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**Bridgwater Mercury 5 January 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 4 sons and 2 sons in law of Mrs Mary **Woods**, No 14 Court, West St, Bridgwater. (Another son Pte Walter **Woods**, Australian contingent.) Pte Jesse Fear, Warwick Regt, Tidworth; Sapper William **Moore**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wessex RE, France; Pte Harry **Woods**, 2<sup>nd</sup> King's Shropshire Light Infantry, France; Pte Tom **Woods**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Batt Grenadier Guards, recovering from wounds; Pte G **Hill**, 3/5<sup>th</sup> South Staffs Regt, Grantham; Pte J **Harris**, 10<sup>th</sup> Devon Regt, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Photo of Lieut P M **Reed**, 21, Royal Flying Corps. Eldest son of Mr T M **Reed**, solicitor, Friarsdene, Burnham. Died of pneumonia, Egypt.

Photo of Corpl T **Wedlake**, 25, B Squadron, West Somerset Yeomanry, son of Mr A **Wedlake**, Burnt House Farm, Edington, near Bridgwater. Killed when dug out collapsed. Letter to father from Cecil R **Hayward**, Captain Commanding, B Squadron, 1/1<sup>st</sup> West Somerset Yeomanry.

Letter from Pte A **Prew**, British Expeditionary Force, C Company, ?th Batt Somerset LI to Mr JR **Pippin**, Hon Secretary, Bridgwater Albion FC.

Company Quartermaster Sergt Courtney **Smith**, Army Service Corps, returned from Dardanelles, in hospital at Cardiff with enteric fever. Son of Mr WH **Smith**.

Corpl Hugh **Jenkin** granted commission in King's Royal Rifles (new army). Bravery under fire.

Dr Elizabeth S **Impey** among passengers feared lost in sinking of P and O liner 'Persia'. Relative of Ald Wm **Thompson** and Mrs Henry **Corder**, Bridgwater.

Sergt HJ **Pursey**, Wessex RE mentioned in despatches of Sir John French. Son of Mr **Pursey**, Alexandra Villas, Bridgwater.

Miss M **Trevor**, Nether Stowey, agent for Egg Collection Fund for sick and wounded soldiers, has received 117 eggs, Nov Dec. Hopes eggs more plentiful after Christmas. Collection by Mr **Day**, Rose and Crown Hotel made £1 2s 8d.

Bombardier E **Dare**, RFA, had narrow escape at Front in France. Letter to parents Mr and Mrs J **Dare**, North Petherton, printed.

**Bridgwater Mercury 12 January 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 3 sons and 2 sons in law of Captain **Ryder**, 40, Monmouth St, Bridgwater.

Seaman W J **Ryder**, HMS *Talbot*; Seaman G H **Ryder**, HM Trawler *Rialto*; Seaman Gunner B **Ryder**, HMS *Valiant*; Sapper C **Gray**, RE, Rochester; Trooper E **Jenkins**, West Somerset Yeomanry, East Coast.

Photo of Driver J **Lovell**, ASC (SW Brigade), 13 Bailey St, Bridgwater. Home from Dardanelles with enteric fever. Account of his experiences printed.

Trooper W C **Eames**, West Somerset Yeomanry, in hospital in Malta, dysentery and scarlet fever. Extract from letter to parents Mr and Mrs J W **Eames**, Stringston Farm, describing Gallipoli.

Letter printed from former pupil at Front received by Mr J R **Churchill**, Burnham. Disappointed by France.

Photo of Pte Victor **Pitman**, 18, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Gloucestershire Regt, killed in Dardanelles, 6 Dec. News received on Friday by father Mr Tom **Pitman**, 17 Blacklands, Bridgwater. 3 brothers on active service in Army. (Photo)

Sub Lieut C A R **Routh** promoted to lieutenant. On active service on HMS *St Vincent*. Son of Dr R H F **Routh**, Bridgwater. Another son at Front in France.

Photo of Pte Alfred **Payne**, 21, 8<sup>th</sup> Somerset LI, killed in France. Son of Mr and Mrs Alfred **Payne**, Lime St, Stogursey. Letter printed from cousin Pte Ernest **Binding** with news of wounding and then of death from Sister in Charge, No 2 Casualty Clearing Station. 2 more sons on active service, Pte James **Payne** and Pte John **Payne**, ASC, and son in law, Sergt Charles **Brown**, RFA.

Corpl Albert **Taylor**, Grenadier Guards, accidentally shot by comrade at Front in France. Letter from Corpl Robert **Rymer**, Grenadier Guards, to father, Mr J **Rymer**, asking him to break news to Mrs **Osband**, aunt, Stolford. Corpl **Taylor** from London, brought up by grandmother Mrs Sully, Stolford.

Lieut T B **Jenkin**, King's Royal Rifles, welcomed by 3<sup>rd</sup> Bridgwater Troop of Boy Scouts on Saturday. Formerly assistant scoutmaster to troop. Recently promoted, given commission. Related experiences in France.

Scoutmaster's letter with Lieut Jenkin's view that Somersets are considered amongst finest in British Army.

Muffled peal rung on bells of St Mary's Church, Bridgwater, on Sunday in memory of local fallen.

Mrs E **Keep**, 107 Chilton St, Bridgwater, informed

that husband Lance Corpl Edgar **Keep**, 10<sup>th</sup> Worcester Regt, has been killed at the Front. Letters printed. 2 brothers of Mr **Keep** and 3 brothers of Mrs **Keep** on active service.

Gold watch and chain to be presented in Town Hall, Bridgwater, to Sergt C **Willcox**, Somerset LI. Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery in France.

### Bridgwater Mercury 19 January 1916 Bridgwater and the War

Photos of family of Mr Edward **Culverwell**, 107 Chilton St, Bridgwater. Bridgwater on active service. Sergt E **Culverwell**, South African Police Force; Pte Cecil **Culverwell**, Royal Marines; Pte Arthur **Culverwell**, Royal Marines; Lance Corpl E **Keep**, 10<sup>th</sup> Worcester Regt killed in action (son in law).

Photo of Sergt C **Willcox**. First Bridgwater man awarded dual honours of Distinguished Service Medal and St George's Cross. Public presentation of gold watch and chain by Mayor. Lieut **Peard**, Somersets, awarded Military Cross.

Sergt Maj George **Ennis**, Bridgwater, 5<sup>th</sup> Batt Somerset Light Infantry, presented with Meritorious Service Medal. Sergt Maj **Ennis**, 73, now in 34<sup>th</sup> year of service with regiment, on the Plain.

Corpl A **Page**, 9<sup>th</sup> Welsh Regiment, family at 3 Devonshire Street, Bridgwater, admitted to Tankerton Hospital with shell wound received in Flanders on 26 Dec.

Royal Naval Division Farewell Supper at Crystal Palace for Bridgwater boys about to leave for Blandford.. Organised by Bristol and Somerset boys.

Letter to Bridgwater Mercury from Gunner Wm **Giblett** on active service with O Battery, RHA. Has received paper for 15 months. Describes life and complains that only those on active service in county regiment mentioned.

DCM for Sergt Maj G A **Gravenor**, 3/3<sup>rd</sup> Batt Monmouthshire Regiment, TF, brother of Mr P A **Gravenor** of Wembdon Road.

Second Lieut H J **Cann**, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, promoted to temporary lieutenant. Son of Mr J H **Cann**, Gotherney Hall, attached to motor machine gun section.

West Somerset Yeomanry 's experiences at Gallipoli described in letter from Trooper Dan **Keirle**, 1<sup>st</sup> West Somerset Yeomanry.

Photo of Corpl Albert **Taylor**, 20, Grenadier Guards, accidentally shot dead by comrade while on active

service in France. Born in London, brought up in Stogursey.

Lance Corpl H **Holley**, Kilve, has died of serious wounds received in trenches.

Account of Christmas at the Front in letter from Bombardier J **Holcombe** of Bridgwater, headquarter staff, 2<sup>nd</sup> Welsh RFA, 53<sup>rd</sup> Division.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 26 January 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 5 sons and son in law of Mr G **Roman**, West Street, Bridgwater. Pte H **Roman**, 7<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters; Lance Corpl W J **Roman**, 1<sup>st</sup> Somersets; Corpl Geo **Roman**, Coldstream Guards; Driver W **Roman**, ASC; Sergt C **Roman**, Coldstream Guards; Seaman Amos **Martin**, RNS Mine Sweeping.

Photos of 2 sons and 2 sons-in-law of Mr John **Sellick**, Chilton Trinity. 3 still on active service in Army. Son-in-law F **Stockham**, late Lance Corpl, Som LI lost arm, captured at Mons, returned under prisoner exchange. Driver G **Sellick**, ASC; Driver S **Sellick**, ASC, Driver J B **Jones**, ASC.

Photos of Ramsey family. Mrs **Ramsey**, Highbridge, on active service at Red Cross Hospital, Burnham. 3 sons in Army, 2 on foreign service. Sergt A R **Ramsey**, ASC; Corpl B J **Ramsey**, ASC; Sapper C H **Ramsey**, Wessex RE.

Photo of Gunner George **Silby**, RFA, 27, died of pneumonia at casualty clearing station in France. Tributes printed. Brother on active service as Sergt with Royal Marines. Son of Mr and Mrs **Silby**, 77 Bailey St, Bridgwater.

Photo of Pte A J **Ford**, 23, "C" Company, 31<sup>st</sup> Batt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division, killed in action in Flanders. Brother of Mrs J **Wilkins**, 65 Halesleigh Road, Bridgwater. Letter from C Co Sergt printed.

St Mary's Soldiers' Club at Halswell Hall very popular with men billeted in town. Whist drive held on Thursday evening..

Borough and rural tribunals for consideration of appeals under Lord Derby's recruitment scheme held in Bridgwater on Tuesday.

Mayor of Bridgwater has received acknowledgement of fundraising by carol singers on behalf of blinded soldiers from President of the National Institute for the Blind. Fundraising included £1 3s. from sale of poem by Pte W **Wright**.

Trooper A J **Holman**, Somerset Yeomanry, now in Nasrich Military Hospital, Cairo, has written to his

team, Bridgwater Albion F.C. Injured at Suvla Bay.

Pte A **Gray**, 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset LI, prisoner of war at Doeberitz, Germany, after capture at Mons, has acknowledged Christmas parcels from home.

Association football match played on Wednesday afternoon on Dr Morgan's school ground. 607 M T Company, A S C, billeted in Bridgwater, and Company of same branch of service stationed at Wells.

Starting on Thursday last, local recruits in first 4 groups attested under Lord Derby's scheme left Bridgwater each afternoon for Depot at Taunton.

Report that Parliament plans to cut back wood pulp imports by 40%. Will affect size or price of newspapers.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of sons and son-in-law of Mrs Stockham, Downend, Puriton, on active service. Driver Clifford **Stockham**, ASC (Mediterranean branch); Sergt W **Harris**, 6<sup>th</sup> Somerset LI; Sergt Robert **Stockham**, RE Regt Pioneers (Mediterranean); Driver Arthur **Stockham**, Wessex RE (Christchurch); Lance Corpl F **Stockham**, late of Somerset LI (wounded at Mons); Petty Officer G **Stockham**, RN; Driver T **Stockham**, Wessex RE (Christchurch).

Photos of members of Phillips family, Bridgwater, on active service. Sergt W **Phillips**, 5<sup>th</sup> Somersets; Sergt Tom **Phillips**, 11<sup>th</sup> Durham LI; Sapper H **Phillips**, South Midland RE; Seaman David **Boyle**, Canadian Navy; Pte R **Ham**, 5<sup>th</sup> Devonshire Regt; Sea Scout Arthur **Boyle**, Coastguard Duty.

Photos of Pioneer J J **Baker**, RE, 86 Friarn St, Bridgwater, and 6 relatives on active service. Driver W J **Baker**, ASC; Driver C H **Baker**, ASC, Pte F **Baker**, SW Borderers; Pte G **Crossman**, 5<sup>th</sup> Som; Pte T **Baker** 5<sup>th</sup> Som; Saddler Corpl **Baker**, ASC.

Nephew of Mrs T **Templeman**, 23 Bailey St, Bridgwater, Bandsman G **Bond**, has written that Bridgwater Mercury most welcome in trenches.

First Air Mechanic Ivan H H **Robinson**, Bridgwater, to be commissioned as second lieutenant in RGA, North Midland Brigade (Staffs).

Bridgwater and District Teachers' 15<sup>th</sup> contribution to War Aid Fund  
£2 19s 6d

Meeting of Bridgwater Division Parliamentary Recruiting Committee, Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs J **Wilkins**, 65 Halesleigh Rd, Bridgwater, received further details of death of brother Pte A J **Ford**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division, from Major E S **Doughty**. Printed here.

Further £35 donation by Mr W B **Broadmead**, J P, Enmore Castle, to Bridgwater Volunteer Training Corps for purchase of additional Service Rifles

Letter from Sergt W L **Barnett**, on active service with RAMC at Salonika, building and equipping No 28 General Hospital.

Joint Chairmen, Bridgwater Division Parliamentary Recruiting Committee have appealed to single men in the Bridgwater Division to attest voluntarily.

Mrs **Roberts**, Queen Street, North Petherton, officially informed that son Pte Thomas **Roberts**, Somerset LI, missing since 26 Aug 1914, is presumed dead.

Maj **Archer Shee** has suggested conscientious objectors useful for tasks such as cutting wire entanglements in front of enemy trenches to facilitate bayonet charges.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 9 February 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 4 sons of Mr and Mrs Wm **Styles** of Huntspill on active service in Army. Trooper Charles **Styles**, North Somerset Yeomanry, BEF; Pte Fred **Styles**, 12<sup>th</sup> Gloucester Regt, BEF; Pte Reginald **Styles**, 12<sup>th</sup> Gloucester Regt, BEF; Pte Wilfred **Styles**, Durham LI, BEF. Another son still at home.

Photos of 4 sons of Mr Joseph **Hoyal**, 17 West Quay, Bridgwater, on active service in Army or Reserve. Operator O W **Hoyal**, RE Burford; Driver Hubert **Hoyal**, ASC, Codford; Air Mechanic Gerald **Hoyal**, Royal Flying Corps, France, Ordinary Seaman Ivor C **Hoyal**, Royal Naval Division, Crystal Palace. 2 more in Army Reserve.

Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater, sold war poems to buy cigarettes for local men with ASC in Dardanelles. Letter of appreciation from Staff Sergt Maj P **Kendal**. Also thanked for donation to fund for gifts to men of Bridgwater Men's Own Brotherhood at Front.

Mr J **Clark**, Street, on active service with British Forces in France, has written home about Street ILP's condemnation of Military Services Bill.

Photo of Pte Harold **Guy**, Grenadier, British Columbia Regiment. Reported gassed, severely wounded, missing, now believed dead. Son of Mr H G **Guy**, Headmaster, Othery Council School.

Bridgwater Borough Tribunal heard appeals Friday afternoon.

Mr E N **Bell**, Charlynch Rectory, reports meeting in Rangoon members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Somersetshire Light Infantry:  
Lance Corpl H **May**, Lance Corpl **Haggett**, Corpl **Stone**, Ptes **Cames**, EG **Lanham**, C **Taylor**, **Winter**, **Parker**, **Vearncombe**, **Nurton**, **Snell**, FA **Hill**, **Frost**, **Clarke**, W **Bostock**, **Bradshaw**, **Baily**, **Goodman**, **Humber**, **Harper**, **Hubbard**, **Shapter**, C **Hurley**, G **Searle**, S **Durston**, W **Durston**, **Riddle**, **Pope**, **Webber**, **Woolcott**, **Phillips**, **Hayman**, **Jarvis**, A **Carey**.

Lieut W B **Foley** RAMC, son of Mr R Y **Foley**, J P, promoted to captain. In Salonika. 4 more sons of Mr **Foley** in Army. Pte F B **Foley**, Canadians, wounded in France, PoW..

Notice in Friday night's London Gazette – Bridgwater Borough prohibited area for residence of aliens.

607 MT Company, ASC, billeted at Bridgwater, played Association football match at Wells with 260 Company of same branch of service.

Photo of Pte T **Roberts**, son of Mrs **Roberts**, Queen Street, North Petherton, missing after Mons, now presumed to have died 26 Aug 1914 or since. (Photo)

Only 12 Derby recruits volunteered for preliminary training by Blundell's OTC. Proposal dropped.

Advert: Send Mackintosh's TOFFEE DE LUXE to Troops.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 16 February 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Every team member, Bridgwater Rangers Association Football Club, on active service in Army all over world. Group photo: R **Turner**, Som LI; W H **King**, Som LI; A **Bevan**, ASC; A **Hill**, Som LI; F **Haysham**, Som LI; W **Redwood**, ASC; W **Cave**, ASC; R **Slocombe**, ASC; W **Creedy**, Somerset LI; B **Legg**, Derby Reserve; J **Foster**, ASC.

Photos of 3 sons of Mr and Mrs J **Rich**, Well Street, Stogursey, on active service in forces. Thomas **Rich**, Navy, Pte William **Rich** and Pte John **Rich**, 8<sup>th</sup> Somerset LI. Pte John Rich wounded at Loos, home on leave.

Letter from Bombardier W **Rich**, Bridgwater, on active service, No 2 Section, 28<sup>th</sup> DAC, British Forces, Salonika. Appeals for games, music and cigarettes for his section.

