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**Bridgwater Mercury 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

LOCAL PRISONERS OF WAR IN TURKEY.  
 Lance-Corporal A.V.**Nicholls** of Burnham (late of Bridgwater) sent a letter to his parents saying that he was well and healthy but that none of the soldiers had received letters from home. He asked them to keep writing as he hoped the letters would eventually be received.

WEMBDON SOLDIER MISSING SINCE APRIL 1915.

No news has been received of Pte Robert Wm **Chilcott** of the Gloucester Regiment. He originally went to France with the Somerset L.I. and was wounded. He was sent home for a while but was again sent out to fight. His parents are anxious for news.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Received a letter from Captain W H **Williams** of 607 company thanking the people of Bridgwater for their kindness and he wished everyone best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Bridgwater Mercury 10<sup>th</sup> January 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

THE SAD NEWS WAS RECEIVED FROM A FELLOW SOLDIER

That Private Clifford **Washer** of the Dorset Regiment was killed in action on January 2<sup>nd</sup> though no official letter has been received yet.

THE FOLLOWING BRIDGWATER MEN HAVE ARRIVED IN INDIA TO JOIN THE SOMERSETS: Privates **S. Bale, Heal, Wigley, Boobier, Hawkins, Hodge, Mantell, Madge, Margetts, Merchant, Child, Hodges, Gillespie and Emery.**

**Bridgwater Mercury 17<sup>th</sup> January 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

BRIDGWATER MAN SEVERELY WOUNDED.

News has been received that Sapper E. C. **Stockham** of the Royal Engineers was severely wounded on December 21<sup>st</sup> in both legs, as a result his right leg had to be amputated below the knee.

Bridgwater Soldier's death. It has been previously announced that Sapper Tom **Williams** of the Wessex Engineers had died. A tribute has been received from Major P J **Fry** in which he paid a striking tribute of the fine example Sapper **Williams** had set to his fellow men.

Lance Corporal Thomas **Pope** of the Devons has single-handedly captured five Germans when serving on the Western Front. He was given sixteen days leave as a reward.

Bridgwater Man Killed in Action. It been officially reported that Walter G **Forgan** of the Royal Naval Division was killed in action on 13<sup>th</sup> November. It was reported that he died in the hour of victory to which he nobly contributed.

Bridgwater's recent welcome to the Troops. Brigadier General F B **Johnstone** has written a letter of appreciation to the Mayor thanking the town for their welcome when stationed here.

Mr Herbert A **Symons** has been gazetted as second-lieutenant to the Field Artillery.

Reported death of Local Prisoner of War. His parents have received news of the death of Corporal Douglas **Galley** of the Dorset Regiment when he was in the hands of the Turks. He died of intestinal inflammation.

We learn that the Royal Devon Yeomanry and the Royal Devon Hussars have been formed into an infantry battalion under the command of Colonel R. A. **Sanders**. M.P.

A letter has been received by Mr and Mrs **Turner** informing them that four German soldiers had surrendered to their son Private Raymond George **Turner**, who escorted them out of danger.

Postcards have been received by Mr W J **Sharkey** thanking him for smokes: Private H **Parsons**, Corporal Charles **Arthur**, and Private H **Murley**. He also received a card from Private R **Young** Somerset L.I. gratefully acknowledging a parcel of bread.

Local Casualties: The following names have appeared in recent official casualty lists.

Killed: Private W. T J **Heal**, Gloucester Regiment, Corporal A. **Miller** Somerset L.I.

Died of Wounds: Sapper T **Williams**, Royal Engineers.

Died Private S G **Biffen**, Gloucester Regiment.

Wounded Private W **Hector**, Somerset L.I., Sapper H **Davis**, Royal Engineers, Sapper C **Haddon**, Royal Engineers, Sapper T **Herbert**, Royal Engineers, Sapper S **Williams** Royal Engineers, Acting-Corporal W H **Cripps**, Duke of Cornwall L.I.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 24<sup>th</sup> January 1917**

##### **Bridgwater and the War**

Sergeant Alfred E **Chilcott** of the Rifle Brigade has been awarded the Military Medal for taking 28 German prisoners single-handed.

Sapper E C **Stockham** has sent a letter to his brother describing how he got wounded. He said a "Whizz-Bang" came over and dropped into their midst. Many on that spot were killed or wounded. It was previously reported that he had his leg amputated.

Private E J **Porter**, who was a well-known Bridgwater rugby footballer has died in India. He had been suffering from enteric fever and had put up a great struggle against the disease. Many letters of sympathy have been received by his parents.

Mr W **Sharkey** has received letters of thanks for gifts of smokes from the following: Gunner W H **Pearn**, Driver A F **Southwood**, Privates S **Hamber**, T **Ware** and F **Lancaster**, Somerset L.I. Private Cecil **Saint** R.A.M.C., and Geoffrey **Grandfield**. Mr **Sharkey** has also received a letter from Private P M G. **Roberts** of the Duke of Cornwall's regiment.

Local man believed killed in action: Private Bert **Spraggs** of the Dorset Regiment has been killed in action. The news has been conveyed by a comrade though no official notification has been received yet.

Official confirmation of the death of Corporal Douglas **Galley** of Somerset L.I. has been received.

Local casualties: Official Posts:

Died of wounds: Sapper H **Williams**, Royal Engineers. and Private H J **Mead**, Somerset L.I. Private S **Marchant** has been reported as not wounded (he had previously been reported as wounded).

Cadet George Reginald **Colsey** has been gazetted as second-lieutenant to the Somerset Light Infantry and has taken up new duties in Plymouth

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 31<sup>st</sup> January 1917**

##### **Bridgwater and the War**

Local soldier killed in action – Official confirmation that Private Bert **Spraggs** of the Dorset Regiment was killed in action on Thursday January 11<sup>th</sup>. His death was instantaneous and letters of sympathy have been received by his widow.

Local N.C.O.'s gallant conduct. The Military Medal has been awarded to Company Sergeant Major William **Giles** for conspicuous gallantry in action. He assumed command of and led his company in action.

Bridgwater soldier awarded Military Medal. Corporal A T **Williams** of Wessex Royal Engineers has been awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery in the field. He showed great coolness and gallantry when constructing a bridge over a river under heavy artillery and close rifle and machine gun fire.

Bridgwater Footballer's success in Egypt. An Egyptian newspaper contains a full report of an Association football match played at Cairo, between Nazrieh School Military Hospital and the 27<sup>th</sup> General Hospital. The result was a three all draw, all three goals being scored by Corporal Alfred **Holman**

attached to the staff (formerly of Bridgwater).

Officers have sent tributes to the gallantry of Sapper T **Williams** saying that he had been a most valuable man. He was always cheerful even after being wounded when he behaved most gallantly.

Mr W J **Sharkey** has received letters from the following soldiers thanking him for “smokes”:  
Gunner W **Burt**, Private W **Farthing** and Gunner F **Cable**.

Local casualties: The following names have appeared in official casualty lists during the past week:  
Killed: Private C **Washer** Dorsetshire Regiment  
Wounded: Lance-Corporal T C **Purse**, Gloucester Regiment, Private E **Hawkins** Household Battalion, Lance-Corporal W **Durston** Essex Regiment.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 7<sup>th</sup> February 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Sapper E. C. **Stockham** of the Royal Engineers has recently been transferred to a hospital at Netley and sent a letter home stating that it is a lovely hospital and he hoped relatives would be able to visit him.

Lieut. Leslie **Vine** of the Royal Flying Corps has been promoted flying officer and has taken up his duties in France.

Local casualties:  
Killed: Pte. H **Harrison** (Bridgwater) Wiltshire Regiment.  
Wounded: Pte. R. W. **Amesbury** (Highbridge) Pte, G. **Larder** (Meare) R. J. **Rogers** (Bridgwater) Yeomanry.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 14<sup>th</sup> February 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Temp. Lieut. S M J **Woods** has been promoted captain in a Garrison of the Devon Regiment.

Mr W J **Sharkey** has received letters of thanks for “smokes etc” from Private H T **Kitch**, Royal Berks Regiment, Private **Culliford** of Combwich, and ~Sergeant E **Tucker**, Welsh Fusiliers.

Official news has been received that Private Edward **Jenkins** of Somerset L.I. has died of wounds received in action.

Local Sergeant reported missing: The family of Sergt. Albert James **Dart** of Dorset Regiment have asked for information on their son as he has been officially reported missing.

Company Sergeant Major William **Giles** of Somerset L.I. Has been awarded the Military Cross and not the Military medal as originally reported.

Bridgwater is taking an interest in the National Service Scheme and there has been a fair demand for forms.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 21<sup>st</sup> February 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Cpl Stanley **Bloodworth** of the Gloucesters has died of wounds received in Mesopotamia on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

In response to requests made recently a fair number of razors and books have been received on behalf of the troops at Bridgwater Post Office, but more are needed.

Private W H **Badger** has joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Engineers at the age of 68 years. His eldest son Private A H **Badger** is at present serving in France with the C.M.R. His second son Frank **Badger** joined the army but died shortly after from pneumonia. His third son B. E. **Badger** works for munitions

Sapper F **Mountstephens** has died in France on 7<sup>th</sup> February and his wife has received a communication of sympathy from Captain P B **Hooley** of Royal Engineers. He died in hospital.

Local casualties: The following names have appeared in official casualty lists during the past week:  
Wounded – Corpl P.R **Woodland**, Somerset L.I. ,and Corpl L W **Neatley** of York and Lancaster Regiment

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 28<sup>th</sup> February 1917. Bridgwater and the War**

Subscriptions of over £215,000 have been made to the Victory War Bonds from the town of Bridgwater from the sale of War Savings Certificates.

Stogursey soldier killed in action. Private Herbert **Perry** of Devon Regiment was killed in action on 10<sup>th</sup> February at Salonika. His family has been informed.

Private W **Ruckley** of the Devons and formerly of North Petherton has been reported as missing in Salonika.

Mr Cecil M **Hill** formerly of Bridgwater (a highly skilled aviator) has been honoured by being given charge of a new school in aviation in New Zealand and he is to act as instructor. He is practically the pioneer of flying in New Zealand and will sail with his wife shortly.

Thanks for smokes.- Mr W **Sharkey** has received letters of thanks from local soldiers: C **Keirle**, Trench Mortar Battery, Private J **Gamblin**, C.E. **Jeffreys**, and Private E **Wall**, Royal Berks Regiment, saying that the cigarettes were most welcome.

It has been reported that Private Alfred **Matthews** of

South Wales Borderers has been seriously wounded whilst in Salonika.

The following names have appeared in the official casualty lists during the past week:

Died of wounds – Private E **Jenkins** Somerset L.I., Lance-Corporal B **Hansford**, Grenadier Guards.

Missing: Sergeant A J **Dart**, Dorsetshire Regiment, Private J **Dinham**, Dorsetshire Regiment.

Wounded: Private T **Perry**: Somerset L.I.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 7<sup>th</sup> March 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Private W H **Green** of the Devonshire Regiment has been officially reported as missing since 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Bridgwater man wounded Private J G **Pitman** of the Gloucester Regiment was wounded on 12<sup>th</sup> February when serving in Mesopotamia and is now in 31 British Stationary Hospital at Sheikshaad.

Private Harry **Young** of the Munster Fusiliers was dangerously wounded on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

During the past week Mr W J **Sharkey** has received letters from the following local soldiers acknowledging the gifts of cigarettes: Corporal W **Brookes**, Coldstream Guards and F **Stevens** Pontoon Park.

