

LOPEN WAR MEMORIAL

Compiled by

Peter Forrester



All Saints Church, Lopen

**please do not
remove**

I have been collecting data about the soldiers of Somerset and Bristol who lost their lives in the First World War since 2010, and I have been trying to marry up this data with the war memorials found in the towns, villages, churches and memorial halls within the county.

A word of caution; these records have been gathered from around the county but are all about one hundred years old. Any mistakes made then will, therefore, be perpetuated. Some anomalies in ages may also be noted, but that was not surprising in a time when younger men gave older ages so they could enlist, and older men 'made themselves younger' by not giving their true ages. Unsurprisingly, the manpower requirement was such that Recruiting Officers and Sergeants' often turned a 'blind eye' despite the appearance of the youth or man standing in front of them.

This document is also a 'living' document and as such can be updated as and when information is found or discovered. If you have any information on these men that is not reflected in these pages then please e-mail me at peterf707@aol.com

Peter Forrester

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Yeovil, Somerset
11th June, 2015.

References:

- (1) Commonwealth War Graves Commission - www.cwgc.org.
- (2) www.Ancestry.co.uk.
- (3) The background watermark is by kind permission of the Royal British Legion.

INDEX

	Page
The War Memorial	4
The 1911 Census	5 - 7
Joseph Bishop	8
Ernest William Edmonds	9
George Greenham	9 - 10
William Henry Greenham	10 - 11
Frederick Hall	11 - 12
Fred Pidgeon	12 - 13
Archibald Sweet	13 - 14

**War Memorial within the grounds of the
Church of All Saints, Lopen, Somerset.**

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY OF
THE BRAVE MEN OF LOPEN
FREDERICK HALL
FRED PIDGEON
ERNEST WILLIAM EDMONDS
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR
COUNTRY IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

Names not recorded on the war memorial:

JOSEPH BISHOP
GEORGE GREENHAM *brothers
WILLIAM HENRY GREENHAM *brothers
ARCHIBALD SWEET



The 1911 Census

In 1911 the First World War was only three years away, and in those halcyon days little could prepare the tiny Somerset village of Lopen, or the world, for the disaster that was about to befall it.

The 1911 census which exists today gives us an insight into who lived in the village at that time, and most likely, who was living there during the First World War. This is important in the context of those who paid the supreme sacrifice, particularly in the case of Lopen. The toll would be a heavy one, over 5% of the entire male population of military age being killed.

The village schedule shows those who were living in the village at the time, and what buildings existed. I have highlighted in red any household listed where a **villager lived and who lost his life** during this conflict. These are enumerated below (source: 1911 England Census).

In all there were 61 inhabited dwellings, with a total of 101 men and boys, 120 women and girls – a grand total of 221 inhabitants of this village. As an estimate, of the 101 men and boys of the village, probably about 60 were of military age. The war memorial within the churchyard contains the names of 3 men who were killed.

The Lopen census was part of the Hinton St. George, Dinnington and Merriott census, hence the Schedule numbers I have extracted from the records begin at Schedule 133 and end at Schedule 193.

Sch No.	Address	Type of Building	Head of Household	Males	Females	Total
133	"New House"	Private	Mr. William Edwin Smith	2	1	3
	Lopen Mills	Twine Factory		0	0	0
	Lopen Mills	Private House	Empty	0	0	0
134	Pear Tree Cottage	Private House	Mrs. Elizabeth Hiscock <i>*Frederick Hall lived here after Mrs. Hiscock left the house.</i>	0	3	3
135	Water Street	Private House	Mr. William Harris	4	2	6
136	Water Street House	^{Ballarat} Farm House	Mr. Benjamin Norton	3	2	5
137	Water Street	^{Farm} Farm House	Mr. C. Pitcher	2	2	4
138	Water Street	Private House	Mr. J. Masters	3	2	5
139	Water Street	Private House	Mr. John Cable	3	4	7
140	Water Street	Private House	Mr. Joseph Cable	2	3	5
141	Water Street	Private House	Mr. J. Harris	1	2	3
142	Water Street	Private House	Mr. J. Napper	2	3	5
143	Water Street Farm	^{Lopen} Farm House	Mrs. Dunell	1	3	4
	Water Street	Private House	Empty	0	0	0
	Water Street	Private House	Empty	0	0	0
144	Water Street Cottage	^{Vine} Private House	Mr. J. Pitcher	1	2	3
	Water Street	Private House	Empty	0	0	0

