

<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1918</b>	<b>p.1</b>	<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 2 January 1918.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1918</b>	<b>p.1</b>	<b>Bridgwater and the War.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1918</b>	<b>p.2</b>	How they went “Over the top”.
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1918</b>	<b>p.2</b>	Spaxton Soldier falls – death of Rifleman R. G
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1918</b>	<b>p.3</b>	<b>Court.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1918</b>	<b>p.3</b>	Bridgwater soldier killed in action – Private D <b>Pole.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1918</b>	<b>p.4</b>	Bridgwater Naval Men Killed – Stoker Petty Officer
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1918</b>	<b>p.4</b>	James <b>Adams.</b> Able Seaman Ernest <b>Wyndham</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1918</b>	<b>p.4</b>	<b>Cattl.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1918</b>	<b>p.4</b>	Bridgwater soldier's fate, man missing – Pte Sidney
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1918</b>	<b>p.4</b>	Walter <b>Carve.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1918</b>	<b>p.4</b>	Bridgwater and War Bonds sold to total £83,796.
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1918</b>	<b>p.4</b>	Bridgwater Soldier Killed by a shell – Private Robert
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1918</b>	<b>p.5</b>	<b>Evan.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1918</b>	<b>p.6</b>	Gifts for local soldiers – donations of £6 17 6d., also
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1918</b>	<b>p.6</b>	“smoke.
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1918</b>	<b>p.7</b>	The Somersets' First V.C. Private Thomas Henry
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1918</b>	<b>p.8</b>	<b>Sage.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1918</b>	<b>p.9</b>	Local Canadian wins military medal – Pte S
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1918</b>	<b>p.10</b>	<b>Goodland.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1918</b>	<b>p.10</b>	Bridgwater soldier missing – Private E C <b>Sweet.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1918</b>	<b>p.10</b>	Local Soldier's death in Ireland – Private Fredk
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1918</b>	<b>p.11</b>	<b>Chilcott.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1918</b>	<b>p.11</b>	<b>Bridgwater Mercury 9<sup>th</sup> January 1918</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1918</b>	<b>p.11</b>	<b>Bridgwater and the War.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1918</b>	<b>p.12</b>	Local man falls in action – Able Seaman W G
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1918</b>	<b>p.12</b>	<b>Phillips R.N.D.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1918</b>	<b>p.12</b>	Bridgwater soldier missing – Private J <b>Squire.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1918</b>	<b>p.12</b>	Missing Bridgwater soldier's safety – Private Sidney
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1918</b>	<b>p.13</b>	Walter <b>Carver</b> was a prisoner of war.
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1918</b>	<b>p.13</b>	Local man's death at sea – Stoker Petty Officer James
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 7 August, 1918</b>	<b>p.13</b>	<b>Adam.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1918</b>	<b>p.13</b>	Bridgwater Canadians Promotion – Gunner Wallace
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1918</b>	<b>p.14</b>	<b>Gleed.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1918</b>	<b>p.14</b>	Bridgwater and the King's Proclamation – special call
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1918</b>	<b>p.15</b>	for intercession.
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1918</b>	<b>p.15</b>	More wounded arrive – 18 soldiers arrived at
<b>BW Independent, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1918</b>	<b>p.16</b>	Bridgwater Hospital from Bristol.
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1918</b>	<b>p.16</b>	Bridgwater and War Bonds – sum of £6,235 – total
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1918</b>	<b>p.16</b>	£90,031.
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1918</b>	<b>p.17</b>	Bridgwater Brothers Wounded – Corporal A
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1918</b>	<b>p.17</b>	<b>Biddiscombe</b> and Private R <b>Biddiscombe.</b>
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1918</b>	<b>p.17</b>	DCM for North Petherton Soldier – Co-Sergt-Major
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1918</b>	<b>p.18</b>	
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1918</b>	<b>p.19</b>	
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1918</b>	<b>p.19</b>	
<b>Bridgwater Mercury, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1918</b>	<b>p.19</b>	

E **Chidgey**.

British Airman's gallantry – (T-capt) Gilbert **Ware Murlis Green**.

Local Casualties – killed – Lance Corporal J E **Barnard**, Private H **Harpham**, Corpl H J **Tottl**.  
Died – Private A **Grey**.

Wounded Private R **Andrews**, Private R **Bale**, Copl A **Biddiscombe**, Copl C **Bond**, Private W **Creedy**, Private L C **Dawe**, Private H P **Gibbs**, Lance-Corpl W F **Gratten**, Private A **Harris**.

Private F **Jarvis**, Lance Copl T **Jennings**, Sergt-Major E **Loxton**, Private E H **Prowse**, Private J H **Pulsford**, Private T **Rugg**, Private F **Spriggs**, Private A **Style**, Private G , Private H **Webb**, Private C **Webber**, Private C **Webber**, Private R **Williams**, Private J S **Nurton**, Private E W **Court**, Private C **Durant**, Private C **Frampton**.  
Private A **Hill**, Gunner W S **Growthage**.

Lance-Copl A **Porter**, Private A F **Kick**, Sapper J **Tapper**, Copl E C **Chilcott**.

Bridgwater

Red Cross Sale.

Poultry and Produce Auction

The Bridgwater ABC Guide.

Local Successes – examination.

Poultry &c and Baby Shows

The W.A.A.C. Workers.

Men's Own Brotherhood.

Bijou Theatre

The Palace.

Labour Matters in Bridgwater and Distric.t

Girls Who Grow Listless – who grow too quickly.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 16 January 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Raid on Karlsruhe.

Bridgwater officer wins the Military Cross – Capt F **Pocock**, R. G. A..

Bridgwater Able Seaman Killed – A. B. E. W. **Billings**.

A Bridgwater Soldier Artist – Sergt H. E. **Purse**.

Cannington Sergeant wounded and missing – Sergt E **G Chilcott**.

Local casualties -

Killed. London Regiment – Private R G **Court**, Spaxton.

Wounded – Welsh Guards Pte F. **Biffen** (Bridgwater).

Gloucester Regt Private W **Gardner**, (Bridgwater).

D.C. L.I Lce-Crpl A **Ford** and Private G **Russell** (Bridgwater). Coldstream Guards Pte A **Foster**, (Bridgwater). Somersets Pte L **Carp** (Bridgwater), Lce-Cpl W J **Dennett** (Bridgwater), Pte A **Difford** (Bridgwater), Pte C **Hucker** (Bridgwater), Pte H. J **Buckley** (Bridgwater), Pte A. H. **Stone** (Bridgwater).

Missing. Devons – Pte E. C. **Haysham** (Bridgwater).

Previously reported missing, now reported POW – Devons, Pte W. J. **Richards** (Bridgwater).

Bridgwater and War Savings – Very interesting account of the local effort – 1917 almost £216,000 raised. War Savings Committees set up in the town and nearly all the villages in the district.

Local sale of War Bonds £105,631 through Bridgwater Bank.

Missing Stogursey Soldier Pte John Cecil **Jones** of the East Lancashires reported as being killed on 6 October [1917].

Methods of the Turks – Pte E **Court** in hospital in Egypt. Un-named soldier left for dead after being robbed of his clothing etc by the Turks.

Gifts for local soldiers and prisoners of war. Mr W J **Sharkey** of Queen Street (a local poet) raised £2 5 0 for the Somerset Prisoners of War Help Committee.

Bridgwater Borough Tribunal 3 local grocers Tucker, Chard and Harden appealed against conscription.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury, 23 January, 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Bridgwater Soldier Killed in Italy – Pte W J Dart of the Durham Light Infantry. Parents Mr and Mrs J Dart, 13 Jubilee Terrace, Bath Road, Bridgwater.

Somerset Bridge Soldier's death at Salonica – Pte H J **Salway**, South Wales Borderers. He died from Dysenter.

Missing Pawlett Soldier Now reported Killed – Pte Fredk **Chard** of the Welsh Regiment killed on or about 23 October [1917].

A missing Bridgwater Soldier – Pte Jack **Squire** of the Gloucestershire Regt missing since 3 December [1917] now thought to be a POW.

Honour for local young lady – Sister L M **Coate** awarded the Royal Red Cross. She trained at the Devon and Exeter Hospital and had been in France since the beginning of the War. She was the youngest daughter of Mr Henry **Coate** of Ashleigh Avenue.

Unfounded report [newsprint damaged] The BW *Independent* erroneously stated that the husband of

Mrs Tynewell of 31 Union Street had been killed. In fact, she had been widowed for ten years.

Local young Soldier's tragic death – Inquest report on Pte Bernard **Dyke** who was accidentally killed on the Tregantle Rifle Ranges, near Plymouth. Ed at Dr Morgan's school and employed by Sully's the accountants. Also one of the box office staff of the Bijou Theatre. Comment that 3 of the staff had been killed in action including the General Manager (Mr E. W. **Helps**).

Three Years a Prisoner in Germany. Cpl H **Rainey** of the 1st Battalion SLI exchanged and now in Holland. Captured at Mons. The paper quotes a long letter from him about his experiences.

Local casualties -

Killed. King's Liverpool Rifles, Pte C. J. **Squire** RNVR. W. C. **Phillips** and E. W. **Billi**.

Wounded. Somersets, Pte H. B. **Buller**, (Stogursey),

Pte T. **Buller**, R.G.A., Driver W. J. **Mansfie**.

Missing. Somersets, Ptes S. W. **Carver**, G. C.

**Hooper**, E. C. **Swe**.

Previously reported wounded, now reported not wounded. - Somersets, Pte A. **Harris**.

Military Notes – Sapper E **Emory**, RE invalided from France with Trench Fever. Now at Netley hospital and progressing well. Pte T. H. **Trunks** sent home a card his Division had received congratulating them for their efforts.

Highbridge Petty Sessions (NB NOT BRIDGWATER INTEREST) Publican convicted of selling intoxicating liquor to wounded soldiers.

Catcott – Extra comforts for the Soldiers fund £20 collected 7/6 sent to those away on active service and 3/8 to those in England.

Bridgwater RDC meeting report – discussion about providing transport to the villages from Bridgwater for soldiers on leave, who would otherwise have to walk to the villages.

