Hurford**, Jack **Milton** and Bill
Young, RFA.

BRIDGWATER GUARDSMAN SEVERELY
WOUNDED.

Note that Pte E. **Pratt** of the Grenadier Guards had
been shot in the head and feet. He was the son of Mr
S Pratt of Victoria Terrace, North Street.

BRIDGWATER MEN AT THE FRONT – AN
INTERESTING GROUP.

Photograph of 11 Bridgwater men serving with the
10th Devons. B. **Smith**; E. **Duddridge**; W. **Geen**; B.
Dyer; W. **Smith**; H. **Hobbs**; J. **Morris**; B. **Russell**;
L. **Dart**; J. **Harris**.

Note at top 'Continued from p 6'

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION – SON OF AN INDIAN MUTINY HERO.

Report of the death of Pte Lionel **Burge**, 1st Battn Grenadier Guards, His father, the late Richard **Burge** had been in the Indian Mutiny. With photograph.

ON A TORPEDO CRUISER – EXPERIENCES OF A SEAMAN GUNNER

Interview with Seaman-Gunner J. **Maddocks** of HMS *Roxburgh* and formerly of Cannington Technical School.

SOMERSETS AT FOOTBALL IN BURMA – BRIDGWATER MEN PLAY WELL.

Report of a football match played at Rangoon, taken from the *Rangoon Gazette*.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER MISSING IN THE PERSIAN GULF – ACTED AS A STOWAWAY TO GET TO THE FRONT.

Report that Pte W. R. **Frampton** of the 1/5th SLI had gone missing during fighting between the British and the Turks in the Persian Gulf. An interesting story.

GOATHURST SOLDIER SEVERELY WOUNDED – A SHELL AMIDST A BOMBING PARTY.

Report that Pte J. **Speed** of the 3rd Worcestershire Regiment had been wounded at the front.

BRIDGWATER SOLDIER'S DEATH IN HOSPITAL – INVALIDED HOME FROM THE FRONT.

Report of the death of Pte Ernest George **Lewis** of the 1st SLI. Invalided home with enteric fever and died in Bridgwater Union Hospital. He was buried at Wembdon Road Cemetery. He was the son of Mr & Mrs Frederick **Lewis** of Gloucester Place, Friam Street. Report includes photographs of the 4 brothers, Lce Cpl W. J. **Lewis**, SLI (BEF); Pte Ernest George **Lewis** (deceased); Lce Cpl E. F. M **Lewis** SLI (BEF) and Pte Harry Lewis, SLI (BEF)

WITH THE SOMERSETS AT THE FRONT – BRIDGWATER LANCE-CORPORAL RELATES HIS EXPERIENCES – WOUNDED FOUR TIMES

Long interview with Lce Cpl E. F. **Lewis** (See previous entry). He was a machine gunner attached to the 1st SLI. An interesting account of his experiences.

BRIDGWATER CABINET CO'S EMPLOYEES ENLIST – SIX JOIN THE ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

Report that Fred **Growtage**; James **Brayley**; Harry **Day**; Oliver **Parker**; E. **Broughton** and H. **Lewis**. Report has details of a smoking concert the firm organised to send them off.

PROMOTION FOR BRIDGWATER NAVAL OFFICER

Brief note that Sub-Lieut Reginald Arthur **Canner** had been promoted to Lieut. He was serving on HMS *Stag*. His parents were Mr & Mrs **Canner** of St John Street, Bridgwater.

SOMERSET LABOURERS' COMPANY – BRIDGWATER RECRUITS

Brief note that 12 Bridgwater men had joined.

LOCAL MULE DEPOT ATTENDANTS IN KHAKI

Brief note that the men working at the local mule depots had enlisted.

RUSSIAN FLAG DAY IN BRIDGWATER – TOMORROW'S EFFORT

Note about the flag day to raise funds for the Russian Red Cross.

WANTED, A MELODEON

Letter from Pte F. **Partridge**, 6th SLI, asking for musical instruments, and in particular a melodeon. Pte Partridge lived at Bath Road.

BRIDGWATER GUARDSMAN DIES OF WOUNDS-- AFTER A YEAR AT THE FRONT.

Report that Cpl Ernest William **Warren** of the 2nd Battn Grenadier Guards had been killed. His mother lived at Salmon Parade . He was 24 years of age and a bomb thrower.

WEST SOMERSET YEOMANRY IN ACTION – CANNINGTON MAN DANGEROUSLY WOUNDED.

Brief report that Cpl Levi (Bert) **Davis** of the WSY had been wounded. His wife lived at High Street, Cannington.

BRIDGWATER AND DISTRICT TEACHERS AND THE WAR FUND.

Brief note that £3 4 1 had been donated this month. List of contributions by school.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS THIS WEEK

Note that photographs of family groups of soldiers were on pp 6 and 8 this week.