145	High Street Farm	Shires	Farm House	Mr. W. Masters	1	2	3
	High Street		Private House	Empty	0	0	0
146	High Street		Private House	Mrs. Pester	1	1	2
147	High Street		Private House	Mr. W. Edmonds	1	3	4
148	High Street		Private House	Mr. Pitts	1	1	2
149	High Street		Private House	Mrs. Slade	0	1	1
150	High Street William	King	Hotel	Mr. Carter	2	2	4
151	High Street Farm	Court	Farm House	Mr. B. Goodland	1	3	4
152	Ivy Cottage		Private	Mr. E. Masters	2	1	3
153	Ivy Cottage		Apartment	Miss Rouse	0	1	1
154	Cross Tree		Private House	Mr. Charles Edmonds *Ernest William Edmonds	5	1	6
	Grocers Shop		Shop		0	0	0
155	Cross Tree		Private House	Mr. R. Carter	2	2	4
	Cross Tree		Private House	Empty	0	0	0
156	Cross Tree		Private House	Mr. F. England	3	2	5
157	Cross Tree		Private House	Mr. S. Hutchings	2	0	2
	England Bars		Private Houses	Empty	0	0	0
158	England Bars		Private House	Mr. W. Epton	3	1	4
	School				0	0	0
	School House				0	0	0
159	Blacksmiths Shop		& Private House	Mr. Hill	2	2	4
	Congregational		Chapel		0	0	0
160	Post Office		Private House	Mr. Rock	1	2	3
	Holloway		Bake House		0	0	0
161	Holloway		Private House	Mrs. Ouseley	0	1	1
162	Holloway		Private House	Mrs. C. Harris	0	3	3
163	Holloway		Private House	Mr. Charles Napper	1	1	2
164	Holloway		Private House	Mrs. Lawrence	1	2	3
165	Holloway		Private House	Mr. Gillard	1	1	2
166	Holloway		Private House	Mrs. Hutchings	0	1	1
167	Holloway Baker's Shop	Bakery and	Private House	Mr. Pidgeon *Frederick Pidgeon	2	3	5
168	Holloway		Private House	Miss Nineford	0	1	1
169	Holloway		Private House	Mr. E. Edmonds	1	0	1
170	Holloway		Private House	Mrs. Mary Grinter	0	2	2
171	Holloway		Private House	Mrs. Margaret Marks	0	1	1
172	Holloway Cottage	Laurel	Private House	Mrs. Eliza Edmonds	1	2	3
173	All Saints Rectory		Private House	Mrs. Emily Billings	0	4	4
174	Higher Street		Crown Inn	Mr. George Larcombe	2	4	6