Death of a Prussian Guardsman – Report of the funeral of the German POW Guardsman Wilhelm **Hellmich**, aged 26, at the Bishop's Lydeard internment camp, following a growth in his throat. Buried in Bishop's Lydeard churchyard with full Military Honours.

Bridgwater Traders and Economy of Transport. Full report of the Bridgwater Traders Association. About economising materials and transport. Staff depleted and deliveries curtailed. Waste paper collection.

Somerset Appeal Tribunal – Messrs **Francis**, **Griffiths** and **Ware** all appealed against conscription. NB this piece is not complete, and Ware's appeal is

shortened..

**Bridgwater Mercury, 30 January 1918.**

**Bridgwater and the War.**

**Missing from the collection**

**Bridgwater Mercury, 6 February 1918.**

**Bridgwater and the War.**

Local wounded Soldier's Return from Germany – kept alive by gifts from England – Lce Cpl W **Durston**, Wounded, then POW. Interesting account of his experiences.

With the Somersets in Palestine – death of Lce Cpl Joseph Edward **Barnard**.

Fate of Bridgwater brothers in Palestine, near Jerusalem – Pte Harry **Haysham**, (Somersets) killed and Pte Ernest Charles **Haysham**, (Somersets), Missing.

Puriton man dies of wounds – Pte Ambrose **Style** - died in Egypt, 23 Jan 191.

Bridgwater Soldier's death in France – Sapper Thomas **Culverwell**, RE, died of Pneumonia 22 Jan 1918.

Bridgwater Soldier's Death in Palestine – Turkish Sniper's Cruel Act. Corpl Henry **Tottle**, Somerset LI killed in action 23 November [1918.

Missing Bridgwater Sergeant – now reported killed in action. Sgt. Harry **Redding** was killed in action.

Local Prisoner of War – Able Seaman Edwin James **Chick** of Drake Battalion, Royal Naval Division had been posted as missing since December 30<sup>th</sup>, His parents have been informed that he is now a prisoner of war.

Local soldiers and sailors have sent letters of thanks for gift.

Local casualties.

Died – South Wales Borderers, Pt. H J **Selway** of Bridgwater.

Wounded – Royal Engineers, Acting-Cpl C **Hawkes**, Bridgwater Sapper J **Sellick**, North Petherton, Royal Irish Rifles, Pte R **Biddiscombe**, Bridgwater, Royal Naval Division, R F **Norris**, Bridgwater. Somerset L.I. Pte F **Ballam**, Bridgwater, Pte J G **Conduit**, Bridgwater, ASC Corpl W F **Burrows**, Bridgwater.

Bijou Proprietor Missing in France – Mr Francis **McDermott** who is attached to the Welsh Regiment is missing in France.

Sale of National War Bonds

Bridgwater beats the county town in sales. Total now

realised to date £134,26.

Food control in Bridgwater. All kinds of meat now limited. Butter and margarine to be distributed to a scheme. Food Office to close at 4 pm..

**Bridgwater Mercury 13<sup>th</sup> February 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Local soldier falls in action. Pte William **Russell**, Devon Regiment was killed in action on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

Honour for local sergeant Sergt. H Duddridge was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre for bravery during fighting on July 31<sup>s</sup>.

Cannington Technical School at War. Captain J P **O'Donovan** DSO is now in Camp Maryland U.S.A. instructing American troops. Another "old boy" Bernard **Thomas** aged 15 was torpedoed last Friday and spent eighteen hours in an open boat with a broken arm.

Death of young Broomfield Soldier Pte H G **Chiplin**, Devon Regiment died in Salisbury Military Hospital. He was undergoing training.

Gifts for local soldiers and prisoners of war – interesting letters of thanks were received.

Bridgwater and War Bonds. The sale of war bonds this week brought the total to £144,82.

Local casualties – wounded Somerset L.I. Lance Copl W J C **Dennett** (Bridgwater)  
Prisoners of war in German hands – RNVR E J **Chick** (Bridgwater) Somerset LI Private S W **Carver** (Bridgwater).

**Bridgwater Mercury 20<sup>th</sup> February 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Local Soldier's noble death. It was reported that Pte Wm **Russell** of Devon Regiment was shot in the heart whilst bandaging a wounded comrade.

Bridgwater Prisoner of War in Turkey. L Graham **Burnell** of Wireless Squadron is a prisoner of war in Afion Kara Hissar, Turkey sent a letter to his father.

Wounded Bridgwater Soldier, at present recovering from his wounds in Oakfield Hospital, Upton has been honoured in Hospital. Lance-Copl F **Pride** of 54 Wellington Road Bridgwater had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry in action.

Bridgwater soldier's fatal accident. Pte W **Gardiner** of Somerset Light Infantry has died in France as a result of injuries accidentally received.

Local soldier's death. Pte Jesse **Haines**, Royal Army

Veterinary Corps died in the isolation hospital at Amara.

To the memory of the fallen. A memorial was erected to the memory of the men of the Auxiliary Patrol in Newhaven. Amongst the names of missing men is that is Signaller P F **Short**.

Bridgwater and War Bonds. The sale of war bonds this week realised a total of £147,326.

Local casualties Died of wounds previously reported Somerset LI Pte A **Style** (Bridgwater).  
Wounded Army Service Corps Driver S J **Crocker** (Bridgwater).

**Bridgwater Mercury 28<sup>th</sup> February 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Tribute to a fallen soldier. Mrs Russell received a communication with reference to her husband Pte Wm **Russell** from Second-Lieut. F W **Deacon**.

Three vessels have been sent to the bottom. The schooner *Ermenilda*, The *New Design* no. 2, and the ketch *Emma*. A fourth vessel the schooner **Marian** escaped the Germans when a British naval patrol boat was sighted, and she reached Waterford safely. All Bridgwater vesse.

Three years' captivity in Germany. Corporal D **Gillespie** of Somerset LI sent an interesting letter describing his privations..

Local Commissions. Mr G D **Jones** and Mr Arthur **King** both of Cadet Corps have been given commissions as temporary second-lieutenants, the former in the Cheshire Regiment and the latter in the Tank Corps.

Bridgwater and War Bonds. The sale of war bonds this week brought the total to £150.79.

Lord Northcliffe's new post – he has consented to accept the post of Director of Propaganda in enemy countries.

**Bridgwater Mercury 6<sup>th</sup> March 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Bridgwater soldier's death in India. Comrades paid tribute to Private H C **Fudge** of Somerset LI and sent his parents a photo of his grave.

Bridgwater and War Bonds. Amount sold this week brought the total to £152,790.

Bridgwater soldier killed in Palestine. Private Charles **Hale** of Somerset LI was killed in action in Palestine on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Local patriotic family . Mr E Spencer **Nicholls** has been recommended for a commission and will

forthwith be a lieutenant. Another son Mr R J **Nicholls** has successfully passed his examinations and been transferred to the Royal Engineers. Good news has been received of their other sons, one serving in Mesopotamia and another who is a prisoner of war in Turkey.

Commission for Aisholt Rector's son. Mr F B E **Mereweather** has been promoted temporary sub-lieutenant of the R.N.R, and has since been appointed navigating lieutenant on his Majesty's ship *Meynell*. Gifts for local soldiers and prisoners of war. Acknowledgement of donations received.

Middlezoy soldier dies of wounds. Corporal Bert Meaker of Somerset L.I. received in action in France on 18<sup>th</sup> February. His parents received striking tributes.

Bridgwater War Bonds. Everyone asked to help.

Bridgwater Market and District Red Cross Sale – it is hoped that a record sum will be raised.

Food control in Bridgwater. Local butchers' supplies reduced. Appointment of a Food Inspector. The National Rationing Scheme and a flat rate for meat prices.

**Bridgwater Mercury, 13 March 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**  
**Missing from the collection**

**Bridgwater Mercury, 20 March 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**  
**Missing from the collection**

**Bridgwater Mercury 27<sup>th</sup> March 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**

Local Flight Officer's tragic death as a result of a flying accident in England. Flight Lieut. Harwood James **Arnold** D.S.O. The accident occurred as a result of his engine exploding..

Local Military Medalists.

Sergt. H **Pocock** and Pte G **Sellick** of Somersets' both of Bridgwater have been awarded Military Medals.

Wounded by gas shell. AB Arthur John **Rawle** of the Hood Battalion of the Royal Naval Division.

Local teachers to visit the Western Front – To show them the Front as an educational resource. Teachers named.

Gifts for Local Soldiers and Prisoners of War. Mr W. J. **Sharkey**, Queen Street contributed £6 17 to the fund. Mr Sharkey thanked by soldiers for his gifts. Letter from Pte C. E. **Jeffrey** (Knowle) saying that Mr Sharkey's poems were read at soldiers' smokers at the front and much appreciated..

Bridgwater and War Bonds - £1,395 last week and making a total of £282, 925..

Bridgwater Soldier's death in France .Private A. J. **Brooks**, Somerset Light Infantry – died in hospital of appendicitis.

Former Local Soldier falls in action – Cpl Thomas **Owen**, RE.

Local Soldiers “Out since Mons” - Letters from Bdr, W. G. **Giblett** of the RFA, Lce-Cpl W **Cable** of the DCLI and Co.-Sgt-Major F. J. **Vearncombe**. Local Casualti.

Killed – Somersets, Pte F. J. **Bartlett** (Bridgwater) Wounded – Liverpool Regt., Pte W. C. **Bond** (Bridgwater). Somersets, Pte C. **Coles** (Stogursey).

Nine Miles Advance in Palestine – German Prisoners and Booty.

Milk Case in Bridgwater – farmer fined for watering milk.

Not Breaking Up Land – 2 farmers fined for not cultivating land.

Food control in Bridgwater – rationing.

Bridgwater war savings meeting.

[Over the page].

Munitions workers' social at Bridgwater – Ministry of Munitions Central Inspection Depot no 1,651 at Dunball.

Letter to the Editor from Capt H. A. **Foley**, SLI congratulating the town for success of the “Businessmen's Week”, and mentioning 47 aeroplanes – presumably bought by the town.

**Bridgwater Mercury April 3 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**

Bridgwater soldier falls in the Great Battle – Private Ernest Palmer of the HLI.

Bridgwater Seaman killed at sea – W. H. **Durant** a sailor on a Cardiff collier. His captain a POW. Widow left with 6 children.