BRIDGWATER TRADESMEN'S SONS ENLIST.

Note that Fred Bouchier and Leonard Palmer had joined the RFC as motorcycle despatch riders.

RECRUITS FOR THE ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

Brief note that some recruits had gone from Bridgwater

Bridgwater Mercury, 10th November 1915
Bridgwater and the War

CANNINGTON'S SHARE IN THE WAR – FOUR SONS ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Photographs of the 4 sons of Mr Alfred **Berry** of Cannington Park. Alex **Berry**, Australian Light Horse; Lce Cpl H. **Berry** 6th SLI; Lce Cpl Edward J. **Berry** 6th SLI; Lce Cpl O. W. **Berry** 6th SLI. Useful biographical material.

BRIDGWATER MAN DIES OF WOUNDS

Photograph of Cpl E. W. **Warren**, 2nd Battn Grenadier Guards. Letter to his mother, Mrs Warren, 53 Salmon Parade. This was reported in previous week's issue.

LIEUTENANT J. M. EDGAR RETURNS TO BRIDGWATER – WOUNDED IN THE GREAT ATTACK.

Interview with Lieut **Edgar**, South Staffordshire Regt, about his experiences. He had been wounded and gassed. He was a member of the Bridgwater football club and on the staff at Dr Morgan's School.

BRIDGWATER FOOTBALLER JOINS THE COLOURS.

Brief note that Mr Tom **Summerhays**, of the Bridgwater Rugby Club had joined the Civil Service Rifles.

ENMORE SOLDIER'S DEATH – SUCCUMBS TO THE WOUNDS RECEIVED IN GALLIPOLI.

Report, with photograph, that Pte Henry George **Bird** of the Royal Irish Regiment had died of gunshot wounds, and was buried at sea. Useful biographical information.

LIFE ON A TROOPSHIP – FORMER BRIDGWATER RESIDENT'S GRANDSON'S EXPERIENCES.

Account of life on a troopship received from Pte Douglas John **Kitch** He was the grandson of Mr J. **Kitch** and son in law of Mrs Thomas **Kitch** of Moorland. Useful information about the daily routine on board the troopship.

RUGBY FOOTBALL AT THE FRONT – WELL-KNOWN PLAYERS AT THE FRONT.

Letter from Pte J. **Anglin** of the 1st SLI

FIVE SONS WITH THE COLOURS – BRIDGWATER FAMILY'S FINE RECORD.

Photograph of the five sons of Mr George **Gillson** of Bristol Road, Bridgwater. Cpl Geo **Gillson** (South African Infantry); Cpl Wilfred **Gillson**, 10th Worcester Regt; Wheeler Harold **Gillson**, ASC; Driver Percy **Gillson**, ASC; Signaller Fred **Gillson** 2/5th SLI. Useful biographical information.

Bridgwater Mercury, 17th November 1915
Bridgwater and the War

BRIDGWATER COUNCILLOR'S SONS – THREE ON FOREIGN SERVICE

Photographs of the sons of Cllr J. **King** of Polden Street. Pte Herbert Charles **King** 1/5th SLI (Dagshai, India); Pte J. H. **King** 1/5th SLI (Persian Gulf); Signaller W. D. **King**, 2/5th SLI (Rangoon). Useful biographical material.

BRIDGWATER FAMILY'S SHARE IN THE WAR

Photographs of the sons and sons in law of Mrs **Baker**, 63 Mount Street. Lce Cpl. W. **Thomas**, Wessex ASC; Leading Stoker W **White**, RN; Leading Stoker J **Thomas** RN; Sapper F. **White**, Wessex RE; Lce Cpl J. **Thomas**, Wessex ASC. Useful biographical material.

FOR KING AND COUNTRY – LOCAL FAMILY'S SPLENDID EXAMPLE

Photographs of the sons and sons in law of Mr Henry **Saunders**, Chilton Street, Bridgwater. Pte J. **Bale**, 5th SLI; Pte Hy **Saunders** 5th SLI; Pte Albert **Biddiscombe**, 5th SLI; Pte C **Parker**, 5th SLI; Sgt Wm. **Saunders**, 5th SLI

BRIDGWATER & DISTRICT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE WAR FUNDS
Report that the latest donation had been sent.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – A CANDID LETTER

Letter from some men of D Co. 1/5SLI, Dagshai, India about a complaint the *Mercury* had previously published that the troops did not get comforts from home. Interesting detail about pay, tobacco etc.

MEMBER OF THE BIJOU THEATRE STAFF ENLISTS.

Note that Mr Walter J. **Hooper** who was a member of the theatre's management had enlisted in the Royal Naval Division

THE SOUTH WEST YEOMANRY – EXCITING VOYAGE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN.

Note that Trooper Stanley **Hillman** of the WSM and attached to the 11th Division had landed. His mother was Mrs Hillman of Cogload, Durston.