Local casualties The following list of names has appeared in the official casualty lists during the past week:

Killed: Pte H **Perry**, Devon Regiment,

Missing: Pte W **Ruckley**, Devon Regiment.

Wounded: Lance-Corporal J **Morrish**, Devon Regiment, Private E **Payne**, Somerset L.I. Lance-Corporal W E **Alder**, Royal Engineers.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 14<sup>th</sup> March 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Bridgwater Soldier killed in action Lance-Corporal Victor **Sear** of the Machine Gun Corps was killed in action on 18<sup>th</sup> February. He was a keen footballer and cricketer.

Private Benjamin **Harris** of Somerset L.I. Has been missing since 16<sup>th</sup> September. Enquiries have been made to no avail, there is a possibility he has been taken Prisoner of War.

News has been received that New Zealander Private Percy **Newman**, who is very well known in Bridgwater, has been wounded and is now in hospital

Mr W E **Watkinson**, Mr Douglas **Hagoo** and Mr Douglas **Brown** have recently received commissions in His Majesty's Forces.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 21<sup>st</sup> March 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Bridgwater Journalist wounded: Private Guy **Roberts** was wounded and was sent home from the Front. He is at present in hospital in Manchester, though should soon be fully recovered.

Bridgwater soldier wounded and missing: Private H **Dingley** of the Devonshire Regiment was reported as wounded and missing in September 1916, and no further news has been received despite numerous requests.

It has been reported from the Red Cross that Private J H **King** of Somerset L.I. has died whilst a prisoner of war in Turkey. He was a keen athlete and footballer and played for Bridgwater R.F.C.

Local Soldiers severely wounded. Further news has been received about Private Harry **Young** of Munster Fusiliers, in that his right leg has been amputated. Also Pte Alfred **Hutchings** of the South Wales Borderers has been admitted to Basra Hospital suffering from wounds received in action on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Lance-Corporal William **Bonney**, who has been missing since last July has now been presumed to have been killed in action.

It is with much regret that we learn that Flight Sub-Lieut R V **Knight** was killed in a flying accident when his engine stopped at a height of 200 feet. His plane went into a nose dive and death was instantaneous.

Local casualties:

Died: Pnr F **Mountstevens**, Royal Engineers.

Wounded: Lance-corporal W.A. **Hill**, Somerset L.I. Pte S.R. **Minchington**, Somerset L.I., Pte W H **Nurton**, Somerset L.I. Pte. H. G. **Turner**, Somerset L.I.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 28<sup>th</sup> March 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

It has been reported in the *Daily News* that Captain BR.F.C. has brought down three German planes in the last two days on the Doiran Front. Captain Green received the D.S.O. and the Serbian Order of Karegorge which is only given for deeds of exceptional brilliance.

Sapper Harold Wm. Thos. **Rowles** of Royal Engineers has been killed at the Front by a friend.

This has not been reported officially but the news is definite

Puriton soldier killed in action:

Sapper Tom **Stockham** of the Wessex Royal Engineers was killed by a stray bullet whilst on duty about half a mile from the front.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 4<sup>th</sup> April 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Two more men fall in action, they have been named as Corporal Ernest **Legg** of the Bedford Regiment and Private Bertie **Fender** of the Somerset L.I.

Bridgwater Sergeant wins the D.C.M. Sergeant Stanley **Towler** has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in action. He has also been recommended for a commission.

Bridgwater Man's Wounds: Private A **Hutchings** of the Somersets, attached to the South Wales Borderers has been severely wounded while serving in Mesopotamia. He is suffering from shrapnel wounds to the face but is now progressing favourably.

Local casualties: The following names have appeared in the official casualty lists during the past week – Sergt. P **Ford** Bridgwater, Somerset L.I. Lance-Cpl R **Pratt** Bridgwater, Somerset L.I. Pte A **Hutchings**, Bridgwater, South Wales Borderers, Pte E **Anderson**, Bridgwater, Middlesex Regiment – all wounded.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 11<sup>th</sup> April 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Gunner "Collie" **Wood**, former Albion footballer is believed to have been killed in action. He was serving with the Australian Expeditionary Force. No official record has been received but a letter was returned marked "killed in action".

Mrs **Rowles** of Barclay Street has received two sympathetic letters from the Front in reference to the death of her husband – Sapper Harold William Thomas **Rowles**, the sad news was recorded in a previous issue.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 18<sup>th</sup> April 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Three Bridgwater Men Missing: Three members of the Kut Garrison have been missing for the past sixteen months or more. Their names are: Private Wm. Ewart **King** of the Somerset L.I. (attached to the Dorset Regiment), Private Robert **Turner** of the Somerset L.I. (attached to the Oxford and Bucks L.I.), and Private Henry **Creedy** of the Dorset Regiment. Enquiries have been made but no details have been received.

Private Vivian **Chant** who belonged to the Seaforth Highlanders (Canada) has died of wounds received in action in France. Originally from an old Bridgwater family who had emigrated to Canada some years ago.

Private N S **Butcher** of the Canadians, born in Othery, who has been missing since September 27<sup>th</sup> last is now presumed to be dead.

Bridgwater man killed in the Persian Gulf. Lance Corporal F J **Durant** of the Wilts Regiment was killed in action in the Persian Gulf on 29<sup>th</sup> March He was 29 years of age.

Death of a Prisoner of War: Private Alfred **Irish** of the Somersets (attached to the Dorsets) has died while a prisoner of war at the hands of the Turks. It is possible that he died last July but news has only just been received.

Bridgwater soldier's noble death: Driver Chas Wm **Hampson** of the A.S.C. (Field Ambulance) died of wounds in Salonika on 21<sup>st</sup> March. He was going to fetch sick and wounded men from the trenches to hospital, and was himself killed.

Corporal J **Facey** of the Somersets has been wounded. He was recently transferred from India to the front.

Sapper William **Wilkins** of the Wessex Engineers, who succumbed wounds in France on 9<sup>th</sup> April has died. He was 28 years of age.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 25<sup>th</sup> April 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

North Petherton man falls in action' Lance Corporal Frederick Louis **Gray** of the Somerset L.I. was killed in action on Easter Monday. He and several others were taking shelter in a shell hole when a German shell exploded in their midst killing them all.

Bridgwater man's gallantry in action: Lance Sergeant Stanley **Towler** of the Somerset L.I. had been awarded the D.C.M. For gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great courage and determination. Bridgwater Men Wounded: Pte Walter **Prescott** of the Somersets has been admitted to a Canadian Hospital in France. Trooper Arthur **Hanham** of the lancers was wounded in the thigh during cavalry operations in France. He is now in hospital in Newport. Pte William Charles **Sellars** of the Somerset L.I.. He is in hospital in Newport suffering from a wound to the face. Lance-Corporal Thos **Pope** of the Devonshire Regiment is in Yeovil Hospital having been wounded in the head and hand.

Lance Corporal **Robert Pratt** of the Somerset L.I. was slightly wounded in the left cheek. Sergt. Walter Edgar **Collard** of the Wilts. Regiment received a

severe shell wound in the right groin on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Bridgwater Canadian believed killed in action: Sergeant Arthur Leonard **Pole** has been killed in action although no official document has been received. He was a Bridgwater man who enlisted in the Canadians.

North Petherton soldier's fate: Pte William **Ruckley** of the Devons was previously reported as missing has now been reported as killed.

Local Casualties

Killed: Pte B **Fender** Somerset L.I.

Accidentally killed Sapper H Wm T **Rowley** Royal Engineers.

Died Pte E R **Hooper** Devonshire Regiment

Wounded: Pte H R **Nurton** Somerset L.I. and Pte C **Hayman** Gloucester Regiment.

Local Commission: Mr **Gerald G W Bishop** has obtained a commission as second lieutenant in the 6<sup>th</sup> Middlesex.

Losses in Somersets.

Killed: Sec Lieut E R **Foy** and Sec. Lieut A M **Hill** (Yeomanry) attached to S.L.I., also Capt. S W **Wasbrough**

Died of wounds: Lieut N F **Herapath**.

**Bridgwater Mercury 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1917**

**Bridgwater and the War**

**Cutting missing from the collection**

**Bridgwater Mercury 9<sup>th</sup> May 1917**

**Bridgwater and the War**

Local Soldier dies of wounds: Private Walter **Hannaford** of the Somerset L.I. Has died as a result of gunshot wounds to the head.. He was in Amiens General Hospital in France.

Bridgwater Shop Assistant killed in action. Private Clifford **Chedzey** of Church Street was killed in action during a great offensive on Easter Monday He was in the Somerset Light Infantry.

Bridgwater Men Wounded: Corporal Wilfred H **Pollard** son of Alderman H W Pollard was. wounded in action on 28<sup>th</sup> March, sustaining a shrapnel wound on the left shoulder. He is now home on a fortnight's leave.

Private Cecil **Saint** R.A.M.C. has been wounded in the head by a shrapnel shot. He is now out of danger. Private Tom **Widlake** of the Somersets has been wounded in the foot, which is also poisoned. He is now in hospital in Sevenoaks.

Gunner A H **Cooke** from Bristol Road has been wounded in the knee and is now in hospital in Northampton.

Sapper S **Gillingham** of the Wessex Engineers has sent a postcard to say he was wounded in the leg on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Able Seaman James Clarence **Sparks** of the Machine Gun Corps has been admitted to the Red Cross Hospital at La Touquet on 23<sup>rd</sup> April suffering from a severe gunshot wound to the right arm. Received while serving with British Expeditionary Force.

Missing since September last. Bridgwater Canadian now presumed dead. Corporal W. J. **Stone**, formerly of the Hope Inn Taunton Road was reported missing in October There is every reason now to believe that he was killed in action.

Mr Paul **Rees** has been seriously wounded and is in hospital at Woolwich. He sustained shrapnel wounds in his back when a bomb exploded near him.

Bridgwater Soldier's death in a Sanatorium. Driver Ernest Victor **Board** of the A.S.C. who was invalided home from the Front a few months ago suffering from a severe chill has now died as a result of the chill and pleurisy. He was in a sanatorium in Taunton.

Bridgwater Geo. **Kingston** of the Somersets was killed in action in March. He was killed by a large shell and death was very quick. Letters have been received describing the action and subsequent loss.

Chedzoy soldier killed in action. Official notification has been received that Corporal Clifford **Stokes** of the Rifle Brigade was killed on Easter Monday. He had been wounded twice before and spent time in hospital both times, despite this he had remained cheerful.

Further enquiries have been made into the death of Sergt. Leonard Arthur **Pole**. He was killed on 1<sup>st</sup> March and was buried in a French Cemetery with his comrades.

Official notice has been received that Cecil Francis **Tambling** was killed in action on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Westonzoyland Soldier drowned whilst boating with a companion on the river at Abingdon. He had only just returned to duties after six days leave.

Stogursey soldier dies of wounds: Private Michael **Binding** of Somerset Light Infantry, who was previously reported as seriously wounded has died at the General Canadian Hospital Boulogne from wounds to the head.

**Bridgwater Mercury 16<sup>th</sup> May 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

A committee has been formed from the various parishes in relation to military war pensions:

Mr H **Carver**, Chilton Polden, Colonel **Westmacott**, Ashcott, Mr J **Baker** Othery, Mr J **Young**, Bridgwater without, (east), Dr G **Moorhead**, Westonzoyland, Mr R **Tilley**, Huntspill, Mr E Constable **Curtis**, North Petherton, Mr C J **Clarke** Durleigh Mr G **Lansdowne**, Aisholt, Mr T **Cuffe**, Nether Stowey, Mr J **Sheppard**, Cannington, Colonel H T. **Daniel**, Stockland Bristol, Mr J **Carter**, Wembdon Mr E **Harden**, Bridgwater without (west).