Wembdon Soldier dangerously wounded. Pte Cecil **Shute** of the Machine Gun Corps – letter received that he was in fair condition.

Gazetted – Mr Ernest Raymond **Gregory** of Williton and formerly of Bridgwater was commissioned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> P. A. Somerset Light Infantry.

Stogursey Soldier dies of wounds – Pioneer Wallace **Scott** R. E. died in hospital at Rouen.

An unfounded report – Report that Gunner Frank **Styler** of the RFA was a POW was found to be erroneous.

Enmore Soldier falls in action – Sapper W. E. **Wilkins**, R. E. of the Enmore Inn.

Bridgwater Men Wounded.

Rifleman Francis **Sellick** (Bridgwater) of the Kings' Royal Rifles.

Rifleman H. J. **Duckham** (Bridgwater) of the London Regiment.

### **Bridgwater Mercury, 10 April 191.** **Bridgwater and the War.**

Local family's third bereavement in the war. Lance Copl F G **Caple** of Dragoon Guards killed in action. Mrs Francis **Caple** of Mount Street received notification that a third son had been killed.

Local Mons heroes – a further batch of names has been received.

Bridgwater soldiers win Military Medal. Lance-Copl Bert **Evis** of Somerset L.I. Attached to the Tank Corps has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. The Military Medal has also been awarded to Private E **Carey** (Wilts Regiment).

Bridgwater man's story of the great battle. Private Ernest **Phillips**, who is in hospital suffering from the effect of gas poisoning wrote to his parents Mrs J Phillips of Branksome Avenue describing his ordeal.

Bridgwater Assistant Master killed in action. Captain J M **Edgar** of South Staffordshire Regiment, who was an assistant master at Dr Morgan's school was killed in action March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Bridgwater airman's success in France Second Lieut. S H P **Masding** has been made a lieutenant.

New appointment for Captain Penrose **Williams** D.S.O. He has been appointed as specialist in operative surgery at the No.4 General Hospital (British Expeditionary Force).

Bridgwater Officer missing. Captain Humphrey S **Burrington**, Somerset Light Infantry has been reported as missing..

Taken prisoner – Private Wallace **Cave**, a confectioner of Eastover was taken prisoner of war by the Germans during heavy fighting.

Another Bridgwater soldier wins Military Medal. Signaller Edmund **Carey** of Wilts Regiment has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in action.

Bridgwater men wounded. Mrs **Coles** of Chilton Street has received information that her husband was

“gassed” and is now in hospital in Chichester. Mrs Ernest **Stock** of Rosebery Avenue, has been informed that her son Private D N **Stock** of the Berkshire Regiment was admitted to the general hospital at Le Touquet, France. Rifleman F C **Hector**, Kings R.R. From Union Street, has sustained a bullet wound in the right thigh. Private L **Burge** S.L.I. From Gordon Terrace has sustained shrapnel wounds in the left side. Private W C **Nicholls**, Devons, (a hairdresser in St John Street) sustained a shrapnel wound over the right eye. Private **Hall** S.L.I. from Edward Street was wounded in the left leg and thigh. Private Harry **Cave** of Somerset L.I. of Polden Street has been admitted to a London hospital suffering from severe gunshot wounds in the face. Private G **Carpenter** 1<sup>st</sup> battalion R.M. L. I. has been admitted to Cheltenham hospital suffering from slight gunshot wounds in the head and gas poisoning.

Enmore Soldier's death in action. Tributes have been paid to late Sapper W B **Wilkins** of Royal Engineers.

Westonzoyland soldier's remarkable escape from death. Corporal H G **Bawden** of Somerset L.I. has been wounded.

Huntworth soldier wounded. Sapper R. T. **Burnett** was wounded in France during heavy fighting. He was struck in the neck and left shoulder by fragments of a bursting shell and is now in hospital Eastleigh, Hants.

Bridgwater and the War Bonds. Total to date now £292,530.

Westonzoyland soldier dies from wounds. Lance Corporal A W **Rich** has died in hospital in France from wounds received in action on the Western Front.

Bridgwater Sailor drowned. Leading stoker E R **Bullock** R.N. Was drowned at sea after the destroyer he was on was sunk.

Wounded soldier's death at Bridgwater Hospital. Pte **Norris** of Wilts Regiment, originally from Somerton, had been very badly wounded and was brought to England on a hospital ship.

Local Officer's promotion Lieut H J Cann of the Tank Corps has been promoted to the rank of temporary captain.

### **Bridgwater Mercury April 17<sup>th</sup> 1918.** **Bridgwater and the War.**

Lieut. Arnold **Foster** of Castle Street has been wounded for a second time in Palestine..

Third son killed. Mrs F. **Caple** of 34 Mount Street has received notification that a third son, Lance Corporal Frederick George **Caple** of the Dragoon

Guards has been killed in action.

Bridgwater soldier's fate. Private Charles **Hucker** of Somerset L.I. Has either been killed or is a prisoner of war. Nothing has been heard for a month, but unofficial news has filtered through..

Officer dangerously wounded. Captain A V **Sully** of Machine Gun Corps, grandson of late Alderman Sully has been dangerously wounded in France. He is making progress.

Bridgwater wounded soldier's adventure. Private James Worthy **Perry** of Somerset L.I. From Bristol Road is in hospital in Chichester having been wounded in the chest. He succeeded in escaping from the Germans. He was saved by his pocket book and razor. He and two others escaped and dragged a wounded man with them.

Local soldier's death in Palestine. Mrs E **Davey** of St Mary Street received news that her son Private Henry **Davey** of Somerset L.I. died from injuries.

Local soldier falls in the great battle. Mr & Mrs A **Hill** of 88 West Street received news that their son Albert **Hill**, Lancashire Fusiliers was killed in action during heavy fighting in France.

“Still some slackers at home” Comments were made by a Mons veteran who said that young men at home ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Honours for Bridgwater men. The Military Medal has been awarded to Corporal A **Biddiscombe** of Somerset L.I., and the Croix de Guerre has been awarded to Private Lance Corporal James **Gambl**. of Somerset Light Infantry.

Bridgwater and War Bonds. Total to date £294,180.

Death of Local Prisoner of War Mr & Mrs Robert **Turner** of Barclay Street Bridgwater were officially informed of the death of Private Robert **Turner** of Somerset Light Infantry, whilst a prisoner of war in the hands of the Turk.

Comforts for local soldiers and prisoners of war Donations of £6 have been received, thanks were received for parcels of “smokes” and the Bridgwater Mercury.

Food Control in Bridgwater and District. A meeting was held and the price for milk was fixed. There is a local cheese shortage. Meat ration was discussed.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 24<sup>th</sup> April 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Lieut A E **Manchip** Royal Engineers has been severely wounded and is in hospital in Boulogne.

Local Officer taken prisoner. Mr R **Foley** of

Dodington, Nr Bridgwater received a notification that his son Captain H A **Foley** of Somerset Light Infantry had been reported missing but was alive and well and was a prisoner of war..

Bridgwater man's long and meritorious service. Mr and Mrs James **Tucker** of 77 Bristol Road received a large photograph showing their son and a silver plate inscribed in recognition of the long and meritorious service of Driver Thomas Willie Maynard **Tucker**. He has been in the army for seven year.

Local Mons veteran killed in action after being wounded five times, and gassed. Mrs **Jennings** of Barclay Street received news of the death of her son Lance Corporal David **Jennings** of the Somerset Light Infantry, killed in action during severe fighting at St Quentin.

Bridgwater soldier dies of wounds - Private E. W. **Prew**, Welsh Fusiliers.

Local young soldier's severe wounds – Private Bernard John **Dosson**, Wilts Regiment.

Local Sapper dies of wounds – Sapper Arthur **Storey** RE.

Local soldier killed in Palestine – Lance Sergt C. **Turner**, Somerset LI. Went to India at the start of the War (aged 17) with the Territorials.

Capt. Humphrey **Burrington** – now recorded as POW in Germany.

Bridgwater Man Missing – Pte C. H. **Spriggs** of the Leicester Regiment.

A Missing Bridgwater Soldier – Private E. **Haysham** reported missing in Palestine 22 November 1917. His wife had received a letter from a fellow soldier saying he had seen him wounded..

Wembdon Soldier Wounded – Lce Corporal Bert **Merchant** (Regiment not stated). Parents notified by the War Office. Their elder son, Willie, was wounded in Palestine, but later contracted pneumonia from which he was recovering..

Wounded and a Prisoner – Corpl J. **Young** of the Royal Irish Rifles, wounded and POW in Germany,. He had been wounded in the Dardanelles.

Dangerously wounded – Gunner J. C. **Galley** of the Royal Garrison Artillery, dangerously wounded in the head and in hospital at Boulogne. He had been twice gassed and had been home on leave a fortnight before.

Young Enmore Soldier Killed – Private Herbert Leslie **Hucker** of the Worcestershire Regiment killed in action in France, aged 20 years.

D. C. M Award – 23115 (A./C. S. M.) E **Chidgey**, RE (North Petherton).

Local Commission – Mr G. T. **Eveleigh** of Northfield, Bridgwater, Joined 1/5 SLI in September 1914, then attached to the first Indian Army Corps. Active service in Mesopotamia. Went to Egypt for training for Commission. Now in RAF.

Sale of War Bonds in Bridgwater. Last week's total £4,505, making total £298,685.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 1 May 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Killed in Palestine, Private Frank **Emery** of Somerset Light Infantry, whose mother lives in Redgate Street was killed in action recently in Palestine. He was 20 years old.

Bridgwater men missing. The following men have been reported missing:

Private Alfred Henry **Collard**, Somerset Light Infantry.

Private Sidney **Hamber**, Somerset Light Infant.

Gnr Harold Frances **Margetts**, Lewis Gunner in the Worcestershire Regiment.

Through sixty engagements. Colour Sergeant Major Frank **Lang**, 8<sup>th</sup> Somerset Light Infantry is now home on six month's duty and is stationed at Taunton. He was in France three years and eight months,. He possesses the Meritorious Service Medal, the Mons Star and the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He has been through sixty engagements and was wounded twice..