WITH THE WEST SOMERSET YEOMANRY – CANNINGTON MAN'S BRAVERY AFTER BEING WOUNDED.

Report that Cpl Levi (Bert) **Davis** with the WSY had been wounded. Prints a letter from Mrs Cely **Trevilion** of Midelney Place, Curry Rivel with details of the wound. Her husband was Cpl Davis's CO. There was a brief note about the wounding 2 weeks ago.

CIGARETTES FOR THE A.S.C. – BRIDGWATER
TRADESMAN THANKED.

Letters from Cpl R. J. **Bamsey** and Sgt R. **Street** thanking Mr Markham, Tobacconist of Bridgwater for the gifts.

BRIDGWATER SCOUTMASTER ENLISTS
Note that Mr Pursey **Short** of Taunton and nephew of Cllr W. H. J. **Masding** of Bridgwater had enlisted with the RND, having been rejected 4 times previously

GRATITUDE FOR SMOKES.
Letter from Pte P. **Anglin** of the machine gun section SLI to Mr T. W. **Markham**, tobacconist of Bridgwater thanking him for sending cigarettes.

BRIDGWATER COUNCILLOR'S SON JOINS THE
ARMY.
Brief note that Mr Stanley **Masding**, only son of Cllr W. H. J. **Masding** has enlisted in the Artists' Rifles

BACK FROM THE FRONT – BRIDGWATER
SOLDIER INVALIDED HOME.
Note that Pte Reginald **Trelease** of the 1/4th Battn of the Oxford and Bucks LI has been invalided home with jaundice. He is the son of Mr & Mrs Charles **Trelease** of the Ferns, Taunton Road.

PATRIOTIC BRIDGWATER SCOUTS
List of members of the 3rd Bridgwater Troop who had enlisted. Pte A.M.S. **Burn** RE, Indian Army, Burma; Cpl H. **Jenkin**, London Rifle Brigade, France; C **Carver**, SLI, India; F. **Pocock**, R. G. Artillery, RMA Woolwich; R.T. C. **Black** 9th Royal Scots, France; W. **Myers**, SLI, Burma; H **Bouchier**, SLI, India; C. **Bowerman**, NSY, France; C. **Bradfield**, RFA; R. **Colsey**, Civil Service Rifles, France; H. **Guy**, Westminster Fusiliers (Canadians), France; D. **Croker**, RE, Salisbury Plain; H **Rides**, RFC.

In addition the following were serving as coastguards at Polruan, Cornwall. C. **Babbage**; W. **Babbage**; I. **Banks**; A. E. **Bovett**; H. **Chinn**; K. **Croker**; R. **Sheppard**; T. **Walters**.

LORD DERBY'S SCHEME – BOOM IN
RECRUITING IN BRIDGWATER.
Report that recruiting had increased in the town.

WITH THE A.S.C. IN EGYPT – BRIDGWATER
N.C.O'S INTERESTING LETTER APPEAL FOR
CHRISTMAS GIFTS.
Letter from Staff Sgt Major P **Kendal** of the ASC in Alexandria. Interesting account of camp routine.

WOOLAVINGETON – ABSENT WITHOUT
LEAVE
Note that Bombardier George **Morse** of the RFA was in court for being absent without leave.

Bridgwater Mercury, 24th November 1915
Bridgwater and the War

WEMBDON BROTHERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE
Photographs of the 3 sons of Mr & Mrs Wm **Clements** of Treforest, Pontypridd and formerly of Wembdon. Pte Sydney **Clements**. 8th SLI; Gunner W. J. **Clements** RFA; Driver J. **Clements** RHA. Useful biographical material.

DURSTON FARMER'S PATRIOTIC SONS – FOUR
DOING THEIR BIT.
Photographs of the sons of Mr Edward **Hilman** of Cogload, Durston. Lnce Cpl C **Hilman**, C Squadron 15th Hussars; Trooper F. **Hilman**, NSY; Trooper S **Hilman**, WSY; Trooper W. **Hilman** [No unit stated]. Useful biographical material.

GRATITUDE FOR CIGARETTES – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM BRIDGWATER BOY IN THE DARDANELLES
Letter from Farrier Cpl W. **Sealey** of the A.S.C. To Mr T. W. Markham, tobacconist of High Street Bridgwater, thanking him for the parcel of cigarettes
SOMERSET BRIDGE SCHOOLS – COMFORTS CONTRIBUTIONS.
Letter from Sgt J. **Broadhead** of the KOYLI to Mr E. **Bradfield**, headmaster of Somerset Bridge School thanking the school for the parcel of cigarettes.

A LOCAL DESPATCH RIDER
Mr Roy **Robinson**, stepson of the late Mr H.W. **Chapman**, solicitor of Bridgwater has enlisted as a despatch rider in the RFC.