Sergt Maj Henry **Dalton**, 1<sup>st</sup> King's Own Scottish Borderers, recovering in hospital from accident, recounts experiences during Gallipoli evacuation in letter to wife Mrs **Dalton** of Othery.

Letter from Harold L **Jones**, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Mechanic, Royal Flying Corps, to father Mr W G **Jones**, 47 Wembdon Road, Bridgwater, on active service at the Front near the River Yser. Describes conditions.

Brothers Sergt A J **Foley** and Corpl G R **Foley**, 6<sup>th</sup> Somersets, gazetted as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants in 7<sup>th</sup> Somersets. 4 sons of Mr R Y **Foley** JP, Somerset Trading Co Ltd, Bridgwater, on active service as officers. Fifth son, Pte E B **Foley**, Canadians, PoW in Germany.

Local Derby recruits, groups 6,7,8,9 left Bridgwater for Taunton depot this week.

Proclamation posted Monday night, calling up all remaining single men attested under Derby scheme and those liable under Compulsion Act.

Football Association match played Saturday afternoon. 607 Co MT, ASC v third line West Somerset Yeomanry.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 23 February 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of Mr J **Wellman**, 14, Barclay Street, and 3 sons on active service. Mr **Wellman** in Bridgwater Volunteer Training Corps; Drivers Wm and Eric **Wellman**, Sapper Fred **Wellman** with British Mediterranean Force.

Photos of Mr O **Fudge**, Wellington Road, and 5 sons who have all been on active service. Mr **Fudge** was in Coldstream Guards. Eldest son, Pte W G **Fudge**, at Front in France with 1<sup>st</sup> Somersets now discharged; Pte Arthur **Fudge**, Royal Marine Light Infantry, died during sinking of HMS *Goliath* off Gallipoli; Pte C H **Fudge** with 1<sup>st</sup> Somersets in France; Pte Thos Henry **Fudge** and Pte Fredk Herbert **Fudge**, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Somersets, India.

Photo of Corpl Owen W **Berry**, 6<sup>th</sup> Batt, Somerset Light Infantry. Further news about his severe wounds, Western Front. Son of Mr Alfred **Berry**, Cannington Park, assistant surveyor, Bridgwater Rural District Council. 3 more sons in Army. One wounded, in hospital. Another in hospital through illness.

Mr W.J **Sharkey**, Queen Street, Bridgwater, received thanks in postcard from France for 1,000 cigarettes purchased with proceeds of sale of war poems and sent as part of consignment by Mr W H **Allen**, tobacconist, St Mary Street, Bridgwater.

Relatives of Mr and Mrs W **Perry**, Goodregraig, Swansea Valley, formerly West Street Bridgwater, on active service at present. Brother, Pte Walter **Perry**, Somersets; 4 sons: Pte Fred **Perry**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sportsmen's Batt, Gunner Stanley **Perry**, RFA, F A, Pte James **Perry**, Pembrokeshire Yeomanry (since discharged as medically unfit) Pte William John **Perry**, Somerset LI ; 3 sons in law: Pte E **Partridge**, Brecknock Batt, Driver H **Gardner** ASC, Driver W **Carpenter** RFA (since discharged as medically unfit). 6 nephews on active service with colours. Mr W J **Perry** senior volunteered, rejected on age grounds.

Bridgwater Borough Tribunal held last Friday. Appeals mostly turned down.

Large batch of Derby recruits left Bridgwater this Tuesday afternoon for Taunton.

Mrs Gillespie, 75 Chilton Street, Bridgwater, received 2 cheerful letters from husband Corpl D J **Gillespie**, Somerset LI. PoW at Lager Hammelburg, Germany. Previously on staff of Bridgwater Post Office.

Petition to Prime Minister signed by persons of influence regarding thrift in population as whole. Recommended appointment of War Savings Board.

Flight Commander J R W **Smyth Pigott** D S O appointed acting squadron commander from February 1<sup>st</sup>. DSO awarded. Son of Mrs **Smyth Pigott**, lady of manor of Weston, Brockley Hall.

East Brent:

Mrs **Say** reports collection of 5,715 eggs since April last for wounded servicemen. Mrs **Wickham** and helpers to collect information on female farm labour, required by District Agricultural Committee.

Langport:

Popular Whist Drive in All Saints' Room, Wednesday evening. Substantial sum raised for British Red Cross Society.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 1 March 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 3 sons and a nephew of Mr and Mrs Henry **Turner**, 18 Albert Street, Bridgwater, on active service. Driver Henry **Turner**, RFA, France; Pte Arthur **Turner**, 3/5<sup>th</sup> Soms, Bournemouth; Pte Ernest **Turner**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Welsh, Barry; Pte Chas **Parsons**, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Somersets, India. 11 more relatives of Mrs **Turner** also on active service.

Photos of 3 sons and son-in-law of Mr John **Frost**, No 2 Court, Albert Street, on active service. Driver J **Frost** Wessex ASC, Codford, Wilts; Pte Clifford **Frost**, B Company, 25<sup>th</sup> Somersets, Upper Burma;

Pte Harry **Frost**, D Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Somersets, Amballa, India; Pte Wm **Hurford**, machine gun section, 6<sup>th</sup> Somersets, France.

Another letter to Mrs S. **Akerman**, Ashcott, from son, Edward John **Hawkins**, Royal Fusiliers. 17 days in trenches. May be home soon. Mrs **Akerman**'s husband to come on shore leave.

Decision made to insure St Mary's Parish Church, Bridgwater, against damage during Zeppelin raids.

Bob **Barnard** and Joe **Margetts**, Camden United A F C, left to join their groups last Tuesday. All team except one (ineligible) now taking part in 'great game'.

Letter to tobacconist, Mr T W **Markham**, Fore Street and High Street, from Sergt Arthur **Howell**, Somerset Light Infantry, British Expeditionary Force. Thanks for cigarettes for Bridgwater boys and for those from Dr **Routh**. About to go into the "International Trench".

Bridgwater Sergt G **Hill**, RAMC, presented with DCM gained as Pte at 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern General Base Hospital, Sheffield, Monday.

Mr E J **James**, Harrah, Washington, USA, has renewed subscription. Bridgwater man, glad to see how Bridgwater boys are responding to call of country.

Bridgwater Rural District Tribunal heard 50 – 60 appeals on Tuesday.

Pte Edwin John **Elver**, 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset Light Infantry, North Petherton postman, missing since 26<sup>th</sup> August 1914, presumed dead. Widow and 2 children.

Corpl Owen **Berry**, Somerset Light Infantry, son of Mr Alfred Berry, Cannington, now recovering from severe wound.

Mr Edwin **Bryant**, baker, Eastover, now sending regular supply of bread to Bridgwater PoWs in Germany. Thanks received from Sergt Arthur **Howell**, Somerset LI, British Expeditionary Force, Pte A **Gray**, 1st Somerset LI, PoW Doeberitz; Pte J **Hughes**, No 9 Co, 1<sup>st</sup> Wiltshire Regiment (Doeberitz); Pte Herbert **Marchant**, 1<sup>st</sup> Scots Guards 9 (Altengrabow); Lance Corpl S **Southwood**, Corpl **Rainey**, Corpl **Gillespie**, Lance Corpl **Cooze**, Pte **Coombes**.

Debut on Sunday of brass band formed by 607 Company MT, ASC, billeted in Bridgwater. Trained by ex-Bandmaster **James**, Devon Regiment.

Dr Emmott **Graham**, US citizen, house surgeon, Bridgwater Hospital, left on Monday to serve with

French army.

Bridgwater Volunteer Training Corps to be armed and equipped. Fund raising includes grand military concert at Town Hall, Thursday evening, 16 March.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 8 March 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Borough Tribunal Friday afternoon heard smaller number of appeals.

Letter to the Editor from A DISGUSTED TOMMY arguing that conscientious objectors should serve in own special unit.

Letter from A BUSINESS MAN regarding inconsistencies in Tribunal decisions.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 15 March 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 3 sons of Mr Wm **Haysham**, builder, 7 Wembdon Road, Bridgwater, on active service. Driver Hubert **Haysham**, Army Service Corps, Hants; Frank **Haysham** and Harold **Haysham**, drummers in "D" Company, 1/5 Somerset L I, now at Ambala, India.

Photos of sons and grandson of Mrs **Wright**, 12 Liberty Place, Bridgwater, 3 of whom on active service. Sergt Harry **Gilbert**, 85th Provisional Battalion, Northumberland; Philip **Gilbert**, late Naval Petty Officer, now in Govt work, Whale Island; Gunner Geo **Gilbert**, late Garrison Artillery, Malta, now invalided out; Pte Philip **Wright** (grandson) Monmouth Regiment, Bedford, former bugler, Territorials, Bridgwater.

Army aeroplane mishap at Stawell on Thursday. Guarded by Bridgwater soldiers until Royal Flying Corps detachment arrived Friday.

Letter from Corpl. I. **Richards** 248 Co, ASC, 29<sup>th</sup> Div Train, in Egypt with Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. Enclosed photograph found in Gallipoli dugout. Photo of Miss Beatrice **Pitman**, No 5, Dyke's Buildings, Eastover, now returned to her. Had been in possession of Driver H. **Barnett**, ASC, Londoner, last heard of in Egypt some time ago.

Letter from HMI, Preparatory and Industrial Schools Dept, Home Office, to Mr **Harding**, Superintendent, Cannington Technical School. Congratulations on amount of help with military mail by boys.

Mrs **Harris**, 44 West St, Bridgwater, received copy of *The Balkan News* from husband, Pte J **Harris**, 10<sup>th</sup> Devon Regt. Interesting war news including Battle of Salonika. Also sent tiny live tortoise, arrived safely at

station.

Lance Corpl Frank **Hughes** late of 2<sup>nd</sup> Devon Regiment, former Bridgwater resident, received DCM.

Letter to parents from Bridgwater member of Royal Flying Corps describing thrilling adventure in France in as much detail as allowed.

Letter thanking Mr J Sharkey, Bridgwater, for another large consignment of cigarettes. Company Sergt Maj A **Hucker**, ASC, writes of appreciation for first parcel. Letter of thanks also from Farriers R **Edward** and F C **Clark**, Corpl A **Fowler**, Corpl W **Sealy**, Drivers S H **Thyer**, AW **Bevan**, W W **Murch**.

Out-of-work builders ask Mr Lloyd George for munition work.

Bridgwater Borough Tribunal heard more appeals on Friday.

Post Office conscripts to receive same pay and privileges as group men.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 22 March 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 9 members of Bridgwater family, 6 sons and 3 sons-in-law of Mr Ernest **Palmer**, Valetta Place, on active service: Driver E **Palmer**, Tidsbury; Lance Corpl T **Palmer**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt Coldstream Guards, France; Driver C **Palmer**, ASC, invalided home from Dardanelles, now at Grantham; William **Palmer**, making munitions; Trooper Jesse **Palmer**, 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset Yeomanry; Dardanelles; Driver H **Palmer**, Wessex Regiment, Codford; Pte L **Ferris**, 29<sup>th</sup> Vancouver Batt, Canadian Expeditionary Force, France; Pte E J **Ferris**, 8<sup>th</sup> Batt Somerset Light Infantry, France; Corpl A **Browning**, 3/5<sup>th</sup> Somerset Light Infantry, Taunton.

Photo of Bugle Band of 1/5<sup>th</sup> Somersets, India: Ptes **Howard**, **Morris**, **Manchip**, **J Best**, **Prescott**, **Haste**, **F Haysham**, **H Haysham**, **Pitman**, **Mardon**, **C Best**, **Durant**, **Wills**, **Hamblin**, **J Manchip**, **Slocombe**, **W Parry**; Lance Corpl **Anstey**, Bugle-Maj **Turner**, Ptes **J Manchip**, **Slocombe**, **W Perry**.

Letter from Bridgwater Petty Officer W H **Tucker** on active service on HMS *Snaefell* in undisclosed location.

On Monday over 500 former members of 607 MF Company, ASC, under Capt GM **Gibson**, left Bridgwater for ?. Approx 150 remaining under orders to go overseas under Maj H P **Raymond**.

Sec Lieut A W **Forbes**, 1<sup>st</sup> Royal North Lancashire Regt, nephew of late Mr R W **Chapman**, solicitor,

Bridgwater, promoted to lieutenant from August 1915.

Corpl J **Clitsome**, Army Cycle Corps, son of Mr and Mrs Clitsome, Padnoller, Charlynch, received DCM for meritorious conduct in field.

Description of life in trenches by Pte A W **Turner**, RAMC (Field Ambulance) on page 2.

Sergt Maj G A **Gravenor** 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Monmouthshires presented with DCM at Oswestry last week. Also awarded Croix de Guerre by President of French Republic. Brother of Mr P A **Gravenor**, Wembdon Road, Bridgwater.

Second Lieut G R **Foley**, 7<sup>th</sup> Somersets, severely wounded in France. Son of Mr, **Foley** JP, Dodington.

Bridgwater Borough Tribunal heard small number of appeals Friday 17 March.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 29 March 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 4 sons of Mr and Mrs James **Besley**, 42 Northgate, Bridgwater, on active service in Army and Navy. Jas **Besley** HMS *Blake*; Pte Walter **Besley**, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Somersets, Burma; Pte Wm **Besley**, Royal Scots Fusiliers, Salonica.; Wallace **Besley**, AB, Royal Navy, now in France.

Photos of Somerset Bridge father and 3 sons on active service. Pte John **Parker**, until lately with Somersets, Pte Chas **Parker**, 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset LI, France; Pte Bert **Parker**, Canadian Expeditionary Force, Toronto; Sapper F **Parker**, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> Wessex RE, Canterbury. Eldest son, Mr W **Parker**, rejected for Army, engaged on munition work, Barry.

Pte F J **Davis**, 23, Canadian contingent, missing, now officially reported killed after 11 months. Parents dead. Half brother Mr Wm **Taunton**, Bath Rd, received report of death on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1915. Confirmed by Pte **Lucas**, same Battalion in letter forwarded through Red Cross, France, describing heroism under fire, despite being gassed.

Letter from PoW, Doeberitz Camp, Pte H **Gillard**, Somerset LI to wife Mrs H **Gillard**, 64 Union St, Bridgwater. Thanks for bread received from Mr Fry.

20 more Derby recruits left Bridgwater for Taunton last week. Big send off.

Mr Harry **Seward** killed in action 11 March in German East Africa. Youngest son of Mr G U Seward, formerly grocer of Bridgwater.

Quartermaster S **Redwood**, Bath Rd, Bridgwater, member of crew of Dominion line steamer

Englishman, saved when torpedoed.

Wembdon:

School has collected 12s 8d for RSPCA fund for wounded war horses.

Rev P T **Pryce Michell** of North Petherton gazetted from 21<sup>st</sup> March as lieutenant, 12<sup>th</sup> Observation Company, Territorial Reserve General List.

Brentford Tribunal granted 4 months exemption for applicant said to be suffering from multiple ailments but considered 'the poor creature' could be useful though not at the Front..

Bridgwater Borough Appeals Tribunal held Friday 24 March.

Board of Agriculture v Military at first sitting Denbighshire appeal tribunal.

Central News understands that War office to call up all married men immediately.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 5 April 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 7 members of family of Mrs E **Marker**, widow, 166 John St, Bridgwater on active service. Driver C R **Marker** ASC ( Field Ambulance) Mediterranean Force; Sergt Maj ? **Marker** RFA (Ammunitions Column) France; Pte T A **Marker**, ASC, Home Guard, Canada; Driver J A **Marker** ASC ( Field Ambulance) Mediterranean Expeditionary Force; Sergt A **Holmes** (son in law) served 3 years, now Army Instructor; Lance Corpl G **Bird**, 4<sup>th</sup> Batt, Devon Regiment; Quartermaster Sergt C **Bird**, 4<sup>th</sup> Batt, Devon Regiment (nephews). Mr Harry **Marker**, son, son in law and a nephew have joined under Lord Derby's scheme.

Photos of members of family of Mr and Mrs **Ruckley**, North Petherton, on active service. Pte W. **Parker** (Mrs R's brother) with Somersets in France; Pte W **Ruckley**, 10<sup>th</sup> Devons, transferred from France to Eastern theatre; Pte E **Ruckley**, in training with Welsh Guards; Pte Arthur **Ruckley**, RFA; Pte Fred **Ruckley**, ASC; Mr H **Ruckley**, awaiting call up. Mr **Ruckley** (father) volunteered but rejected on physical grounds.

Photo of Bridgwater Canadian killed in action 24 April 1915. Pte F J **Davis**, 15<sup>th</sup> Batt of Canadians, well known in Bridgwater. Death reported after 11 months to half-brother Mr W. **Taunton**, Bath Road.

Letter from Pte H A Kirk to Mr W **Belcher**, Fore Street, Bridgwater: life at the Front, in France with Wessex Field Ambulance.

Pte Sidney D **Hook**, second son of Mr W G **Hook**,

taylor, Monmouth Street, seriously wounded on active service with regiment with British Expeditionary Force. 25 March. To return to England. Eldest brother William, went with regiment to India. Now in Bombay awaiting throat surgery.

Lieut Gerald **Wood**, 10<sup>th</sup> Durhams, awarded Military Cross, visited Bridgwater. Previously clerk in National Provincial Bank, Cornhill.

Appeal for subscriptions to fund for games, comforts and smokes for serving men from Second Lieut Hugh B **Peace**, 92<sup>nd</sup> Machine Gun Company, "A" Lines, Belton Park, Grantham. Bridgwater man.