	Church Street	Farm House	Empty	0	0	0
175	Church Street	Private House	Mr. Frederick Tanner	1	1	2
	Church Street	Private House	Empty	0	0	0
176	Church Street	Private House	Mr. S. Marks	2	2	4
177	Church Street	Private House	Mr. A. Masters	2	1	3
178	Church Street	Private House	Mr. W. Edmonds	6	5	11
	Church Street	Private House	Empty	0	0	0
179	Church Street	Private House	Mr. C. Hooper	2	4	6
180	Church Street ^{Inas} Cottage	Private House	Mr. Denman	5	1	6
181	Church Street Church Farm	Private House	Mr. E. Cridge	1	2	3
	Sunday School	All Saints		0	0	0
	All Saints Church			0	0	0
182	Higher Street ^{The} Cottage	Private House	Mr. W. Penny	1	2	3
183	Church Street	Private House	Mr. Sutton	1	2	3
184	Church Street	Private House	Mr. Stuart	1	1	2
185	Church Street	Private House	Mr. Ackerman	3	1	4
	Broomhill	Private House	Empty	0	0	0
186	Broomhill	Private House	Mr. J. England	3	1	4
187	Broomhill Farm	Farm	Mr. Parker	1	5	6
188	Broomhill	Private House	Mr. Penny	3	1	4
	Broomhill	Private House	Empty			
189	Lopen Head ^{Poulett} Arms	Hotel	Mr. T. Pitcher	1	2	3
190	Frogmore Farm	Farm House	Mr. J. Cridge	2	2	4
191	Snap End	Private House	Mr. J. Manley	4	5	9
192	Snap End	Private House	Mr. Preston	1	1	2
193	"Hundred Acres"	Farm	Mr. Stoodley	1	1	2
				101	120	221

4019 Private Joseph BISHOP,
1st/4th Battalion, Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry.

He was born in Lopen, Somerset
and died on the 29th August, 1916, aged 19.

He is buried in the Basra War Cemetery, Iraq,
and his grave is located in Section V, Row E, Grave 14.

The 1901 England census reveals him to be a 5 year old lad and living with his widowed mother, Sarah Bishop (49), of Frog Street, Lopen, Somerset. His siblings living with him at the time were listed as Henry Bishop (17), George Bishop (13), Frederick Bishop (11), Mabel Bishop (9), and Walter Bishop (8).

The 1911 England Census reveals him to be a 14 year old lad working in the Poultry Appliance Manufacturing industry and living with his widowed mother Sarah (nee Kidner) Bishop (60), of Pitway, South Petherton, Somerset. His siblings at the time were listed as Frederick Bishop (21), Mabel Bishop (19) and Walter Bishop (18). He was the son of Joseph Henry Bishop (deceased).

The Western Gazette dated Friday 8/9/16 reported: "*MARTOCK - DEATH FROM FEVER. - Private Joseph Bishop, of the Somerset Light Infantry, formerly employed at Mr. Harry Hebditch's poultry appliance works, has died in India from fever.*"

The Western Gazette dated Friday 15/9/16 reported: "*SOUTH PETHERTON. DEATH OF PRIV. J. BISHOP. - Mrs. Bishop, of Pitway, has received the sad news from the War Office that her youngest son, Priv. Jos. Bishop, aged 19, of the Somerset L.I., has died from disease in the Eastern theatre of the war. He had been there for six months, and had enjoyed the best of health, therefore the sad news came as a great shock. Mrs. Bishop has five sons, all of whom have served with the Colours. One has been discharged from the Army, one is now on active service, and two more in hospital in the East. Much sympathy is expressed with the deceased's mother in her bereavement. Before joining the Army Private Bishop was employed at Mr. Harry Hebditch's poultry works, where, on receipt of the sad news, the flag was flown at half mast.*"

His name is recorded in the County of Somerset Book of Remembrance in St Martin's Chapel, Wells Cathedral as having a Somerset connection.

His name is remembered in the 'SOLDIERS DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1919, Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry) and published by J.B. Hayward & Son, at page 49.

He is remembered on the South Petherton War Memorial located within the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church at Grid Reference ST 432 168 and Global Positioning System co-ordinates 50° 56' 54.75" North, 2° 48' 35.11" West. Post Code TA13 5DQ.

The All UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929, entry number 354431 shows that his next of kin was his mother, Mrs. Sarah Bishop, and she received the residue of her son's estate from the Army which amounted to £9 7s 1d, which also included his War Gratuity of £6. *Author's note: The value of £10 in 1919 roughly equated to about £900 in 2015.

His Medal Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Sources: (1), (2), (3), and the Western Gazette.

