

Axminster's World War I Service Casualties

Introduction

With one possible exception, the 75 men listed below all had close personal or family links to Axminster at some point in their lives. Seven of them are not commemorated on the Axminster War Memorial, but their details are included here in recognition of those links.

Job Henry ADAMS

He was killed in action on 1 July 1916 in France, and is buried in the Serre Road Cemetery No.2 (grave ref. III.B.25). His name was added to the Axminster War Memorial (south face) in 2017.

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (9th Battalion). His service number was 20634.

Links to Axminster:

Job's birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1875, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Job Adams, a railway labourer from Uplyme, and Sarah (née Beavis, married in 1875) of Axminster. He was the older of two sons. In 1881 the family was living on Whitpot (Widepost) Lane, and in 1891 on Musbury Road. Job (the father) died in 1897. Job (the son) married Mary Elizabeth Batstone of Axminster in Cardiff district in 3Q1896, and in 1901 he was working in Cardiff as a bricklayer. By 1911 the family had moved to Deacon Road, Willesden (North London). They had had seven children in all prior to the 1911 census, but by 1911 only four (two sons and two daughters) were still alive. A further son was born in 1913.

John Norfolk BEVAN

He died on 4 October 1916 in France, and is buried in Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery (grave ref. IV.A.61). His name was added to the Axminster War Memorial (south face) in 2017.

He served as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery (106th Siege Battery). His service number was 57060.

Links to Axminster:

John's birth was registered in Axminster district in 3Q1897, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were John Bevan, Master of the Axminster Workhouse, and Ada (née Norfolk, married in 1896), the Workhouse matron. They had been born in Hertfordshire and Surrey respectively, and were married in Axminster after John's first wife had died. John was the older of their two sons (they also had a daughter). The family lived in Axminster until at least 1906, but by 1911 John (the father) had retired to Adlestone, Surrey with his family. Ada later moved to Chichester.

Bertram Percival BOWLES

He was killed in an explosion on 16 April 1918 in Iraq. He is buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery (grave ref. IV.C.3), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st/4th Battalion). His service number was 200736. A report in the Western Times of 17 May 1918 stated that his death had been caused by an explosion on a train which he had been guarding. He had been in Mesopotamia for 4 years when he died.

Links to Axminster:

Bertram's birth was registered in Tisbury (Wiltshire) district in 3Q1893, and the census record gives his place of birth as Semley, near Shaftesbury. His father, Frank Bowles, was a foreman platelayer on the railways from Southampton, and his mother, Bessie Alice (née Smith, married in 1888, in Wales) had been born at Semley. Bertram was the third of their seven sons (they also had two daughters). At the time of the 1911 census he was a railway porter living at Semley, but he then moved to Axminster, where he worked for the L&SW Railway. In 3Q1914 he married Alice Maud Searle.

Henry Albert BRUCE

He died on 25 January 1916 in France. He is buried in Fosse 7 Military Cemetery (Quality Street), Mazingarbe (grave ref. II.B.12), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery (C Battery, 71st Brigade). His service number was 78153.

Links to Axminster:

Henry was baptised on 9 December 1892 at St John of Jerusalem, South Hackney. His parents were Charles Bruce, a brushmaker of 26 Eaton Place, Hackney and Florence Frances (née Upton, married in 1878), originally from Hoxton. They had 15 children in all, and Henry was the fifth of their six surviving sons (they also had four daughters who survived infancy). Although his parents moved to Axminster (in 1911 they were living on Castle Street), Henry does not appear to have done so. He married Margaret Jane Rogers of Abertillery in Bedwelty district (Monmouthshire) in 1Q1913. He probably met her via his brother Ernest, who had moved to Wales to work as a miner. She was re-married in 3Q1917 to Frederick Churchward.

John Samuel CHANNING

He died on 29 December 1918 in Axminster district. He is buried in Axminster Cemetery (grave ref. C.C(A).103), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Lance Corporal in the Devonshire Regiment (4th Battalion). His service number was 1416.