Attested married men in Bridgwater called up.

Lieut **Brandon**, famous for dropping bombs on a Zeppelin, was pupil of Mr Cecil **Hall**, Bridgwater, at Mr Hall's flying school, Hendon.

Mr Tom **Kelway**, Bridgwater, has received letter from Lieut S M J **Woods** in the Sudan, asking that cricket be kept going in Bridgwater.

Military wedding at Cannington parish church on Wednesday. Pte Francis H **Porter**, Worcester Garrison Batt, only son of Mr and Mrs F **Porter**, Spaxton, and Miss Flora A **Evans**, daughter of Mr and Mrs W H **Evans**, Cannington.

Letter re Board of Guardians and Separation Allowances. Writer glad that 2 members of local Board protested against resolution by Exeter Guardians that 20% of allowance for wives and families of servicemen should be withheld until after the war.

Following correspondence about relief, Mercury brings to readers' notice case of genuine distress. Mrs **Western**, No 13 Court, Albert Street, says her husband served 12 years in Army until invalidated out. Now in sanatorium. Separation allowance stopped and family living on 10s a week State insurance.

Stoke St Gregory wedding. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Arthur Valentine **Noble**, 12<sup>th</sup> Suffolk Regiment, son of Mr W **Noble**, London, and Miss Victoria May **Pullen**, youngest daughter of Mr **Pullen**, Headmaster, Stoke St Gregory School.

Mackintosh's Toffee de Luxe sold almost everywhere except Germany.

Interesting letter from Bombardier J **Holcombe**, Artillery Division, Egypt, of Bridgwater. Describes journey from Northern France to Egypt.



**Bridgwater Mercury 12 April 1916**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of family members of Mr James **Thorne**, 2 Liberty Place, Bridgwater, on active service. Sapper W **Thorne**, RE, Bedford; Driver Sidney **Thorne**, Wessex ASC, Codford; Bombardier A J **Thorne**, Anti Aircraft Section, France; Gunner J **Thorne**, RFA, Salonika (sons); Driver C **Williams**, ASC Codford; Pte B **Smith**, Devons, Salonika (sons in law); Lance Corpl J **Norrish**, Devons, Salonika; Driver W **Thorne**, ASC, Aldershot; Sapper S **Clements**, RE, France; Sergt M **Curtis**, RE, France; Corpl J **Langdon**, Mounted Military Police, Colwyn Bay (nephews). Another son-in-law, Gunner Wm **Hancock**, Royal Artillery Garrison, in France.

Photos of members of **Sparks** family, Bridgwater on active service. Gunner H **Sparks**, RFA, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Driver E **Sparks**, Wessex Army Service Corps, Codford, sons of Mr and Mrs Michael **Sparks**, St John Street, Bridgwater; Gunner Lot **Sparks**, Royal Garrison Artillery, British Expeditionary Force, brother of Mr Michael **Sparks**, 26 Angel Crescent, Bridgwater; J C **Sparks**, Royal Naval Division, Crystal Palace, son of Lot Sparks; Pte C **Sparks** ASC Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, son of Mr C **Sparks**, Friam Street, Bridgwater; Driver H **Baker**, ASC, Fovant Camp, son of Mr Wm **Baker**, Rhode Lane and nephew of Mr Michael **Sparks**.

Account by Corpl G **Gillson** on active service with South African Infantry, Egypt, received by father, Mr **G Gillson**, 19 Bristol Road, Bridgwater. Describes how enemy was driven from desert stronghold.

607 MT Company, ASC, left Bridgwater at short notice at midnight on Monday. Commander Maj **Raymond**.

Letter to Mr Edwin **Wadmore**, Headmaster, Wembdon School, from former pupil, R A **Pepperall**. Has gained commission, competing with ex- public school boys.

Letter from Sergt A **Pike**, Huntworth, Bridgwater, at Front with Royal Sussex.. Encloses letter from regimental Sergt Maj of another regiment in which Bridgwater men on active service.

Mrs **Gill**, 8 Kimberley Terrace, Bristol Rd, received news of her husband. Letter from Corpl G **Chilcott** describing wounding of Pte Wm **Gill**, Somerset LI. Postcard from Pte **Gill** at Woolwich War Hospital.

Letter to Miss L **Smith**, Halesleigh, Wembdon Rd, from Pte W G **Bailey**, Coldstream Guards, describing lucky escape with minor injuries from shelling of

dugout. Mother, Mrs **Bailey**, 29 Polden St, received official communication from War Office.

**Bridgwater Mercury 19 April 1916**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of family of late Mr C **Chilcott** of Stogursey who are or were on active service. Sapper A **Heal**, Wessex Engineers (son in law); Pte S R W **Chilcott**, son, South Wales Borderers, killed at Dardanelles 28 June 2015; F J **Chilcott**, son, HMS *Gloucester*, Dardanelles; Driver G J **Chilcott**, son; Staff Sergt H T **Chilcott**, son, Somerset Light Infantry, Driver Henry **Rossiter**, ASC, Winchester (brother in law of Chilcotts).

Photos of family of Mrs F **Rossiter**, widow, No 4 Court, Albert St, Bridgwater, on active service. Driver S **Rossiter**, Welsh Division RE (son); Pte Bert **Rossiter**, 2/5 Somersets in Burma (son); Pte William **Anthony**, Wessex ASC (nephew).

Extract from letter to Mr H J **Rudman**, Headmaster, West St School, from son, Pte F C **Rudman**, 1/10 Middlesex Regiment, stationed at Lucknow, India.

Letters from Bridgwater men in Balkans and 2/5th Somersets in Burma, complaining that they have been forgotten in the distribution of parcels from home.

Letter from T W **Bucklee**, Rector, Church of the Epiphany, Sedan, Kansas, March 26<sup>th</sup> 1916, son of Mrs **Rowberry**, the Limes, Berrow Road, Burnham-on-Sea regarding his sons Corpl Thomas E **Bucklee**, Canadian Contingent, and William John **Bucklee**, Mechanical Transport.

Advert: White's Military Emporium, Bristol, War Office Contractors, for all military men's supplies.

Advert: "Tactics" or "Can Britain be invaded", new war game approved by Lord Kitchener.

War news:

Escape of British merchant steamship Duendes from German submarine. Siege at Kut; German losses at St Eloi.

Heavy shelling on British front. Cabinet and War Council meeting.

Shelling of German occupied railway stations and Rombach factories.

German ship in North Sea hit by French aircraft.

No infantry action by Germans for 6 days on Verdun front.

2 aircraft, including 1 British, reported brought down by Berlin.

Russian defeat of Turks near Trebizond.

German activity in Dvinsk, Russia.

Italian attack on Austrian cave batteries, Zagonila

Playa.

Final Note to Germany on submarine difficulty from President Wilson.

Advert: Pte **Swift** 8/4 040221 ASC claims asthma cured by Veno's Lightning Cough Cure. Wife, Kew Gardens, Surrey, says it enabled him to join up.

**Bridgwater Mercury 26 April 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

Letter from Bridgwater man with Company of RE in Salonica on behalf of Bridgwater men. Complaining of lack of comforts and recognition from home.

Photo of Signaller Pte Percy William **Baker**, 20, Dorset Regiment, killed in action in Mesopotamia, 21 March. Son of Mr and Mrs WC **Baker**, Maunsel Lodge, North Newton.

Lieut **Nash**, Somerset Light Infantry, succeeds Lieut F M **Gillmore** as recruiting officer, Bridgwater.

Letter from soldier in Egypt to Miss Winnie **Rodgers**, pupil, St John's School, Bridgwater. Thanks for gifts, mostly given to Indian soldiers. Describes the wonders of Egypt.

Anzac Day being celebrated today (Tuesday). King to attend memorial service, Westminster Abbey. Has sent message to Gov Gen of Commonwealth of Australia and Gov of NZ.

Dutch steamship *Berkelstroom* sunk by 2 U Boats on Monday. Crew saved, landed in England.

German "Toekomst" claims Dutch vessel *Tubantia* most likely sunk by Belgian warship as England have sold Belgium fleet of men-of-war.

Weekend of personal attacks on Mr **Lloyd George** and campaign against Minister of Munitions by former friends and political supporters.

Secret sessions of both Houses of Parliament today (Tuesday) for facts and figures of recruiting situation.

**Bridgwater Mercury 3 May 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Capt Edward Bush **Hartnell** (London Mounted Brigade, Field Ambulance RAMC. Death after brief illness, Cairo. Medical practitioner, Bridgwater. Widow, daughter of Dr E M **Grace**, Gloucester County cricketer, brother of WG **Grace**. 2 children.

Photo of Pte Wm Henry **Passmore**, Wiltshire Infantry, killed in action in Mesopotamia. Son of Mr and Mrs Charles **Passmore**, 16 Halesleigh Road, Bridgwater.

Bridgwater men with Gen Townshend's forces in defence of Kut, surrendered. Went with Somersets to Persian Gulf from India.

Pte D **Galley**, Monmouth St, Pte R **Turner**, Barclay St; Pte A **Irish**, Union St; Pte J H **King**, and Pte W **King**, son and nephew of Councillor J **King**, Polden St; Pte Lionel Graham **Burnell**, son of Mr Albert **Burnell**, Taunton Rd. (Photos of 5 of men in 10 May issue.)

**Bridgwater Mercury 10 May 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of Bridgwater men with General Townshend's forces which surrendered to Turks after Battle of Kut. Pte L G **Burnell**, Pte A **Irish**, Pte J H **King**, Pte W E **King**, Pte R **Turner**. Pte D **Galley**'s photo in next issue.

Group photo footballers in Egypt. All except 2 from Bridgwater. Drivers **Thyer**, **Porter**, **Valentine**, **Bevan**, W **Davey**, (sent photo, son of Mr Robert **Davey**, West St); Farrier Staff Sergt **Pitman**; Wheeler Staff Sergt **Howe**; Driver **Tapper**, Staff Sergt Maj P **Kendal**, formerly Hon Sec Bridgwater RFC; Corpl J **Thomas**; Driver W **Thomas**; Corpl Binding; Drivers **Stacey**, **White**, **Searle**, **Selway**.

Letter April 19<sup>th</sup> from Sergt **Dennison**, 3/5 Somerset LI. All are safe following German submarine attack.

Memorial service at St Mary's Church, Bridgwater, Thursday afternoon, for late Captain E B **Hartnell**, killed on active service in Egypt.

2 former local residents killed in action with the Canadian Expeditionary Force on Wed April 19<sup>th</sup>: Pte Ernest **Giles**, son of late Mr WJ **Giles** and Mrs **Giles**, formerly of The Plough, Holford; Pte Lionel Vernon **Varmen**, son of Mr and Mrs Wm **Varmen**, Church Villa, Bawdrip.

Corpl **Parsons**, 1/5<sup>th</sup> Somersets (attached to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dorsets) died of disease in Kut. From Minehead. Brother PC G M **Parsons**, Bridgwater Borough Police Force.

Letter from Driver W **Davey**, ASC in Egypt, to father Mr Robert **Davey**, West St, Bridgwater about weather and beer.

Photo of Gunner J W **French**, RFA, who has died of wounds. Widow and 4 children at 29, Union St, Bridgwater.

Account of 200 mile route march in Burma by Bridgwater man on active service with 2/3 Somersets "B" Company.

Thank you letter for cigarettes from Bugler James Manchip, Somerset LI, Meerut, India, to Mr T W

**Markham**, tobacconist, High St and Fore St, Bridgwater.

Next Tribunal will probably need 2 sittings to consider applications for exemptions by large number of married men.

**Bridgwater Mercury 17 May 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 3 local men killed in action: Pte T W **Woodward**, 22, Warwick Regiment, son of Mr and Mrs T **Woodward**, 2 West St ; Pte E **Giles**, 28, Second Contingent, Canadians, youngest son of late Mr W J **Giles** and Mrs **Giles**, (formerly at The Plough Inn, Holford; Pte **Varmen**, almost 30, same Batt and Machine Gun Section, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William **Varmen**, Church Villa, Bawdrip.

Photo of Corpl **Galley**, Monmouth S at Kut (photo not available last week). Lance Corpl Vaughan **Nichols**, son of Mr and Mrs Alfred Nichols, Claremont House, Burnham, believed to have been at Kut. No news since 26 Nov. 3 more sons on active service: Spencer, somewhere in France, Ray, assistant range commandant, Grantham and youngest, West Somerset Yeomanry, now transferred to Machine Gun Corps, Grantham.

Photo of Sergt Willie Robert **Legg**, 20, Oxford and Bucks LI, killed in action, Mesopotamia. Son of Mr and Mrs W R **Legg**, 42 Polden Street, Bridgwater.

Sergt Alfred **Pike**, 25, Royal Sussex Regiment, has died of wounds in France. Youngest son of Mr and Mrs C **Pike**, Huntworth Lane, Bridgwater. Enlisted 1914, badly wounded. Returned to France 4 Feb this year. Parents received stoical letter written in casualty station.

**Bridgwater Mercury 24 May 1916  
Bridgwater and the War  
Cutting missing from the collection**

**Bridgwater Mercury 31 May 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of members of family of Mr and Mrs Eli **Hubbard**, Newton Rd, North Petherton, in military service. Sergt of bomb throwers Fred **Hubbard**, Somersets, France, son; Ernest **Hubbard**, Army Service Corps, recently discharged on physical grounds, son; First Class Petty Officer Willie **Hubbard**, HMS *Inflexible*, Dardanelles, now on torpedo boat destroyer, son; Sergt **Dunford**, Territorials at Winchester, son in law; Jack **Hubbard**, Somersets, Burma, grandson; Driver S **Hubbard**, ASC, Salonika, nephew.

Photo of Sergt Alfred **Pike**, 25, Royal Sussex Regt, youngest son of Mr and Mrs C **Pike**, Huntworth

Lane, Bridgwater. Death in France reported May 17<sup>th</sup> issue.

2 letters received from local men in Salonica and Egypt giving opinions of conscientious objectors.

Letter from Corpl A J **Holman**, 1/1<sup>st</sup> West Somerset Yeomanry, Nasrieh Hospital Cairo re death of Capt E B **Hartnell** (B Mercury May 3<sup>rd</sup>). Regrets unaware they were in same hospital. Describes double funeral with Viscount **Quenington**, Glos Hussars, MP, Tewkesbury.

Letter from Driver J **Murch**, ASC, Salonica, son of late Mr Chas and Mrs **Murch**, Bridgwater. Describes Salonica and the surrounding countryside.

Report of rugby football match in Cairo by Staff Sergt Maj P **Kendal** of Bridgwater. Local ASC v East Lincs RAMC. Plea for more jerseys and footballs from home.

Army aeroplane pilot lost bearings and landed in Pawlett on Monday evening.

**Bridgwater Mercury 7 June 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

**Lord Kitchener** and staff aboard HMS Hampshire drowned last night when mined or torpedoed west of Orkneys.

Photos of Mr H **Rich**, father formerly with army in India, and members of his family who were or are on active service. Pte George **Rich** with Somersets, Winchester; Pte Harry James **Rich**, Welsh Regiment, Dardanelles ; Gunner Frederick Henry **Rich**, joined Somerset RHA, invalided out after 4 months; Pte Arthur Wallace **Rich**, 18, transport driver, Somersets, Plymouth.

Contrary to German reports, rout of German battleships, cruisers, destroyers and 1 submarine in North Sea battle. Successful Russian offensive on eastern front. Failure of German flanking movement east of Meuse.

Victory for British fleet off Jutland.

Hindenburg sunk.

German naval fortress Wilhelmshaven to be closed to the public except by application for temporary visits in cases of utmost urgency.

Photo of Lance Corpl Harry **Van Trump**, 22<sup>nd</sup> Royal Fusiliers, killed in action 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Son of Alderman and Mrs **Van Trump**, The Elms, Taunton Road  
Tributes by officers.

Lieut Col RA **Sanders** MP in command of British Forces, Elmenieh Camp, Egypt.

Request for spare mouth organs from Bugler **Phillips (7392)** D Company, 6<sup>th</sup> Batt. Somerset LI, BEF.

Death of Lance Corpl W **Sealey**, 'B' Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Welsh Regiment, son of Mr and Mrs E Sealey, Spaxton. Returned home Feb 1915 following nervous breakdown. Returned to regiment just before last Christmas. Driver George **Sealey**, brother on active service, Salonica.

Death of Shapwick Sergeant A **Lavington**, Coldstream Guards, shot by sniper, trying to rescue comrade 24 April. Mother Mrs Lye, widow.

Lieut Commander A G **Peace**, son of late Mr Alfred Peace, JP, Penlea, awarded DSO for services in Gallipoli Peninsula. Brother of Maj A H **Peace**, ASC.

Former Bridgwater Drill Instructor Quartermaster Sergeant T **Horler**, Somerset LI, awarded DCM for meritorious service in France.

Benefit performance at Bijou Theatre for tobacco and cigarettes for Bridgwater men with Somersets at Front. Goods forwarded by Mr T W Markham, tobacconist. Has received thank you letters from: Sergt **Howell**, Pte S **Carver**, **Anon** and Lance Corpl **E F Lewis**, Somersets, France.

Letter from **Pte Howard Kitch** to parents Mr and Mrs W H Kitch, Blake House, Bridgwater describing life at Front in France.