Died in Germany. Private Harold **George Joy**, Grenadier Guards died whilst a prisoner of war in Germany. He was 25 years old and had previously been posted as missing.

Local Dispatch Rider wins Military Medal.. Corporal F **Rich** a dispatch rider with Royal Engineers has been awarded a Military Medal for meritorious service on the Front. He was wounded but remained on duty. A letter was received stating that he was in hospital in France suffering from gas poisoning.

Death from wounds. Private Bertram Mudge **Wilkinson**, of Wembdon, formerly of Wilkinson & Leng died in hospital in France from gunshot wounds. He was 32 years of age.

Local prisoners of war. Soldiers previously reported as missing are now found to be prisoners of war. Private A E **Mead** of Wiltshire Regiment; Lance Copt William **Squire**, Somerset Light Infantry; Private Tom **Lynham**, Somerset Light Infantry; Lance Copt W J **Davis**, Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry; Private

Fredk **Lancaster** of Somerset L.I.; Private George **French** of Somerset L.I. Able Seaman Edward **Wilkins**, Royal Naval Division; Private W **Burston**, 7<sup>th</sup> Batt. Somerset L.I. And Sergeant Wm. **Allen**, Somerset Light Infantry..

Old Morganian dies of wounds. Lieut. T. D. **Williams** died in hospital of wounds received during a German offensive..

Spaxton soldier's severe wounds. Private Ernest **Burland**, Regimental Police, King's own Yorkshire Light Infantry was severely wounded in action and is now in a French hospital. His leg has been amputated and his right arm badly wounded.

Charlynch soldier falls in action. Gunner Charles **Webber** of Royal Field Artillery was killed by a shell.

Wounded: Pte. W. H **Puddy** of Suffolk Regiment has been wounded and admitted to hospital in Boulogne. In France.

Miss Ann Hopkins sent an interesting letter of her experiences in France where she had been on clerical duties for the W.A.A.C.

Local man wins Military M. Pte. C H **Bawden** of S.L.I. Has been awarded the Military Medal.

Bridgwater man Company Sergt.-Major **Loxton** S.L.I. Was wounded and admitted to hospital at Kantsra received whilst in action in Palestine.

Bridgwater Officer seriously wounded. Lieut. Cecil M. **Babbage** of the Royal Field Artillery has received a severe gunshot wound in the left forearm and is Boulogne Hospital.

Dangerously wounded local soldiers, Three soldiers who had been previously reported as dangerously wounded have now been reported as making satisfactory progress: Lieut. A. E. **Manchip**, Pte. B. J. **Dosson** and Gunner J C **Galley**.

Enmore soldier missing. Lance Corporal William James **Hodge**, Machine Gun Company is missing, possibly capture.

Broomfield Sergeant killed in action Sergt Fredk. **Dolling** of the Somersets was killed in action. He had previously been awarded the D. C. M.

Wounded in Palestine: Private F H **Fudge** of Somerset L.I. was wounded in Palestine and admitted to hospital in Kantara suffering from a gunshot wound in his right thigh, the third occasion he has been wounded.

Local Australian seriously gassed. Pte Henry



**Morgan** of the Australian Force was severely gassed whilst serving in France. He was admitted to hospital in Cheltenham.

Three Puriton soldiers fall in action: Signaller Sidney Gordon **Dyer** R.F.A. Private Henry James **Parsons** Kings Dragoon Guards aged 21 years, and Private James **Chidgey**, Somerset L.I. Aged 21 years.

Burtle man killed in action Fred **Clarke** of R.F.A. Killed by a shell splinter.

Sale of War Bonds in Bridgwater. This week sales were reported to a sum of £1,185, making a total to date of £299,870..

Aeroplane descent near Bridgwater A biplane piloted by Lieut. S **Round** (Australian Flying Corps) came down in a field near North Petherton.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 8<sup>th</sup> May 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Killed in action. Private Robert **Pocock** of Victoria Road North Petherton who was attached to a Labour Battalion in France was killed in action.

Local soldier falls in action. Lance-Corpl J L **Fursland** of Gloucester Regiment has been reported as killed in action.

Bridgwater men missing.

Private F **Andrews**, Cyclist Corps; Private H **Preece** of Royal Berkshire Regiment; Rifleman E **Cheriton** of Kings Royal Rifle Corps; Private Cecil **Day** of the Somersets'; and Lance Corporal Robert **Beer** of the Gloucester Regiment.

Wounds of local officers. Lieut A M **Foster** of Somerset L.I. Has after all only been slightly wounded and remains on duty. Lieut Cecil M **Babbage** of Royal Field Artillery had a bad week and has undergone a small operation following his wound.

Local Men Wounded. Private F H **Wills** Somerset L.I. Was wounded in Palestine and was admitted to hospital in El Arish. Private George **Young** of Somerset L.I. has been wounded in Palestine being shot in the right arm. Lance Corpl W H **Hook** of Somerset L.I. Has been admitted to hospital in El Arish suffering from gunshot wounds to the thigh and leg. Corpl. William **James** of Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry) was admitted to hospital In France suffering from gas shell wounds in the chest and face. Rifleman W **Pitman**, Rifle Brigade received a shrapnel wound to the left thigh whilst in France, he is now in hospital in Manchester.

Unfounded Report of Desertion -Mrs **Hill** of 24 Wellington Road, Bridgwater, denies her husband is a deserter and quotes a letter from his CO..

Funeral of Mons man in Bridgwater. Death from pneumonia of Cpl Stephen **Reed** of West Street. Fought at Mons. Died at Netley, Funeral at Holy Trinity, Burial at Wembdon Road Cemetery with full military honours..

Soldier's death at Bridgwater Hospital – Private Clarke of Leeds, serving in the Yorkshires, died as the result of being gassed. Body sent to Leeds for burial.

A Local Commission. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Charles Reginald **Trelease**, son of Mr & Mrs Chas **Trelease**, The Ferns, Taunton Road, gazetted to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Joined up in September 1914, twice invalided home.

Local Prisoners of War – Article gives details of service. Worth further investigation.

Private Edward W. **Brewer** of the Somersets Private Ernest **Ware**. His brother Pte Thomas **Ware** not heard from since 20 March.

Private George William **Cockerell** of the Sherwood Foresters. His brother was killed 6<sup>th</sup> November 191.

Private Wallace **Cave** of the Highland Light Infantry

Private S. **Palmer** of the Wiltshire Regiment. His brother Pte Walter Henry **Palmer** killed about a year ago.

With the A.S. C. in Palestine – Letter from Staff-Sergeant-Major P. **Kendal**.

Gifts for local soldiers and prisoners of war – Mr **Sharkey** – letters of acknowledgement.

Bridgwater man killed in action - Sapper L. C. **Jarvis**, R.

Bridgwater man wounded in Naval Raid – Corporal **Lockyer** wounded at [Zbrugge].

Wounded and a Prisoner of War – Private Thomas **Barrington**, Somerset Light Infantry.

Moorlinch Sergeant Missing – Sergt Wm. **Brown**, Royal Marines Light Infantry went missing in France 24 March. Fought at Gallipoli – with brief biography..

Posthumous Award of Military Medal – Private W. J. **Adams**, Somerset Light Infantry, killed in Palestine 6 November 1917.

War savings in Bridgwater - £6,065 last week bringing the total up to £305,935. Has list of savings in Somerset towns..

[Reverse side].

Bridgwater Borough Tribunal and Bridgwater District Tribunal – very interesting evidence from men and employers who wished to appeal call up..

Men of 44 – Interesting summary of the fitness

categories.

**Bridgwater Mercury, 15 May 1911.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Local Officer's Death in Hospital - Capt R. Y. **Foley**, RAF. Died at Netley of the effects of pneumonia. Buried at Netley – good obituary. His brother, Lieut G. R. **Foley**, died of wounds about a month ago..

Bridgwater Men Missing.

Pte John **Valentine** of Bristol Road, Devons then Somersets

Pte Charles **Winter**, Somerset L. I. - Biog and letter

Pte Ernest **Storey**, Wiltshire Regt – Biog.

Lce Cpl T. H. **Trunks**, Essex Regt – Biog.

Town Councillor's Son's Death in India – Pte Lesley **Goodland** died of Malaria – Biog.

Prisoners of W.

Pte T. A. **Wedlake**, Somerset L. I. - Biog.

Rfn Jack **Hembry**, King's Royal Rifles – Biog.

Pte Harold Francis **Margetts**, had been reported missing 2 weeks ago.

Pte Clifford **Spriggs**, Leicestershire Regt – Wounded – Biog.

Wounded

Sapper R. J. **Horwill**, RE, in hospital with a knee wound

Despatch rider F **Rich**, RE, MM, now at Victoria Hospital, Netley suffering from gas poisoning, burns and bronchit.

Pte Walter John **Lynham**, Highland L. I. In hospital at Rouen suffering from gas.

Local Soldier Falls in Palestine – Pte Wm Norman **Wellman**, Somerset L. I. Killed 11 April aged 20- Biog.

Military Medal for Local Canadian – Pte Fred **Manchip** awarded the Military Medal for fire-fighting in an ammunition dump..

Local Australian's Death and Funeral – Pte Henry **Morgan** of the Australian Infantry. Died of the effects of gas. Died at New Court V.A.D. Hospital, Cheltenham and buried at Wembdon Road Cemetery – Biog.

Death from Wounds – Sgnlr **Sydney**, Northants Reg.

Sale of War Bonds in Bridgwater - £935 in week, total £306,870.

[Reverse] .

Somerset Appeal Tribunal, Bridgwater district cases – interesting detail.

**Bridgwater Mercury, 22 May 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

The Late Captain F. Y. **Foley** – Military Funeral at Netley [ See last week].

Bridgwater Soldier's Death – Local Officer's Tribute – Lce Sergt Clifford **Turner**, Somerset L. I. - letters of sympathy.

Death of Bridgwater military medallist – Cpl J **Rich**, MM -[See last week].

Former Bridgwater Man Killed in Action – Driver George **Parsons**.

Bridgwater Soldier wins the Military Medal – Bdiar Tom **Maaer** of the R. F. A. - Bio.

Wounded and a Prisoner of War – Pte Hubert **Preece**, Royal Berks Regt – letter.

Cannington Prisoner of War.- Mrs **Short** of Cannington's husband.