Links to Axminster:

John's birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1884, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were John Channing, a bricklayer's labourer from Heavitree, and Elizabeth Ann (née Newberry, married in 1884) of Axminster. John (their

eldest child) was born at Axminster, but soon after he had been born they settled at Garden Place, Heavitree, where his two brothers and two sisters were born. In 1901 John and his sister Sarah were lodging on Castle Hill, Axminster, and John was working as a nailbrush finisher. John married Elizabeth Hayden from Walsall in Axminster district in 4Q1910, and in 1911 they were lodging on Silver Street with John still working at one of the local brush factories. They had a son and a daughter. Elizabeth was subsequently re-married in 3Q1921 to Richard Amos, and lived at Purzebrook, Musbury Road.

Charles Frederick John CHANT

He died of his wounds on 24 October 1914 in France. He is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery (grave ref. I.B.26), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st Battalion). His service number was 9668.

Links to Axminster:

Charles' birth was registered in Axminster district in 3Q1894, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Samuel Chant, a carter from Poyntington (near Sherborne) and Rosina (née Davis, married in 1893) from Axminster. Charles had one younger brother, but no sisters. In 1901 the family was living at Uphay Cottages, and in 1911 at Horslears, with Charles working as a cow boy. The report of Charles' death in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 10 November 1914 confirms that the family remained at Horslears.

Francis Frederick CHICK

He died on 4 January 1916 in England. He is buried in Axminster Cemetery (grave ref. C.O.54), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the London Regiment (22nd Battalion). His service number was 260.

Links to Axminster:

Francis' birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1886, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Edwin (or Edward) Chick, a brushmaker from Axminster, and Elizabeth (probably née Male, probably married in 1876) from East Lambrook, Somerset. Francis was the fourth of six sons (they also had two daughters). The census returns show that Edwin and Elizabeth had lived in Axminster when first married, before moving to Chard, Suffolk (Long Milford), Axminster (again), Ottery St Mary and Axminster (for a third time). By 1901 they were living on Castle Hill and both Edwin and Elizabeth were working for one of the local brush factories. Francis had left home by then, and the 1911 census shows him as a Private and drummer with the Devonshire Regiment (2nd Battalion) in Malta.

William Charles CHICK

He died on 17 August 1917 in Belgium. His name is on the Tyne Cot Memorial (Panels 75 to 77), and on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Worcestershire Regiment (1st/7th Battalion). His service number was 202213.

Links to Axminster:

William's birth was registered in Chard district (Somerset) in 4Q1880, and the census record gives his place of birth as Chard itself. His parents were Edwin (or Edward) Chick, a brushmaker from Axminster, and Elizabeth (probably née Male, probably married in 1876) from East Lambrook, Somerset (see above under Francis Frederick CHICK). William Charles was their third son. At the time of the 1901 census he was living on Castle Hill with his parents and working as a carter for a local timber merchant. He married Alice Maud Ridgway from Axminster in 4Q1906 in Axminster district, and the 1911 census shows them living at Elford Cottage, Dalwood with a son and a daughter, and with William working as a carter on a farm.

Further information can be found in the Western Times of 27 September 1917.

Edward Charles CLAYBYN

He was killed in action on 11 April 1915 in Belgium. He is buried in Aeroplane Cemetery (grave ref. III.B.33), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Sergeant in the Devonshire Regiment (1st Battalion). His service number was 8199.

Links to Axminster:

Edward's birth was registered in Hatfield (Hertfordshire) district in 2Q1887, and the census record gives his place of birth as Welwyn. His parents were Ephraim Claybyn, a Sergeant in the Bedfordshire Regiment, and later a rural postman, from Huntingfield, Suffolk, and Sarah Jane (née Denison, married in 1877) from Lostwithiel, Cornwall. Edward was the third of their four sons (they also had three daughters). Based on the evidence of the census record the family lived in Ireland, Kent, Hertfordshire and Cornwall before settling in Axminster. In 1901 they were living on Castle Street, and in 1911 on Trinity Terrace, by which time Sarah Jane had died. Edward was working as a carpenter in 1901, and by 1911 had joined the Devonshire Regiment (2nd Battalion), and was with them in Malta.

Further information can be found in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 23 April 1915.

Thomas Pratt CLAYBYN

He was killed in action on 3 September 1916 in France. His name is on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, and on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Corporal in the Australian Infantry, A.I.F. (51st Battalion). His service number was 2573.