Local men feared lost in great naval fight in North Sea on board ill fated vessels. Cook's mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class Albert George **Mead**, 21, on board HMS *Defence*. 1 of 3 serving brothers. Parents Mr and Mrs AT Mead, 162 Parkstone Terrace, Taunton Rd, Bridgwater. Michael **Kennedy**, artificer on board HMS *Indefatigable*, native of Stogursey. Wife and 2 children, 50, Alfred Terrace, Taunton Rd. Edward **Burke**, 17, on HMS *Indefatigable*. Parents 30 West St, Bridgwater.

Local men feared lost. Leading Seaman John **Woollen**, 27, married last July, son of Mr James Woollen, North Newton, on board HMS *Indefatigable*. **Harold House**, 18, son of Mrs West, Compass, North Petherton, on board HMS *Queen Mary*.

Local men safe: Algernon Leslie **Dowdeswell**, clerk, Paymaster's Department, HMS *Marlborough*. First Class Signaller H A **Ballinger**, HMS *Warspite*. Lieut Chas. **Routh**, on board HMS *St Vincent*, parents Dr RHF and Mrs Routh, Bridgwater. George **Beatty**, formerly on HMS *Queen Mary*, recently transferred.

Lucky escape for Tom **Graddon**, son of Mr and Mrs Graddon, High St, Stogursey. Servant to Rear Admiral Sir Robert K **Arbuthnot**, HMS *Defence*. At home on leave when ship was lost.

Son of Mr Walter **Warren**, Ship Lane, Combwich, on board HMS *Marlborough*. Torpedoed but returned to port. Hope that news of his safety will arrive.

Wireless operator Reginald **Croad**, 17, son of Mr and Mrs James Croad, 39, Northfield, Bridgwater, slightly wounded during naval battle. Transferred to HMS Destroyer *Broke*, which returned to port crippled. Has written with account of battle to mother from Newcastle hospital.

Mr Edwin **Bryant**'s scheme for sending bread from his bakery weekly to PoWs in Germany. 2 consignments per week to 58 prisoners in different internment camps.

Derby recruits left Bridgwater in batches last week.

Mr Harry **Seward** killed in action in German East Africa, 11 March. Youngest son of Mr G U Seward, formerly grocer, High St, Bridgwater, now in Wiltshire.

Mr S **Redwood**, Bath Road, Bridgwater, Quartermaster on torpedoed Dominion line steamer *Englishman*, safe.

Capt A H **Wade Gery** RGA awarded Military Cross.

Extract from letter from Pte Fred Hancock, Somersets, to wife, Market St, Bridgwater. Describes battle.

Lieutenant William H **Halliley**, 35, 2<sup>nd</sup> in command HMS *Nomad*, lost in Jutland fight. Elder son of Mr and Mrs C B **Halliley**, Burnham. Leaves widow and infant son.

Rev PT **Pryce Michell**, North Petherton, gazetted as lieutenant, 12<sup>th</sup> Observation Co, Territorial Reserve General List.

Reuters explains why German fleet was recently moved.

Zeppelin shot down off coast of Jutland.

HMS **Warspite** came home although damaged, contrary to German propaganda.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 14 June 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Press Bureau official telegram received at Mercury Office, announcing drowning of **Lord Kitchener** when HMS Hampshire went down off the Orkneys. Flags at half mast and sporting event cancelled.

Report of memorial service to **Lord Kitchener** at St Mary's Church.

Photo of Sergt A **Lavington**, Coldstream Guards, formerly of Shapwick. Death reported in 7 June issue.

Photo of Lance Corpl W **Sealey**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Welsh Regiment. Death reported in 7 June issue. Son of Mr and Mrs E Sealey, Spaxton.

Pte Ernest **Marles**, 10<sup>th</sup> Canadians, son of Mrs **Marles**, 18 Dampiet St, escaped death thanks to Bible in his side pocket torn to pieces by German shrapnel shell. .

Photo of Lieut B P K **Greenhill**, 35, lost with HMS *Hampshire*. Recently succeeded to the Knowle Hall Estate near Bridgwater.

Photos 2 of Bridgwater men killed in the great naval battle. Albert George **Mead**, 21, son of Mr and Mrs A T Mead, 162, Parkstone Terrace, Taunton Road. Youngest son on HMS *Hercules* safe. Edward **Burke**, 17. Son of Mr and Mrs E Burke, 30 West St, Bridgwater. Deaths also reported in 7 June issue.

Mr E **Flexen**, master at Dr Morgan's School, Bridgwater, wounded in right arm serving in France.

Lucky escape for Wm Henry **Bishop** who joined Royal Naval Division last year. Invalided home 10 days before HMS *Hampshire* was sunk. Parents lived at 7 Edward St, Bridgwater.

Letter to Rev C E **Pizey**, rector of Huntspill, from son, Midshipman Mark **Pizey**, 17, of HMS *Revenge* describing experiences in great naval battle.

Death of Douglas **Preece**, foreman stoker, HMS *Lion*, battle off Jutland. Believed to have died after boiler explosion. Son in law of Mr James **Davis**, Hill House, Middlezoy.

Boy-telegraphist Thomas Henry **Morris**, grandson of Mr T **Morris**, Taunton Rd, Bridgwater, on HMS *Valiant* in naval battle, which escaped with no casualties.

Death of Lieut A M Stanley **Burn**, A M I C E reportedly from ptomaine poisoning, Bombay, India, 7<sup>th</sup> June. Came to Bridgwater about 1907, articted to Borough Surveyor's office.

Letter from Algernon Leslie **Dowdeswell** to parents Mr and Mrs **Dowdeswell**, Alexandra Rd, Bridgwater. Describes naval fight on board HMS *Marlborough*.

Mr J **Pippin**, school attendance officer, suggested that his wife Mrs **Pippin** be appointed attendance officer pro tem, in the event of his being called up.

Committee decided to recommend this.

Acknowledgement of 'smokes' sent to local men in India by Mr **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater with proceeds from sale of his war poems: Sergts C T **Culverwell**, C **Wiltshire**, E **Porter**; Corpls A **Owens**, A **Tottle**; Lance Corpls J H **Barbour**, A **Chedzey**; Ptes C A **Frampton**, E **Cook**, E **Chorley**, R **Popham**, H **Frost**, J **Burrige**, W **Pepperall**, E **Bell**, C **Edney**, T **Dudderidge**, G **Preece**, T **Rugg**, W **Letherby**, B **Shakespeare**, R **Williams**; Buglers J **Haste**, S **Pitman**.

Letter from Engine Room Artificer Harold Wm Cary, son of Mr and Mrs Wm **Cary**, Chedzoy, near Bridgwater. Describes great naval fight in North Sea. Serving on flotilla leader destroyer *Marksman*.

Somerset Appeal Tribunal held at Shire Hall, Taunton, on Saturday June 10.

Poem written by Driver E W J **Bishop**, RFA, 10<sup>th</sup> Div, on active service.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 21 June 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 6 members of family of Mrs **Colman**, 131, St John St, Bridgwater, on active service. Driver Henry **Shapter**, Wessex Engineers, Christchurch; Driver Edward **Shapter**, RFA, Salonica Pte Wm **Shapter**, Somerset LI, India (sons); Driver Alfred **Colman**, RFA, Salonica (stepson); Driver Chas **Hockey**, Royal Horse Artillery, France (son in law); Bugler Bert **Stone**, Somerset LI, India (nephew).

Local men lost in naval battle:

Photo of Herbert Michael **Kennedy**, 32, chief electrician on board HMS *Indefatigable*. Wife at 50 Alfred Terrace, Bridgwater. Parents Mr and Mrs **Kennedy**, Hillside, Cockwood, Stogursey.

Photo of Leading Seaman John **Woollen**, 27, HMS *Indefatigable*. Son of Mr James **Woollen**, North Newton. Married last July. First Class Stoker George James **Palmer**, 22, HMS *Defence*. Son of Mr and Mrs George **Palmer**, Church Rd, Wembdon, native of Nether Stowey., also lived at Fiddington. Charles **Pitney**, Royal Marines, of Chilton Polden went down with HMS *Defence*. Joined Royal Marines with brother before war.

Capt R J A **Henniker**, West Riding Regiment, mentioned in despatches for gallant and distinguished conduct in the field. Son of late Mr J G **Henniker**, JP, Catcott.

Miss Edith Violet **Pearce**, Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service, awarded Red Cross Decoration. At present in East Africa. Daughter of Mrs **Pearce**, 2 Park Rd, Bridgwater.

Letter of thanks for cigarettes sent by Mr **Markham** to Somersets in France from Sergeant A W **Howell** to Master C **Hickman**, pupil at Mr Brian **Norris's** School. Letter from Pte H **Parsons**, also Somersets in France, to Mr **Markham**, acknowledging receipt of cigarettes received by Bridgwater boys at Front after fundraising by proprietors of Bijou Theatre.

Photo of Sergt Maj E **Porter**, Royal Flying Corps. Letter to mother with news of Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Lieut S W **Bell** presumed killed. Served with Canadians in France. Parents Rev and Mrs W N **Bell** of Charlynch.

Capt R P **Acland**, Canadian Infantry, in recent list of wounded officers. Only son of Mr F **Acland**, formerly of Bridgwater, Deputy Minister of Labour in Canada. Brother of Mr **Acland**, stationer, North St, Bridgwater.

Sympathy for Mrs **Tudgay**, widow, and family of Othery, on death of Pte Alfred **Tudgay**, with the Canadians.

Pte Albert **Spriggs**, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Expeditionary Force, 24, believed killed in action. Son of Mrs Elizabeth **Spriggs**, widow, 110 Bristol Rd, Bridgwater.

Account of recent naval battle by Algernon Leslie **Dowdeswell**, HMS *Marlborough*, now transferred to HMS *Oak*. In letter to parents Mr and Mrs **Dowdeswell**, 3 Alexandra Rd, Bridgwater.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 28 June 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Pte E **Venning**, 6<sup>th</sup> Leicesters recommended for DCM. Son of Mr John Henry **Venning**, well-known former Bridgwater resident.

Letter from Sergt W **Allen**, 7<sup>th</sup> Somerset LI, to father Mr H **Allen**, Parkstone Terrace, Bridgwater. Describes being under shellfire for 5 days and nights. Also encloses poem he has written.

Bridgwater man listed as missing, C **Burge**, Machine Gun Corps.

Mr and Mrs **Bradbury**, 25, Blacklands, Bridgwater, informed officially that son Pte Jack **Bradbury**, 24, Gloucester Regiment, wounded in action with the Expeditionary Force, 23 May.

Postcard received by Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater, from Pte T **Evans**, 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset LI, France, resident of Cannington. Thanks for gift of cigarettes.

Photo of Seaman Harold **House**, 18, son of Mrs West, Compass, North Petherton. Went down with HMS **Queen Mary** in recent naval battle.

Death of Lieut S W **Bell**, with Canadians in France, reported in last issue, confirmed. Son of Rev W A Bell, rector of Charlynch, and Mrs Bell.

Reported taken prisoner at Kut el Mara: Members of Somerset LI, attached Dorsetshire Regiment, J **King**, W **King**, D **Galley**; Somerset LI, attached Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Regiment, R **Turner**; Dorsetshire Regiment H **Creedy** and H S **Callum**.

Regimental Sergt Maj Henry **Tucker**, RFA, mentioned in despatches for distinguished conduct in the field. Othery man.

Mrs Rosa **Baker**, Old Basin, Somerset Bridge, learned of death in action of her son Pte Douglas Henry **Baker**, 25, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Somerset LI. Well known Bridgwater footballer.

Letter from NCO to bereaved mother of Pte Alfred **Tudgay**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian contingent. Death in action announced in last issue.

G **Conduit** of Bridgwater, Royal Welsh Regiment, in list of wounded published today.

Letter from Sapper A **Heal**, Wessex Engineers, serving in Salonika, thanking Mr G **Merritt** and Mr H **Creedy** on behalf of local men for gifts of cigarettes and tobacco. Brother and H **Bowyer**, serving in another unit of Wessex Engineers, also thank friends for similar gifts.

Letter of thanks for vegetables to Editor from L G **Preston**, CB, RN on behalf of Fleet Mine-Sweeping Flotilla.

Capt H C Hicks, formerly Liberal candidate Bridgwater division, reported slightly wounded, in hospital in France.

Letter from Pte F Woodley, RMLI, HMS *Duke of Cornwall* to Mr W J Sharkey, thanking him for parcel of cigarettes, bought with proceeds from his poem. Some Somerset lads aboard, but he is only one from Bridgwater. Hoping to have another 'bump' at the German fleet.

Mr Sidney **Guntripp**, Cossington, has received official news that his son Pte George W **Guntripp**, Royal Berkshire Regiment, is in hospital at Rouen, suffering from 'gunshot wound and shock (shell).'

At sports held in Warminster in connection with South Camp of 21<sup>st</sup> Wessex Divisional Train, several local competitors successful. Officials included

Major A H **Peace**, Lieut CLM **Langham**. In 100 yards race for NCOs Corporal **Hellier**, Headquarters Company, tied for first prize. Driver C **Creedy**, Bridgwater, won second prize in pillow fight on pole; also in winning tug of war team along with Corporal **Burge**, Bridgwater. Corporal **Burge** also in tug of war (dismounted) winning team and wrestling on horseback.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 5 July 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte Douglas Henry **Baker**, 8<sup>th</sup> Somerset LI, reported killed in action in France, announced fully in previous issue. Well known member of Bridgwater Albion Rugby Football Club. Son of Mrs Rosa **Baker**, Old Basin, Somerset Bridge. Another son also in Army.

Photo of Pte Alfred **Tudgay**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Contingent. Death on Western Front early June reported in previous issue. Son of Mrs **Tudgay**, Othery.

Photo of Pte E **Venning**, 6<sup>th</sup> Leicesters in France, mentioned in despatches, now recommended for DCM. Has been sniper for 6 months. Son of Mr J H **Venning**, formerly of Bridgwater.

Parents of late Lieut. Sydney W **Bell**, 90<sup>th</sup> Winnipeg Rifles, received letter of sympathy from Capt R W **Fiske**. Extract printed here. Death announced in earlier issue. Biographical details this issue.

Acknowledgement with thanks for cigarettes from Pte H **Pitts**, 6<sup>th</sup> Somerset LI, received by Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater. Extract from letter.

About 100 Puriton men now serving as volunteers. 4 sons of Mr Wm **Webber**, Fair View. Harold, Donald and Leonard joined London Fusiliers (Kitchener's Army) early in War. Lance Corpl Harold **Webber** killed in action in trenches in France early in campaign. Donald **Webber** and Leonard **Webber** given commissions. Stanley **Webber**, another son, joined last December. Promoted to corporal. Serving with Royal Engineers in France as motorcyclist. Letter from Lieut Leonard **Webber** describing life at front.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 12 July 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 3 sons of Mrs **Anglin**, 18 West St, Bridgwater, all feared killed in action. Sergt Joe **Anglin**, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Somerset LI, killed 4 March 1915. Pte Jack **Anglin**, 26, and Corporal Pat **Anglin**, 19, Somersets, killed 2 July 1916. 2 more sons under military age. A condolence letter reprinted here. Also letter from Pte B **Walford**, A' Company,

1<sup>st</sup> Somerset LI, dated 5 July, with account of deaths.

Mrs **Caple**, 23 Mount St, Bridgwater, informed 3 of her 5 serving sons now missing. Pte Robert Francis **Caple**, 24, 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset LI, at start of big advance. Also missing Pte Wm Jas **Caple**, 30, Grenadier Guards and Lance Corpl Harry **Caple**, 20, Welsh Fusiliers. (Further news 9 Aug issue.)

Second Lieut Douglas **Routh**, 21, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset LI, severely wounded in great attack. Son of Dr and Mrs R H F **Routh**, Malvern House, Taunton Rd, Bridgwater.

Air Mechanic William Charles **Manning**, nearly 26, Foster's Court, Silver St, victim of flying accident, Whitstable, Saturday July 8. Member of Royal Flying Corps. Son of Mr Samuel **Manning**, cabinet maker, Devonshire St, Bridgwater.

Lance Corpl W **Roman**, (Rattler Roman) Somersets, well known Bridgwater and county footballer, seriously wounded in arm and leg. In Cheltenham Hospital.

Lieut Leonard **Webber** (letter from Front printed in previous issue), gazetted to 11<sup>th</sup> Devons, died in French hospital from wounds sustained in battle.

2 sons of Mr and Mrs Fredk **Lewis**, Gloucester Place, Friarn St, Bridgwater, wounded in big advance. Lance Corpl E F **Lewis**, Pte H J **Lewis**, 19, both of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Somerset LI. 3<sup>rd</sup> son, Lance Corpl W J **Lewis**, also with Somersets in big advance, not heard from for 2 weeks. 4<sup>th</sup> son, Pte Ernest George **Lewis**, gassed and invalided from Front 1915, died 29 October, Bridgwater Hospital.

Pte Fredk Wm **Ballam**, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset LI, in hospital at Almondsbury near Bristol. Accidental bayonet wound to leg in France. Mother at Southgate Terrace, Bridgwater.

Letter of sympathy on death of son, 14 June, to Rev W A **Bell**, Charlynch, from Lieut- Col commanding Canadian LI Battalion. Refers to Lieut S W **Bell**'s gallantry.

Details of death of Brigadier General **Prowse** given by wounded soldier in Lancashire hospital.

Local ASC man's death in list of casualties.