Able-seaman Arthur **Wyatt** was killed in action on April 24<sup>th</sup>. He was the son of the much esteemed pastor of the Bridgwater Baptist Church, where he also preached. Several services have been held to commemorate him.

The Local Roll of Honour

Sergt. C. H. **Shire** of the Rifle Brigade was killed in action in France.

Private H J **Keirle** of the Worcester Regiment has been killed in action at Salonika.

Corporal Stanley **Bloodworth** of the Gloucesters has died from wounds received to his thigh.

Gunner R **Lock** of the Welsh Fusiliers has died in action, he was killed by two bullets, one to the shoulder the other to his heart.

Former resident killed in action. Mr Victor **Bithrey**. He had moved from Bridgwater to Weymouth but was well known locally. It was very sad to hear that his brother was killed in action on the same day.

Bridgwater Officer Second-Lieut G R **Foley** of the Somersets was severely wounded on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and his left leg was amputated. This is the third time he has been wounded.

Private William Jesse **Lewis** of Somerset L.I. Has been wounded slightly in the right leg.

Able Seaman **Stanley Keirle** of the "Drake" battalion suffered several shrapnel wounds in the leg and was admitted to hospital in Etaples in April.

Private Walter **Day** of the Worcester Regiment was dangerously wounded in France on May 11<sup>th</sup> in both legs. It was necessary to amputate one of his legs.

Private Ernest **Duddridge** of the Devonshire Regiment was wounded on 24<sup>th</sup> April but no details have been received.

Private Samuel **Gorge** of Somerset L.I. was wounded in the head and leg.

Death of well-known footballer Private George **Kingston** of the Somersets has been killed in action on 27<sup>th</sup> March, when a shell burst right on top of him in a shell hole.

Local Naval Gunner believed taken prisoner.

Gunner Willie **Bowering** of the Royal Navy has written to his parents saying he is a prisoner but is

safe.

Private H F **Margetts** of the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry has died from wounds in France.

Local casualties:

Killed Private H G **Langford**, Wiltshire Regiment, C. F. **Tambling**, Bridgwater Yeomanry.

Lance Cpl. T. **Jeanes** Somerset L.I.

Died: Gunner W R G **Russell** (Gloucester Regiment)

W. H. **Pollard** (Army Service Corps) Sergt. W. C.

**Styles** Yeomanry, Sergt. A **Chedzey** (Royal West Kent Regiment)

Private W **Gardiner** of the Somersets has been posted as missing.

Gifts for local soldiers and prisoners of war.

Mr W J **Sharkey** of Queen Street has received many letters of thanks for gifts of smokes and food.

Appeal for "smokes"

In a letter from Egypt Lance-Cpl F **Lewis** makes an appeal for "smokes" on behalf of himself and his comrades.

Local Commission

Second Lieut. D Roman **Brook** has received his commission in the Royal Flying Corps. He is well known in Bridgwater

### **Bridgwater Mercury 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Mr A E **Manchip** son of Alderman T W Manchip of Bridgwater has passed his necessary examination for his commission as second-lieutenant in the Royal Engineers and will commence duty at Christchurch this week.

Bridgwater Gunner on Torpedoed Ship.

Gunner Willie **Bowering** (who was believed to have been taken prisoner by the Turks) arrived home on Thursday. He was a naval gunner on a merchant ship which was torpedoed but not sunk. The crew took to the boats and were picked up by a French patrol boat and landed in Algeria.

Military Funeral at Bridgwater

Full military honours attended the funeral of Private Albert **Pow**, Somerset Light Infantry, who died in hospital as a result of injuries received at the front and trench fever. The Vicar of St Mary's, the Rev. **Langham** conducted the service and the Last Post was sounded.

Private Ralph **Stuckey** of the East Kent Regiment has been officially reported as missing. He was last seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and it is hoped that he was taken prisoner.

Stogursey soldier missing

Private Alfred **Kable** of the Devons was reported missing after an engagement on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April at Salonika. The hope is that he has been taken prisoner.

The Local Roll of Honour

Bridgwater men fall in action:

Private W B **Trunks** of the Machine Gun Corps was killed in action by a shell.

Private E **Chapple** was killed in action on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Private F. **Williams** of the Gloucester Regiment was killed in action.

Local Officer dies of wounds.

Lieut. G. R. **Foley** of the Somersets has died from wounds. His left leg had been amputated and he got septic poisoning.

Bridgwater Men wounded:

Private A J **Way** of the Somersets was admitted to hospital at Camiers on 4<sup>th</sup> May suffering from a gunshot wound to the right thigh.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 30<sup>th</sup> May 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Bridgwater Officer's gallantry

Temporary Second-Lieut. Ernest Lionel **Jones** of the Royal Fusiliers has been awarded the Military Cross for distinguished conduct in the field. It was reported that "He carried out a difficult reconnaissance under very heavy fire and obtained some very valuable information".

Promotion for Bridgwater Officer.

Lieut. Dunstan **Corder** of the Queen's Own Worcester Hussars has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

Bridgwater man's success in Mesopotamia.

Private H **Prescott** of the Somersets took part in sports at the base and won the hundred yards race in 10 4.5 seconds for which he received 25 rupees.

North Petherton soldiers' fate:

One soldier is missing, another wounded and prisoner of war.

Private George **Walter** of the Somerset L.I. is missing, while another man Private Harry **Gray** also of the Somersets is wounded and is a prisoner of war in Germany.

Gifts for local soldiers and prisoners of war

Mr W J **Sharkey** is continuing in his good work sending parcels of food and smokes and has received letters of thanks from Private **Coombes** and Lance-Corporal **Butler**. Letters have been received from Driver H **Atyeo** Sergeant C **Bisgrove**, Dennis **Morse** and W. **King**.

Bridgwater Teachers and the War Funds.

Contributions have been received from West Huntspill School, Bishops Lydeard, and Woolavington.

The following members are now serving with the forces: Mr W **Bradbeer** (Albert Street) Mr **Clark** (Puriton), Mr **Thomas** ( Street), Mr **Wevill** (Stogursey) Mr **Woodward** (Eastover Boys) Mr **Bell** (North Newton) Mr **Branfield** (Sherborne) Mr **Byrne** (Cannington) Mr **Poad** (Whitecross) Mr **Ferguson** (Bishops Lydeard) Mr **Gillard** (Dr Morgans) Mr **West** (Sexey's School) Mr E J **Towler**.

Mr Norman **Reynolds** (West Huntspill) and Mr E J **Smith** (Sexey's School) have made the supreme sacrifice.

It has been reported that Gunner R **Lock** of the Welsh Fusiliers who had been thought dead is in fact safe and well.

Local Casualties:

Killed: Private F W **Church** (Royal Fusiliers)

Died of Wounds: Private W **Hannaford** (Somerset L.I.)

Missing: Private **Kable** (Devonshire Regiment)

Private W **Gardiner** (Somerset L.I.)

Wounded: Private H G **Jones** (Royal Fusiliers)

Private B **Barlow** (Oxford and Bucks L.I.)

Private E **Duddridge** (Devonshire Regiment) Private

E **Bailey** (Somerset L.I.) Private R **Coombe**

(Somerset L.I.) Private M **Holder** (Somerset L.I.)

Private W J **Soloman** (Somerset L.I.)

Among a list of Somersets' Casualties are: E. **Bailey** 27636, W. **Soloman** 21623

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 6<sup>th</sup> June 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Local Soldier's escape from Germany – Private William **Coombes** of Somerset L.I. Was one of eleven British soldiers who escaped German Internment Camps during the last fortnight and landed at a British Port this week. All the soldiers told of brutality received with dogs kept to harass prisoners and bite them The food conditions were horrible and they only kept alive from parcels sent to them. They tunnelled beneath a wall and hid in the woods.

Bridgwater Sergeant killed in action.

Sergt Percy **Fooks** of the Devonshire Regiment was killed in action in France on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Bridgwater Man Missing: Private H **Hobbs** of the Royal Marines has been announced as missing since 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Bridgwater Soldiers' heroism. Lance Corporal W **Saunders** won the D.C.M. And details have been

given as to his bravery. He jumped into the enemy trenches and captured a German officer. Two other Germans also surrendered.

Bridgwater NCO mentioned in dispatches C.S.M.C. **Wilcox** was awarded the D.C.M. for his gallant services on the front. He was publicly presented with a gold watch at the Town Hall.

Stogursey man killed in action - Private Cecil **Crocombe** has been reported as killed in action.

Bridgwater Men win the Military Medal;  
Lance-Cpl Albert **Hodge** of the Canadian Royal Highlanders and Sergt Bertram Edward **Radford** of R.A.M.C. Have gained distinction having been awarded the Military Medal for meritorious service at the Front.

Bridgwater Soldier's death officially confirmed:  
Private Walter Benjamin **Trunks** of the Machine Gun Corps was killed in action on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Private Henry **Porter** of the Australian Expeditionary Force, a former well-known resident of Bridgwater has been killed in action.

Bridgwater Man severely wounded: Pte John **Harden** of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders has been wounded whilst serving in the Balkans.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 13<sup>th</sup> June 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Local soldier dies of wounds. Driver E **Williams** of the Army Service Corps has died as a result of wounds received on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. He was struck by a shell and never regained consciousness. He is buried at the English cemetery at Arras. He was 23 years of age.

Bridgwater men wounded:  
Private F. **Chilcott** of the Highland Light Infantry has been wounded.

Lance Corporal Henry **Thicker** of the Middlesex Regiment has been wounded in the right leg and left hand.

D.C.M. for Bridgwater sergeant. Major General Western C.B. in command of Administration. Headquarters presented the D.C.M. to Lance-Sergt. Stanley J W **Towler** of the Somerset Light Infantry for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Gunner W.E. **Duckworth** was one of the gun crew of a merchant vessel which was attacked on its homeward journey by a German submarine. One of the other gunners was killed and Gunner **Duckworth** suffered bruises and shock. He is in hospital at Queenstown.

Cpl Oswald **Symons** of Somerset Light Infantry was wounded on June 1<sup>st</sup>. He was admitted to hospital in

Etaples suffering from gunshot wounds.

The Military Cross has been awarded to Captain Philip M **Broadmead**, son of Colonel Broadmead.

Stockland Bristol soldier believed drowned.

Private F. G. **Davey** is reported missing and is believed to have been drowned. He was on board the transport Transylvania which was sunk in the Mediterranean on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

The official confirmation has been received that Private Henry **Porter** of the Australian Expedition Force was killed in action on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Local soldier injured by a bomb. Corporal Harold **Burrige** of the Cornwallis was injured last week during bombing practice on the Isle of Wight when a bomb exploded prematurely. His injuries were not severe.

Bridgwater Canadians death. Private Archie W **Beard** of the Canadians was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> October last year. A memorial service has been held in Canada.

Local soldier's death in a military hospital. Private W **Perry** of the Somerset L.I. Has died in hospital in Colchester after an operation for appendicitis.

Fiddington man killed in action Private A J **Seymour** of Somerset L.I. was killed in action on 9<sup>th</sup> April whilst serving in France.

Comforts for local soldiers. Mr W J **Sharkey** has received another batch of interesting letters thanking him for gifts, from: Private A. J. **Way** of Somerset L.I., Driver H **Morris** A.S.C. Jim **Jarvis** (who is in the Royal Navy) C. G. **Gully** British Expeditionary Force, W. **Theaker** B.E.H F.F. and Sapper L. **Adams** B.E.F.