Local Soldier's Gassed-

Sapper F **White** RE

Pte Walter John **Lynham** [See last week].

**Bridgwater Mercury 29 May 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Military Medalist's Funeral – Cpl J. Rich MM [See last 2 weeks.

Local Soldier's Death in Palestine – Officer's Tributes- Pte F. **Emory**, Somerset L. I. - Letter.

Gallant Durston Lad Killed in Action – Victor Willie **Mayled**, RMLI killed at Zebrugge – Biog.

Local Man Gassed – Pte E. H. **Clarke** of the North Staffordshire Reg.

Cannington Man Severely Wounded Cpl T **Evans** in hospital at Manchester.

Wembdon Man a Prisoner – Pte Cecil F **Day** of the Somerset.

North Petherton Prisoner of War - Cpl E **Hawkins** – biog.

Mentioned in Dispatches – Lieut (Acting Major) T. F. **Hamlyn**.

Bridgwater Prisoner of War – Pte **Porte**.

Gifts for local Soldiers and POWs – Mr **Sharkey**.

Bridgwater and War Bonds - £2,330 last week, £305,390 last week..

**Bridgwater Mercury 5 June 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**

Military Cross for Local Officer – Temporary Lieut. (Acting Captain) Henry Arthur **Foley**, Somerset Light Infantry.

Mentioned in Dispatches. Capt. E F Browning of West Somerset Yeomanry appears in a list of special mentions in dispatches..

Bridgwater Townsman's brother's death. Mr William John **Bryant**, brother of Mr Edwin **Bryant** of Eastover has died of fever. He was in the South African Forces.

Promotion of a Stogursey Officer. Second-Lieut. Ernest **Bartin** has been promoted to lieutenant in the Royal West Surrey Regiment.

Local officer wounded. Second-Lieut. Leonard Guy **Bradfield** of the Worcester Regiment was admitted to 8<sup>th</sup> General Hospital Rouen on May 28<sup>th</sup> suffering from a gunshot wound.

Local Prisoners of War: Private Stanley **Marchent**, Coldstream Guards; Private Edward **Brewer** of the Somersets; Pte. F. **Andrews** of the XI Cyclists Corps; Lance-Corporal Thos. Henry **Trunks** of Essex Regiment.

Bridgwater and the Sale of War Bonds. Sale last week were in the sum of £4,470, bringing the total to £309,860.

Tribute to local Australian: Private Henry **Morgan**, who died recently at Cheltenham of gas shell poisoning, has had a tribute erected over his grave in Wembdon Cemetery..

Killed in Palestine: Private James **Chedgey** of Somerset L.I. Died of wounds received in action. Mrs Chedgey has received several letters giving particulars of her son's death..

Bridgwater Man missing: Gunner A E **Hale** has been missing since March.

Bridgwater Native's death in India. News was received of the death of Private William **James** as a result of an attack of fever while serving in India.

Chilton Polden Military Medallist: Lance-Sergt. A **Porter**, Cornwall regiment has been awarded the Military Medal.

**Bridgwater Mercury 12<sup>th</sup> June 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**

Local soldier dies of wounds. Sapper Albert **Baker** Royal Engineers, died as a result from wounds received in action in Salonica.

Bridgwater Soldier wins Military Medal for gallantry in Palestine: Lance-Corporal Percy **Hughes** of Somerset L.I.

Bridgwater Men Wounded: Private F **Heard** of Worcester Regiment; Private Herbert **Routley** of Mechanical Transport.

Bombed in Hospital; Signaller Henry **Creswell** was an inmate of one of the Red Cross Hospitals in France when the hospital was deliberately bombed by German airmen. He had a lucky escape. Local Australian gassed; Private Wilfred **Tapscott** of the Australian Imperial Force has been admitted to Reading hospital suffering from gas poisoning in France.

Local Men officially presumed dead. Private William Henry **Geen** of Devon Regiment, and Able Seaman Horace **Bell** of Howe Battalion, Royal Naval Division have now been presumed to be dead..

Gifts for Local Soldiers and Prisoners of War. There have also been gifts of cigarettes and poems.

Local Prisoners of War: Pioneer Sidney William **Chapman** of the Hampshires and Private Ernest **Storey** of Wilts Regiment have now been reported as Prisoners of War.

Bridgwater and the sale of war bonds. The sale of War Bonds last week represented a sum of £4,446, bringing the total to £314,300.

**Bridgwater Mercury 19<sup>th</sup> June 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**

Killed in an enemy air raid: Private Percy John **Grey** of the Royal Naval Air Service was killed at Dunkirk on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Badly Wounded Pte Hedley **Gillson** attached to the Oxford and Bucks Regiment had been admitted to hospital in France where he had both legs amputate.

Wounded and a Prisoner, Sergt. G F **Bell** of South African Scottish is wounded and a prisoner of war.

Private B. Glyn **King**, Machine Gun Corps has been wounded and has been operated on at a French hospital.

North Petherton man killed. W. Wilfred **Ridge** of D Battery Royal Field Regiment.

North Newton soldier Private Oliver Metford **Parsons** of Somerset Light Infantry died at Ipswich Hospital Suffolk as a result of gas poisoning in action in France.

Local Prisoners of War: Private J **Valentine** of Somerset Light Infantry; Private A **Hale**; Private C

**Hucker** Somerset L.I.; Lance-Corpl William **Squire**.

Sale of War Bonds. The War Bonds sold through Bridgwater banks last week represented a sum of £1,970, bringing the total to £316.27.

Somerset Appeal Tribunal. The following were given exemptions: Leonard **Atwell** for six months, and Cuthbert Lane for four months. Exemption was refused to Herbert **Hector**. An appeal was supported in respect of Richard James **Coates** of Burrowbridge.

**Bridgwater Mercury 26<sup>th</sup> June 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Old Campaigners exploits on the battlefield – Mr C G **Hurley**, a former Fiddington man has received a communication giving particulars of the exploits of Sergt. **Webber**, who served throughout the Zulu campaign. He distinguished himself in Gallipoli by keeping the enemy at bay..

Bridgwater Rifleman killed in action. Rifleman John **Bell** of the London Regiment was killed in action in France.

Death from Wounds: Pte Hedley **Gilson** of the Oxford and Bucks Regiment died at the Casualty Clearing Station in France.

Bridgwater Winner of the D.C.M. Brother Lance-Corpl Frank **Pride** received high praise from his superior officers and received the coveted D.C.M. He was honoured at the Oddfellows Hall in Bridgwater, and he was presented with gift.

Local Man Gassed: Gunner W G **Robins** R.G.A. Is now in hospital in Brighton having been gassed in France. His family live in Monmouth Street.

Killed by enemy bomb. Shoeing Smith Wilfred **Ridge** of the R.F.A. Was killed in action in France on 27<sup>th</sup> May when a German aeroplane came over dropping bombs.

Bridgwater and the Sale of War Bonds. The sale of Bonds this week amounted to £4,160 – the total for Bridgwater is now £320,436.

**Bridgwater Mercury 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Bridgwater Man Gassed. Gunner A. **Trunks** of Royal Horse Artillery has sent a letter to his father saying that he is now in hospital in Napsbury, St Albans, England, suffering from gas poisoning and trench fever. He has been wounded twice previously..

Local Soldier dies at Salonika. Driver Henry Samuel **Rossiter** of the Army Service Corps died on 16<sup>th</sup> June of injuries received. He was 20 years old.

Local Military Medals .News has been received that Bombardier T **Maer**, R.F.A. and Corpl F **Rich** R.E., both of Bridgwater have been awarded the Military Medal.

Gallant Conduct Recognised. Private R **Biddiscombe** of Royal Irish Regiment who is serving in France, has forwarded a vellum document to his father as recognition of his gallant conduc.

Stogursey man wounded in Italy: Crpl Seymour **Rymer**, Sherwood Foresters has sent a letter to his wife saying he is in hospital in Italy suffering from wounds to his right cheek and arm.

Stogursey Prisoner of War. Corpl W **Fish** has sent a postcard to his wife stating that he is a prisoner of war. He was on the Western Front for some time and was involved in heavy fighting

Wounded at Salonica. Driver S **Radford** of R.F.A. Was wounded in the leg on 9<sup>th</sup> June whilst serving in Salonica and has been admitted to hospital.

Bridgwater and the Sale of War Bonds. The sale of War Bonds through Bridgwater banks for the week represented a sum of £3,195 – bringing the total up to £323,63.

**Bridgwater Mercury 10<sup>th</sup> July 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Captain Vincent Coates, son of Dr C M **Coates**, the well-known Bridgwater and International rugby player has been reported as seriously ill with dysentery in Salonica.

Missing Bridgwater Soldier. Private A H **Collard** of Somerset L.I. has now been reported as a prisoner of war in Germany.

Death of Corporal H J **Barnes**, Royal Fusiliers. He was reported as missing, but his parents have now been officially notified of his death..

Lost at Sea. Engine Room Artificer Harold William **Carey** of the Royal Navy has lost his life while on duty on one of H.M. Ships..

Local Commission. Mr H M **Llewellyn** has been given his commission as second-lieut in the Somersets after six months' training with a Cadet Battalion at Fleet.

Bridgwater and War Bonds.

The Sale of War Bonds through Bridgwater banks for the week ending 6<sup>th</sup> July represented a sum of £7,520 bringing the total up to £331,15.

**Bridgwater Mercury 17<sup>th</sup> July 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Awarded the M. C. – Capt A. V. Sully (Machine Gun Corps).

A Bar to D. S. O. - Lieut Col John H **Prior**, Son of Mr Edward H. Prior, late of Bridgwater.

Local Officer Promoted – Lieut A. M. **Foster** made acting-captain.

Bridgwater Officer seriously ill in France - Capt Lionel **Jones** M. C. Royal Fusiliers suffering from pneumonia. Parents visited him.

Local Officer's Progress – Lieut G. L. **Rowe**, Machine Gun Corps. Had leg wound 21 June.

Bridgwater Soldier's death in hospital – Pte. Frank Herbert **Perrett**, Dorset Regiment. Died at Tidworth Military Hospital from pleurisy and blood poisoning—useful biography.