BRIDGWATER VETERINARY SURGEON'S SON ENLISTS.
Note that Mr H. J. **Potts**, son of Mr Harry **Potts**, veterinary surgeon of Bridgwater has enlisted in the Artists' Rifles.

REPORTED MISSING IN THE PERSIAN GULF – NEWS OF THE SAFETY OF PTE W. R. FRAMPTON
Letter from Pte Frampton (1/5th SLI) to his mother, saying he had been hospitalised with sun stroke.

THE ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION – DEPARTURE OF BRIDGWATER RECRUITS.
Report that 16 recruits had departed Bridgwater. No names given. Mentions that Supt. W. H. Williams of the County Police was the hon. recruiting officer.

BRIDGWATER RUGBY FOOTBALLER'S RETURN HOME.
Note that Mr Frank Dibble of the Australian contingent had returned home to Somerset Bridge on leave.

BRIDGWATER TERRITORIALS IN RANGOON

Note that on another page was a photograph of the whole of the Bridgwater Territorials stationed in Rangoon [See later.]

CIGARETTES FOR THE 6TH SOMERSETS – LETTER OF THANKS.

Letter from Lce Cpl R. W. Ryall of the 6th SLI to Mr H. H. Allen, tobacconist of 14 St Mary St, thanking him for a parcel of cigarettes.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR.

Brief note about parcels for POWs in Holland and Germany.

SOMERSET RECRUITING COMMITTEE – AN INTERESTING COUNTY LIST.

List of the Parliamentary Recruiting Committees with names and addresses of the Chairmen and Secretaries.

For Bridgwater – Joint Chairmen – R. Y. **Foley** JP, Highlands, Dodington and J. S. **Prentice**, JP, New Wood Ilminster. Joint Hon Secretaries – L H **Hayter**, Chatham House, Bridgwater and W. G. **Croucher**, The Cottage Wembdon. Office address – Territorial Hall, Bridgwater.

M.P.s AND THEIR SALARIES – ATTITUDE OF LIEUT COL R. A. SANDERS

Note that Col Sanders was not drawing his salary while on active service.

[Separate cutting]

TERRITORIALS IN BURMA – THE BRIDGWATER MEN STATIONED AT RANGOON

Group photograph of all the men. The only one named is Capt M.A.P. **Luscombe**, well known in Bridgwater footballing circles.

**Bridgwater Mercury, 1st December 1915
Bridgwater and the War**

BRIDGWATER FAMILY'S PATRIOTISM – FIVE SONS SERVING.

Photographs of the sons of Mr & Mrs Charles **Bale**, the Bathing Place, West Street, Bridgwater. Gunner H. **Bale**, RFA; [Gunner] James **Bale**, RGA; Gunner Wm **Bale** RGA; Driver Chas **Bale** ASC; Sapper Bert **Bale**, RE

LOCAL CANADIAN FALLS IN ACTION – PTE CECIL J. LETHABY.

Long account of the death in action of Pte Cecil J. Lethaby, son of Mr R. J. Lethaby of Alexandra Road, assistant to the Town Clerk. Includes letters from his officer and the unit chaplain. Before emigrating he had been a bank-clerk in Bath.

VISITING WOUNDED SOLDIERS – AN OFFER FROM BIRMINGHAM

Note that the Selly Oak, Birmingham Branch, of the National British Woman's Temperance Association were willing to visit wounded Bridgwater soldiers in their area and offer overnight accommodation to Bridgwater visitors.

FORMER BRIDGWATER RESIDENT WITH THE CANADIANS – THE DOMAIN'S LOYALTY

Report about Pte Charles **Bridger**, Machine Gun Section 60th Battn. 4th Canadian Division ahw as in Bridgwater on leave. Useful biographical information.

WESSEX R.E. RUGBY CLUB

Letter from Lieut W. H. **Tamlyn** to the Albion Rugby Club about games the R.E. team had played.

WEMBDON SOLDIER WOUNDED.

Brief note that Pte Herbert **Male** of the KRR had been wounded. He was the son of Mr Wm **Male** of Wembdon and it was the second time he had been wounded.

“SOMERSETS SECOND TO NONE” – BRIDGWATER SOLDIER INTERVIEWED

Interview with Lce Cpl W. Jessie **Lewis**, 1st SLI and son of Mr & Mrs Frank Lewis of Gloucester Place, Friarn Street who was home on leave. Interesting account of bombing techniques etc.

DEATH IN ACTION OF CAPTAIN J. NELSON TRAYLER – BRIDGWATER COUNCILLOR'S BEREAVEMENT.

Note that Capt. J. Nelson **Traylor**, 11th Devonshire Regiment died at home after a long illness. He was the son of Councillor J. N. **Traylor** of Friarn Street.