Private H. C. **Fudge** of Somerset L.I. has officially been declared dead. This occurred in Dinapore India. He died from cholera. He had seen action in France before being sent to India.

Local casualties:

Killed: Pte. G. **Kingston** Somerset L.I. Gunner J **O'Brien** Royal Field Artillery, Pte. H. **Keirle** Worcester Regiment Pte. H F. **Margetts** Oxford and Bucks L.I.

Died of wounds: Second-Lieut. G.R. **Foley** Somerset L.I. and Pte. G. **Boon** Somerset L.I.

Wounded: Gunner G. **Thomas** Royal Garrison Artillery, Sapper A **Sully** Royal Engineers, Pte S **Gordge** Somerset L.I. Gunner J. **Napper** Royal Field Artillery, Pte A. **Champeny** Worcester Regiment, Pte. F H **Hamblin** Worcester Regiment, Pte H G **Tucker** Worcester Regiment, and Pte J **Searle**, Somerset L.I.

**Bridgwater Mercury 20th June 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

Local soldier dies of wounds: Private **Clifford Redding**, Somerset L.I. has died following wounds he received in action. He had been severely wounded in the abdomen. He was 26 years old. Officers paid tribute.

Bridgwater soldier's death. Private Alfred **Irish** died while a prisoner of war in Turkey. The mayor of Toronto wrote a letter of sympathy to his sister who lives in Toronto.

Local Australian's death from wounds. Company-Sergeant Major R K **Shrimpton** of the Australian Expeditionary Force has died in a hospital in Boulogne on June 12<sup>th</sup> from wounds received in action. He was a former pupil of Dr Morgans. He was 34. He was wounded in the leg and had an operation which was successful but he suffered a major haemorrhage.

Private Henry **Elson** of the East Yorkshire Regiment has written to his wife stating that he is a prisoner of war in Germany. He had previously been reported as missing.

News has been received of the safety of Private Fredk. **Williams**, Gloucester Regiment. He had been reported as missing and presumed killed but he is in fact a prisoner of war.

Pte. **Frederick George Neath** from Puriton of the Canadians was killed in action on 13<sup>th</sup> April. He was a successful farmer in Canada but was born in Puriton.

During the past week Mr W J **Sharkey** of Queen Street has received letters gratefully acknowledging gifts of cigarettes from E J **Jeffrey** R.G.A. (Knowle) R. J. **Horwill** (Roseberry Avenue) Sapper H R **Bond** R.E. (Bath Road) Private E **Wilshire**, S.L.I., W.C. **James** Lance-Corporal F. **Warren** Somerset L.I. Private S **Harwood**, Gunner H. **Style** and G. **Grandfield**.

Aeroplane descends in Bridgwater. A bi-plane was spotted flying over the town at a very low altitude. He circled several times and landed at the Parks Durleigh Road, the machine was damaged.

**Bridgwater Mercury 27th June 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

It has been learnt that Lance-Cpl W C **Durston** of the Essex Regiment is a prisoner of war. He has been wounded in the arm and the leg.

Private Thomas **Owens** of the Welsh Borderers who

had been reported as missing, is now presumed to have been killed in action.

Bridgwater Sapper killed by shrapnel. Sapper Herbert **Ashton** of the Wessex Regiment was killed in action in France on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Local soldier falls in action. Lance-Cpl Sidney **Chinn** of the London regiment was killed with several others by the explosion of a shell which struck the lorry on which they were travelling.

Moorlinch soldier killed. Private Austin Clifford **French** of the Somerset Light Infantry was killed in action on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. He was 19 years of age.

Company Sergeant Major A **Hucker** A.S.C. who was a member of the Bridgwater Territorials previous to the outbreak of war has been given his commission on the field and promoted to the rank of second lieutenant.

Letters of thanks have been received by W J **Sharkey** from E. **Stone** (Stolford) F. **Baker** (Bailey Street) A. E. **Phillips** (Branksome Avenue) Signaller E. **Bryant**, J. J. **Newick**, Private J. **Hooper**, W. **Bennett**, Gunner **Besley** R.F.A., G. **Warren**, A. **Stevens**, Pte. R.H. **Crowley** and Pte. W. G. **Wyatt**

Mr Charles Emanuel **Spencer**, a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps was drowned at sea on 4<sup>th</sup> May whilst on his way to Egypt with reinforcements. His body was recovered and buried at Savona.

Corporal W. J. **Stevens** of Ashcott, enlisted in the Canadian contingent has been reported as killed after previously been reported as missing.

**Bridgwater Mercury 4<sup>th</sup> July 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

Sapper Herbert **Ashton** of the Wessex Engineers was killed in action on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Sapper J W **Storey** R.E. Was killed in action on 21<sup>st</sup> June. He was 21 years of age.

Private Henry Chas. **Fudge** of Somerset L.I. succumbed to an attack of cholera on May 30<sup>th</sup> in India.

Local prisoners of war. Sergt. A. J. **Dart** of the Dorsets was reported as missing on 11<sup>th</sup> January. It has now been confirmed that he is a prisoner of war.

Bombardier S. V. **Moore** of Royal Canadian Horse Artillery has died of gunshot wounds received in action.

**Bridgwater Mercury 11<sup>th</sup> July 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

Ten wounded soldiers arrived at Bridgwater Hospital

on Monday and were soon made comfortable.

Private W. E. **King** of Somerset Light Infantry, who was a prisoner of war in Turkey has died of dysentery.

Huntspill soldier killed by a shell. Driver W. J. **Webb** of the Royal Field Artillery has been killed in France. A shell burst a few yards from him and he was killed instantly.

Smokes for local Royal Engineers. Miss Daisy **Tamlyn** recently forwarded a parcel of 2,000 Gold Flake cigarettes for the benefit of Bridgwater men serving in the Field Co. Royal Engineers. A letter of acknowledgement was received.

Greinton soldier dies in India. Private **James Arthur** of Greinton has died in India due to malarial fever. This occurred in Lahore on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

Mr. W. J. **Sharkey** has received letters of thanks from a large number of local men serving with the forces acknowledging gifts of smokes etc.

Mr Lionel Hedley **Mogg** has been granted a commission as second-lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Somersets.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 18th July 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Local man Private Fredk. **Marchant** of Coldstream Guards, who was a stretcher bearer was killed instantly in the trenches by a shell on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Bridgwater man wins the D.C.M. Lance-Corporal **Pride** Royal Engineers has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in action.

Sapper A. W. **Hodges**, Royal Engineers was killed by a shell which burst inside his billet on 7<sup>th</sup> July. He was 32.

Private Samuel **Lock**, Canadian Contingency had been reported as wounded and missing. It now appears that he was killed in action on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

HMS Vanguard was sunk on 9<sup>th</sup> July and North Petherton lad Walter John **Spiller** rating as a Boy 1st Class was not on the list of survivors and is presumed lost.

A large batch of interesting letters has been received by Mr W J **Sharkey** thanking him for the gifts of cigarettes.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 25<sup>th</sup> July 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Chas. E. **Bond** a former pupil of Dr Morgan's has written a highly interesting narrative of how he went into action with the First Tanks. It has been printed in *The Morganians*.

Private Robert **Hill** of the Somerset L.I. who was reported a missing last September is now officially presumed to have been killed in action.

Bridgwater Officers wounded: Lieuts, H. A. **Strong**, D. **Hagon** and G.L. **Rowe** have been wounded. They are sons of very well-known townspeople.

North Petherton Officer grievously wounded. Second-Lieut. F. **Channing** of the Somerset L.I. Has had the sight of both eyes destroyed by a gunshot wound sustained in action. He was taken to a New Zealand Hospital in France.

Private R. G. **Richards** has written an interesting letter describing his experience during the recent British advance.

Mr W. J. **Sharkey** has received further acknowledgement of money to the Prisoners of War Fund. Local soldiers also wrote thanking him for gifts of cigarettes.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 1<sup>st</sup> August 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Cannington soldier killed by a shell Private Elias **Loveridge** of the Durham L.I. He had been reported as missing previously but an official letter has been received that he was killed with two others.

Lieut. Douglas **Hagon** of the Somersets is in a serious condition, after his right hand was shattered and it was found necessary to amputate. His parents have received a letter stating his injuries, also that he has acute septic poisoning.

Pte. Ben **Harris** of the Somersets has now been reported as killed in action on 16<sup>th</sup> September last year. He had previously been reported as missing. He was 35 and had been wounded twice before.

A postcard has been received By Mrs **Gillard** from her husband Pte. H. **Gillard** of the Somersets who had been taken prisoner at the Battle of Mons. He has been put to work in the German firing line for a while, but was in a safer place now.

Mr W. J. **Sharkey** of Queen Street has received letters of thanks for parcels of "smokes" from Gunner W J **Tarr**, Private Thomas **Kick**, Private P J **Smith**, J **Smitherson**, Corporal **Bell** and Corporal **Prew**.

On Tuesday Mrs S **Gardiner** of Polden Street received welcome information that her son Private W Gardiner of the Somerset Light Infantry, who had been missing since Easter, had rejoined his unit.

We are pleased to learn that Lieuts. H. A. **Symons** and G. L. **Rowe**, who were reported to have been wounded are both progressing favourably towards

recovery.

**BRIDGWATER MERCURY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1917**

**Bridgwater and the War**

Bridgwater & District Roll of Honour (scanned)

**Bridgwater Mercury 15<sup>th</sup> August 1917**

**Bridgwater and the War**

Magistrates and solicitors paid tribute to Second-Lieut. Douglas **Hagon** who died from wounds received in battle. He had previously acted as clerk to the Bridgwater magistrates during his father's illness, and had proved to be genial and courteous.

Bridgwater soldier killed in action: Private **Charles Stone** of King's Liverpool Regiment. has been killed in France and his mother has received a very complimentary letter regarding her son and his exemplary soldiering.

Fourteen wounded soldiers arrived at Bridgwater Hospital from Bristol on Thursday, twelve being serious cases.

The death occurred recently in France from wounds received in action of Private Ernest **Marles** of the Canadians. He was well known in Bridgwater, although he had been in Canada for several years. His mother now lives in Teignmouth.

Private Charles **Kift** of the Somerset Light Infantry was reported missing last September. Official notice has now been received that he was killed in action or had died since. He was 23 and lived in Stogursey.

Second-Lieut. F. H. **Norvill** of the Royal Garrison Artillery has died from gas poisoning on the Belgian front. His wife is living in Westonzoyland with her parents. It was said that he was a born leader of men, was very popular and cheerful.

It is believed that Private Walter **Palmer** has been killed in action. No official communication has been received, but Mrs Palmer his wife, received a letter from a comrade

**Bridgwater Mercury 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1917**

**Bridgwater and the War**

Lieutenant Gerald C W **Bishop** has been killed in action. The son of Mr F. W. **Bishop** a solicitor He was 21 years of age. On Monday's sitting of the Magistrates sympathy was shown to Mr **Bishop**. Captain **Webb** of the Middlesex Regiment wrote a letter to Mr **Bishop** saying that Lieut. **Bishop** was killed instantly by a shell and was buried where he fell.

Sub. lieut Ernest W **Towler** of the Royal Naval Division was severely wounded on 16<sup>th</sup> August and

is in a Red Cross hospital in France. Two bullets went through his shoulder.

Private Wm. **Flack** serving with the Grenadier Guards in France has written to his wife saying that he has been recommended by his commanding officer for the Military Medal for meritorious conduct carrying wounded under heavy shell fire.

Second-Lieut. G. R. **Colsey** of the Somerset L.I. was admitted to the Third General Hospital at Le Treport with a slight gunshot wound to the right hand.