Wounded – Pte. Albert John **Marks**, Cheshire Regiment suffering from gunshot wounds received 1 June. Employed at Somerset Wicker Works.

Bridgwater Soldier Missing – Pte Edgar **Burgess**, a machine gunner in the Devon Regiment missing since 26 May..

Bridgwater and War Bonds – to week ending 13 July 1918 £1,920, total £333,07.

Food control in Bridgwater – Notice of next meeting -useful info.

**Bridgwater Mercury 24 July 191.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**

Awarded the Military Medal. Private W H **Matherick**, Welsh Machine Gun Corps and a previous resident of Bridgwater has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field.

Bridgwater Soldier Honoured. Sergt. Henry **Duddridge**, Tank Corps has been awarded the Croix de Guerre by the King of Belgium.

The late Pte F H **Perrett** whose death occurred at Tidworth Military Hospital was given a funeral at Bristol Road Cemetery last Tuesday with full military honours.

Local Soldier's Death in Hospital. Pte W H **Taylor**, Essex Regiment. The death occurred at Northampton Military Hospital last week of Private Walter Henry **Taylor**. He had served in France where serious internal trouble had developed and he was invalided home.

Local Soldier's death in Germany. News has been received of the death of Lance-Cpl Robert **Beer**, Gloucester Regiment whilst a Prisoner of War in

Germany. His left leg had been amputated and blood poisoning had set in with fatal results.

Death of another Burtle Soldier. Driver James **Fear** passed away in one of the hospitals in France from pneumonia.

Missing Stogursey Soldier now presumed killed. Private Alfred **Kable**, Devon Regiment had previously been reported as missing at Salonica, and it has now been concluded that he was killed.

Bridgwater and War Bonds. The sales of War Bonds through Bridgwater banks for last week represented a sum of £4,040, bringing the total last Saturday to £337,11.

**Bridgwater Mercury, 31<sup>st</sup> July 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**  
**Missing from the collection**

**Bridgwater Mercury, 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**  
**Missing from the collection**

**Bridgwater Mercury 14<sup>th</sup> August 1918**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**

Today's British Official Communique. On the battle front our troops effected further improvements in the positions held by them north of Roye Road and on the north bank of the Somme, and they have captured additional prisoners.

Local Officer's illness. It has been announced that Captain Lionel **Jones** MC who had been dangerously ill with pneumonia is now out of danger.

Awarded the Military Cross. Lieut F. F., **Edbrooke**, Yeomanry. He took command of his company and led it throughout the day with the greatest gallantry..

Soldier's death in Palestine. Acting-Cpl T. **Jennings** Somerset L.I. Serving with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force died of wounds on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Local "Mons Star" Men to include Lance-Corporal W H **Margetts**, Devon Regiment, who fell in action in 1915.

Death from wounds. Pte M S **Selway** of 90 Barclay Street, of the Hants Regiment has died of wounds received whilst serving in France.

Young Soldier dies in Italy. Second Air Mechanic Sydney A G **Smith**, R.A.F. Attached to a battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery died at the age of 20 years, formerly a scholar at Dr Morgans's School.

Missing for nearly five months. The parents of Private S **Hamber** received a letter stating that he is a prisoner of war at Stammlager, Stendal Germany. He had previously been reported as missing.

Wounded. Mr & Mrs **Creedy** have received a letter from their son Private Wm. **Creedy** of Somerset L.I. Saying that he has been transferred to a stationary hospital at Gaza suffering from a gunshot wound to his left thigh.

Accidentally burned. Private Harry **Wyatt** R.A.M.C. Eldest son of Rev. Henry **Wyatt** formerly of the Bridgwater Baptist Chapel has been accidentally burned at a laboratory in Italy. Fire broke out and Private Wyatt attempted to put out the flames, he was burnt about the face and hands, though not dangerously.

Puriton Sergeant seriously wounded. Sergt. Edward **Young** of the Somersets was seriously wounded in the chest while serving in France.

Sale of War Bonds The sale of War Bonds through the Bridgwater Banks last week represented a sum of £13,055, bringing the total up to Saturday to £347,830.

Bridgwater Roll of Honour. The local Roll of Honour on the Cornhill was adorned on Sunday by a large wreath of evergreens and a card bearing the inscription "In loving memory of our dear son Second-Lieut. Gerald C W **Bishop**, 16<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Regiment..

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 21<sup>st</sup> August 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Bridgwater Town Clerk in Action. Lieut. Arthur **King** of the Tank Corps went into action when the British made their smashing offensive against the Germans of 8<sup>th</sup> August. The tank in which he was travelling received two direct shell hits, but no casualties were sustained.

Local Flying Officer missing. Lieut. Wilfred **Pollard** has been posted as missing since 16<sup>th</sup> August.

Thrice mentioned in Despatches. Paymaster Sgt. H J **Purse**, Royal Engineers, who is serving in Salonika has recently been mentioned in despatches for gallant and distinguished service. This is the third time he has obtained this distinction.

Honour for Bridgwater Soldier. Sapper W J **Slocombe** has had the French Croix de Guerre conferred upon him for distinguished service.

Former Local Railway Clerk killed. Pte C. T. **Bickel** was killed in action in France. He joined the Royal Engineers, then transferred to King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Accidentally killed in Salonika. Driver Albert Edward **Rabjohns** of the Army Service Corps has been accidentally killed in Salonika. He was quarrying and

a slip of gravel occurred and he was buried.

Killed in Cavalry Advance. Trooper Roland A **Bursell** of the Inniskillen Dragoon Guards was killed in action near Beaucourt on 8<sup>th</sup> August, the first day of the great offensive launched by the British.

Bridgwater Footballer Twice Wounded. Sergt. Geo. **Roman**, Coldstream Guards, a well-known rugby player has been wounded in France for the second time. He received severe injuries to the feet and legs and has been transferred to a hospital in Scotland.

Bridgwater and the sale of War Bonds. The sale of War Bonds through the Bridgwater banks represented a sum of £3,660, bringing the total on Saturday to £351,49.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 28<sup>th</sup> August 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Lieut Wilfred **Pollard** R.A.F. Missing. This was previously reported by telegram. His parents have now received an official letter stating that Lieut Wilfred Pollard is missing.

Officer killed in Action. Second-Lieut, Ernest Ivor **Martin** of King's Own Scottish Borderers was killed in action in France on August 18<sup>th</sup>, tragically this being his first wedding anniversary.

Lieut. Cuthbert **Smith** wounded. The Military Cross has been awarded to Lieut. Cuthbert **Smith** A.S.C. M.T. Attached R.G.A. for distinguished service in South Africa.

Wembdon Soldier's death from wounds. Private Walter Henry **Eagles**, Dragoon Guards was hit by a machine gun bullet and died most gallantly.

Local "1914 Star" Man. A few weeks ago we published a list of local "1914 Star" men. We are pleased to add Private William **Pippin**, who was attached to the Wessex Field Ambulance R.A.M.C. (T.F.) 8<sup>th</sup> Division. He was in hospital for a long time suffering from shell shock and was then discharged from the army..

Goathurst soldier dies of wounds. Private F.W.B. **Bishop** of the Essex Regiment, died of wounds received in action.

Wounded, Second-Lieut Stanley **Towler** D.C.M. Machine Gun Corps has been wounded in France. He has since been returned to his unit and is making satisfactory progress. Private Alexander **Dawe**, Somerset L.I. Was wounded in France on 1<sup>st</sup> August by a shell wound to his thigh. He has since been removed to Edinburgh and is progressing. Pte. S. E. **Dewdney**, London Regiment has been admitted to hospital in France slightly wounded..

Bridgwater and the Sale of War Bonds. The sale of War Bonds through Bridgwater Banks last week represented a sum of £1,545, bringing the total to £359,035.

**Bridgwater Mercury 4<sup>th</sup> September 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Local soldier falls in action - Driver William James **Mounsher**, Royal Field Artillery, killed 15 August by an exploding shell – brief biography.

Bridgwater Sapper's death in action – News from a prisoner of war in Germany, Sapper Albert John **Fowler** R. E. killed 27 May. - brief biography.

Missing Bridgwater Officer – now reported wounded and POW – Lieut Wilfred H. **Pollard**, R. A. F. missing since 16 August, POW in Germany.

Drowned at sea. Local Royal Engineer's fate, Sapper Edward **Britton**, RE, drowned while helping unload a barge.

Plucky Bridgwater lad falls in action – Private R **Palmer**, Gloucestershire Regiment, killed 11 August. Letter from his sergeant. - brief biography.

Officer's fine record – Captain Gerald Lionel **Wood**, MC, wounded 3 times. Given the freedom of Borough of Tenby.

Missing – Sapper A **Silke**, Royal Engineers has been posted as missing since 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Gifts for local soldiers and prisoners of war. Further donations of £9.17s have been received towards Somerset L.I. Prisoners of War Fund from the sale of war poems. Parcels of “smokes” have been dispatched to various soldiers.

Local brothers' promotions Lieut J W **Colsey** has been transferred from the South Wales Borderers to a permanent commission in the Indian Army. His brother Second-Lieut, G. R. **Gobey**, S.L.I. Has been gazetted as temporary lieutenant and transferred to a home battalion.

Shell in a Dug-out.. Details have been reported of how Corpl. T. **Jennings** met his death. It appears a rush had been made for a dug-out but this was penetrated by a shell. Private **Lock** of Albert Street was also wounded. Sergt. Chedzoy of Wellington Road was slightly injured but Crpl **Calloway** was very badly injured.

Wounded. Able-Seaman Arthur John **Rawle** was slightly wounded by shrapnel to his leg, he was admitted to a hospital in France but was transferred to a hospital in Brighton. Official notice has been received that Private S E **Dewdney** of Victoria Road

has been wounded in France. Rifleman Wm. Jas. **Boon** of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade has been wounded in action..

More Local “Mons Men” - Gunner W. J. **Rossiter** R.F.A. And Lance-Copl **Rossiter**, Field Ambulance, and Sergt. C. J. **Davey** have received the Mons Star..

Sale of War Bonds in Bridgwater. The total subscribed in War Bonds through Bridgwater Banks last week was £2,020, bringing the town's total to £361,055..