ENGINEERS ENLIST

Seven of the staff of Messrs W & F **Wills** had enlisted in the Army Ordnance Corps under the Derby Scheme. They were Messrs A. D. **Roberts**; H. B. **Glover**; W. **Cowill**; C. H. **Prescott**; W. **Cann**, V. **Carter** and G. **Gibbs**

HOME ON LEAVE

Sgt E. **Wadmore**, Royal Sanitary Corps; Cpl Wilfred **Pollard**, ASC (MT); and Sapper Arnold **Pepperell**, RE

ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

Men enlisted were Owen James **Carey**, 15 Fore Street, Bridgwater; Arthur James **Winter**, 36 St John Street, Bridgwater; Regd. Frank **Morris**, 36 St Johns Street, Bridgwater; and Albert **Reed**, 10 Harbour Villas, Chilton Street, Bridgwater

Another cutting for 1st December 1915

BRIDGWATER FAMILY'S SOLDIERS – THREE ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Photographs of the sons and son in law of Mrs Mary Ann **Edney**, Union Street, Bridgwater. Pte B. **Edney**, 1st SLI; Cpl W. J. **Edney** Duke of Cornwall's LI; Pte S **Gorge**, 8th SLI.

FOR KING AND COUNTRY – FOUR BRIDGWATER BROTHERS SERVING.

Photographs of the four sons of Mr & Mrs Henry **Hobbs** of Albert Buildings, Northgate, Bridgwater. Pte W. **Hobbs**, 5th Somersets; Pte J. **Hobbs**, 5th Somersets; Pte H. **Hobbs**, 10th Devons; Driver F. **Hobbs**, ASC

TERRITORIALS IN INDIA – BRIDGWATER MACHINE GUN SECTION.

Photograph of a machine gun section at Dagshai, India comprised of Bridgwater men of the 1/5th Somerset Territorials. Names are: Len **Byrd**; Jack **Barbour**; W. **Hughes**; B. **Foster**; **McNab**; **Prescott**; **Shakespeare** and **Wheatley**. The piece mentions an inspection by General Lloyd **Payne** (a native of Burnham)

**Bridgwater Mercury, 8th December 1915
Bridgwater and the War**

FOR KING AND COUNTRY – FOUR BRIDGWATER SONS SERVING.

Photographs of the four sons of Mrs T. **Martin** of 7 Browns Buildings, Taunton Road, Bridgwater. Rifleman Harry **Martin**, machine gun sectn, KRR; Pte Walter J. **Martin**, South Lancs Regt; Leonard **Martin**, Royal Naval Division; Sapper W. T. **Martin** RE. Contains biographical information.

BRIDGWATER FAMILY'S RECORD – FOUR BROTHERS SERVING

Photographs of the four sons of Mr Edward **Cattle**, 16 Wyldesborough Terrace, Bristol Road; Edward **Cattle**, RN; Ernest **Cattle**, RN; Driver F. **Cattle**, Wessex Division RE; A. **Cattle**, RND. Contains biographical information.

WOUNDED BRIDGWATER SOLDIER DESCRIBES HIS EXPERIENCES – WITH THE R.F.A AT THE FRONT.

Letter from Gunner G. H. **Broom** of the RFA. Wounded and invalided home.

AT THE DARDANELLES – BRIDGWATER AND ALBION FOOTBALLER'S CHEERY LETTER.

Letter from Trooper A. **Holman** of the Machine Gun Division of the 1st WSY

WEST SOMERSETS IN THE DARDANELLES – QUANTOXHEAD TROOPER'S EXPERIENCES

Letter from Trooper F **Adams** son of Mr Fred **Adams**, Court Farm East, Quantoxhead

ANXIOUS FOR A FRIEND'S ADDRESS – INTERESTING LETTER FROM THE FRONT

Letter from Cpl L. J. D. **Fry** of the 188th Coy RE trying to locate a Pte J. **Barnard**, now in India.

BRIDGWATER OFFICER'S DEATH – FUNERAL AT CLEVEDON'

Report of the funeral of Capt J. Nelson **Traylor** of the 10th Devonshire Rgt

DEATH OF A HOLFORD TROOPER – MEMORIAL SERVICE AT STRINGSTON

Memorial service for Trooper William **Andrews**, WSY, who had died at Malta.

BRIDGWATER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL'S ASSISTANT SURVEYORS – ENLIST IN THE ARMY.

Mr C. **Herbert** has enlisted in the Wessex RE, and Mr A. J. **Westaway** has enlisted under Lord Derby's Scheme

BRIDGWATER ROLL OF HONOUR – 1200 SERVING UP TO THE END OF MARCH

Report about the Roll

LOCAL PUBLIC MEN'S BEREAVEMENT – SYMPATHY OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

Report about the sympathy expressed to Cllr J. Nelson **Traylor** and Mr R. J. **Letherby** (Asst Town Clerk) on the loss of their sons.

THE DERBY RECRUITING SCHEME IN BRIDGWATER – GOOD LOCAL RESPONSE – THE LAST APPEAL.