Links to Axminster:

Thomas' birth was registered in Hertford (Hertfordshire) district in 2Q1885, and the census record gives his place of birth as Hertford. His parents were Ephraim Claybyn, a soldier and later a rural postman from Huntingfield, Suffolk, and Sarah Jane (née Denison, married in 1877) from Lostwithiel, Cornwall (see above under Edward Charles CLAYBYN). Thomas was the second of their four sons. In 1901 he was apprenticed to an ironmonger in Axminster, for whom he was still working in 1911. A report of his death which appeared in the Western Times of 21 September 1916 recoded that he was the third of Ephraim Claybyn's sons to be killed. He (Thomas) had emigrated to Australia before the War.

William Arthur CLAYBYN

He was killed in action on 18 October 1914 in Belgium. He is buried in Ypres Town Cemetery (grave ref. D1.6), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Corporal in the Royal Horse Guards. His service number was 1688.

Links to Axminster:

William's birth was registered in St Austell (Cornwall) district in 3Q1878, and the census record gives his place of birth as Fowey. His parents were Ephraim Claybyn, a soldier and later a rural postman from Huntingfield, Suffolk, and Sarah Jane (née Denison, married in 1877) from Lostwithiel, Cornwall (see above under Edward Charles CLAYBYN). William was the eldest of their four sons. By 1901 he had joined the army, and was a Trooper in the Royal Horse Guards, at Hyde Park Barracks.

Further information can be found in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 6 November 1914.

Alfred A COOTE

He died on 4 July 1916 in Belgium. He is buried in the Essex Farm Cemetery (grave ref. II.V.10), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Coldstream Guards (4th Battalion). His service number was 9436.

Links to Axminster:

Alfred's birth was registered in Honiton district in 2Q1893, and the census record gives his place of birth as Ottery St Mary. His parents were Henry John Coote, a brushmaker from Highgate, London and Emma (née Perham, married in 1889), a dressmaker from Axminster. Alfred was the third of their four sons. By 1911 the family had moved to Willhays Lane, Axminster and Alfred was working as a cellarman for a wine and spirit merchant.

Further information can be found in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 13 July 1916.

Frederick W COOTE

He was killed in action on 3 February 1917 at Kut, in Iraq. He is buried in Amara War Cemetery (grave ref. XVIII.J.6), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st/4th Battalion). His service number was 1638.

Links to Axminster:

Frederick's birth was registered in Honiton district in 3Q1896, and the census record gives his place of birth as Ottery St Mary. His parents were Henry John Coote, a brushmaker from Highgate, London and Emma (née Perham, married in 1889), a dressmaker from Axminster (see above under Alfred A COOTE). Frederick was their youngest son. At the time of the 1911 census he was living with his parents on Willhays Lane and working as a brushmaker for one of the local brush factories.

William H DIMON

He died on 23 January 1917 in France. He is buried in Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension (grave ref. L.7), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) (7th Battalion). His service number was G/2035.

Links to Axminster:

William's birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1892, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Dimon from Hawkchurch and Annie (née Webber, married in 1892) from Farway, near Honiton. William was their second surviving child and oldest surviving son (from a family with five sons and seven daughters). At the time of the 1901 census the family was living at Payne's Place, Axminster and William (the father) was an agricultural labourer. A decade later they were at Brook Cottages, Sector and he was a gardener, while William (the son) was an agricultural labourer.

Further information can be found in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 10 February 1917.

Gerald Cecil ELSON

He was killed in action on 9 September 1914 in France. He is buried in Montreuil-Aux-Lions British Cemetery (and named on the Special Memorial Panel), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Dorsetshire Regiment (1st Battalion). His service number was 7360.

Links to Axminster:

Gerald's birth was registered in Yeovil (Somerset) district in 2Q1887, and the census record gives his place of birth as North Perrott, near Crewkerne. His parents were George Elson, a labourer from Elvetham, Hampshire and Emma (née Brooks, married in 1882) a laundress from Trent, Somerset (near Sherborne). Gerald was the second of their four sons (they also had four daughters). In both 1891 and 1901 the family was living at Middle Street, North Perrott, but by 1911 Gerald Cecil was boarding at Hillhead Terrace, Axminster where he worked as a postman.

Albert Edward ENTICOTT

He died on 22 March 1918 in the United Kingdom, and is buried in Chatham Naval Memorial Cemetery (grave ref. 28). His name is not on the Axminster War Memorial.

He served as an Ordinary Seaman in the Royal Navy (HMS Gaillardia). His service number was J/66195.