Driver Douglas Wm **Coombes** of the Army Service Corps was killed by a shell on 11<sup>th</sup> August. He was only 19 years of age.

Official news has been received of the death of Private Wm. **Thorne** of the Welsh Regiment, which occurred at a casualty clearing station in France on 6<sup>th</sup> August following wounds received in action.

Mr W J **Sharkey** has received further acknowledgements during the past week for money and smokes from Sergt. A. E. **Crossman**, Private E. R. **David**, Private E. **Priddle** and from friends of Private S C **Burge** and Driver W **Speed**.

Private Wm. John **Chick** of the Devons was killed in action on 31<sup>st</sup> July. He was 23 years of age and had been in France previously with the Somersets.

Deaths of local men officially confirmed

Private Chas **Stone** of Kings Liverpool Regiment was killed in action in France on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Private Walter **Palmer** of the Devons was killed in action at Ypres on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

Assistant-Paymaster Archibald J **Dowdeswell** has had the Order of the Nile conferred upon him by the Sultan of Egypt.

Private Harry **Chilcott** has been admitted to hospital in France on 15<sup>th</sup> August suffering from wounds in the head and chest and he is considered to be very seriously ill.

The Chaplain of a hospital in France announced that Lance-Cpl Herbert **Nicholls** of the Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers has been admitted to hospital having been wounded. He was a member of the Bijou staff.

Capt. H. A. **Foley** of the Somerset Light Infantry was wounded in the left arm in a recent attack, he is at present in hospital in London.

Bridgwater men wounded:

Thomas W **Partridge** of the Somersets has been wounded and is in hospital at Etaples suffering from a severe gunshot wound to the chest.

Private T. **Payne** is in hospital in France suffering

from wounds to the thigh and arms.

Lance-Cpl. Wm. Geo. **Bonney** of the Somerset L.I. Has been reported missing for over a year now and it is feared that he cannot have survived and is therefore presumed killed in action.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 29<sup>th</sup> August 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

We very much regret to announce that another Bridgwater Officer has been killed in action. Second-Lieut. William **Hornsby** of the Somersets was killed in action on 14<sup>th</sup> August. He originally joined the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry. His parents live in Camden Road.

Bridgwater soldier's death from wounds. Lance-Cpl Herbert **Nicholls** of the Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers has died of his wounds after having his arm amputated. His condition worsened after admission with wounds, and it was necessary to amputate, it was his last chance of survival but he was too weak.

Private Charles Norman **Chard** of the Yorkshire Regiment has been officially reported to have been killed at the Front on 4<sup>th</sup> August. He was the son of a highly esteemed borough treasurer.

Lance-Cpl. L. **Bell** Wessex Royal Engineers. has fallen in action and although no official notification has been received, it is feared that he was killed.

Private P. **Hurford** of the Sussex Regiment was killed in action on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

Private J. **Cummins** of the Somerset Light Infantry was killed in action on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Bridgwater men wounded:

Private William **John** of the Royal Marine L.I. Has been admitted to Southmead Hospital after suffering a bad flesh wound in the left leg received in action on 12<sup>th</sup> August. He formerly had a confectioner's business in Fore Street and St John Street.

Cpl. C. **Bond** of the Royal Field Artillery was wounded by shrapnel in the left shoulder and side on 1<sup>st</sup> August. He is in hospital in Halifax.

Lance-Cpl. H. E. **Hayer** of the Model Dairy has been badly wounded while serving in France. He was struck by shrapnel and is now in hospital in Halifax.

Geoffrey **Grandfield** of Over Stowey was killed by a German Sniper on 16<sup>th</sup> August, he belonged to the Middlesex Regiment.

Mr Ralph **Barrington** has been gazetted as second lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery as from 5<sup>th</sup> August. He is now stationed at Bexhill.

Private Fred **Villis** of the Coldstream Guards was killed in action on 28<sup>th</sup> July. He was a stretcher bearer and was born in Spaxton.

Gifts for local soldiers and prisoners of war. - Mr W. **Sharkey** has received letters thanking him for his great interest, showing great appreciation.

Borough Roll of Honour.

Mr Ernest F. **Barratt** has published an appeal for information concerning various local men who have given their lives for the country as a roll of honour is being prepared.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 5<sup>th</sup> September 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Bridgwater soldier dies in Baghdad. Sapper Clifford **Foster** of the Royal Engineers has died on 22<sup>nd</sup> August from malaria. He had only left England six weeks ago.

The Town Council made sympathetic reference to the sad loss to the borough treasurer of his son Private Chas Norman **Chard**.

Private H. **Holder** was killed in action in France on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. He lived in Bridgwater for about twelve years.

Bridgwater men wounded:

Private Richmond **Hutchings** of the Somerset Light Infantry was wounded by a bullet to his left arm, and is in Stockport hospital.

Private Chas. **Hayman** of the Gloucesters is in hospital in Bristol. He was shot through the shoulder, and his right arm is now paralysed.

Gunner W. T. **Renwick** son of Mrs **Murch** of the Fleur de Lis Hotel has been detained in hospital in France suffering from dysentery. He is making satisfactory progress now.

Seaman Gunner Clifford **Hubbard** of the R.N.V.R. has been drowned through the sinking of a steamship by striking a mine.

Wounded soldiers have arrived at Bridgwater Hospital from Bristol. Fifteen of the men were "cot" cases, the remainder were "sitting-up" cases. The number of wounded soldiers in Bridgwater Hospital is now forty-four.

Private R. **House** of the Somerset Light Infantry has been officially reported as dead from wounds received in the face leg and arm. He had fought bravely to live. He originally lived in Durleigh.

News has been received of the death in action on 24<sup>th</sup> August of a young N.C.O. From Wembdon He was a signaller in the Somerset Light Infantry. He was slightly wounded by shrapnel, however he continued to signal, but was severely wounded again and died.

A letter has been received from Major C H **Fox**

Wessex Field Company regarding the death of Lance Corporal Charlie **Bell**, whose death was reported in last week's Mercury The Major wrote to the widow saying that he was an excellent N.C.O.

Gunner John **Baker** Royal Field Artillery of Pawlett was killed in action by a shell on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Private J. **Hill** of the Devon Regiment, a well-known resident of Dunwear has died in hospital after a serious illness.

Private R. **Moat** of Somerset L.I. From Somerset Bridge has been killed in action He died instantly on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

Gifts for local soldiers and prisoners of war. Mr W J **Sharkey** has received letters of thanks for gifts of "smokes" etc.

Rifleman L. A. **Rowles** of London Regiment was reported as missing last year. It has now been confirmed that his body had been found and was buried.

Private Tom **Roberts** of Somerset Light Infantry has been awarded the Military Medal in a recent big attack. He is to be heartily congratulated on this honour.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 12<sup>th</sup> September 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Major A. H **Peace** of Bridgwater has been gazetted as Lieut. Colonel in the Army Service Corps , Territorial Force as from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1916. He is at present serving in France.

Another Bridgwater man has been awarded the Military Medal, Private Ernest **Hendy** of the Somersets received the decoration for what he did in the Somersets' attack at Langemarck.

Bridgwater men wounded:

Private W. G. **Fudge** of Somerset L.I. Has been admitted to hospital at Winchester suffering from a gunshot wound in the hip.

Private E. **Sealey** of the Somerset Light Infantry has been seriously wounded in the abdomen and liver, a letter has been received from the casualty clearing station.

Private Benjamin **Gunningham** of the Welsh Regiment, a native of Stogursey has died of wounds received on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1916. Initially he had improved but he gradually worsened and died on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

Private Albert **Gadd** of the Somerset Light Infantry and a native of North Petherton, was wounded in action on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. He has since died.

An appeal has been made for boots and jerseys from Private H **Routley** who is on active service and wishes to form a rugby team.

E. W. D. **Ward** has appealed to readers of this paper to knit as many comforters as possible (mufflers, mittens, helmets and socks) etc.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 19<sup>th</sup> September 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Further details were received by the borough treasurer of the death of his son Private C N **Chard** saying he was killed instantaneously, but that it was forbidden to mention names of towns in correspondence.

Bridgwater men wounded

Private F. **Fudge** of the Somerset L.I. Was wounded and admitted to Stationary Hospital, Kantara, Egypt. He suffered from a gunshot wound to the head. Sergeant W. **Allen** of the Somerset Light Infantry is an inmate of a military hospital near London suffering from wounds in the arm and shoulder received in action.

Private Arthur **Butcher** of the Gloucester Regiment who lives in Cannington has been gassed and wounded. He is at present in hospital.

Private H J **Mears** of the Canadians, originally from Ashcott has died of wounds received in action in France. He was a native of Ashcott, but moved to Canada his widow lives in Canada.

A large number of casualties has been reported of young men from Burrowbridge. Almost all the young men who joined up have been killed or badly wounded.

Sapper Walter Pimm **Keirle** of the Royal Engineers killed in action in September. Also Private Tom **Painter**, who had been missing for some weeks, but a friend wrote recently and informed his parents of his death. He was badly wounded in the battle of Ypres and died in hospital. No definite news has been received regarding Private Bertie **Champion**, it is assumed that he was killed or taken prisoner.

Letters of thanks have been received by Mr W J **Sharkey** of Queen Street for gifts received.

Young Bridgwater soldier killed by a shell. Private James **Randall** of the Somerset Light Infantry has been killed by a shell on 12<sup>th</sup> September. He was 21 years of age.

Fireman J B **Collis** R.N.R. Trawler section has been mentioned for gallant conduct when the steam trawler *Asama* was attacked by submarines. The ship was so badly damaged that the crew had to take to the long boats.

Private W. F. **Webber** of Somerset Light Infantry was killed in action in Egypt, but no details have been received yet.

Catcott man dangerously wounded: Sergeant **Bartlett** R.F.A. Has been dangerously wounded, there is little hope for his recovery.

Gunner Harry **Payne** who was serving on S.S. Peerless has been taken a prisoner of war.

Mrs **Winslade** of Fordgate has received a letter from the hospital chaplain with the news that her son has died in hospital presumably of wounds, saying that he had sunk very rapidly at the end.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 26<sup>th</sup> September 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Petty Officer W. H. **Tucker** of the Royal Navy, whose home is in King Street has written a number of poems concerning the war. He sent a copy of his poem "Long Live Gallant Belgium" to the King of Belgium, and received an acknowledgement from his Majesty.

Second-Lieut. W. E. **Watkinson** of the London Regiment has been wounded, and his wife has received a telegram saying that he has been admitted to hospital with severe wounds to his right foot and left thigh. He was a clerical officer at Bridgwater County Court offices. He is expected to recover.

Private Fredk. **Jarvis** of the Devon Regiment (attached to the Gloucester's) has died from wounds received in battle. His wife had received a letter informing her of his wounds, then another letter told her he had since died.

Commander Thomas Wyburn **Biddlecombe**, who had been reported as missing since March has now been officially reported as killed in action. He was born in Shapwick. He entered the Merchant Service before joining the Royal Navy. He then volunteered for "Special Services". A most kind and gracious letter from their Majesties the King and Queen expressing their deep regret, has been received by his widow

Many tributes have been received for Private Tom **Painter** whose death was reported last week.

It has been reported that Private A. S. **Pearse** of the Somerset L.I. was wounded in Egypt and was admitted to hospital in Kantara. Sapper E J **Sealy** of the Royal Engineers has been wounded and is now in hospital in Southampton.

Private Hubert John **Iley** of the Somersets has been seriously wounded in Egypt. It is hoped that he is improving now.