Interesting report about this. 220 local men had enlisted to the date of printing.

TROOPS FOR BRIDGWATER – DUE TO ARRIVE THIS EVENING

Report about the billeting in the town of 568 officers and men and 150 lorries of the 607th Coy of the ASC Mechanical Transport

FIFTEEN EMPLOYEES ENLIST.

Note that 15 men of the Tone Vale Manufacturing Co had enlisted in the Derby Scheme. [Copy damaged so not all names legible. Consult original]

YOUNG BRIDGWATER AIRMAN – HOME LEAVE FROM THE FRONT.

Report that First Class Mechanic Harold **Jones**, son of Mr W. G. Jones, Hazeldine Villas, Wembdon was home on week's leave. Interesting biographical material.

A FINE SENSE OF PATRIOTISM – LOCAL MEN TRAVEL THOUSANDS OF MILES TO JOIN THE SOMERSETS

News that Mr E **Everdell** had come from Malay States, and Mr Sidney **Norris** (of Catcott) had come from the Argentine to join the SLI.

BRIDGWATER CANADIAN RETURNS HOME.

News that Pte Herbert T. **Smith**, younger son of Mr W. H **Smith** of the first Canadian Contingent was in Bridgwater in leave. He was suffering from the effects of gas.

Another cutting for 8th December 1915

LOCAL FAMILY'S PATRIOTISM

Photographs of the husband and two brothers of Mrs **Webber**, of Wembdon Common, Bridgwater. Cpl H. **Webber**, Duke of Cornwall's LI; Pte H. **Solomon** RAMC; Pte A. **Solomon**, 1st SLI. Useful biographical information.

ANSWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL – LOCAL FAMILY'S RESPONSE

Photographs of the two sons and two brothers in law of Mrs Mary Ann **Carver**, West Street, Bridgwater. Pte S. W. **Carver**, 7th SLI; Pte H. H. **Carver**, 8th SLI; Cpl A. **Baker**, RAMC; Bugler E. **Hamblin**, 1/5th SLI. Contains useful biographical information.

Bridgwater Mercury, 15th December 1915
Bridgwater and the War

CANNINGTON'S SHARE IN THE WAR – FIVE BROTHERS SERVING THEIR COUNTRY.

Photograph of the five sons of Mr & Mrs C. C. **Wakely**, Cottage Home, Cannington. Sapper Ernest **Wakely**, RE; Cpl Herbert **Wakely**, Coldstream Guards; Pte Charles **Wakely**, Light Horse Infantry; William **Wakely**, WSY; Frank **Wakely**, Munition worker. Contains useful biographical information.

DIES OF WOUNDS – SHAPWICK SOLDIER'S FATE.

Report of the death in action of Pte Albert E **Ham** of the 8th Batn Loyal North Lancashire Regt. He was the 3rd son of Mr Edmund **Ham**, Station Master at Shapwick. He was aged 19 years. Contains useful biographical information.

WESSEX RE V DUKE OF CORNWALL'S LI.
Report of a rugby match at Christchurch, Hants.

A GALLANT STRINGSTON SOLDIER – LIFE GIVEN FOR HIS COUNTRY

Photograph of Trooper Wm **Andrews**, WSY, who died at Malta

DOING HIS "BIT"

Report that Capt **Sankers** of Burnham had collected £4 5 6 for the Vegetable Products Committee. Capt **Sankers** had served in the Crimea.

PATRIOTIC EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL FIRM

Note that seven employees of Snell's Wicker Works had enlisted under the Derby Scheme. They were : F. C. **Hurford**; G. **Salter**; P **Dart**; S. **Hambler**; W. **Owens** and C **Vearncombe**. Already enlisted were: F. **Snell**; G. **Hamber**; A. **Rossiter**; H. **Burge**; G. **Nicholls**; T. **Chidgey**; A. **Harwood** and R. **Curry**.

THANKS FOR GIFT OF MANDOLINE.

Letter from Lce Cpl **Melhuish**, 1 Section, H Coy SLI to Mr C. C. **Bird** of Southgate Avenue, Taunton Road, Bridgwater, thanking him for the gift of a mandoline.

D.S.O. FOR FORMER RESIDENT OF BRIDGWATER – GALLANT AIRMAN AWARDED – THE DESTRUCTION OF THE "KONIGSBERG"

Report that Flight Sub Lieut Harwood James **Arnold** of the RNAS had been awarded the DSO in the action against the *Konigsberg* in East Africa. He had been educated at Dr Morgan's School. Contains useful biographical information.

DERBY RECRUITING SCHEME IN BRIDGWATER – SPLENDID LOCAL RESPONSE – 1,700 MEN ATTESTED.

Long report about the scheme.

SERBIAN FLAG DAY IN BRIDGWATER ON WEDNESDAY NEXT.