20738 Private Ernest William EDMONDS,
8th Battalion, Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry.

He was born in Lopen, Somerset
and was killed in action on the 11th April, 1917, aged 24.
His name is remembered on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France,
on Panel 4.

The England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915 shows that his birth was registered in Chard, Somerset, during Jul-Aug-Sep, 1890.

The 1911 Census reveals him to be a 18 year old single man working as a Twine Finisher in a Twine Factory and living with his parents, Charles Edmonds (a 45 year old man who, at the time of the Census, had been married for 20 years and was working as a Farm Labourer) and Mary Edmonds (a 44 year old mother of 5 children, 4 of whom were still alive at the time of the Census), of Cross Tree, Lopen, Somerset. His siblings listed as living with him in the family 4 roomed house were Reginald Edmonds (12), Percy Edmonds (8) and Cuthbert Edmonds (6).

His marriage to Hilda A. Edmonds (nee White), was registered at Chard between July and September 1916 and the couple were residing in Over Stratton, South Petherton, Somerset.

His name is recorded in the County of Somerset Book of Remembrance in St Martin's Chapel, Wells Cathedral as having a Somerset connection.

His name is remembered in the 'SOLDIERS DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1919, Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry) and published by J.B. Hayward & Son, at page 38.

His name is remembered on the war memorial in the churchyard at All Saints, Lopen, Somerset, Grid Reference ST 427 144, Global Positioning System co-ordinates 50° 55' 37.1" North, and 2° 48' 59.2" West.

The All UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929, entry number 462966 shows that his next of kin was his widow, Mrs. Hilda A. Edmonds and she received the residue of her husband's estate from the Army which amounted to £7 1s 1d, which also included his War Gratuity of £4 10s. *Author's note: The value of £10 in 1919 roughly equated to about £900 in 2015.

His Medal Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Sources: (1), (2), and (3).

K/9486 Stoker First Class George GREENHAM,

H.M.S. Indefatigable, Royal Navy.

He was born in Lopen, Somerset
and was killed in action on the 31st May, 1916, aged 25.
His name is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon
at Panel 15.

He was born on the 14th September, 1891, in Church Street, Lopen, near Crewkerne. The England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915 shows that his birth was registered in Chard, Somerset, between Oct-Nov-Dec, 1891.

The 1901 England census reveals him to be a 9 year old boy and living with his widower father, Henry Greenham (30), and his Susan Greenham (a 34 year old single woman who was acting as her brother's housekeeper), of Church Street, Lopen, Somerset. His siblings

living with him at the time were listed as William Greenham (10), Annie Greenham (8), and Mark Greenham (6).

His name has been struck through the 1911 Wales Census by the census taker as not actually living there at the time of the census. His widower father and family was shown to be Henry Greenham (a 42 year old man who, at the time of the census, had been married for 21 years to his late wife, Lucy Ann Greenham, and was working as a Green Grocer on his own account), of 82 Woodland Street, Mountain Ash, Glamorganshire, South Wales. His siblings living with him at the time in the family 6 roomed dwelling were listed as Annie Greenham (18), Mark Greenham (16), and his father's sister, Susan Greenham (44). Albert Thomas Hall (30) was a Boarder in the house at the time.

The 1911 census reveals him to be a 19 year old single man serving as a Stoker in the Royal Navy and based in the Royal Naval Barracks, Keyham, Devonport, Plymouth, Devon. At the time of his death his father's address was listed as 98 Woodland Street, Mountain Ash, Glamorganshire, Wales.

According to Wikipedia, HMS Indefatigable was a battlecruiser of the Royal Navy and the lead ship of her class. Her keel was laid down in 1909 and she was commissioned in 1911. She was an enlarged version of the earlier Invincible class with a revised protection scheme and additional length amidships to allow her two middle turrets to fire on either broadside.