**Bridgwater Mercury 11<sup>th</sup> September 1918.  
Bridgwater and the War.**

Killed by Shell Fire: Gunner W. T. **Renwick**, Royal Garrison Artillery was killed in action in France on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Bridgwater Soldier's death. Private William John **Harris** of Devon Regiment has died in hospital in Somerset following an illness contracted in Salonica, this being malarial fever, which turned to tuberculosis and mental trouble.

Death from wounds. Able Seaman Arthur Thomas **Winter**, Royal Naval Division died at 29<sup>th</sup> Clearing Station in France on 25<sup>th</sup> August from multiple bomb wounds.

Presumed killed. Pte. **Mockridge** of Royal West Kents, who had previously been reported as missing, is now presumed to have been killed.

The late Sapper E. **Britton**. The military funeral of Sapper **Britton** took place at Bristol Road Cemetery with military honours, he had been drowned at sea.

Young Bridgwater Soldier Missing. Private Edgar **Coles** Royal Berks Regiment has been posted as missing since 8<sup>th</sup> August. No news has been received for a month..

Cannington Soldier Falls in Action. Private William **Tucker** of Gurney Street Cannington was killed in action on 21<sup>st</sup> August. He was in the Coldstream Guards..

Wounded. Second-Lieut. J. B. **Van Agnew**, King's Own Scottish Regiment was wounded in France on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August. He is now in hospital in Cambridge.

Able Seaman Harold George **Winslade** “Anson” Batt. R.N.D. Was admitted to 8<sup>th</sup> Stationary Hospital, Wimereux, France suffering from severe gunshot wounds. He has since been removed to hospital in Yorkshire.

Private W.C.**Potter**, Oxford and Bucks L.I. Was wounded in France on 27<sup>th</sup> August. He is now in Liverpool.

Sale of War Bonds: The total subscribed in War Bonds through Bridgwater Banks last week was £1,095, bringing the total up to £362,150..

Wasting Bread. A Nether Stowey woman, Elizabeth **Palmer**, was fined £2.7.6d. for wasting bread. She was lucky to escape prison as it was her first offence.

Discharged Sailors' and Soldiers' Federation. A special meeting was held on Saturday at the Dockers Hall in Friarn Street to receive a report from Mr Frank **Way** of his pensions work on the County Committee. Mr E J **White** thanked them for electing him as President. Mr Way was willing to accept questions and an animated discussion followed. Mr L C **Willis** proposed a vote of thanks to Mr **Way** and Mr Atyeo seconded.

#### **Bridgwater Independent, September 16 1918.**

All international – no local news at all.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury, Sept 18, 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Local Australian falls in action – Killed in ambulance work. Private Wilfred **Boys**, Australian Field Ambulance killed in France aged 33 years. - Officer's letter.

Young Bridgwater Soldier falls in action – Pte G. C. D. **Ballard**. King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Killed in France 2 September – Officer's letter – brief biography.

Bridgwater Soldier's death from wounds – Crpl W. C. **Jennings**. London Regiment – brief biography.

Died of wounds – Former Bridgwater Bank Clerk Pte Charles Stafford **Bastard**. Wounded at Arras May 1917.

Death of Mr C. E. **Bond**, formerly Gunner in the Tank Corps. Wounded then died at home from TB.

Reported dead after ten months. Pte Ernest Charles **Haysham**, M.M. Killed in action in Palestine 22 November 1918.

Bridgwater Sapper Drowned – inquest on Sapper Edward **Britton**, R.E. (See report of 11<sup>th</sup> September).

Bridgwater man wins Military Medal – Private P **Hughes** of the Somerset Light Infantry.

Local Soldier falls in action, - Corpl B. J. **Vickery** RE, Killed 2 September, in the village of Remy. He was 34 years of age..

Captain Arnold **Foster** has been promoted to the temporary rank of acting adjutant. He has served for a lengthy period in Palestine and has been twice

wounded.

Private L **Burge** of Gordon Terrace and in the Somersets was killed in action on 29<sup>th</sup> August. He was 19 years of age. He was killed by a shell and his death was instantaneous.

Second-Lieut Andrew Graham **Montgomery** (Cameron Highlanders) was killed in action on 6<sup>th</sup> September. . He was 19 years of age.

Private Thomas **Nation**, Somerset L.I. Has died of wounds at 55<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station in France. He was one of eight soldier sons of Mr John **Nation** of which a previous report had been made.

Driver William **Burge**, Army Service Corps, Salonica, has been reported as missing.

Cossington Lad killed in action: Private W D **Pople** Worcester Regiment was killed on 8<sup>th</sup> September in France. He was 18 years of age. He was shot by a sniper.

Stogursey Man's gallantry rewarded. Corpl **Rymer** was awarded a Military Medal for conspicuous coolness and gallantry.

Flight Cadet Harold L **Jones** was gazetted last week as second lieutenant in the Royal Air Force. His promotion is well deserved.

Private F J **Burt** was wounded on 24<sup>th</sup> August from gunshot wounds. Sergeant William **Day**, Royal Engineers was wounded in action in France on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Private Edwin **Dembrey** has been wounded on the Salonica front.

Sale of War Bonds The total subscribed in War Bonds through the Bridgwater banks last week was £3,485, bringing the total up to £365,635..

#### **Bridgwater Mercury September 25<sup>th</sup> 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Sergt. Major Arthur Edward **Crossman** of the Gloucester Regiment was killed in action in France on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. He was killed in a big battle and was buried with some of his men where they fell. He was 31 years of age.

Bridgwater Officer wounded, Major W H **Tamlyn** of the Royal Engineers has been admitted to hospital at Rouen suffering from a severe shrapnel wound to his leg.

Private S E **Dewdney**, Lodon Regiment has been officially reported as missing. He had previously been reported as wounded.

Sapper Henry Alfred James **Silke**, Royal Engineers was killed in action in France on 12<sup>th</sup> April. At first he



had been reported as missing.

Bridgwater men wounded:

Rifleman E **Britton**, London Regiment has been admitted to hospital in Rouen suffering from a gunshot wound to the face.

Private Thomas **Kirk** of the Somerset L.I. Was admitted to a Canadian Hospital in France suffering from a severe gunshot wound to his leg. He was also suffering from the effects of gas and is in shell shock.

Private C Hill, Somerset Light Infantry was admitted to hospital in France on 8<sup>th</sup> September, suffering from shell shock.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Six Great Blows by Allied Armies - 45,000 prisoners taken since Thursday. The whole battle front in the West is ablaze. Six great attacks have been made, the attacks are:

In Flanders – British and Belgian

St Quentin region – British and Americans

Cambrai region – British.

S.W. of Leon – French

West of Argonne – French.

East of Argonne – American.

Bulgaria's distress – The plea for armistice – Allies only conditions. The Bulgarian plenipotentiaries have arrived at Salonica and were received by General d'Esperey. They have been informed of the Allies' terms to withdraw immediately and surrender arms or join with the Allies against the Germans and Turks. Meanwhile the British and Greeks are marching on.

The Turkish Rout – In Palestine, Allenby is nearing Damascus and improving his glorious success against the Turks. His troops have crossed the Jordan south of Damascus. Another British Force has moved south along the Hedjaz Railway, to push the Turkish army north. 50,000 prisoners and 325 guns have been taken.

Germany stricken with fear. The Socialist paper quotes "Then we German people stand alone against British, French, Italians, American and their auxiliary forces, and are fighting with our backs against the wall and ruin before our eyes." – We must make peace as soon as possible.

Germans leave Romania. According to information from Swiss circles, the Germans have begun to withdraw their occupation troops from Romania.

Allies' Minimum Peace Terms. M.Clemenceau has put forward terms of peace. The first thing was that Germany would never again start a war of conquest.

Belgium would have to be restored. Alsace Lorraine to be given up to France. Italy must get all regions where Italians predominated, and Greece, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro be restored to their former positions and guaranteed territorial integrity. Constantinople must become an international city under the Allies' administration and the maximum compensation must be extracted from the enemy.

Allies' captures since July 18. Summing up the general results of recent fighting the *Echo de Paris* says: "The total prisoners taken at the front since July 18<sup>th</sup> exceeds 200,000. 3,000 guns and 20,000 machine-guns have been taken. These figures do not include prisoners taken in Palestine and Macedonia.

The American Army was held up for a time owing to the breaking of a bridge, and decided not to go for a machine gunner with the rifle as it was not magnificent and not war.

### **Bridgwater Mercury 9th October 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Lieut. Wilfred **Pollard** of the Royal Air Force has sent a card to say he is only slightly wounded and is a prisoner of war.

Reported Missing: Tom **Law** aged 21 of the Hood Battalion Royal Naval Division was posted as missing while serving in France on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Local men wounded.

Pte E R J **Stoodley** of the Somersets was admitted to hospital at Le Touquet on September 21<sup>st</sup> suffering from mild mustard gas shell wound. P.C. **Fling** of the Bridgwater borough police force has been wounded, though the degree of his wounds has not been stated. Private Frank **Frost** of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry has been wounded below the knee while serving in France. He is now in hospital in Bristo.

Over Stowey Soldier's death and funeral. Copl Henry **Grandfield** had passed away in Dorset Hospital. He was serving in Salonica when rheumatism developed. He suffered for several months then he developed pneumonia. He was laid to rest in Over Stowey cemetery.

Bridgwater and War Bonds.

The amount received from the sale of war bonds through Bridgwater Banks last week showed a great increase, being £11,220 bringing the total to £384,650..

### **Bridgwater Mercury 16th October 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

It is believed that Cpl A **Ford**, Duke of Cornwall's L.I. has died. He was reported as missing five

months' ago. A further communication from the Red Cross states that he was seen to fall and had to be left where he was, because of the extreme danger from the enemy.

Bridgwater lad dies in hospital in London, less than a fortnight after joining up. He was laid low by an attack of bronchial pneumonia which proved fatal.

Prisoner of War: The parents of Private David George **Williams** of London Regiment have been notified that he is a prisoner of war in Germany.

Dunball Naval Youth's death. The death occurred at King's College Hospital, London of A.B. Bertram Baden **Clarke**, he was 18 years of age and joined up Last July. He died from influenza and pneumonia. The deceased's father Private G **Clarke** has been brought to England suffering from wounds to his ankle and leg. He is in hospital in Ipswich.