Letter to the Editor from the Mayor, Cllr F. G. **Haggett**, about this.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO BRIDGWATER SOLDIERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE – KIND EFFORT OF THE EMPIRE THEATRE.

Report that the theatre manager had arranged for gifts of tobacco for 118 local soldiers.

SOLDIER WITH LOCAL CONNECTIONS WOUNDED.

Report that Pte H. **Brown**, 4th Worcesters had been wounded and was on a hospital ship in Alexandria. He was the son in law of Mrs Spring, 9 Wellington Road, Bridgwater.

Another cutting for 15th December 1915

THREE OF A FAMILY SERVING – THREE BROTHERS IN KHAKI

Photographs of the sons of Mrs **Mead**, 162 Parkstone Avenue. Albert G. **Mead**, RN; Pte W. J. **Mead**, Coldstream Guards; A. B. A. W. **Mead**, RN. Contains useful biographical information.

THREE BROTHERS IN KHAKI

Photographs of the sons of the late Captain **Irish**, 49 Union Street, Bridgwater. Sapper A. **Irish**, RE; Pte G. **Irish**, SLI; Pte A. **Irish** SLI. Contains useful biographical information.

Cutting from the Bridgwater Independent, 18 December, 1915

Photographs of: Sgt Harold **Sharman**, NSY; Cpl Cecil **Symons**, ASC; Pte W. **Creedy**, SLI (India); Driver A. **Hooper**, ASC.

Cutting from the Bridgwater Independent, 25 December, 1915

Photographs of: Pte J. **Spriggs**, ASC (France); Sapper **Lott**, RE.

Bridgwater Mercury, 22th December 1915 Bridgwater and the War

A FINE FAMILY RECORD – FIVE RELATIVES FIGHTING THE ENEMY

Photographs of the sons, adopted son and son in law of Mr & Mrs John **Bailey**, Albert Street, Bridgwater Pte **A Bailey**, AVC; Driver J **Bailey**, ASC; Pte W. **Bailey**, Coldstream Guards; Driver H. T. **Spender**, ASC.; Pte J **Fulford**, 5th SLI. Contains useful biographical information.

FATHER, SONS AND SONS-IN-LAW SERVING – INTERESTING BRIDGWATER RECORD.

Sons and two sons in law of Pte Thomas **Pollard**, Union Street, Bridgwater. Pte Thos **Pollard** 8th SLI; Trooper Jack **Pollard**, WSY; Driver Harry **Pollard**, ASC, Pte Harry **Davies**, 1st SLI; Driver Leonard A. **Trunks**, ASC. Contains useful biographical information.

RUISHTON'S SHARE IN THE WAR – FOUR SONS AND SON IN LAW SOLDIERS OF THE KING.

Photographs of the four sons and son in law of Mrs **Dampier**, of Ruishton, Pte Tom **Dampier**, SLI (attached to the Duke of Cornwall's LI); Driver W, **Dampier**, RFA; Cpl James **Dampier**, SLI, Killed at Mons; Driver F. J. **Dampier**, RFA; Driver R. J. **Binding**, RFA. Contains useful biographical information.

WOOLAVINGTON MAN KILLED BY EXPLOSION ON MONITOR – MEMBER OF A PATRIOTIC FAMILY

Photographs of the sons of Mr & Mrs Lot **Vermont** of Woolavington. Leading Stoker Edward **Vermont** (Killed by an explosion on a monitor); Gunner Harold **Vermont**; RMA; Gunner Cecil **Vermont**, RMA; Pte Clifford **Vermont**, Royal Irish Regt. Contains useful biographical information.

SOMERSET BRIDGE SOLDIER'S DEATH – MILITARY FUNERAL AT DOVER.

Report of the death and funeral of Pte W. **Duddridge**, 3/6 SLI and attached to the Royal Garrison Artillery. He was the son of Mr & Mrs S. **Duddridge** of Somerset Bridge.

BREAD FOR PRISONERS OF WAR IN

GERMANY – Postcards of thanks for local man.

Report that Mr Edwin **Bryant**, the baker of Eastover, had received messages from Pte W. **Coomber**, 1st SLI, Friedrichfeld; Bei Wesel, Pte W. **Wilkins**, 1st SLI, Doeberitz; Pte Harry **Trebble**, 2nd Batn Welsh Regiment, Schneidemuhl; Lce Cpl E. **Cooze**, 2nd Battn, KOYLI, Maubeuge; Lce Cpl S **Southwood**, 1st SLI, Doeberitz; Pte Jas **Hughes**, 1st Wiltshire Regt, Doeberitz.

LIFE BEHIND THE GUNS – BRIDGWATER STAFF-SEARGEANT'S INTERESTING LETTER.

Letter from Staff-Sergt Rex **Page** of the RFA to his brother Mr Maurice **Page** of Fore Street, describing his experiences in bad weather.