Indefatigable was sunk on 31 May 1916 during the Battle of Jutland, the largest naval battle of the war. Part of Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty's Battlecruiser Fleet, she was hit several times in the first minutes of the "Run to the South", the opening phase of the battlecruiser action. Shells from the German battlecruiser Von der Tann caused an explosion ripping a hole in her hull, and a second explosion hurled large pieces of the ship 200 feet (60 metres) in the air. Only three of the crew of 1,017 survived.

He enlisted in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan. His brother, William Henry Greenham, would also lose his life in this war.

George enlisted on the 16th November, 1910, for a period of 12 years. His physical description at the time was that he was 5 feet 6¼ inches tall and had a chest measurement of 38½ inches. He had brown hair, hazel eyes, and was of a fair complexion.

As a member of the Royal Navy he was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Sources: (1), (2), and (3).

11733 Private William Henry GREENHAM,
1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers.

He was born in Lopen, Somerset
and was killed in action on the 13th October, 1915, aged 25.

His name is remembered on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France,
at Panel 52.

The 1901 England census reveals him to be a 10 year old boy and living with his widower father, Henry Greenham (30), and his Susan Greenham (a 34 year old single woman who was acting as her brother's housekeeper), of Church Street, Lopen, Somerset. His siblings living with him at the time were listed as George Greenham (9), Annie Greenham (8), and Mark Greenham (6).

The 1911 Wales census reveals him to be a 21 year old single man working as a Coal Miner. His name has been struck through by the census taker as not actually living there at

the time of the census. His widower father and family was shown to be Henry Greenham (a 42 year old man who, at the time of the census, had been married for 21 years to his late wife, Lucy Ann Greenham, and was working as a Green Grocer on his own account), of 82 Woodland Street, Mountain Ash, Glamorganshire, South Wales. His siblings living with him at the time in the family 6 roomed dwelling were listed as Annie Greenham (18), Mark Greenham (16), and Susan Greenham (44). Albert Thomas Hall (30) was a Boarder in the house at the time.

He enlisted in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan. His brother, George Greenham, would also lose his life in this war.

His name is NOT recorded in the County of Somerset Book of Remembrance in St Martin's Chapel, Wells Cathedral as having a Somerset connection.

The All UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929, entry number 218180 shows that his next of kin was his father, Mr. Henry Greenham, and he received the residue of his son's estate from the Army which amounted to £13 12s 5d, which also included his War Gratuity of £4 10s. *Author's note: The value of £10 in 1919 roughly equated to about £900 in 2015.

He entered the France and Flanders field of battle 29/11/14 and he was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Sources: (1), (2), and (3).

6779 Private Frederick HALL,
2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

He was born in Wickham Market, Suffolk
and was killed in action on the 23rd October, 1914, aged 30.
His name is remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial,
West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, at Panel 11.

The 1911 census reveals him to be a 28 year old man who was working as a Farm Labourer and how had been married for 2 years to Rose Hall (a 27 year old mother of 1 child, William Frederick Hall, aged 1). The couple and their child were living with his brother in law, William Harris (36), of Water Street, Lopen, near Ilminster, Somerset. Other occupants of the 2 up and 2 down house were listed as his other brother in law, Edward Harris (15), and widow Harriett Harris (59). By the time the CWGC collected their data, his wife had relocated to Pear Tree Cottage, Lopen, Seavington, Somerset.

The UK, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919, Volume 1, page 168, records: "*HALL, FREDERICK, Private, No. 6779, 2nd Battn. Coldstream Guards, fourth s. of George Hall, of Wickham Market ; b. Wickham Market, co. Suffolk, 15 May, 1884 ; educ. National School there ; enlisted 22 May, 1906 ; served three years with the Colours, then joined the Reserve ; mobilised 5 Aug., 1914 ; went to France with the Expeditionary Force, 12 Aug. following, and was killed in action at Zonnebeke, 23 Oct., 1914. He m. at Lopen 28 Oct. 1909, (Rosa, Pear Tree Cottage, Lopen Seavington, Somerset), dau. of William Harris, and had three children : William Frederick, b. 3 May, 1910 ; Ethel Florence, b. 1 Oct., 1912 ; and Winifred May, b. 29 April, 1915.*"

The All UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929, entry number 137212 shows that his next of kin was his widow, Mrs. Rose Hall, and she received the residue of her husband's estate from the Army which amounted to £9 10s 8d, which also included his War

Gratuity of £5. *Author's note: The value of £10 in 1919 roughly equated to about £900 in 2015.