Mrs **Barber** of Mount Street, Bridgwater has recently received official notice that her husband Pte. Clifford **Barber** of the Somersets, attached to the Dorset Regiment was drowned in Mesopotamia a year and seven months ago.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Sapper P. A. **Day** of the Royal Engineers, son of Mr Isaac **Day** of Wembdon Farm has won the Military Medal for gallantry in France.

A bar to the Military Medal has been awarded to Sergt. F. E. **Brooks**, Wilts Regiment.

Fred **Pocock**, whose father is Staff Sergeant Major **Pocock**, of the Market House Inn, has been promoted to Captain and Adjutant. He is only 21 years of age, so it is a great distinction in one so young. It is believed that his training with the Scouts assisted him.

A commission in the Royal Garrison Artillery has been granted to Sergeant E J **Godbeer**. He lived at one time in Camden Road but emigrated to Canada. He went with his brigade to the western front and has now been awarded a captaincy.

Letters have been received by the widow of Private Wm. Francis **Webber**, whose death was reported two weeks ago. They describe the event, and said that he died doing his duty.

Bombardier Albert **Phillips** of Over Stowey has been reported as killed in action, and a letter has been received by his parents from his Commanding Officer.

Private Fred **Bush**, Leinster Regiment, a native of Stogursey, has been severely wounded. His right arm is badly injured and his left leg is broken in two places. He is now in hospital in Glasgow.

The list of casualties published on Saturday contained the following names:

Killed: Sergeant F. **Hake**, Private H **Holder**, Somerset Light Infantry.

Wounded: Somerset Light Infantry, Private S. J.

**Boobyer**, E. W. **Brewer**, A. C. **Gadd**, R. **Hutchings**, A F **Rugg**, A **Haggett**, C. **Thatcher** and F. **Timeswell**. Gloucester's, Private A L **Butcher**. Oxfords and Bucks,, Lance-Corporal W J **Davis**.

Mr W J **Sharkey** of Queen Street has received further acknowledgement from Somerset Prisoners of War Help Committee. Also letters from several soldiers with thanks for "smokes" etc.

**Bridgwater Mercury 10<sup>th</sup> October 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

Lieut. J. Foster **Barham** has been awarded the Military Cross for rescuing six men who had been wounded from a burning tent, which collapsed in flames just as he had got the last man out. His father is a well known solicitor.

It has been reported that Second-lieut. A. E. **Coles** is missing, much sympathy is felt for his parents in their time of anxiety.

It was previously reported that Private H J **Iley** of the Somerset L.I. was wounded in Egypt last month. The news has now been received that he died from his wounds, much sympathy is felt for the widow and his parents.

A large number of wounded men have passed through Bridgwater Hospital. The latest batch were brought from Bristol last Wednesday and were met by a doctor and an Alderman.

Private E **Parsons** of the Royal West Surrey Regiment has been reported as killed in action.

**Bridgwater Mercury 17<sup>th</sup> October 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

Captain W. H. **Tamlyn** of the Royal Engineers has been appointed to the rank of acting-major and to the command of a field company.

Second-Lieut. Lionel **Mogg** of Somerset L.I. Has been severely wounded in action, he has been admitted to the General Hospital Wimereux, Belgium with severe gunshot wounds to the right thigh and a fracture to the left thigh.

Private Wm. Chas **Speed** of the West Kent Regiment has been wounded and sent to hospital in Edinburgh. He received a shrapnel wound to his leg and a fractured arm.

Private Samuel **Gordge** of the Somerset Light Infantry has been killed in action. He was hit by a shell and a comrade wrote to his parents.

Gunner S. **Pester** R.F.A. A native of Othry has been killed by a shell. He was 21 years of age. Letters have been received by his parents from an officer and a Bombardier.

North Petherton corporal wins the Military Medal: Lance-Corporal Harold **Hodges**, serving with the Royal Engineers in France has been decorated for devotion to duty and good work in the field.

Woolavington man falls in action. Pte. W. **Bawden** of Somerset L.I. Met his death on the battlefield. He was killed by a shell and a comrade wrote a letter to

his mother saying that he died instantly and felt no pain.

Former appeals for books and magazines have produced an excellent response. The books will be forwarded to the Camps Library and recreation rooms.

Mr W J **Sharkey** has received letters acknowledging gifts of donations, also gifts of "smokes" The letters are very appreciative.

Contributions have been received of fruit and vegetables from harvest thanksgiving services of Edington and Catcott Burtle. They will be passed to the Navy.

**Bridgwater Mercury 24<sup>th</sup> October 1917**  
**Bridgwater and the War**

Bridgwater Officer promoted. - Lieut. E. Lionel **Jones** M.C. Royal Fusiliers has been promoted to the rank of acting-captain.

Second-Lieut. Hedley **Mogg** of Somerset Light Infantry is making progress after his awful experience. He was admitted to hospital at Wimereux Belgium suffering from gunshot wounds in the right side and a fracture of the left leg. He wrote to his parents saying that he had been wounded and had lain for thirty hours in the shell hole, as it was impossible for help to be brought owing to the enemy's fire.

Second-Lieut. J. M. **Edgar** of the South Staffordshire Regiment has been promoted to the rank of captain. He was one of the masters at Dr Morgan's school.

Lieut. G. H. **Lofthouse** East Yorkshire Regiment, previously reported as missing, has now been reported as killed on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at the battle of Arras.

Sub-Corporal H. L. **Bond** of Royal West Kent Regiment has been killed in action. He was 26 years of age and had previously served in South Africa before being drafted for service in France.

Lance-Corporal F. **Hake** of Devon Regiment has succumbed to wounds received in action on 4<sup>th</sup> October. He was a local assistant superintendent of the Prudential Assurance Company, and a well-known cyclist.

Private Wm. Henry **Mead** of the Somerset L.I. has been wounded in the right leg while on active service in Egypt on September 26<sup>th</sup> He is now in hospital in Cairo.

Sergeant P. H. **Cox** of Woolavington, who has been serving at the Front since November 1914, and has been wounded once, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty in Ypres.

Private Fredk. **Chard** of the Welsh Regiment is apparently wounded and missing. His parents received an unopened letter they sent him back marked “wounded and missing”. He is 19 years of age and a former pupil of Dr Morgan's School.

A recently published list of men to whom the Military Medal has been awarded for bravery in the field contains the following names: Private E. **Hendy**, Somerset L.I. (Bridgwater) Private T. **Roberts**, Somerset L.I. (Bridgwater) It was also announced that a bar has been added to the Military Medal gained by Gunner V. J. **Baker**, R.F.A. (Bridgwater).

The sad news has been received of the death from wounds received in action on 4<sup>th</sup> October of Gunner Frank **Walford** of the Royal Garrison Artillery of Spaxton. He died in hospital.

Official news has been received that Sergt. Ernest **Bartlett** of Catcott has died of wounds. He was in a Canadian clearing hospital, it had been hoped to bring him to London for an operation, but he died .

Private William **Case** of the Canadians, formerly of East Huntspill has been killed in action on 18<sup>th</sup> August. He was 42 years of age and unmarried. A letter to his sister stated that he was well liked by his fellow men and held in high esteem.

The “Royal Red Cross” has been awarded to Staff Nurse **Edith Pearce** of the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve. Nurse Pearce had the great honour of being personally decorated by the King at Buckingham Palace. She has done splendid service in Egypt and West Africa.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 31st October 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Local commission. Mr L. G. **Bradfield** has obtained a commission in the 5th Worcesters. Cpl. Bradfield had previously seen service in France with the 4<sup>th</sup> Gloucester's.

Lieut. Robert **Pepperall**, Machine Gun Corps from Wembdon, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in France.

A previous rumour that Private Cecil Charles **Shute** of Wembdon was missing has proved unfounded as his father has received a letter from him.

Bridgwater soldier killed by a shell. Sapper **H. H. Potter** R.E. Has been killed in action. He was killed by a shell He has been buried at Vierstaat His widow has been informed.

Bridgwater cricketer wounded. Gunner W. **Milton** of the Royal Garrison Artillery has been wounded and is now in hospital at Lewes. He is a well-known

cricketer, and his many friends wish him a speedy recovery.

Twelve more wounded soldiers arrived at the Bridgwater Hospital on Wednesday, seven cot cases and five sitting-up cases. They were met at G.W.R. Station by various dignitaries.

Second-Lieut. C. W. **Jeffreys**, Shropshire Light Infantry, who was an old Morganian, was killed in action on 17<sup>th</sup> October He joined the 6th Dragoon Guards and was recommended for a commission after twelve months.

Miss Elsie. R. **Hitchcox**, of Wembdon Road has been honourably mentioned in *The Times*. She has been doing useful work with the Red Cross Nurses.

Sergt. E. K. **Broad** of Victoria Road, who has been serving with 1<sup>st</sup> London Regiment Royal Fusiliers, has recently earned a well merited promotion in being made company sergeant major.

An appeal has been made for money to buy a watch and chain for Lance-Cpl **Saunders** for his conspicuous bravery. He captured a German officer and showed great courage evading snipers.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 7<sup>th</sup> November 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Captain Ernest **Jones**, Royal Fusiliers has been decorated with the Military Cross by his Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace.

Sapper G. W. **Doble** of the Royal Engineers was killed in action on 21<sup>st</sup> October. He was killed instantaneously by a bomb during a bombing raid. He was buried in a British military cemetery. Much compassion was felt for his parents.

Private Ernest Charles **Haysham** of the Somerset Light Infantry has won distinction in the war and has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in action. He wrote home that he had been involved in fighting on the Turkish line, and a colleague wrote home how brave Ernest had been.

Gunner William Henry **Burt** of the Royal Field Artillery has been seriously injured and was dangerously ill in a casualty clearing station. He suffered gunshot wounds to the abdomen and chest but is making progress.

Local soldier Private F. **Sully** of the Middlesex Regiment is reported to be missing. No news has been received for several weeks.

Lieut. W. E. **Watkinson** of Bridgwater who was wounded some time ago and is in hospital in London, has had to undergo another operation. His condition

is very serious.

An interesting event will follow the election of Mayor at the meeting of the Bridgwater Town Council, when a presentation of a gold watch will be made to Private William **Saunders** of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, as a recognition of his bravery which secured him the D.C.M. when serving in France. Private Saunders is now home on leave.

A military funeral took place for Private Joseph Richard **Steadman** at Wembdon Church. He was in the regulars and served at Mons. He was severely wounded on 9<sup>th</sup> October and was subsequently sent to hospital in England, but death ensued.

Private Wm. Jas. **Jarvis** of the Royal Fusiliers has been wounded and admitted to hospital. A postcard was received by his parents though no further details have been received.

Mrs **Gordge** of Union Street has received a letter from Sergt. A. **Brett** of the Somersets concerning the death of her husband Private S. **Gordge**. He states that "Sammy" was a fine soldier, and he expressed deep sympathy.

Private Edward **Venning** of the Leicester Regiment, who was previously recommended for the D.C.M. Some time ago, has been killed in action on 7<sup>th</sup> October. He had been wounded the previous year. It is hoped that the D.C.M. medal will still be presented.

Private Thomas William **Baker** of the Australians, though a native of Somerset Bridge, was killed in action on 4<sup>th</sup> October. His sergeant wrote to his parents with a striking tribute.

The gallantry displayed in action by Private Tom **Ruckley** of the Hampshire Regiment has earned great commendation from the Major General and was placed on official record.. Mr and Mrs Ruckley have six sons serving their country.