CHEDZOY RIFLEMAN'S MANY WOUNDS

Report that Rifleman G **Stokes** KRR had been wounded for the third time.

FLIGHT SUB-LIEUT HARWOOD JAMES ARNOLD, D.S.O.

Photograph of Flight Sub-Lieut **Arnold**. Contains useful biographical information.

THE DERBY SCHEME.

Note that 1,774 Bridgwater men were attested.

BRIDGWATER ALBION FOOTBALLER WOUNDED.

Note that Trooper A **Holman**, WSY had been wounded.

GREETINGS FROM THE FRONT.

Note that a Christmas card had been received by the *Mercury* from Quartermaster Sergeant T. **Horler**, 49th Division.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED

The address sought a few weeks ago was: Pte J. E. **Barnard**, 14 Platoon, D Company, 1/5th Battn., SLI, Ambala, India.

ALL ELIGIBLES ENLISTED AT EAST QUANTOXHEAD.

Note that Fred **Harris**; James **Bailey**; James R. S. W. **Tremlett**; W. **Feltham**; W. J. **Yandle**; C. **Burge**; R. A. **Adams**; Fred J. **Norman** (ASC) and Horace **Wine** (RE) were grouped under the Derby Scheme. S. J. **Lockyer** and E. **Gibb** were rejected on medical grounds.

THE TROOPS IN BRIDGWATER – ARRIVAL OF THE LORRIES.

Detailed report on the billeting of the men of the 607th Company of the ASC, Mechanical Transport. Has an account of the entertainment laid on for them.

Bridgwater Mercury, 29th December 1915
Bridgwater and the War

FOUR OF A FAMILY SERVING.

Photographs of the two sons and two sons in law of Mrs W. **Binding** of 4 Queen Street, Bridgwater. Pte W. **Binding**, SLI; Machine gunner E. J. **Binding**, Highland LI; Driver C. **Wood**, ASC; Sgt J. **Hallett**, 9th SLI. Contains useful biographical information.

RESPOND TO THE CALL – LOCAL FAMILY'S EXCELLENT RECORD.

Photographs of the four sons and a son in law of the late Mr & Mrs James **Bale** of Bridgwater. Pte R. **Bale**, 5th SLI; Pte Jas **Bale**, 5th SLI; Pte Harry **Bale**, ASC; Pte C. **Bale**, 6th SLI; Pte W. **Yeandle**, 6th Battn South Wales Borderers. Contains useful biographical information.

FOUR PATRIOTIC BROTHERS – BRIDGWATER FAMILY'S RESPONSE.

Photographs of the four sons of Mr & Mrs Frederick **Dennison**, 12 Wyldeborough Terrace, Bristol Road. Pte G. **Dennison**, RFA; Cpl **Dennison** 5th SLI; Fk. Wm. **Dennison**, Derby Group Scheme, RE.; Pte C. **Dennison**, ASC. Contains useful biographical information.

PATRIOTIC HIGHBRIDGE FAMILY – FIVE SONS SERVING THEIR COUNTRY.

Photographs of the five sons of Mr & Mrs **Hardwidge** of Highbridge. Driver J. **Hardwidge**, RFA; Pte W. J. **Hardwidge**, AVC; Pte R. C. **Hardwidge**, 2/4th Wilts Res. Division; Pte H. J. **Hardwidge**, ASC; Driver S. T. **Hardwidge**, RFA. Contains useful biographical information.

DEATH OF LIEUT P.M. REED – SAD NEWS RECEIVED THIS MORNING.

Report that Lieut Paul Maurice **Reed** had been killed in Egypt. He was the son of Mr T. M. **Reed**, Solicitor, of Bridgwater. Contains useful biographical information.

RECRUITING APPEAL TRIBUNAL.

Note that the first meeting of the tribunal had been held and County Councillor G. E. **Lansdowne** had been appointed as Chairman.

SERBIAN FLAG DAY IN BRIDGWATER – GRATIFYING FINANCIAL RESULT.

Report about the Flag Day. £78 raised.

A KILVE MAN WOUNDED – HIS CAPTAIN'S PRAISE.

Report that Lce Cpl H. **Holley** 1st SLI, had been wounded in France. He was the son of P.C. **Holley** and Mrs **Holley**.

NAVAL PROMOTION.

Note that Mr W. J. **Ganner**, serving on HMS *Hillray* had been promoted. He was the son of Mr & Mrs **Ganner** of St John Street. His brother, Lieut R. **Ganner** is commander of HMS *Stag*, a torpedo boat destroyer.

A SEASONAL REMEMBRANCE.

Report that the Bridgwater YMCA had sent a Christmas card and 2 khaki handkerchiefs to the 40 -odd YMCA members serving in the forces.

CHILDREN'S GIFTS FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS.

Note that St John's Parochial School had received thanks for 48 pairs of socks and 12 pairs of mittens sent to the Indian Soldiers' Fund.