His name is recorded in the County of Somerset Book of Remembrance in St Martin's Chapel, Wells Cathedral as having a Somerset connection.

Frederick enlisted on the 22/5/06 and in civilian life was working as a Labourer at the time. He entered France on the 12/8/14 and his Medal Card shows he was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Sources: (1), (2), and (3).

28634 Guardsman Fred PIDGEON,
5th (Reserve) Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

He was born in Lopen, Somerset
and died on the 20th January, 1917, aged 24.

His is buried in the All Saints Churchyard, Church Street, Lopen, Somerset TA13 5JX.

The 1911 Census reveals him to be an 18 year old single lad working as an Assistant in his father's business and living with his parents, Robert Pidgeon (a 44 year old man who, at the time of the Census, had been married for 21 years and was a Baker working on his own account), and Ellen Pidgeon (a 44 year old mother of 4 children, 3 of whom were still alive at the time of the Census), of Holloway Bakery, Lopen, Seavington, near Ilminster, Somerset. His siblings living at home with him in his parents 7 roomed house were Dorcas Jane Pidgeon (19) and Linda Mary Pidgeon (12).

The Western Gazette dated Friday 2/2/17 reported: "*LOPEN. THE LATE PRIVATE FRED PIDGEON. - The funeral of the late Private Fred Pidgeon, of the Grenadier Guards, only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Pidgeon, of this village, took place in the Churchyard on Thursday afternoon. The principal mourners were:- Mr. R. Pidgeon (father), Miss D.J. Pidgeon (sister), Mrs. D. Dolling, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, Mr. C. Pitcher, Misses B. and E. Dolling, and Miss M. Bailey. Others attending were Messrs. T.F. Pitcher, G.F. Larcombe, F.*



Rawlings, and E.J. Cross (Dinnington), A. Bilsdon (Hinton St. George), B.J. Lock (Kingstone), J. Cridge, F. Preston, F. Hill sen, B. Goodland, J. Masters, W. Masters, S. Masters, - Smith, S. Stephens, W. Phippen, F. Rock and C. Harris. There was a large congregation waiting at the church, where the service was taken by the Vicar, the Rev. C.C. Sharpe. The service was choral, Miss R. Penny presiding at the organ. The hymns, "Thy way not mine, O Lord," and "Abide with me," were sung. The "Dead March" was played at the end of the service. The coffin was of polished elm with brass fittings, the breastplate bearing the following inscription:- "Fred Pidgeon, died January 20th, aged 24 years."

Amongst the many beautiful floral tributes was one from the family, one from the deceased's chums, and one from the customers at Hinton. The following friends of deceased acted as bearers:- Messrs. J. Denman, C. Denman, A.

Denman, F. Hill, C. Lock, and G. Norton."

His name is engraved upon a family white cross located in the churchyard at Global Positioning System co-ordinates 50° 55' 37.4" North and 2° 48' 58.1" West.

The gravestone reads: "IN LOVING MEMORY OF//ELLEN//THE BELOVED WIFE OF//ROBERT PIDGEON//WHO DIED AUGUST 20TH, 1919//AGED 51 YEARS//ALSO OF FRED, THEIR SON//LATE GRENADIER GUARDS//WHO DIED JAN 20TH 1917. AGED 24//"*THY WILL BE DONE*"//AND OF THE ABOVE NAMED ROBERT PIDGEON//WHO DIED 26TH JUNE, 1949, AGED 84 YEARS//PEACE, PERFECT PEACE."