A.B. Tom **Nash**, Royal Naval Division has died from wounds received during action on 28<sup>th</sup> October. A Sister at the hospital where he was taken has written to his parents. He has been buried in France. Mr & Mrs Nash also received a letter from the Royal Naval Division Record Office.

The King has been pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery on the field to Pte. **Lancaster**, Somerset Light Infantry.

Private **Hickman**, although a native of Bridgwater, and is now a Tasmanian, has been wounded and is in hospital in Tunbridge Wells. He paid a recent visit to Albert Street School and several of the pupils have written to him.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 14<sup>th</sup> November 1917** **Bridgwater and the War**

Local R.A.M.C. Man's severe wounds. Private Frank **Ballinger** of the Ambulance Section Gloucester Regiment, has received a severe wound and his right foot had to be amputated. He was in a "pill box" at the time and the lower half of his foot was shot off by a shell. He is recovering satisfactorily.

Corporal F. W. **Creedy** R.E. Attached to the Canadians has been "gassed" recently. He had to be hospitalised but is doing fine.

Sapper A. J. **Seymour** R.E. Has died of wounds on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. A letter to his parents said that he had been admitted to hospital very badly wounded with no chance of recovery. He passed away quite quickly and was conscious but did not appear to be suffering. Major **Fox** of Wessex R.E. wrote to his parents saying that he had been a good and cheerful boy.

It has previously been announced that Sapper H. H. **Potter** Royal Engineers had died in action. His parents have now received an official confirmation of this sad fact.

Mrs J H **Venning** has received a letter from Lieut. J H **Carlisle** paying tribute to the late Private E **Venning** whose death was reported last week. He expressed extreme sympathy and said that his death had been instantaneous, also that he had died a soldier's death in service of King and country.

Private George **Smith** of the Devon Regiment was killed in action on 26<sup>th</sup> October. The Captain of his regiment wrote to Private **Smith's** parents describing of his death received by a shell blast.

It is pleasing to hear that Lieut. W. R. **Watkinson** who is in hospital in London is now off the critical list and he is making signs of progress.

Private W. **Jarvis** of the London Regiment has been admitted to hospital in France suffering from a gunshot wound to his right arm which is quite severe.

The parents of Gunner Wm **Burt** R.F.A. have received a letter from the sister in charge of the hospital in France saying that although their son has been severely wounded everything possible would be done for him

Mr **Sharkey** of Queen Street has received official notice informing that his son Private M **Sharkey** of the Army Service Corps is in hospital in Salonika suffering from severe pneumonia.

Sergeant Wm. J. **Gardner** of the Somersets was killed in action in Palestine in October. His widow who lives in Bath has informed his parents who

reside in St John Street Bridgwater.

A presentation is to be made to Lance-Corporal Frank **Pride** of the Royal Engineers by the Loyal Halswell Lodge of Oddfellows. He has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in action, and is therefore greatly admired.

Two more North Petherton men have been killed in action and sympathy is felt for their parents, Sapper J **Aish** was killed by a shell in France and Private E **Marks** of the Somersets has also been killed in action.

Lance-Corporal W. **Cable** of the D.C.L.I. From Moorland is in hospital in Keighley suffering from a bullet wound in the right leg. He has written a very descriptive letter to his parents of how he crawled for two miles before getting picked up. He is now progressing satisfactorily, and his mother has visited him in hospital.

Mr W. J. **Sharkey** of Queen Street has received a letter from the chairman of Somerset Prisoners of War Help Committee acknowledging further contributions. Letters have also been received from several soldiers thanking him for gifts, etc.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 21<sup>st</sup> November 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Lieut L. H. **Palmer** S.L.I. has been gazetted to the rank of Acting-Captain in a Labour Battalion stationed at Taunton.

Mr & Mrs **Chilcott** of Wembdon have now received official confirmation that their son Private R. W. **Chilcott** of the Gloucester Regiment - who was reported missing nearly twenty months ago is now presumed to have been killed in action on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1916.

Private Henry **Fender** of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was killed in action in Egypt on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Much sympathy is felt for his parents as this is their second bereavement, another son was killed in France last March.

Able Seaman W. C. **Gilbert** was killed by a shell on 7<sup>th</sup> November. A letter has been received by his parents stating that his death was instantaneous. He had been a brave and happy young man.

Private W. T **Byrd** of Surrey Regiment has been reported as missing since being in action on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Private George **Bushell** of the Army Service Corps has died as a result of wounds received on 9<sup>th</sup> November. He was previously an employee of the Bijou Theatre, and was of a quiet disposition.

Private Philip **Dicker** of the Cornwall Regiment has been killed in action in France recently. He was 29 years of age. Also Private Fred Courtenay has been killed in France He was 22 years old.

Lance-Corporal William **Squire** has been admitted to a Canadian General Hospital suffering from severe shrapnel injury to his back.

Corporal C. **Dibble** of the Devons has been admitted to hospital in France suffering from a slight wound to the thigh. He was transferred from the Somersets to the Devons.

Cpl George **Smith**, Wessex Royal Engineers has been killed in action. This brings the total of Stogursey men killed to twenty-one. Cpl Smith previously worked on the Fairfield Estate.

Private Percy **Woodley** from Nether Stowey, attached to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry has been killed in action in France. He had only been on the front for two months and was not yet 20 years old.

Mr W. J. **Sharkey** has received further acknowledgement of gifts from the Prisoner of War Fund and several soldiers. His work is much appreciated.

A letter has been received by the mother of Able Seaman **Aish** of North Petherton from an officer, stating that he was a good sailor, brave and fearless and was very popular with the officers and men.

On Monday afternoon six more wounded soldiers arrived at Bridgwater for treatment in Hospital, all being cot cases, They were met at the station by dignitaries and moved very carefully by motor bus. There are now 37 soldiers at Bridgwater Hospital and all are making good progress.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 28<sup>th</sup> November 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Signaller Percy **Short** R.N.D. has been killed as a result of an explosion aboard ship, there being only one survivor. He had been born in Taunton but lived in Bridgwater with his aunt and was greatly interested in the Boy Scout movement, being an assistant Scoutmaster. Much sympathy is felt for his widowed mother and other members of his family.

Private Charles James **Cockerell** of the D.C.L.I. was killed in action on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Much sympathy is felt for his parents who have now received official confirmation of his death. They had previously been informed by a Wesleyan minister.

Lance-Cpl Frank **Pride**, Royal Engineers, who has been awarded the D.C.M. For gallantry in action has

been wounded and is now in hospital in Cheshire. The members of the Halswell Lodge of Oddfellows are organising a presentation to him in recognition of his having gained the D.C.M.

News has been received of local Bridgwater men wounded, i.e. Private W. C. **Thomas** of the Somerset Light Infantry is at a stationary hospital at El Arish, Egypt suffering from a gunshot wound to his face; Lance-Corporal John **Pollard** S.L.I. was admitted to hospital in Alexandria with slight gunshot wounds; Private C. H. **Baker** S.L.I. was admitted to hospital in Egypt suffering from gunshot wounds in his right arm and seriously ill, and Private W. E. **Merchant** S.L.I. Has been admitted to hospital in Egypt suffering from gunshot wounds to his chest.

Nine more wounded soldiers arrived at Bridgwater Hospital on Thursday. They were conveyed to the hospital in vehicles lent by Bridgwater Motor Company. There are now 46 wounded soldiers in the Hospital.

The parents of Private F. G. **Davey** of the Somerset L.I. originally from Combwich and who was previously reported as missing believed dead have now received official confirmation of this sad fact.

Corporal Wallace **Stacey** of the Warwickshire Yeomany was killed in action on 8<sup>th</sup> November. He was from Westonzoyland and enlisted at the age of 17 years. He has served in various campaigns including France and Egypt. He was 26 years of age.

Mrs **Walker** of Pawlett has been notified that her son Private Arthur **Walker** of the Hood Battalion, Royal Naval Division is missing. She awaits further information.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 5<sup>th</sup> December 1917 Bridgwater and the War**

Bridgwater Officer killed in Palestine – Captain Arthur Oswald **Major** of the Somerset Light Infantry was killed in action on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Profound sympathy is felt for his father Mr Henry **Major** J.P. Captain **Major** was 42 years of age and was a most efficient officer. He joined the forces as a private and steadily worked his way through the ranks. He served for three years before being transferred to Egypt. He attended Dr Morgan's School and he was very proficient at sport, playing hockey for the county. He had many skills and was a sidesman at St. Mary's Church, also taking bible classes. Many tributes have been paid to him.

A telegram has been received bringing news that Lieutenant A. M. **Foster** of Somerset Light Infantry has been wounded in Palestine on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. No further information has been received at present.

Able Seaman Horace **Bell** of Howe Battalion Royal Naval Division has been posted as missing since 26<sup>th</sup> October. His mother has received a letter stating that he has been wounded and his whereabouts are not known. He is 19 years of age.

Mrs **Bushell** of Stogursey has received further news of the death of her husband Private George **Bushell**. A.S.C. A letter from Second-Lieut. H. F. **Bateman** said that he was badly wounded by a German aeroplane and though taken to hospital he died the next day. He had been a very good soldier, and was respected and loved by all.

Rifleman F. T. J. **Cattle** of Kings Royal Rifles was killed in action by the concussion of a shell on 18<sup>th</sup> November. A letter to his parents said that he had suffered no pain and death was very quick. He was 19 years of age. Before enlisting he had been a porter for G.W.R.

Captain Gerald Banes **Walker** from North Petherton of Somerset Light Infantry has been killed in action in Palestine on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. He had been in India where he obtained his commission and was transferred to Palestine a few months ago.

News has been received that Private William Charles **Martin** of the Canadians has been reported as missing. He had only been at the front for two weeks.

A soldier from Goathurst – Lance-Corporal William Henry **Burge** of the Somerset Light Infantry was killed in action on 12<sup>th</sup> November, much sympathy is felt for his parents.

Reports have been received that two Bridgwater men have been wounded. Private John **Barber**, Somerset Light Infantry, a well known local footballer, has had his left arm very badly crushed. Also Sergt. T. **Billings**, Somerset Light Infantry, another footballer has been admitted to hospital at El Arish suffering from a gunshot wound to the head.

Private Thomas **Hodge** from Enmore has died in France. His parents had been summoned and were able to see him before the end.

Lance-Cpl W. J. **Pitman** of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, a former resident of the town, has recently received a commendation from his Lieutenant-Colonel, for gallant conduct and devotion to duty. He was shot through the muscle of his left arm on October 28<sup>th</sup> and is now in hospital at Leith, Scotland.

Sergt. L. F. **Rood** has been promoted to the rank of Second-Lieutenant in the Indian Army. He has been serving in India and is an old boy of Dr Morgan's

School.

**Bridgwater Mercury 12<sup>th</sup> December 1917  
Bridgwater and the War**

Local Sergt. Major has been killed in action. Co. Sergt. Major W K **Broad**, Royal Fusiliers fell in action on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. He was well known and highly esteemed in Bridgwater, working at Nicholls drapery on the Cornhill. He was prominent in the Boys Brigade movement. He had seen much active service and was recently specially commended for distinguished conduct in the field.

Private H. **Haysham** Somerset Light Infantry was killed in Palestine on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. He was well known locally and was a keen rugby player, playing for the Bridgwater club. He was employed by H J & C Major Ltd.

Lance-Corpl J M **Barnard** was killed in action in Palestine on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. He attended Dr Morgan's school and at the time of the outbreak of war was at Bristol University studying for a schoolmaster's certificate. He had previously been serving in India before being transferred to Palestine.