Pte Tom **Hurley**, Somersets, wounded in foot in recent fighting, in French hospital. Formerly played for Bridgwater Albion Football Club. Father lives in Halesleigh Rd, Bridgwater.

Ernest **Britton**, Bailey St, and Clifford **Mole**, Union St, both 10, prosecuted for interfering with telegraph wires belonging to Gt Western Railway Co,

Bridgwater Without, 18 June. Ran away from police constable and railway officials. Claimed they thought railway officials were German spies. Mothers fined 10s each.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 19 July 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Royal Marine Charles John **Pitney**, 21, of Chilton Polden, lost with HMS *Defence* in Battle of Jutland.

Photo of Lieut Leonard **Webber**, 11<sup>th</sup> Devons. Death announced in previous issue. Brother Mr W **Webber**, Glentworth Villa, Wembdon Rd, rushed to France and was with deceased just before he died.

20 wounded soldiers have arrived at Bridgwater Hospital, accommodated in new wing.

Account of part played by 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Somerset LI in the great advance by Lance Corpl E F M **Lewis**, wounded and now home on leave at Gloucester Place, Friarn St. 2 brothers Pte Jesse **Lewis** and Pte Harry **Lewis** wounded. Jesse in Bristol hospital. Harry, with minor wound, still in France.

Good news in letter from Vaughan **Nicholls**, Expeditionary Force at Kut under General Townshend, now PoW in Turkey. Son of Mr Alfred **Nicholls**, formerly of Bridgwater, now Burnham.

Letters to Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater, thanking him for cigarettes bought with proceeds from poems and sent to local men serving with British Forces in Salonica. In previously published letters, complaint that they had been 'forgotten by those at home'. Latest correspondents include Driver W H **Day**, with ASC, HT Salonica, Driver P V **Gillson**, T H **Brawley**, S L **Harris**, C I **Stockham**, H **Merrick**, Lance Corpl H F **Way**, Driver C E **Marker**, W **Bradfield**, T **Herbert**, H **Warren**, F **Hill**, J **Hurley**.

Death of Pte Clement **Knight**, Somerset LI, announced by War Office. Son of Mr James **Knight**, Gurney St, Cannington.

Interesting letter from Pte W J **Young**, ASC, Salonica, to Mr and Mrs **Fry**, Moorlynch Farm, Moorlynch, describing local customs in Greece.

Pte Norman C **Fletcher**, Sherwood Foresters, attached to French howitzer battery of regiment, has written to his father Mr W **Fletcher**, The Willows, Bridgwater. Wounded in knee during the recent big attack. Now in No 2 Canadian hospital, France.

No further news of 2 sons of Mrs **Anglin**, 18 West St, Bridgwater. Feared both Pte J **Anglin** and Lance Corpl Pat Anglin killed in action. Mrs **Anglin** and

family thank many friends for expressions of condolence.

Sergt Joseph **Pitman**, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Somerset LI, 27, feared killed in action during British advance. Parents at Lake Wall, Westonzoyland. Another son Corpl Bert **Pitman**, also of Somersets, seriously wounded some time ago and now in Taunton Hospital. Several interesting letters published earlier in Mercury.

Sergt Robert J **Rymer**, Grenadier Guards, 24, another Stogursey man killed in action. Brother serving in Army Ordnance Corps. News brought in letter from Corpl J S **Nurse**, same regiment. Letter printed.

Pte W **Hill**, Somerset LI, severely wounded, during recent big advance. In hospital in France. Son of Mr Wm **Hill**, 55 Bailey St, Bridgwater. 5 more sons in Army.

Charles **Smith**, labourer, 34, Enmore, appeared before Bridgwater County Police Court on Friday for failing to present self to nearest recruitment office under Military Service Act. Fined 40s and handed over to military escort.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 26 July 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 6 members of Bridgwater family involved in war effort. Mr George **Locker**, 2 Blacklands, 30 years a Royal Marine, a pensioner involved in munitions work; Gunnery Instructor G **Locker**, Royal Marines, HMS *Berwick*; Pte W **Locker**, DCLI, Egypt; Driver P **Locker**, ASC, wounded at Mons, invalided home from Salonica; Pte F **Locker**, 14th Gloucesters (Bantams), wounded, in hospital in France; First Class Stoker E **Saunders** (son in law) lost in HMS submarine early in war.

Photo of Sergt Robert J **Rymer**, 24, Grenadier Guards, of Stogursey. Death at Front reported in last issue.

Photos of 3 soldier sons of Mrs James **Knight**, Gurney St, Cannington. Pte Clement **Knight**, Somerset LI, fatally wounded July 1 during great advance; Pte Edwin **Knight**, Army Veterinary Corps; Pte Frank **Knight**, MT, ASC, now in London.

More wounded arrived for treatment at Bridgwater Hospital on Thursday. Generosity of townsfolk and concerts to entertain the servicemen.

Sergt W G **Frampton**, RFA, awarded Military Medal for distinguished service under shell fire. Son of Mr W **Frampton**, fireman, well known native of Bridgwater.

Another cheerful letter to Mr Alfred **Nicholls**, late of



Bridgwater, now of Burnham, from son Vaughan **Nicholls**, PoW after Kut.

Mrs **Walford**, No 4 Court, Market St, Bridgwater, has learnt of the death of her son Pte **B Walford**, 22, A Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset LI. Wounded during great advance. Father Charles **Walford**, and uncle also serving in Army. Condolence letter from Pte **Walford** to Mrs **Anglin** on loss of 2 sons printed in 12 July issue.

Pte **W Hill**, Somerset LI, reported severely wounded in previous issue, has died of his wounds. Son of Mr **Wm Hill**, 55 Bailey St, Bridgwater. 5 brothers in Army.

Mrs **M J Howe**, 23 Redgate St, Bridgwater, received official information on Wednesday of death of her son Bombardier **F J Howe**, RFA, in action in France on July 25. Letter from Lieut **A Corbet** giving particulars of his death. Died day before 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Mrs **Anglin**, 18 West St, has received official news of death of two sons, Pte **J Anglin** and Lance Corpl **Pat Anglin**. Has now lost 3 sons in the War. Sergt Joe **Anglin** killed March 1915. See tribute to **Pat Anglin** 23 Aug.

Letter to Mercury from Pte **C E Briffett** of Bridgwater, Lewis Gunner, B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset LI, at the Front. Condolences to Mrs **Anglin** and all who have lost loved ones in the War.

Miss Elizabeth **Pope**, daughter of Mr and Mrs **Pope**, West St, Bridgwater, slightly injured in accident at Munitions Factory, Coventry. Miss **Cooper**, daughter of Mrs **Hooper**, Moat Lane, Bridgwater suffered from shock. About a dozen Bridgwater girls working there.

Acknowledgments received in past week by Mr **W J Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater, of gifts of cigarettes bought with proceeds of sale of his war poems. Extracts of letters from Pte **O Caple**, 6<sup>th</sup> Somerset LI, from Combwich, and Pte **F Bryant**, 7<sup>th</sup> Somersets.

Letter of thanks for football sent to local men by Mr **Sharkey** (as above) from Staff Sergt Major **P Kendal**, ASC, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Death from wounds at Front of Harry **Packer**, formerly of Burtle, lately of British Columbia, where he went to work with Reg **Norris**, also of Burtle. Both joined up. Buried in military cemetery in marked grave.

Lieut Vaughan **Tilley**, Somerset LI, son of Mr **W T S Tilley**, East Compton, reported wounded and missing. Grandson of Mrs **Brown**, Hamp Rise, Bridgwater.

Capt Robert Hugh **Wade-Gery**, RGA, of Cannington killed 18 July, in charge of siege battery. Awarded Military Cross March 1916. Third son of Mr and Mrs **A S Wade-Gery**, Cannington, Bridgwater. Married to Gladys Margaret **Taylor**. Well known Bridgwater and Somerset rugby player. (Photo in 9 Aug issue.)

Mr and Mrs **W Ridler-Rowe**, Harford House, Stogursey, informed their son Rifleman Robert **Ridler-Rowe**, 25, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen Victoria Rifles, missing since 1 July. First went to Front in France 14 November 1914, invalided home with frostbite. Returned to Front this year.

Mr Harold Joseph **Potts**, son of Mr Harry **Potts**, veterinary surgeon, Newberry House, Wembdon, awarded commission as Lieutenant, 23<sup>rd</sup> London (East Surrey) Regiment.

Amendment to Defence of Realm Regulations by Order of Council 10 May. Public to notify military authorities or neighbourhood PC on finding bomb, projectile, fragment thereof, any article from enemy aircraft or vessel.

Mrs **Howe of Moorlynch** has received acknowledgment and thanks from treasurer of National Committee for Relief in Belgium for sum of £1 16s raised by village and schoolchildren on Belgian Day.

Admiral **Beatty**'s wife's sister recently visited the widow of Leading Stoker Douglas H **Preece** who lost life in Battle of Jutland on board HMS *Lion*. Mrs **Preece**, of Middlezoy, now at Coronation Rd, Highbridge.

Town Hall enrolment evening for members Bridgwater and District Company, 1st Battalion Somerset Volunteer Regiment. 90 enrolled.

Report by Sir Douglas Haig of advance on the Somme.

Somerset Appeal Tribunal met on Saturday to hear claims from Taunton Borough and rural districts.

Somerset Appeal Tribunal met on Tuesday to hear claims from Bridgwater and District.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 2 August 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 6 Bridgwater soldier brothers, sons of Mr William **Hill**, 55 Bailey St, Bridgwater. Pte Isaac Hill, Somerset LI; Pte Bert **Hill**, Royal Irish; Pte Sidney Hill, Royal Welsh Fusiliers; Pte Ernest **Hill**, Worcesters; late Pte **W Hill**, died in hospital in France of wounds received on July 1; Pte Levi **Hill**, Somerset LI.

Photo of Bombardier F J **Howe**, RFA, killed in action in France 29 June, the day before 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Son of Mrs MJ **Howe**, 23 Redgate St, Bridgwater.

Photo of Pte B **Walford**, 22, 'A' Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset LI. Death from wounds reported in previous issue. Son of Mr and Mrs **Walford**, No 4 Court, Market St, Bridgwater. Father also in Army.

Photo of Harry **Packer** of Burtle. Died of wounds received in action in France. Widowed mother still lives in Burtle. Went to Canada a few years ago with Reg **Norris**, also from Burtle.

Photo of Rifleman Robert **Ridler-Rowe**, 25, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen Victoria Rifles, missing in action since 1 July. Son of Mr and Mrs W **Ridler-Rowe**, Harford House, Stogursey.

Local poet, Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater, has used proceeds from sale of poems to send cigarettes and other comforts to local men at Front or PoWs.

Lance Corpl W G **Bonney**, 23, Somerset LI, missing in action after engagement 1 July. Son of Mrs **Bonney**, 25 Polden St, Bridgwater. Letters home have been printed in Mercury.

Sergt Thomas **Chilcott**, 39, Somerset LI killed in action 1 July. Son of late Mr C **Chilcott**, Stogursey. 3 other brothers serving country, one in Navy. Brother Pte Simon **Chilcott** killed 28 June 1915.

Letter from Lieutenant HJ **Gunner** at Front regarding Pte Robert Francis **Caple**, Somerset LI, to his sister Mrs Date, 40, West St. Also official notification that he is missing, possibly wounded and taken prisoner. 3 sons of Mr and Mrs **Caple**, 34 Mount St, Bridgwater missing. 2 more sons serving in Army.

Bridgwater men wounded: Corpl G **Gillson** 3<sup>rd</sup> South African Infantry, now at King George's Hospital, London, son of Mr and Mrs **Gillson**, Bristol Rd, Bridgwater; Sapper Harry **Phillips**, South Midland Engineers and licensee Fountain Inn, West Quay, Bridgwater, now in Netley Hospital (brother of late Sergt 'Coggan' **Phillips**, another brother Tom, in Army); Sapper John **Wright**, Royal Engineers, now in hospital in Newport, husband of Mrs Wright, Wellington Rd, Bridgwater.

Death of Lance Corpl Charles **Dudderidge**, 30, Wessex Engineers, from pneumonia and appendicitis in Salonika. Eldest son of Mr Chas **Dudderidge**, Hamp Crescent, Taunton Rd, Bridgwater. Married. Brother Thomas, with Somerset Territorials in Egypt. (Photo and further details 16 Aug issue.)

Several outdoor functions for wounded soldiers at Bridgwater Hospital.

Death of Lance Corpl Walter **Roman**, 'Rattler Roman', Somerset LI, in Cheltenham Hospital. Badly wounded early in British offensive. Brilliant rugby football career. Father Mr Geo **Roman**, West St, Bridgwater. 4 more sons serving: Harry, George and Wm **Roman** in France, Clifford **Roman** in England.

Somerset LI and Devonshire Regiment heavily engaged in Sir Douglas Haig's advance.

Death in action of William **French**, Devon Regiment. Son of Mr and Mrs Sam **French**, Dodington. Brother Reginald **French**, Somerset LI, severely wounded twice, now in hospital in North of England. (Photo of Wm **French** in Aug 9 issue.)

Local men killed in action:

Pte S **Woolley**, 28, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset LI, July 1 killed by shell at beginning of advance. Native of Puriton, living lately Bridgwater. Parents Mr and Mrs **Woolley**, Chedzoy, Bridgwater. (Photo in Aug 9 issue.)

Pte Frederick **Hurley**, 19, Essex Regiment. Son of Mr Frederick **Hurley** and grandson of Mr Henry **Hurley**, 15 Hamp St, Bridgwater, killed in action, France. Father in 25<sup>th</sup> year in Army.

Corpl Harry **Biffen**, 33, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset LI, formerly of West St. Severely wounded at end of 1914, returned to Front August 1915.

Sergt Joseph **Pitman**, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Somerset LI killed in action during advance. Son of Mr and Mrs **Pitman**, Lake Wall, Westonzoyland. (Photo and testimonial in 9 Aug issue.)

Somerset Appeal Tribunal met on Saturday 29 July.

English newspapers now prohibited in Germany, indicating progress of Allied advance.

Translated despatch from Max Osborn to *Vossische Zeitung* admitting that the outcome of the war is in question.

Naturalised German, Sir Edward **Speyer**, sits on Privy Council. Allegiance questioned.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 9 Aug 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Brother of Lieut F M **Gillmore** killed at Front. Lieut **Gillmore**, former recruiting officer Bridgwater, now also at Front.

Photo of Capt RE **Wade Gery**. Death reported in 26 July issue.

Photo of Pte Wm **French**. Death reported 2 Aug issue.

Photo of Pte S **Woolley**. Death reported 2 Aug issue.

DSM awarded to Albert Victor **Cornish**, RN, for services with Expeditionary Forces in Cameroons on HMS *Cumberland*. Now in Egypt. Son of late Capt W H and Mrs **Cornish**, Combwich.

Photos of 3 serving sons and son in law of Mrs **Prew**, 30 Edward St, Bridgwater. Air Mechanic Harry **Day**, son in law, France; Pte Alfred **Prew**, 8<sup>th</sup> Somersets, France; Lance Corpl Arthur **Prew**, Royal Engineers, France; Driver Frederick **Prew**, Army Service Corps, Warminster.

Lieut Col R A **Sanders**, MP Bridgwater Division, on short leave from Egyptian front.

Mr Geo Herbert **Watts**, West Quay, Bridgwater, informed of death in action of son Pte Alfred Jas **Watts**, 27, Shropshire LI.

Wounded soldiers at Bridgwater Hospital entertained at Agapemone, Spaxton. Successful fundraising by Mrs C J **Symons**, Octavian House, Taunton Rd, for 12 deckchairs for hospital grounds.

Report of funeral of Lance Corpl W **Roman**. (Photo) Death reported 2 Aug issue.

Photo of Sergt Joseph Pitman and testimonial from commanding officer. Death reported 2 Aug issue.

Bridgwater doctor, Capt Penrose **Williams**, RAMC, Royal West Kent Regiment, awarded DSO for service in France.

More news of sons of Mr and Mrs **Caple**, 34 Mount St, Bridgwater. Pte Robert F **Caple**, Somerset LI, PoW in Germany; Corpl Henry **Caple**, Welsh Fusiliers killed in action; Pte Wm Jas **Caple**, Grenadier Guards, missing 10 months. (See also report in July 12 issue.)

Lieut A C **Saxton**, King's Own Scottish Borderers, killed leading Company in advance 30 July. Letter from company commander to his widow describing brave actions. Son in law of Mr C N **Bramfield**, Pightly House, Spaxton.

Extract from interview given by General **Joffre**, French Commander in Chief. Unity of Allies leading to victory.

Somerset Appeal Tribunal held Saturday 5 Aug, Wellington and Yeovil districts.

Complaint that Prince **Albert of Schleswig Holstein** and **Duke of Albany** fighting for Germans, despite family receiving annual allowance from us.

Lord Kitchener had shortly before death put on record views regarding treatment of Germans after the War.

3 officers dismissed as result of heatstroke casualties, including 19 deaths, amongst Territorials crossing Sind Desert.

Comparison of farming in Germany and Britain by Assistant Secretary, Board of Agriculture, showing that average German is not poorly nourished.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 16 August 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Lance Corpl Chas **Dudderidge**, Wessex Engineers. Letter from comrade in same hospital in Salonika.. Death reported in 2 Aug issue. Son of Mr Chas **Dudderidge**, Hamp Crescent, Taunton Rd, Bridgwater.