His name is recorded in the County of Somerset Book of Remembrance in St Martin's Chapel, Wells Cathedral as having a Somerset connection.

The All UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929, entry number 400852, shows that his next of kin was his father, Robert Pidgeon, and he received the residue of his son's estate from the Army which amounted to £2 12s 5d. *Author's note: The value of £10 in 1919 roughly equated to about £900 in 2015.

His name is remembered on the war memorial in the churchyard at All Saints, Lopen, Somerset, Grid Reference ST 427 144, Global Positioning System co-ordinates 50° 55' 37.1" North, and 2° 48' 59.2" West.

Fred did not leave British shores during his time in the armed forces and did not qualify for any medals.

Sources: (1), (2), (3) and the Western Gazette.

15323 Private Archibald SWEET,

1st Battalion, Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry.

He was born in Lopen, Somerset,
and died of wounds on the 15th May, 1915, aged 24 years.

He is buried in the Klein-Vierstraat British Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, and his grave can be located at Plot V, Row E, Grave 14.

The 1891 England census reveals him to be a child of 1 month and living with his parents, Robert Sweet (a 37 year old man working as a Sail Cloth Weaver) and Elizabeth Sweet (34), of Cottage, Lopen, Somerset. His siblings living with him at the time were listed as Susan Sweet (10), Alfred Sweet (6), Sam Sweet (5), and Frederick Sweet (2).

The 1911 Census reveals him to be 20 year old single man employed as a Weaver and living with his parents, Robert Sweet (a 57 year old man who, at the time of the census, had been married for 32 years and was working as a Sail Cloth Weaver) and Elizabeth SWEET (a 54 year old mother of 8 children, 7 of whom were still alive at the time of the census), of Shiremoor Hill, Merriott, Somerset. His siblings at that time and living with him in the family 4 roomed house were listed as Samuel Sweet (26), Beatrice Annie Sweet (17) and Walter Sweet (13).

The Western Gazette dated Friday 4/6/15 published a picture of him beneath the banner heading: "*OUR LOCAL ROLL OF HONOUR - AMONG THE KILLED AND WOUNDED. Priv. A. Sweet, Merriott, Somerset. Died of wounds.*"

This report was followed with another report dated Friday 4/6/15: "*MERRIOT - PRIVATE A. SWEET KILLED - His many friends will hear with regret of the death of Private A. Sweet, of this village, late Secretary of the Merriott Football Club, who on the 15th May was fatally wounded at the Front and died a few hours after his removal to the base. Private Sweet was*

amongst the first recruits to join at the first meeting held at Crewkerne. It is worthy of note that seven playing members of the Merriott Football Club who won the Yeovil Shield last year have enlisted since the war, and the greatest regret is felt at the death of one who worked earnestly to get the team together, only to be broken apart by this great war. A photograph of Private Sweet appears in our "Roll of Honour."

The All UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929, entry number 174447 shows that his next of kin was his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Sweet, and she received the residue of her son's estate from the Army which amounted to £5 16s 8d, which also included his War Gratuity of £3. *Author's note: The value of £10 in 1919 roughly equated to about £900 in 2015.

His name is recorded in the County of Somerset Book of Remembrance in St Martin's Chapel, Wells Cathedral as having a Somerset connection.

His name is remembered in the 'SOLDIERS DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1919, Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry) and published by J.B. Hayward & Son, at page 15. His name is remembered on the war memorial in the churchyard of the All Saints Church, Merriott, Somerset, at Grid Reference ST 442 128, Global Positioning System co-ordinates 50° 54' 44.26" North, and 2° 47' 40.19" West. His name is also remembered on the war memorial plaque within the All Saints Church, Merriott, Somerset.

He entered France on the 24/3/15 and was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

References: (1), (2), and (3) and the Western Gazette.