Gunner W. G. **Woolcott**, who won the Military Medal on 54<sup>th</sup> November, and who was also slightly wounded was presented with a silver wrist watch and 100 Gold Flake cigarettes by his fellow workers at the Goods Department. The presentation took place in Barry at the Ship Hotel.

Major Harry **Archer** D.S.O. Devon Regiment was killed in France by a shell wound in the head on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November. He never regained consciousness. It was only last month that he received the D.S.O. from the King at Buckingham Palace. It was conferred on him for special gallantry. He had been in the thick of the fighting for three years. He was well known in Somerset, particularly in cricketing circles. A memorial service was held at Holford Church. Muffled peals were rung before and after the service.

We have now received information on Second-Lieut Arnold **Foster** of Somerset L.I. It had previously been reported that he was wounded, without details, we now know he was admitted to hospital with gunshot wounds in the left shoulder

Private E. J. **Mockridge** of Royal West Kent Regiment, a resident of Wembdon, has been reported as missing since 12<sup>th</sup> October. A letter has been sent to his wife informing her.

Walter **Giles** of Nether Stowey of the Somerset Light Infantry was killed in action on 29<sup>th</sup> November in

Egypt. Before being called up he was employed by Mr H Tarr butcher.

The following men have been wounded in Palestine: Private Wm. **Creedy** of Somerset Light Infantry was wounded on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Co-Sergt. Major F. **Loxston** of Somerset Light Infantry was also wounded on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Local casualties:

Killed: Private W. **Adams** (Bridgwater), Lance-Cpl W. H. **Burge** and Private H. **Savidge** all of Somerset Light Infantry.

Wounded: Cpl. C. **Doble** of Devon Regiment, Sergt. F. **Adams** (Bridgwater), Private A. J. H.

**Biddiscombe** (Bridgwater), Private A **Cavill** (Spaxton) Private P J **Cox** (Bridgwater) Lance-Corporal F. W. **Hill** (Bridgwater) Private A. E. **King** (Combwich) Lance-Cpl J. **Pollard** (Bridgwater) and Private W. G. **Thomas** (Bridgwater), all from Somerset Light Infantry.

News has been received of the death of Private Alfred B. **Iley**, attached to the Northumberland Fusiliers from typhoid fever at Baghdad on December 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the second bereavement for his parents who lost another son having died of wounds in Egypt.

Five more wounded soldiers arrived at Bridgwater Hospital on Tuesday. Four being "cot" cases. They were met at the station by Dr Wilberforce **Thompson** and were transferred by G.W.R. ambulance men.

Mr W. J. **Sharkey** has recently composed a fresh series of poems which are now on sale at a moderate price of one penny. Proceeds will be devoted to the same patriotic object, to provide comfort for the troops. He has received grateful letters of thanks for parcels sent by him to soldiers, thanking him for "smokes" etc.

**Bridgwater Mercury 19<sup>th</sup> December 1917  
Bridgwater and the War**

The sale of war bonds in Bridgwater during the week ending December 8<sup>th</sup> was £42,060 through the Bridgwater Banks, this is five times the amount expected and brings the total for ten weeks up to £70,160, which is excellent. The amount sold through local banks last week was £7,581.

We have received details of the death of Gunner H. A. **Fry** from Moorlinch. His ship was reported as sunk by hostile gunfire on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and unfortunately he lost his life two days later. His body was brought to port and conveyed home on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The funeral took place at Sutton Mallet on 5<sup>th</sup> December. There were many floral tributes and a memorial service was held on Sunday evening at Moorlinch church.

Several more Bridgwater men have fallen in action:

Corporal H. **Tottle**, Somerset Light Infantry – killed in action in Palestine on 20<sup>th</sup> November, having transferred there from India. His mother received a letter from him the same day as she received the bad news of his death.

Private H. **Sully**, Middlesex Regiment is reported as having been killed in action, on or after 17<sup>th</sup> October. He had been sent to France in April, and his wife having not heard from him had written to the War Office. She received a letter from them on 10<sup>th</sup> December reporting that he was on the casualty list.

Private H **Bale** Highland L.I. - After hearing the news unofficially, Mrs Bale has now received official news that Private Bale was killed in action on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. He died instantaneously and felt no pain.

Private R. **Mitchell** Labour Battalion. He had only been at the front for two months, and he was killed by a shell on December 10<sup>th</sup>. His death was instantaneous.

We reported the death of Co,Sergeant. Major Wm. **Knowles** of the London Regiment in the last issue of this paper. His father has received a sympathetic letter from Rev. F. Colborne the chaplain to the forces saying that his son had been given a Christian burial and had been laid to rest in a cemetery. He had been a splendid fellow and was liked by everyone.

Mr and Mrs **Frampton** of Camden Road were officially informed on Wednesday morning that their son Private C. A. **Frampton** of the Somersets had been wounded in Palestine on November 24<sup>th</sup>. However she received a further official message on the Saturday morning saying that Private Frampton was not wounded as previously reported.

Official news was received on Monday morning of the death of Driver Charles Henry **Taylor** of the Royal Field Artillery – which occurred at an isolation hospital in Baghdad on December 9<sup>th</sup> from smallpox. His mother had received news two weeks previously that he was seriously ill.

Bridgwater men wounded:

Private Leslie **Dawe** of the Somerset Light Infantry was wounded in Palestine on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. He is at 45<sup>th</sup> Stationary Hospital at El Arish suffering from gunshot wounds to the left leg.

Private R. **Bale**, Somerset Light Infantry has been admitted to the 27<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, Abbasia, Cairo suffering from a gunshot wound to the left leg.

Private H. **Webb**, Somerset Light Infantry has also been admitted to 27<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, Abbasia,

Cairo, suffering from a gunshot wound to the left leg. Private F. W. **Gratton**, Somerset Light Infantry has been wounded in Palestine

Private Thos. **Rugg** of the Somerset L.I. Was wounded in Palestine on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Private Fredk. Geo. **Spriggs** of the Somersets was wounded in Palestine also on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Private F. **Jarvis** of the Somersets has been admitted to hospital at El Arish suffering from a gunshot wound in the left knee.

Gunner W. **Tarr**, Royal Field Artillery was admitted to hospital at Rouen on 1<sup>st</sup> December suffering from severe gunshot wounds to the right arm. He is now in hospital in Bristol and is progressing satisfactorily.

Private J. H. **Pulsford** of the Somersets was wounded in action in Egypt on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. It is not known how seriously.

Private Ernest Charles **Haysham** is reported to be missing in Palestine since 22<sup>nd</sup> November It was reported last week that his younger brother Private Harry **Haysham** also of the Somersets was killed in action. It is feared that both brothers fell in action in the same battle. A letter had been received home the same day from Ernest saying both brothers were in good health and getting along all right.

Sergt. H. **Redding** of Somerset L.I. has been reported as missing after an engagement in Palestine of 23<sup>rd</sup> November. He was a member of the old Volunteer Force and afterwards of the Territorials and had completed twenty years of service, for which he received the Long Service Medal. He had served in India and was transferred to Egypt and Palestine.

News has been received of a missing Pawlett soldier. Arthur **Walker** of the Hood Battalion of the Royal Naval Division has been reported as alive and well but a prisoner of war in Germany.

Local casualties:

Missing: Devon Regiment – Private G. **Smith** (Bridgwater) Private W. J. **Richards** (Bridgwater)  
Wounded: Royal Field Artillery, Gunner W. H. **Burt** (Bridgwater) Bombardier J W **Hobbs** (Bridgwater)  
Royal Garrison Artillery – Gunner L. **Jones** (Bridgwater) Gunner C. W. **Webb** (Bridgwater)  
Royal Engineers, Sapper G. **Sweet** (Bridgwater)  
Somersets – Private F. **Lye** (Bridgwater) Private E. **Bell** (Bridgwater) Royal N. Lanc. Regiment Private R. T. **Radnidge** (North Petherton) Royal Field Artillery Driver S **Pole** (Bridgwater)

#### Bridgwater Mercury December 27<sup>th</sup> 1917 Bridgwater and the War

Fierce fighting has been taking place in Romania west of Braila and in the Dobrrudja, and the Russians have been driven further North.

The King has sent a Christmas and New Year greeting to his sailors and soldiers and to the sick and wounded.

During bad weather in the North Sea two of our torpedo boats collided and sank and 49 men were lost.

Following a great aerial attack upon Maghdabah (20 miles south-south-west of El Arish) our mounted troops carried a strong enemy position, taking 1,130 prisoners and inflicting considerable casualties. Our airmen continue to harass the Turks in their flight. The British successfully launched gas west of Messine and our heavy artillery shelled an enemy battery opposite Neuve Chapelle and Festubert. In the raid undertaken at Arras, we penetrated two lines of enemy trenches, did considerable damage and returned with an officer and 57 other rank prisoners.

The King of Rumania delivered a stirring speech admitting the many sacrifices his country had made, but remained hopeful of the strong Russian reinforcements passing through.

The Russians captured heights in the Carpathians and inflicted considerable losses on the enemy.

The situation in Athens is still doubtful.

On the Doiran and Struma fronts the British undertook raids and serious loss was inflicted on the enemy.

Sir Douglas Haig's report on the Somme will be issued in the New Year.

No Christmas truce. Successful raids were carried out on the enemy's trenches east of Angres, south-west of Lens and east of Armentieres. There has been considerable artillery activity at intervals during the day on our front north of the Somme, with much damage done.

Artillery activity has continued in the neighbourhood of Ypres, also south of Armentieres.

Enemy's sweep in the Dobrudja – Two Danube towns occupied.

The Russians have been forced to give ground in the region of Rymnik-Sarat, having to abandon Isaktcha and Tulcea, but the battle continues. On the Moldavian front however, the Russians took 300 prisoners and several machine guns north of the Uzul Valley.

Switzerland has addressed a Note appealing for the Powers to make an effort to reach a peaceful settlement. The Swiss government has been in touch with President Wilson on the subject for the past five weeks. The German Press appear to be very annoyed with Mr Wilson fearing he will aggravate the situation instead of improving it.

Roll of Honour. Photos have been posted of Private A. W. **Beard** and Private Albert Henry **Spring**, both

were previously reported in this newspaper as killed in action.

Private Gilbert **Burrington** of Canadian Infantry, but formerly of Westfield House was killed instantaneously by a shell in the trenches in France on November 21<sup>st</sup>. He has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery and gallant conduct. He was well known and highly esteemed in the Bridgwater district and was a keen cricketer having played for the county.

Corporal Alfred **Miller** from North Petherton and of the Somersets was killed in action on 14<sup>th</sup> November. He had been associated with the Congregational Church at North Petherton and the pastor paid a warm tribute to his character and qualities.

Sapper Tom **Williams** of the Wessex Engineers, who resided in Chilton Street has died in hospital from wounds. At first the War Office notified his family that he had been wounded, but the next day a letter was received informing them of his death.

Private E **Kirk** of the Devons, now serving in Mesopotamia has sent an interesting letter to this paper describing various attacks. The order came to go "over the top" and the officer in charge kept a very cool head but was wounded. It is not known what the outcome was. A long description followed of Private Kirk's subsequent visit to hospital.

Local casualties:

Killed: Pte. F. **Jarrett** (Bridgwater) Pte. H. W. **Cash** (Bridgwater)

Missing: Pte T. E. **Owen** (Bridgwater)

Wounded: Pte. T. J. **Martin** (Bridgwater) Gunner **A W Trunks** (Bridgwater) Pte. A. E. **Peaty** (Bridgwater) Pte. W. **Norris** (Bridgwater)

Mr **Sharkey** has received numerous letters of thanks and acknowledgements of cigarettes, etc.