Exeter Record Office has told Mrs **Bonney**, 25, Polden St, Bridgwater, that there is no information about her missing son, Corpl W G **Bonney**. First reported missing in 2 Aug issue. (Possibly Lance Corpl, as in heading.)

Stanley **Masding** gazetted sub-lieutenant Monmouthshire Regiment. Son of Mr W H J **Masding**, Durleigh Rd Bridgwater.

Lieut LH **Palmer**, 1<sup>st</sup> Somersets, wounded in action. Son of Mr W H Palmer, North Petherton. See also Aug 23 issue.

Pte E **Doble**, Loyal North Lancashire Fusiliers, wounded in action 8 Aug. In hospital in France. Eldest son of Mr George **Doble**, Bath Rd, Bridgwater.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 23 August 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of 7 members of Bridgwater family of Mr Charles **Parker**, 18 Polden St, Bridgwater, on active service. Pte Charles Henry **Parker**, Somersets, France (son); Gunner James **Parker**, Royal Garrison Artillery, Gosport (son); Thomas **Locke**, mate on minesweeper (son in law); Driver J G **Ball**, Wessex ASC (son in law); Driver C **Hooper**, Wessex ASC, Wareham (son in law); Pte F **Turner**, Territorials, India (son in law); Thomas **Locke** AB, HMS *Exmouth* (grandson).

Photo of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut D E **Sully**, killed in action, Western Front, 9 Aug. Grandson of late Mr G B **Sully**, JP, Bridgwater and Burnham and of late Mr **Farthing**, farmer, Nether Stowey and Thurloxton. Tribute.

Awards for bravery in the field in London Gazette

this week include MC for Capt P P **Acland**, Canadian Infantry. Son of Deputy Minister of Labour, Canada, formerly of Bridgwater, and nephew of Mr T Acland, stationer, North St.

Photo of Jesse **Ware**, 42, Royal Naval Reserve, native of Dunball, captured first Turkish flag in Mesopotamia. On view in Mercury office. Recently invalidated home. Interviewed by Mercury.

Photo of Rifleman C L **Tippetts**, 20, 1/12<sup>th</sup> London Regiment (The Rangers). Official notification of death in action Thurs 20 July. First spell in trenches. Letter to mother Mrs S **Burton**, Stawell, from regiment chaplain.

Capt Lionel **Preston**, RN, CB, formerly of Wembdon, awarded Legion of Honour by French govt.

Lieut Col R A Sanders MP returns to Egyptian Front, Fri 25 Aug.

Tribute to late Corpl Pat **Anglin** in letter from Lieut J W **Power**, Thurloxton Manor, to mother Mrs **Anglin**, West St, Bridgwater. See also 26 July.

Further details of DSO awarded to Capt **Penrose Williams**, Bridgwater. First reported in 9 Aug issue.

16 young women left Bridgwater on Monday to take up work making munitions in Coventry. 9 more expected to leave shortly. 24 left for Ilminster to replace men at lace works.

Deaths of two more Bridgwater men in action 8 Aug. Pte Edward **Senior**, 37, 1<sup>st</sup> Somersets in France, gassed. Son of Mr and Mrs James **Senior**, Bath Rd, Bridgwater. Another son in Royal Engineers. Letter from Pte J **Ritchings**, same battalion. Photo 30 Aug issue.

Pte Arthur Tom **Ford**, 36, 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset LI. Son of Mrs Ford, 16 Court, West St, Bridgwater. 2 more sons on active service. Leaves widow and 5 children. Photo in 30 Aug issue.

Lance Corpl Stanley **Graddon**, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset LI, wounded in France. Son of Mr and Mrs Graddon, High St, Stogursey. News in letter from battalion officer to fiancée, Miss **Villis**. Now in hospital, Leeds.

Lieut L H **Palmer**, 1<sup>st</sup> Somersets, wounded and gassed in France. Now in London hospital. Son of Mr W H **Palmer**, auctioneer, Bridgwater. See also 16 Aug issue.

Lieut S M J **Woods**, famous Somerset cricketer and Rugby footballer, home on sick leave with malaria.

Grateful acknowledgements of 'smokes' from local

residents serving at Front. Sent with proceeds of sale of poetry by Mr W J Sharkey, Queen St, Bridgwater.

### **Bridgwater Mercury, 30 August 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of late Pte Arthur Tom **Ford**, 36, Somerset LI. Death in action announced 23 August issue.

Photo of Pte Wm **Hurford**, Somerset LI, killed by shell August 18. Son of Mrs **Hurford**, No 4 Court, Albert St, Bridgwater. Letter from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut T D V **Beck**, Somersets, to mother.

Corpl Leslie **Trotman**, 25, attached to a Gloucester regiment, killed in action. Elder brother serving in France. Youngest son of Rev H **Trotman**, formerly Baptist minister, Bridgwater.

Mr Leslie **Vine**, Inns of Court OTC, gazetted as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, Royal Flying Corps. Son of Mr H **Vine**, Fore St, Bridgwater.

Son of cousin of Messrs **Reed and Reed**, Solicitors, Bridgwater (Mr E E B **Reed**, solicitor, London) had leg amputated following wound in Mesopotamia. Another son killed in 'Great Push'. Third son at Front and fourth likely to go soon.

No 7605 Rifleman Victor V **Lear**, 39<sup>th</sup> Coy, Machine Gun Corps, BEF, France, Hon Sec, Bridgwater Thursday Association Football Club, would like to hear from serving members and information about members who have been killed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut (Temp Lieut) W H **Tamlyn**, Wessex Divisional Engineers, to be promoted to temporary Capt. Son of Mr W H **Tamlyn**, Auctioneer, Bridgwater.

Photo of Pte Edward Senior, Somerset LI. Death by gas poisoning at Front reported in Aug 23 issue.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 6 Sept 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of members of family of Mrs M **Kingston**, Somerset Bridge in service. Pte W **Kingston**, Royal Defence Corps, Pte G **Kingston**, Somersets, at Front (sons); Pte R **Kingston**, Royal Berks Regiment, Sapper E **Kingston**, Royal Engineers, at Front (grandsons); Pte J **Cottingham**, Lancers, discharged following wound and leg amputation at Front (son in law).

Photo of Pte Clifford **Shaddick**, 22, Somerset LI, killed in action. Son of Mr and Mrs **Shaddick**, 136, Bristol Rd, Bridgwater. Information in letter from Lieut. H **Frampton** to his mother.

Thank you letters for 'smokes' to Mr W J **Sharkey**,

Queen St, Bridgwater, from local men at Front: Chas **Hockey**, St John St, Bridgwater (incl poem), F **Bradshaw**, West St, Bridgwater, F **Walker**, Cannington.

Pte Charles **Staple**, 22, Somerset LI, killed in action July 1. Son of Mr and Mrs **Staple**, Lyng. Nephew of Mr and Mrs C **Miller**, Outwood Lyng. Letter from regiment officer.

10 more wounded soldiers arrived at Bridgwater Hospital.

Pte L **Hill**, Somerset LI, died of wounds a few weeks ago. Letter to mother Mrs L **Hill**, 55 Bailey St, Bridgwater, from comrade at Front, Pte W **Adams**, wounded and in hospital at Birkenhead.

Tributes to Sergt W 'Coggan' **Phillips**, Bridgwater, sent to widow, 51 Barclay St, from an officer and a Lance Corpl from Bridgwater. Report of death 2 Aug.

Lance Corpl Alfred **Huntley**, 22, Somerset LI, died from wounds received in action. Second son of Mr and Mrs Herbert **Huntley**, Beach Restaurant, Weston super Mare.

Pte William Alfred **Woodbury**, 17, Somerset LI, died in hospital in Newport from severe wounds and gas poisoning. Native of Fiddington. Parents Mr and Mrs Alfred **Woodbury**, 17 Silver St, Bridgwater. Funeral took place at Bristol Rd cemetery Monday 4 Sept.

Local casualties in official lists of wounded past few days: Pte T **People**, Somersets; Pte A H **Sprouting**, Dragoon Guards; Pte H **Holder**, Somersets; Pte E F **Longney**, Somersets; Pte W **Norris**, Somersets; Gunner H J **Sparks** RFA; Sapper J A **Wright**, RE. Pte C R **Warner**, Oxford and Bucks LI, reported missing, now reported missing and believed killed.

Military Appeals Tribunal held at Burnham on Wednesday.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 13 September 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte Howard Chas **Staple**, 22, Somerset LI, killed in action July 1. Report in 6 Sept issue.

Photo of Pte W A **Woodbury**. Report of death and funeral in 6 Sept issue.

Tom **Phillips**, well known local footballer, among wounded men who arrived in Bristol on Thursday 8 Sept. Brother late Sergeant W **Phillips**. Another brother wounded recently.

Eight more wounded soldiers arrived at Bridgwater Hospital Friday 9 Sept. Concert given at Hospital on

Friday evening.

More than you letters for 'smokes' received by Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater, from local men at Front: H T **Cornish** (Bridgwater) C **Parker**, Somersets (Bridgwater) Corpl H **Gully**, Cavalry Regt (Bridgwater) W D **Carter**, Wilts Regt (Bridgwater) Lance Corpl C **Mountstephens**, Somersets (Broomfield) E **Bishop** and F **Parsons** (Broomfield) H **Wyatt**, Yeomanry (Creech).

Another military aeroplane landed near Puriton on Friday 9 Sept, third in 6 months. Broken propeller on landing. Mechanics came from Bristol. Took off Saturday morning. Spectators took pieces of propeller as souvenir.

Pte F **Hancock**, Somersets, wounded in arm and leg, in hospital in Birmingham. Cheerful letter to wife, Market St, Bridgwater.

Sapper Robert George **Chick**, 21, Royal Engineers, died of wounds at Base Hospital. Son of Mr and Mrs T **Chick**, 106, Chilton St, Bridgwater. 3 more sons serving.

German proposal to stop all relief food to Belgium.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 20 September 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Information received by Mr Wm **Chick**, King Square. Son Pte W J **Chick**, Somerset LI, wounded at Front and in military hospital abroad.

Photo of Sapper Robert George **Chick**, 21, whose death was reported in 13 September issue.

Photo of Robert James **Cockram**, 27, 4702, Somerset LI, died from cholera in India. Son of Mr and Mrs **Cockram**, Farrindton, North Petherton, informed by Capt J E **Stephenson** of death. Letter printed. Eldest brother Driver W H **Cockram**, in France. Another brother Lance Corpl **Cockram**, on HMS *Impregnable*, wounded last year.

More than you letters and postcards for 'smokes' to Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater from PoWs and men at Front: Pte H **Marchent**, Scots Guards, Stowey resident, Pte H **Furzer**, Kingston resident, PoWs Germany; H **Bowley**, P C **Parker**, P **Authers**, Pte E **Biddiscombe**, Coldstream Guards.

Pte Reginald **Gardener**, 21, Gloucester Regiment, well known resident of Westonzoyland, awarded Military Medal for bravery as battalion runner during attack and capture of German trenches, 22-23 Aug 1916.

Loss of second son by Mr and Mrs H E **Margetts**,

Moira Cottage, Bath Rd, Bridgwater. Pte Henry Edward **Margetts**, Somerset LI (Signal Section) killed 3 September at Front. Letter from Sergt H **Carter**, Wilts Regt, printed. Other son Lance Corpl W **Margetts**, killed in action, Neuve Chapelle.

Death in action of Pte Fredk Gordon **Best**, 19, London Scottish Regt. Son of Mr and Mrs F J **Best**, Bromley, Kent, formerly of Bridgwater.

Local casualties in official lists past week:

KILLED W **Hurford** (Bridgwater) C **Shaddick** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.

DIED OF WOUNDS J J S **Bowles** (Bridgwater) Royal Welsh Fusiliers (attached Welsh Regt); W **Roman** (Rochdale) Somerset LI.

DIED C **Duddridge** (Bridgwater) Royal Engineers. MISSING S C **Chappell** (Bridgwater) Royal Fusiliers.

WOUNDED Lance Corpl J S **Graddon** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI; Pioneer T **Summerhayes** (Bridgwater) Royal Engineers; Lance Corpl J E **French** (near Bridgwater) Coldstream Guards; Lance Corpl HR **Romford** (Bridgwater) King's Royal Rifle Corps; E **Miller** (Edington) Wiltshire Regt.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 27 September 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte Ernest **Biddiscombe**, Coldstream Guards, wounded for third time, leg amputated. One of 7 brothers in Army, sons of Mr and Mrs J **Biddiscombe**, Chilton St, Bridgwater.

Ernest **Bawden**, son of Mr and Mrs **Bawden**, Westonzoyland, reported killed in action in letter from comrade.

Sergt Maj F **Shepherd**, 38, Welsh Regiment, wounded in shoulder 13<sup>th</sup> September. Wife and children near Pontypridd. Son of Mrs **Shepherd**, Ridgway, Stogursey.

Corpl George **Roman**, Coldstream Guards, in hospital at Richmond with shrapnel wounds. Brother late Corpl 'Rattler' Roman. Son of Mr George **Roman**, West St, Bridgwater.

Pte Harold Fry **Wilkins**, Duke of Cornwall's LI, in hospital in Fulham with shrapnel wounds. Son of Mr and Mrs **Wilkins**, 22 Rosebery Ave, Bridgwater.

Pte Henry **Dingley**, Devonshire Regt, wounded, not known how seriously. Wife Mrs **Dingley**, 132 Bristol Rd.

Pte Ernest William **Turner**, 20, Welsh Regiment, severely wounded. Left foot amputated, gunshot wounds to right leg and arm. In hospital at Rouen. Letter from sister in charge to parents Mr and Mrs

Henry **Turner**, 18 Albert St, Bridgwater. 2 serving brothers Driver Henry **Turner**, RFA, Pte Arthur **Turner**, Somersets, India.

Photo of Lance Corpl L A H **King**, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Somerset LI, missing since 1 July battle. Son of Rev and Mrs L H King.

Mrs **Milton**, 118 Chilton St, has unofficial news from another Bridgwater soldier in Somersets that her husband, Pte Joseph John **Milton**, 40, Somerset LI, has been killed in action. Leaves 9 young children.

Letter from Sergt W **Allen**, Somerset LI, to wife, 31 West St, Bridgwater describing heavy fighting, his near shave and death of Reg **Brooks**.

Photo of Pte Ambrose **Binding**, 24, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset LI (attached to Devons) officially missing after 4 September engagement. Returned to France last July following treatment for wounds. 3 brothers in Army. 2 at Front, one of whom slightly wounded recently. Third brother in ASC training. Parents Mr and Mrs H **Binding**, Lime St, Stogursey.

Confirmation of death of 2 local brothers in letter from Sergt W **Allen**, Somerset LI, Bridgwater man. Lance Corpl Charles **Porter** 39, and Pte Tom **Porter**, 37, Somerset LI. Wife of Lance Corpl **Porter** received official confirmation last Tuesday. 5 children. Wife of Pte **Porter**, Rhode Lane Bridgwater, 2 children, has not yet received official confirmation. Sons of Mr and Mrs **Porter**, Enmore Rd, Goathurst.

Pte Reg **Brooks**, 34, Somerset LI (Lewis Gun Section) killed by sniper during Sept 16<sup>th</sup> advance. Parents Mr and Mrs Jas **Brooks**, 14 West St, Bridgwater received news in letter from Sergt W **Allen**, Somersets, whose wife lives at 31 West St, Bridgwater.

Stretcher Bearer Henry Watts **Cash**, ambulance section, Gloucester Regt, believed killed at Front. Wife and 4 children at 'Uplands' Wembdon Rd, Bridgwater. Letters from Stretcher Bearer Frank **Ballinger**, son of Mr Frank Ballinger, cycle agent, Eastover. Also mentions Sergt **Crossman**, Newtown, Bridgwater, same Company, wounded during same action.

Telegram from War Office to Mr R Y **Foley** JP, Highlands, Dodington that son Lieut H A **Foley**, Somerset LI, admitted to Red Cross Hospital severely wounded in thigh. Lieut G R **Foley**, same Battalion, recovered from wound and returned to Front on Wednesday. Pte E B **Foley**, British Columbia Regiment (Canadian Contingent) removed

from Germany with other disabled PoWs, interned at Murren, Switzerland.

Gunner C E **Bond**, MGC, driver of one of the 'Tanks' creating havoc on Western Front. Son of late Mr George **Bond**, well known Bridgwater tradesman.

Collection for Egg Fund on Fair Day today. Weekly collection of eggs to supply troops has been going on for many months under direction of Bridgwater VAD.

Local casualties in official lists past week :  
KILLED Pte C R **Warner** (Bridgwater) Oxford and Bucks LI.

DIED OF WOUNDS Pte W **Woodberry** (Bridgwater) Corpl W **Webber** (Charlynych) Somerset LI.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED, NOW  
DIED OF WOUNDS Sapper RG **Chick** (Bridgwater) Royal Engineers; Pte E **Senior** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.

MISSING Pte C **Dymond** (North Petherton) Somerset LI.