Local Men wounded: Private George Wilkins of the King's Shropshire L.I. has been wounded and had the misfortune to lose an eye.

Sergt. A **Westgate**, Coldstream Guards has been wounded in the right arm, side and both legs and is in hospital in London. He is the possessor of the Mons Star and the Military Medal.

Pte Albert **Bishop** has been admitted to a French Hospital suffering from shrapnel wound.

Gunner Louis **Trevett** has been admitted to an American Hospital in France suffering from burns.

We hear of the death in action of Pte Pering **Paige** of the Canadians. He emigrated to Canada from Devon, but his aunt lives in Bridgwater.

North Petherton's man's death from wounds. Able Seaman William **Northcombe**, Drake Battalion, 63<sup>rd</sup> R.N. Division has died in France as a result of his wounds received in action. He was 33 years of age.

Mr W **Sharkey** has continued to do good works on behalf of soldiers in captivity by selling his poems. He has also received various sums of money. He has despatched "smokes" and gifts to Private L **Carp**, Private S **Hockey**, Private E **Brewer**, Private H **Rowland**, Pioneer W L **Goddard**, Private F **Wright**, Private J **Carpenter**, and Private W J **Bryant**.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury 23rd October 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

British Capture Ostend. The British landed last Thursday and later in the day Belgian infantry entered the town. Royal Naval Forces and Royal Air Force landed. Exactly four years ago Ostend had been surrendered to the Germans. The Allies were received enthusiastically and one French airman was carried shoulder high.

Lille liberated. The capture of Lille by British Troops was announced by Sir Douglas **Haig** on Thursday night. The occupants had been cruelly treated by the Hun. The men had been driven off to the German Mines and the women had been forced to work for the Germans. There were scenes of indescribable enthusiasm when British drums went throbbing through the streets.

British enter Douai. After heavy fighting British troops entered Douai and took 3,000 prisoners and an advance of two miles was made on a nine mile front.

Hun Outrages:

The following are a list of Hun outrages since August 1918.

The sacking of Louvain, massacre of Belgian people, 7,243 men women and children shot in the head.

Homes sacked and banks robbed.

Women and children used for screen for machine gunners.

Repetition of Belgian horrors in France.

Deportation into Germany of vast numbers of French and Belgium people.

*Lusitania* torpedoed, 1,198 drowned.

Poisoned wells in South Africa. Poisoned sweets dropped for French children.

Executions of Nurse **Cavell**, Captain **Fryatt** and numberless Belgium citizens.

German introduction of poison gas, liquid fire and bombardments of undefended land.

Many aerial bombings of hospitals, firing on the Red Cross flag

200 killed in a Paris church by German shellin.

Crews of ships sunk by U-boats left to die in open boats.

Countless barbarities in the field and prison camp.

The Germans have sunk 9,000,000 tons of British shipping and half as much of neutral and Allied shipping. These include the sinking of the *Lusitania* (1,198 lives lost), *Leicester* (533 lives) *Persia* (370 lives) *Hiramu Maru* (300 lives) *Galway Castle* (154 lost) *Falaba* ( 111 lost) Many other liners.

Twelve hospital ships have been torpedoed..

Wittenberg Horrors: Outrages to our men in prison camps can never be forgotten.

A Typhus epidemic, the result of neglect, devastated the camp, which was grossly overcrowded. Savage dogs were used to terrorise the prisoners, and they were whipped with rubber whip.

A successful prophet. Rev. Walter Wynn had prophesied the exact date of the fall of Jerusalem. He also predicted that Germany would suffer defeat on or before October this year.

New British Advance – the Selle river forced. British troops advanced eastward, also along the main line of

German communications, over 2,000 prisoners were captured. Also progress was made on the Denain-Courtrai front, the passage of the Lys has been forced. In Belgium the retreat of the Germans continue.

Americans hold their ground. West of the Meuse troops have continued their pressure on the enemy east of Banthesville.

Fall of Ghent imminent- A French newspaper reports that it does not think the Germans will be able to hold the line of the Scheldt.

Douai sacked by the Huns – Houses burned and churches were desecrated. The streets are strewn with furniture etc and shop windows have been broken.

Addressing a crowded meeting in New York, ex-president Mr Taft demanded unconditional surrender saying he finally realised why the Allies were fighting. He felt a League of Nations would be established but that Germany would not be included, until she has learned her lesson.

President Wilson has called for unconditional surrender.

It was confirmed that critical conditions were existing in Germany and consternation was growing.

Mr Wilson replied to the Austrian peace note stating that Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia must have full power to settle their future government.

Dr Addison has said that it is not easy to put any trust in the word of the rulers of Germany.

Mr Asquith has said that the war is not yet over but the enemy's resistance is broken.

Mr Winston Churchill said that President Wilson's firm and formidable answer to Germany would be fully endorsed.

Germany gave a reply to Mr Wilson asking that their military advisors be involved in the peace process, they have however ordered the U-boat murders to stop.

The King at Buckingham Palace received a delegate to the Inter-Allied Parliamentary Conference and stated that victory must be complete.

A revolt has broken out in Sofia, 3,000 people were killed in street fighting which broke out between Bolshevik labourers and troops and police.

An Irish steamer, the Dundalk, has been sunk. It was torpedoed without warning and 21 people are missing.

**Bridgwater Mercury, 30<sup>th</sup> October 1918**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**  
**Missing from the collection**

**Bridgwater Mercury, 6<sup>th</sup> November 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**  
**Missing from the collection**

**Bridgwater Mercury 13<sup>th</sup> November 1918.**  
**Bridgwater and the War.**

Versailles Decision.

Mr Lloyd George made a statement in the House of Commons that complete agreement has been reached as to the terms of the German Armistice. The conclusions have been transmitted to the United States.

Drastic Terms to Austria. The Prime Minister at the same time outlined the terms given to Austria: Immediate cessation of all hostilities, troops to be withdrawn. All invaded territories to be evacuated. Allies to have free movement and to occupy strategic points in Austria-Hungary.

Complete evacuation of German troops within 16 days from all fronts and immediate repatriation of prisoners of war.

Naval Conditions: The surrender of 15 Austro-Hungarian submarines and all German submarines, three battleships, three light cruisers, nine destroyers, twelve torpedo-boat destroyers and six monitors.

Big German Retreat – Retirement of 70 mile front. The advance of the British Armies though retarded by bad weather was continued through Monday night and on Tuesday. Le Quesroy (with 1,000 men) fell into the hands of the New Zealanders. Our troops have defeated 25 German Divisions. The French attack resumed on Tuesday morning. A severe defeat was inflicted upon six enemy divisions, 4,000 prisoners and six guns being captured. The Americans have reached the western outskirts of Stenay over the Meuse and have crossed the river at Pouilly. The German army has fallen back in a fairly orderly fashion.

German Home Front Cracking. An appeal signed by Prince Max was issued making an urgent plea for the German people to remain united.

White Flag delegates. President Wilson replied to the Germans' request for armistice terms with two modifications, – The Allies reserve complete freedom of the seas, - They will require Germany to make compensation for all damage done to civilian properties by their aggression. The request was made that Germany must ask for terms of armistice under a white flag.

Still Yielding to Pressure.

Huns continue to fall back. Despite heavy rain and sodden ground the British – Forces continued to make good progress on Wednesday all along the front. The Americans gave the enemy no respite. French troops made a further important advance on Wednesday amounting to six miles and the enemy was completed to retreat.

#### **GREAT WAR ENDS – The Armistice signed.**

On Monday morning the Prime Minister made the following announcement. The armistice was signed at 5 am this morning Hostilities to cease on all fronts at 11 am.

Kaiser abdicates, and he and his family fled to Holland. The King of Bavaria has fled from Munich, the Kingdom of Wurtemberg has given place to a Republic. A host of other princes and Grand Dukes seem to share a similar fate. The stage is full of chaos and everywhere the Red Flag is flying.

Kaiser's downfall. Five thrones lost in a day.

King William II took the only course open to him by renouncing the throne of the German Empire and Prussia on Saturday. Other German sovereigns who have lost their thrones are King of Bavaria, King of Wurtemberg, Duke of Brunswick and the King of Saxony.

A revolutionary government. Germany is now in the hands of the revolutionaries marshalled by the Socialist parties. The New People's Government was initiated. A general Strike was decided upon and all factories were at a standstill.

Hour of Triumph Mr Lloyd George delivered a victory speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet where he declared that the issue was settled.

Kaiser the Arch-Villain – the *Chronicle* newspaper declared that the Kaiser was an arch-villain.

German Navy Revolt. It was revealed that the German Navy had been ordered out as a last desperate gamble but they did not come out as they realised it was not a good cause.

Farmers in Gloucester were advised not to give up the breeding of livestock, and to make sure that all arable land is cultivated to the full.

#### **Bridgwater Mercury November 1918. Bridgwater and the War.**

Reception of the Glorious news in Bridgwater. There were scenes of wild enthusiasm tempered by a feeling of devout thankfulness that the warfare had been brought to a triumphant conclusion. The

atmosphere was electrical and Union Jacks were displayed from upstairs windows. Sirens and hooters began to sound. Work was suspended nearly everywhere. All were determined to celebrate victory. The bells rang out from St Mary's and the streets were thronged with people. On Penel Orliou dancing was indulged in, a piano being brought from the Empire Theatre. In the afternoon a procession of the B.C. Christy Band rendered national airs. An impromptu concert was given on the Cornhill, and short speeches were delivered, the theme being of deep gratitude.

Additional information was posted on the Mercury window that the Canadians had achieved a final and dramatic victory.

Impressive thanksgiving services were held on Monday at St Mary's, Holy Trinity and Congregational Church. The thanksgiving service at St John's Church will take place on Thursday evening.

The Mayor gave a speech on the Cornhill shortly after the news came through on Monday morning, accompanied by many cheers.

The news was presented to the Magistrates Court whilst they were dealing with a prosecution order, but proceedings were interrupted for an announcement to be made and the case was adjourned for another day.

Influenza epidemic has incurred a heavy death toll.

Wembdon. Less than half an hour after the announcement that the armistice had been signed the church bells commenced ringing a merry peal., and a thanksgiving service had been arranged.