WOUNDED

Members of Somerset LI: Lance Sergt A **Bolwell** (Highbridge); Pte A F **Cavill** (Spaxton); Lance Corpl S **Giblett** (Burnham); Pte G F **Hull** (Bridgwater); Pte A **King** (Combwich); Lance Corpl W B F **Lloyd** (Burnham); Pte E J **Patch** (Bridgwater); Pte G **Pole** (Catcott); Lance Corp C C **Selway** (Somerset Bridge); Pte W **Slocombe** (Highbridge); Pte V **Symes** (Chilton Polden); Pte F **Timewell** (Bridgwater); Pte C **Walford** (Bridgwater); Lance Sergt A E **Wynn** (Burnham); Pte E T **Gunningham** (Bridgwater); Lance Corpl A **Body** (Highbridge); Lance Corpl R G J **Hulford** (Bridgwater); Pte S **Hamber** (Bridgwater).

Pte A R **Cox** (Bridgwater) Gloucester Regiment; Pte M **Davey** (Bridgwater) South Wales Borderers; Lance Corpl W **Hill** (Bridgwater) Duke of Cornwall's LI; Pte A W **Turner** (Bridgwater) Royal Army Medical Corps.

WOUNDED (SHELL SHOCK) Pte C **Kirk** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.

Telephone message about Zeppelin raids on London exhibited in Mercury office window.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 4 October 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte Frank **Stone**, 30, Oxford and Bucks LI, formerly of 6<sup>th</sup> Somersets, died 31<sup>st</sup> August of enteric fever, Mhow, India. Letter to sister Mrs F **Duck** from sister in charge, hospital. Fourth son of Mr Charles **Stone**, Steart Bay.

Local men arrived home after serving with Somersets

in India: Corpl **Facey**, Lance Corpl **Dibble**, Lance Corpl **Fowler**, Bugler **Manchip**, Pte **Harwood**, Pte **Lavis**, Pte F **Haysham**. To report to Taunton on 29 Oct.

Gunner William Henry **Wright**, 21, RFA, died of wounds 25 September. Mrs L **Wright**, mother Bristol Rd, Bridgwater, earlier informed of dangerous condition and operation in 5<sup>th</sup> General Hospital Rouen. (See further report and photo 11 Oct issue.)

Lieut Vincent MH **Coates** has won Military Cross while attached to Royal Fusilier Regt as medical officer. England and Bridgwater Town Rugby player. Wife nursing wounded soldiers at Bath. Eldest son of Dr C M **Coates**, Hopecote, Combe Down, Bath.

Acknowledgments of gifts of cigarettes to Mr W J **Sharkey**, Bridgwater, from local soldiers: H **Cornish** (Bridgwater) B **Harris** (Bridgwater) W J **Baker** (Broomfield) H **Speed** (Broomfield). Extracts from H Speed's letter printed.

Photo of Lance Corpl Chas **Porter**, 39, Somersets, whose death in action was reported in 27 Sept issue. Widow and 5 children, 5a Bath Rd, Bridgwater. Parents at Enmore Rd. Unofficial report in same issue that brother Pte Tom **Porter** also killed in action.

Lance Corpl W J **Lewis**, Somerset LI, wounded at Front for second time. Of 4 serving brothers Pte Ernest George **Lewis** died in Bridgwater Hospital from gas poisoning last year, Lance Corpl E F M **Lewis** and Pte HJ **Lewis** have both been wounded 3 times. Sons of Mr and Mrs F **Lewis**, Gloucester Place, Friarn St, Bridgwater.

Lance Corpl J S **Nurse**, Grenadier Guards, wounded by shrapnel 25 Sept, in hospital, Manchester. At Front without leave 14 months in heavy fighting. Mother Mrs **Nurse**, 42, Bristol Rd.

Sergt WK **Broad**, London Regiment, in hospital at Rouen with gunshot wound in head received 24 Sept. Brother Pte H B **Broad**, Queen's Westminster Rifles, in training. Father Mr WB **Broad**, Elmgrove House, Victoria Rd, Bridgwater.

Pte C P **Bray**, Somersets, well known resident of Bridgwater wounded, no details. Lost wife, another well known resident, a few weeks ago.

Following 27 Sept report, more news of Pte E W **Turner**, Welsh Regt, in letter to parents Mr and Mrs Henry **Turner**, 10 Albert St, Bridgwater, from hospital chaplain at Rouen. Cheerful, making progress but dangerously ill.

Local casualties in official lists past week

KILLED Pte H E **Margetts**, Lance Corpl C **Porter** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.

WOUNDED

Members of Somerset LI: Pte E C **Charman** (Brent Knoll); Pte J S **Beck** (Burrowbridge); Pte E W **Brewer** (Bridgwater); Pte W J **Chick** (Bridgwater); Pte F **Hancock** (Bridgwater); Lance Sergt W **Tozer** (Brent Knoll); Corpl A E **Whitehouse** (Highbridge). Sapper EF **Turner** (Bridgwater) Royal Engineers.

Bridgwater Rural District Tribunal held Friday 29 Sept. 15 applications.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 11 October 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte Joseph John **Milton**, 40, Somerset LI, officially confirmed killed in action 17 September. Widow Mrs **Milton**, 118 Chilton St, Bridgwater, 9 young children.

Photo of Pte Ernest **Bawden**, 23, Somerset LI, killed in action 17 September 17. Son of Mr and Mrs Herbert **Bawden**, Westonzoyland. Letter from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut **Collier** Somersets, printed. Also letter of sympathy from King and Queen. 3 brothers in Army. George **Bawden**, Army Service Corps; Fred **Bawden**, East Anglian Cycle Corps; Charles **Bawden** recently joined colours.

Photo of Gunner William Henry **Wright**, 21, RFA, died of wounds 25 September as reported in 4 October issue. Only son of Mrs L **Wright**, shopkeeper, Bristol Rd, Bridgwater. Letter from chaplain, No 5 Hospital, Rouen.

Lieut C T **Rennie**, 22, Leicester Regiment, killed in action on 25 September. Son of Dr George **Rennie**, Sydney, NSW, and late Mrs Grace E **Rennie**, daughter of Mr GB **Sully**, JP, Bridgwater and Burnham. He and brother E Clement **Rennie**, commissioned last November.

Mr Victor **Head**, Bridgwater, eyewitness of destruction of last Zeppelin.

Pte Charles **Lockyer**, 20, died of wounds received in action. Son of Mr and Mrs Frank Lockyer, Middlezoy.

Mrs William **Davis**, also of Middlezoy, mourns the loss of brother Pte E Bawden, of Westonzoyland. Death reported in this issue.

Transport column of 19 motor cars arrived in Bridgwater on Sunday 8 October, left on Monday, proceeding overseas.

Mrs **Pearce**, Bridgwater, has learnt that her son Pte E W **Pearce**, Grenadier Guards, was buried by bursting shell and wounded in left leg and ankle. Suffering

from shock, in Northern General Hospital, Leeds.

Capt P P **Acland**, Canadian Expeditionary Force, wounded a second time. Son of Deputy Minister of Labour, nephew of Mr Thos **Acland**, stationer, North St, Bridgwater.

Local casualties in official lists past week

DIED OF WOUNDS Pte J **Chalker** (Bridgwater) Gloucester Regt.

MISSING Pte A **Binding** (Stogursey) Somerset LI, attached Devon Regt.

WOUNDED 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut G R **Foley**, Pte S **Ayres**, Somerset LI; Pte H J **Martin** (Bridgwater) King's Royal Rifle Corps; Pte H **Dingley** (Bridgwater) Devonshire Regt.

WOUNDED SHELLSHOCK Pte S **Palmer** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI; Pte S **Brookling** (Bridgwater) Hampshire Regt.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED NOW REPORTED PoW Pte R **Young** (Highbridge) Somerset LI.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING NOW REPORTED PoW Pte R F **Caple** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.

Bridgwater Rural District Tribunal sat for 6 hours, Friday 6 Oct. Agriculturalists' position discussed. Protests against exemptions for single men.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 18 October 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte F **Baker**, 25, Somerset LI, reported wounded and missing since engagement 8 August. Son of Mr and Mrs A **Baker**, 61 Bailey St, Bridgwater. Another son, Sapper Albert **Baker**, Royal Engineers, at Salonica.

Photo of Pte Horace **Day**, 29, Somerset LI (Machine Gun Company), reported killed in action during big advance 16 September. Widow Mrs H **Day**, formerly of Pawlett, now at Sloway Lane, West Huntspill. Extract from Lieut **Stanbury**'s letter printed.

Photo of Gunner W C **Young**, 22, RFA, killed in action in France 1 October. Eldest son of Mr and Mrs F J **Young**, 39, Albert Street, Bridgwater. Younger son serving in Mesopotamia, having been wounded serving at Gallipoli. Extract from Major A S **Barnwell**'s letter printed.

Photos of Arthur George **Norris** and Archie **Norris**. Both in Canada on outbreak of war. Arthur with Canadians, missing since 12 April. Archie returned to



England, joined Somerset LI. Reported wounded. Sons of Mr Alfred **Norris**, Catcott.

Lieut Col R A **Sanders**, MP for Bridgwater, appointed commander of British Forces, Kharga, Egypt.

More thanks from Somerset PoWs and Bridgwater men for gifts bought with proceeds of war poems by Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater. Extracts from messages: T E **Owens** (Weston) Kriegs Gefangenen Lager Camp, Germany; L **Wall** (Blackford) Munster, Westfalen, Germany; Pte A **Hutchings** (Bridgwater) British Expeditionary Force, Mesopotamia; Driver J C **Parrish** (Bridgwater).

Mrs **Porter**, Rhode Lane, Durleigh, officially informed that husband, Pte T W **Porter**, Somerset LI, missing since engagement 3 September. Extracts from letters from Sergt **Allen** and Lieut **Humphries**. Brother Lance Corpl C **Porter**, Somersets, officially reported killed.

Mr and Mrs **Palmer**, 3 Valetta Place, Bridgwater, informed that son Corpl T **Palmer**, Coldstream Guards, wounded and in South African General Hospital, France.

Extract from letter from Pte G **Male**, H Company, 14<sup>th</sup> Division, Somerset LI, paying tribute to Pte H **Western**, (St Audries) killed in action.

The Great Somme film being screened at Bijou Theatre this week. Special matinee for wounded soldiers at Bridgwater Hospital and Workhouse inmates.

‘In Peace and War’ at Empire Theatre, tale of 2 half brothers one naturalised German, in war on opposite sides and in love with same woman. German loses out in love.

Local casualties in official lists past week: KILLED Members of Somerset LI: Pte J **Bird** (Bridgwater) Pte R **Brooks** (Bridgwater), Pte H **Day** (Bridgwater) Pte H **Habberfield** (Bridgwater) Pte J **T Milton** (Bridgwater).

MISSING Pte S **Staveley** (Bridgwater) Duke of Wellington’s Regiment.

WOUNDED Pte E **Pearce** (Bridgwater) Grenadier Guards; Driver W **Baker** (Bridgwater) RFA; Pte B **Fender** (Bridgwater) Pte R G **Turner** (Bridgwater) Lance Corpl E **Pepperall** (Highbridge) Somerset LI; Pte J **Hill** (Bridgwater) Duke of Cornwall’s LI; Pte H **Biffen** (Bridgwater) Welsh Guards; Pte E W **Turner** (Bridgwater) Welsh Regt; Pte W J **Palmer** (Bridgwater) Grenadier Guards.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 25 October 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte C **Lockyer**, 20, son of Mr and Mrs Frank **Lockyer**, Middlezoy whose death from wounds received in action was reported in 11 October issue.

Photo of Pte George **Payne**, 20, Coldstream Guards, reported missing 29 October 1914. Son of Mr and Mrs Henry **Payne**, Burton, Stogursey. It is hoped that he is a PoW in Germany.

Grateful letters received in past week by Mr W J **Sharkey** for cigarettes purchased with proceeds of sale of war poems: Pte H **Cross**, Guards Brigade (Bridgwater); Thomas **Hughes** (Bridgwater); Sergt Major W V **Channon**, Somerset LI, India; W **Crossman**, (Bridgwater) Salonika; T **Dyde**, W **Criddle** (Bridgwater).

Temporary Lieut Vincent Middleton **Coates** RAMC awarded Military Cross for extreme bravery under shellfire. Well known in Bridgwater, English International Rugby player.

Letter to secretary, Ladies’ Sewing Meeting, St Mary’s Church, Bridgwater, from Second Lieut Cyril L M **Langham**, ASC (Horse Transport Co) requesting warm clothing for detachment. Son of Rev and Mrs J J **Langham**, The Vicarage, Bridgwater.

Photo of Pte T A **Geen**, 28, Coldstream Guards, killed in action 26 September. Son of late Mrs **Geen**, Friarn St, Bridgwater. Sister Mrs **Sweeting**, Hillgrove Avenue, officially informed.

Force commanded by Lieut Col R A **Sanders**, MP, fought Senussi in Dakhla Oasis, Egypt on 17 October. Took 45 prisoners.

Extracts from letter from Sergt W D **King**, Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, to father Councillor J King. In hospital at Amara. Gives news of Bridgwater men, prisoners of Turks, part of Kut garrison. Brother Joe and cousin Will not aboard hospital ship carrying exchanged prisoners after Battle of Kut but news of them from W **Moody**, Dorsets. Reference to other Bridgwater men, not part of prisoner exchange: **Galley**, **Nicholls**, Monmouth House, Monmouth St, Graham **Burnell**, Taunton Rd, Irish.

Capt W T **Harris**, Royal Scots, severely wounded at Salonika. Extract from letter to parents Mr and Mrs ET **Harris**, Spaxton, describing the battle. 5 soldier brothers. Youngest, Corpl John Alexander **Harris**, Devon Regt, died of wounds in France 26 October 1914. Group photo of military family in *Mercury* a

couple of years ago.

Sidney Chas **Chappell**, 25, Sportsman's Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, killed in action 31 July. Son of Mr Chas Chappell, Taunton Rd, Bridgwater.

Local casualties in official lists past week

KILLED Pte E **Bawden** (Westonzoyland) Somerset LI.

WOUNDED AND MISSING Pte F **Baker** (Bridgwater).

MISSING Pte H W **Cash** (Bridgwater) Gloucester Regt.

WOUNDED J **Stoker** (Burnham) Yeomanry; Pte LJ **Farthing** (Burnham) Devonshire Regt; Pte E **Biddiscombe** (Bridgwater); Lance Corpl G **Roman** (Bridgwater); Lance Corpl T **Palmer** (Bridgwater) Coldstream Guards;

Members of Somerset LI: Lance Corpl H **Ballam** (Bridgwater), Pte AC **Bray** (Bridgwater), Pte T **Jeanes** (Bridgwater), Pte A W **King** (Bridgwater), Pte F G **Stagg** (Bridgwater), Pte WE **Storey** (Bridgwater), Pte W **Chidgey** (Bridgwater), Pte H J **Mansfield** (Bridgwater), Pte A O **Norris** (Bridgwater), Pte J **Salvidge** (Highbridge), Pte WF **Toogood** (Bridgwater), Pte G **Russell** (Bridgwater), Pte HF **Wilkins** (Bridgwater), Pte W **Banwell** (Bridgwater).

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 1 November 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Letter dated 24 October from Westonzoyland's Pte R G **Richards**, Somerset LI, describing life at Front.

Husband of Mrs **Reynolds**, Huntspill, Sergt Norman J **Reynolds**, Somerset LI (former Headmaster, West Huntspill Council School) previously reported wounded and missing. War Office now states presumed killed in action. Leaves wife and children. Well known locally.

More thanks from local serving men for cigarettes from Mr W J **Sharkey** bought with proceeds of sale of war poems. Extract from letter from Driver H E **Bond**, ASC, BEF. Letters also from Corporal A H **Biddiscombe**, Somerset LI, India; Corpl R J **Woollen**, Driver **Smith**, Salonika.

Mrs C **Jeanes**, Bradley, Ashcott, writes asking for any information about her son Corpl T **Jeanes** (30543) Somerset LI, reported wounded on 16 September.

Canadian Record Office reports that Corpl Wm John **Stone**, 28, Canadian Contingent, posted as missing since 15 September now believed killed. Eldest son of late Mr and Mrs Henry **Stone**, Hope Inn, Taunton Road, Bridgwater.

Photograph found on battlefield near Albert, published in the 'News of the World' was of Mrs Harold **Tyson** 7 St Mary St, Bridgwater. Returned to her as it was taken by a friend killed in action.

Local casualties in official lists past week

MISSING Pte L A J **Rowles** (Bridgwater) London Regt; Pte T W **Porter** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI. WOUNDED Capt H J **Tanner**, Somerset LI; Pte H **Biffen** (Bridgwater) Welsh Guards; Pte C **Coles** (Stogursey) Welsh Guards; Regt Qmtr Sergt R **Hearn** (North Petherton) Royal Sussex Regt; Pte R **Styles** (Highbridge) Gloucester Regt; Lance Corpl J H **Nurse** (Bridgwater) Grenadier Guards; Pte G E **Green** (Bridgwater) Welsh Guards. PRISONER OF WAR Pte A W **Edwards** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 8 November 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Gunner Clifford **Burge**, 25, King's Royal Rifles, reported missing 27 March. No further news. Son of Mr and Mrs Dan Burge, Honeybere, Kilton. Wife and child.

Two more Bridgwater men killed in action: Mrs **Norris**, 30 Blacklands, informed eldest son Pte Walter Edwin **Norris**, almost 23, London Regt, killed 16 September. Mrs **Storey**, 15 Barclay St, informed of death of husband Pte Frederick George **Storey**, 22, Somerset LI. Son of Mr Joseph **Storey**, 18 Angel Crescent, Bridgwater. Brother also serving in Army. Cousin Pte Wm **Storey**, Somerset LI, recently wounded. Letter from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut WE **Marler** printed.

Lance Corpl F C J **Groves**, Somerset LI, in military hospital, seriously wounded. Son of Mr and Mrs James **Groves**, Chilton Polden.

No further news of wounded and missing Corpl T **Jeanes** (20543) Somerset LI., despite last week's letter from his mother being seen by Exeter Record Office. (His number printed as 30543 in previous issue.) War Office asked to look into case.

Harry **Hawkes**, 18, of Barclay St, seaman gunner on 'Marina', home on leave, interviewed about his escape from torpedoed liner.

More thank you letters and postcards to Mr W J **Sharkey** for cigarettes purchased with proceeds from sale of war poems.: E J **Vickery**, signals section BEF; Pte S **Carver**, Somerset LI BEF (Bridgwater); Corpl WC **Styles** (Highbridge); Lance Corpl W E **Hughes**, Somerset LI, India (Bridgwater); Pte J **Bale**, Somerset LI, India (Bridgwater); Corpl W **Palfrey**, RE, BEF (Cannington); P **Cahill** (Highbridge).

Extracts from letters of Pte **Carver** and Pte **Bale**.

Mr and Mrs **Hill**, 55 Bailey St, Bridgwater, informed that son, Pte Isaac **Hill**, DCLI, wounded in both legs, in Southport Hospital where not recovering well. Brother Wm **Hill**, Somersets, died of wounds in France in July. 4 more brothers in Army.

Particulars of death of Pte T A **Geen**, Coldstream Guards, in letter from chaplain to his fiancée, Miss **Bramble**, London. Printed here.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut (temporary lieutenant) E A H **Churchill** promoted to lieutenant 6 September. Son of Mr EH **Churchill**, Wembdon.

Councillor J **King** has received official information that his son Pte J H **King**, taken prisoner at Kut is PoW at Baggshe. In fair health. Letter from brother Signaller **King** printed 25 October.

Mr F W **Derrick**, formerly member of local Voluntary Aid Attachment, appointed lance corporal, RAMC, after only a fortnight's training at Codford Training Centre.

Local casualties in official lists past week

PREVIOUSLY MISSING, KILLED Pte S C **Chappell** (Bridgwater) Royal Fusiliers.  
DIED OF WOUNDS C A **Cock** (Burnham) RFA;  
Pte C **Lockyer** (Bridgwater) Gloucester Regt; Pte S **Webb** (Walton near Bridgwater) Somerset LI; Pte G E **Penfold** (Bridgwater).  
MISSING Pte F E P **Dawson** (Burnham) Norfolk Regt; Pte B **Harris** (Bridgwater), Pte R **Hill** (Bridgwater) Pte W **Viner** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.  
PREVIOUSLY MISSING, NOW WOUNDED AND POW Pte C H **Martin** (Burnham) Gloucester Regt.  
WOUNDED Sergt W K **Broad** (Bridgwater) London Regt; Pte W G **Perry** (Bridgwater) Dorsetshire Regt; Pte G W **Codman** (Burnham) Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt; Pte H F **Berryman** (Highbridge) London Regt.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 15 November 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photos of **Hawkes** brothers of Barclay St, Bridgwater. Harold Hawkes, 18, seaman gunner saved from torpedoed liner 'Marina'. Bert **Hawkes**, RAMC. Lance Corpl Clifford **Hawkes**, Royal Engineers.

Photo of late Pte Frederick George **Storey**, 22. Death reported in last week's issue. Married last July before leaving for Front. =Widow at 15 Barclay St, Bridgwater.

Letter from J **Rossiter**, Bridgwater soldier, to Mr and Mrs John **French**, the Shrubbery, Union St, Bridgwater. Account of death of son Gunner John Wills **French**, RFA, in Mesopotamia.

Lieut J **Vale**, Dorset Regt, awarded Military Cross for gallantry. Son of Mr J L **Vale**, Court Farm, Cannington.

More thanks from local men to Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater, for cigarettes bought with proceeds of sale of war poetry: Pte J **Manchip**, Somerset LI, Burma (Bridgwater); Pte W **Sparks**, Gloucester Regt, BEF (Bridgwater); Pte F **Crossman** (Bridgwater); Sapper Clifford **Long**, Royal Engineers (Burnham); Driver **Stone** and Driver J **Smith** (Bridgwater). Extract from letter printed.

Mrs **Porter**, Rhode Lane, Durlleigh, has received official notice of death of husband, Pte T W **Porter**, 37, Somerset LI, on the day that he was earlier officially reported as missing. Brother Lance Corpl C **Porter** officially reported killed about the same time. Extract of letter from Sergt W Allen, Somerset LI.

Military announcement of arrival and billeting of 103 men and 116 horses of the ASC in Bridgwater next Friday.

Local casualties in official lists past week  
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING NOW  
KILLED Pte W H **Western** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.  
DIED OF WOUNDS Gunner W **Wright** (Bridgwater) Royal Horse Artillery.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED NOW  
WOUNDED AND MISSING: Pte H **Dingley** (Bridgwater) Devonshire Regt.

MISSING Pte R G **Young**, (Burnham) Somerset LI.

WOUNDED

Members of Somerset LI: Pte H G **Bowden** (Westonzoyland) Pte E **Coggins** (Bridgwater) Lance Corpl H G R **Dight** (Bridgwater) Pte W J **Smith** (Broomfield)  
Pte H **Barnes** (Burnham on Sea) Pte E **Hendy** (Bridgwater) Pte R A **House** (Bridgwater) Pte C **Small** (Bridgwater) Lance Corpl W **Squires** (Bridgwater) Lance Corpl V **Howe** (Bridgwater).  
Gunner C E **Bond** (Bridgwater) Machine Gun Section; Pte W C **Farthing** (Burnham) Gloucester Regt.  
WOUNDED, SHELL SHOCK Pte H **Parsons** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.

Company Sergt Major Fred **Davis**, Somerset LI,

awarded DCM for bravery in action in Mesopotamia. Formerly Castle Cary and Shepton Montague district postman.

**Bridgwater Mercury 22 November 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte Frank **Baker**, Somerset LI. Parents Mr and A **Baker**, 61 Bailey St, Bridgwater received official news of death in action. First reported wounded, then wounded and missing.

Photo of Pte W **Saunders**, 18, Somerset LI, awarded DCM for conspicuous gallantry. Son of Mr and Mrs James **Saunders**, 103 Albert St, Bridgwater. Joined up under age 1914.

Troops expected to be drafted to Bridgwater in about a fortnight. Public and empty buildings being prepared to accommodate.

Local casualties in official lists past week  
KILLED Gunner W **Young** (Bridgwater) RFA; Pte F **Storey** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.  
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED NOW  
KILLED Pte W E **Norrish** (Bridgwater) London Regiment.

MISSING Pte F H **Crowe** (Burnham) Norfolk Regt.

WOUNDED Pte W G **Duddridge** (Bridgwater) Lancashire Fusiliers; Pte A **Foster** (Bridgwater) Coldstream Guards; Pioneer R **Payne** (Bridgwater) Royal Engineers; Pte E **Jenkins** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI; Pte A J **Tambling** (Bridgwater) Coldstream Guards; Pte G **Batty** (Bridgwater) London Regt.

**Bridgwater Mercury 29 November 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte Austin **Hayman**, 26, Somerset LI, killed in action. Mrs **Hayman**, 37, Northgate, Bridgwater, received news in letter from Front. 2 young children. Letter printed. Brother also at Front.

Death at home, Bailey St, of Pte Fred **Hobbs**, 29, Devonshire Regt. Invalided home 9 months ago suffering from serious wounds and exposure. Third son of Mr Wm **Hobbs**.

Mr and Mrs Tom **Webb**, Back St, Stogursey, received news that son, Gunner Cyril **Webb**, 23, RGA, has been gassed and is in hospital in France.

Mr and Mrs **Binding**, Lime St, Stogursey, officially informed of death in action of son Pte Ambrose **Binding**, Somerset LI. Previously reported missing. 3 more sons in Army.

Mr and Mrs HG **Winslade**, Parsonage Farm, Lyng,

officially informed of death in action on 11 November of son Pte Francis Charles **Winslade**, Canadians. 2 more sons serving in Army.

Mr and Mrs Fred **Tapscott**, Fieldside, Wembdon Rd, received news that youngest son Pte Wilfred **Tapscott**, Australians, has been wounded and is in Cheltenham Hospital. Extract from Wilfred's letter printed.

Letters and postcards received by Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater, thanking him for cigarettes purchased through sale of war poems: Pte E S **Pole**, Somerset LI, Burma; Driver F W **Burge**, Field Ambulance, Mesopotamia; Pte Clifford W **Haste**, Somerset LI (attached Hants Regt) Mesopotamia; Sergt FR **Scott**, Somerset LI, Burma. Extracts from letters.

About 1,500 troops to be billeted in Bridgwater will arrive soon. Accommodation has been prepared.

New Lighting Order to come into force in Bridgwater.

Pte C P **Bray**, reported wounded and missing in the official casualty list, previously reported as wounded. Lost his wife recently. Well known resident of Bridgwater.

Local casualties in official lists past week

KILLED Sergt A G **Hurley** (Bridgwater) Middlesex Regt; Pte H **Gulliford** (Burnham) Somerset LI.  
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED AND  
MISSING NOW REPORTED KILLED Pte F **Baker**,  
Bridgwater.

MISSING Pte A J **Bartlett** (Bridgwater) Wiltshire Regt.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED, NOW  
REPORTED WOUNDED AND MISSING Pte C P  
**Bray** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.

WOUNDED Lance Corpl R **Biddicombe**  
(Bridgwater) Royal Irish Regt; Sapper T **Culverwell**  
(Bridgwater) Royal Engineers.

**Bridgwater Mercury 6 December 1916  
Bridgwater and the War**

Lieut Col R A **Sanders**, Royal Devon Hussars, MP for Bridgwater and Major (Temp Lieut-Col) F N Q **Shuldham**, West Somerset Yeomanry, Mentioned in Despatches.

Transfer of Lieut S M J **Woods**, Royal Warks Regt, to garrison battalion of Devon Regt. Seniority to take effect 22 December 1914.

Letter to Mrs **Chapple**, 1 Polden St, from son Pte Evan Jas **Chapple**, with Canadians at Front.

Describes lucky escape from sniper.

Official news received by Mr and Mrs W **Allen**, 5 Pathfinder Terrace, Westonzoyland Rd, Bridgwater of death in action of eldest son Pte Sidney **Allen**, 29, City of London Regt.

Photo of Pte C **Kift**, 23, Somerset LI (attached to Devonshire Regt)) officially reported missing at Front since 4 September. Native of Stogursey, youngest son of Mr Charles **Kift**, now at Knowle St Giles, Chard. Brother Trooper R **Kift**, with West Somerset Yeomanry, Egypt.

Death in hospital at Salonika, 17 November, of Pte Christopher **Clarke**, 20, Royal Engineers. Parents Mr and Mrs Joseph **Clarke**, Burtle. Fiancee Miss Elsie **Heal**.

Troops to be billeted in Bridgwater have started to arrive, along with howitzer guns.

Local casualties in official lists past week  
KILLED Pte E G **Baker** (Nether Stowey) Somerset LI; Pte W **Creech** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.  
WOUNDED Pte J **Pitman** (Bridgwater) Royal Sussex Regt.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 13 December 1916 Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte C **Clarke**, 20, Royal Engineers. Death in Canadian Hospital, Salonika reported in 6 Dec issue. Son of Mr and Mrs Joseph **Clarke**, Burtle, near Bridgwater.

Photo of Pte Frederick **Jarrett**, 27, Devons. Mother Mrs **Jarrett**, Silver St, Bridgwater, received official information of death in action on 10 Nov. Sister and brother in law, Mr and Mrs **Rogers** also in Silver St.

Photo of Pte Edward John **Porter** 35, Somerset LI. Died of enteric fever, Meerut, India 4 Dec. Mother, No 18 Court, West St, Bridgwater.

Sec Lieut David Wright Jacques, 19, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt, killed in action. Younger son of Mr and Mrs J W F **Jacques**, St Germain, Burnham, Somerset. Letter from Lieut Col Talbot **Jarvis**. Elder brother Frederick Viel **Jacques** probationary surgeon on HMS *Mischief*. Cadet E L **Jones** appointed to temporary commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, Royal Fusiliers.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Hector Fussell **Billinger**, East Lancs Regt, killed in action 23 Nov. Son of Mr and Mrs JF **Billinger**, 44 St Barnabas Road, Cambridge, native of Bridgwater. Extract from letter written to father on day he died.

More thanks to Mr W J **Sharkey**, Queen St,

Bridgwater, for cigarettes purchased with proceeds from sale of war poems. Extracts from letters of Lieut **Webber** (Puriton), Devon Regt, Signaller C **Sealey**, Somerset LI, Burma. Also postcard from Corpl H **Rainey**, Bridgwater, PoW after Battle of Mons, with thanks for biscuits sent through Mr E **Bryant**, Eastover.

Mrs **Mead**, Old Basin, Somerset Bridge, has received news of the death of her husband Pte Henry John **Mead**, Somerset LI, in London hospital with severe back wound. 3 young children.

Letter from Seaman **Jarvis** to Mr and Mrs Alfred **Forgen**, 101, Old Taunton Rd reporting that their son Seaman Walter Geo **Forgen**, Royal Naval Division, was killed about 3 weeks ago.

Meeting held on Monday evening at Chilton Polden to set up a War Savings Association. Officers appointed.

Annie **Martin**, No 2 Court, Market St, found guilty of obtaining a separation allowance by false pretences, while her husband James Martin, ASC was in hospital. Sentenced to 3 months hard labour.

Shortage of teachers aggravated by the War.

Pte H J **Davis**, 29, Oxfordshire and Bucks LI, has died of wounds received in action. Son of Mr and Mrs Wm **Davis**, Meareway Lane, Shapwick,

Local casualties in official lists past week  
KILLED Pte H **Baker** (Meare) Gloucester Regt.).

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, NOW REPORTED KILLED Pte A **Binding** (Stogursey) Somerset LI.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED NOW REPORTED DIED FROM WOUNDS Pte W C **Farthing** (Burnham) Gloucester Regt.

DIED Driver W J **Marks** (Bridgwater) ASC.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED NOW REPORTED WOUNDED AND MISSING Lance Corpl H **Ballam** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI.

WOUNDED Pte R **Meade** (Greinton) Somerset LI; Pte A E **Ford** (Bridgwater) Cheshire Regt; Lance Corpl HC **Day** (Highbridge) Wiltshire Regt; Pte H **Hookins** (Bridgwater) Worcester Regt; Pte W **Hookins** (Bridgwater) Worcester Regt.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BELIEVED TAKEN PRISONER AT KUT-EL-AMARA NOW REPORTED POW Pte D **Galley** (Bridgwater), Pte J **King** (Bridgwater), Somerset LI, attached Dorsetshire Regt.

**Bridgwater Mercury 20 December 1916**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

Photo of Pte H J **Mead**, Somerset LI. Death reported in 13 December issue.

No further news of Rifleman Leonard Arthur John **Bowles**, City of London (PO) Rifles, officially reported missing since 15 September. Brothers Sapper H T **Bowles**, Sapper H V A **Bowles** serving as Engineers. Parents Mr and Mrs **Bowles**, 30 Victoria Rd, Bridgwater.

Mr and Mrs Wm **Beard**, 8 Edward St, have learnt of death of son Pte A W **Beard**, 35, with Canadians at Front.. Another soldier found photos of wife and children in Canada with mother's name and address on body.

War Office has informed Mr and Mrs Jas **Spring**, 94 Wellington Rd, of death in action of son Pte Albert Henry **Spring**, 43, the Warwicks. Wife and 4 children.

Thank you letters and postcards to Mr **Sharkey**, Queen St, Bridgwater, for 'smokes' etc bought with proceeds of sale of his war poetry: F **Lynham** (Bridgwater) BEF; Lance Corpl M J **French** (Moorlynch) Somerset LI, BEF; Pte C **Tomlinson** (Cossington), Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, BEF; Driver H **Atyeo** (Middlezoy) BEF; Pte Harry **Trimble** (Bridgwater) Welsh Regiment (PoW Gefangenenlager); Pte D **Bridgeman**, Royal Munster Fusiliers, PoW Limburg Camp. Extracts from letters printed.

Over 70% of male employees of Tone Vale Manufacturing Company serving with the Forces. Collections by staff for gifts to men at Front and in Bridgwater Hospital. Acknowledgement from Lieut Stanley **Masding**, King's Liverpools, son of Cllr WHJ **Masding**, principal, Tone Vale Co. Able Seaman Stanley **Kearl**, Royal Naval Division, wounded, in hospital at Front. Son of Mr James **Kearl**, Gordon Terrace, Bridgwater.

Local casualties in official lists past week  
KILLED Pte E R **Wedlake** (Bridgwater) Honourable Artillery Corps; Pte S **Allen** (Bridgwater) London Regt.  
WOUNDED Sergt C E **Brown** (Stogursey) RFA; Pte F **Villis** (Spaxton); Coldstream Guards; Pte M **Giblett** (Burnham) Dorsetshire Regt; Pte S **Marchant** (Bridgwater) Coldstream Guards.

**?Bridgwater Mercury 27 December 1916**  
**Bridgwater and the War**  
**Cutting missing from the collection**