Links to Axminster:

Albert's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1889, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Frank Enticott, a greengrocer from Axminster and Lydia (née Beer, married in 1884), also of Axminster. He was the second of their three sons (they also had a daughter). The family lived on Castle Street (in 1891) and Lyme Street (in 1901). Albert joined the Royal Navy in 1904, and by 1911 his mother, by

then widowed, had moved to Nottingham (321 Radford Road). Albert married Jessie M Tomkins in 3Q1914. She later lived at 6 Connop Road, Enfield Wash, Middlesex.

Arthur ENTICOTT

He died of his wounds on 29 April 1917 in France. He is buried in Ste Catherine British Cemetery (grave ref. B.1), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (10th Battalion). His service number was 27527.

Links to Axminster:

Arthur's birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1887, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Charles Enticott, a mason from Axminster, and Florence (née Lambert, married in 1874) from Haydon, near Sherborne in Dorset. Arthur was the third of their five sons (they also had five daughters). In 1891 the family was living on Musbury Road, and they were still there in 1911, at which time Arthur was still living with his parents, and working as a gas fitter.

Charles W ENTICOTT

He died on 14 May 1917 in France. He is buried in Bois-Carre British Cemetery, Thelus (grave ref. VI.A.15), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Royal Canadian Regiment. His service number was 454670.

Links to Axminster:

Charles' birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1896, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Thomas Enticott, a labourer from Axminster, and Mary Ann (née Rattenbury, married in 1887) from Lyme Regis. Charles was the younger of their two sons (they also had two daughters). In 1901 Mary Ann was living with the children on Whitpot (Widepost) Lane, and there is plenty of evidence to show that both parents were unreliable, making their children's childhoods very harsh. A report of Charles' death in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 9 June 1917 states that he had worked as an official of the Axminster Union Workhouse before emigrating to Canada, where he had enlisted in 1915. Canadian records spell his surname Endicott, but Enticott is correct.

Edgar Charles ENTICOTT

He died on 13 October 1915 in France. His name is on the Loos Memorial (Panels 15 to 19), but not on the Axminster War Memorial.

He served as a Private in the The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) (6th Battalion). His service number was G/1077.

Links to Axminster:

Edgar's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1894, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Frank Enticott, a greengrocer from Axminster and Lydia (née Beer, married in 1884), also of Axminster (see Albert Edward ENTICOTT above). Edgar was the third of their three sons. Following his father's death he moved, with his widowed mother and younger sister, to Nottingham (321 Radford Road). At the time of the 1911 census he was working as a lace machinist in a factory. In 3Q1913 he

married Ethel Cumberland and had a daughter. They lived at Haydn Road, Sherwood, Nottingham.

Samuel Board ENTICOTT

He died on 1 July 1916 in France, and is buried in the Devonshire Cemetery, Mametz (grave ref. A.8). His name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (9th Battalion). His service number was 14576.

Links to Axminster:

Samuel's birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1883, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Samuel Enticott, a fruiterer and greengrocer from Axminster, and Anna Maria (née Board, married in 1882). He was the oldest of their five sons and seven daughters. The family lived for many years on South Street, where they had their shop. By 1911 Samuel had moved to Woolwich Road, Charlton in South London, where he was working as a barman. The report of his death in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 8 September 1916 suggests that by the time he joined up he had become an assistant school master.

Joseph FARMER

He died on 15 April 1917 in Latvia. He is buried in Nikolai Cemetery (grave ref. II.A.1), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Coldstream Guards (1st Battalion). His service number was 4901.

Links to Axminster:

Joseph's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1884, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Frank Farmer, a farmer from Cotleigh, and Maria (née Quick, married in 1868) of Lyme Regis. Joseph was the youngest of their four sons and four daughters. In 1871 Frank and Maria were living at Musbury, where most of their children were born. They moved to Wyke in about 1881, and the family was still there in 1891, by which time Maria had died. Joseph became a policeman, and in 1911 was working at Tilbury in Essex (PC No.256). In 3Q1912 he married Florence Ellen Pavitt and they had two sons. They lived at Railway Cottages, Tilbury.

Alfred William FISH

He died on 1 July 1916 in France. He is buried in Wailly Orchard Cemetery (grave ref. I.C.8), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st Battalion). His service number was 9776.

Links to Axminster:

Alfred's birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1897, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Fish, a brush finisher from Lambeth, South London, and Mary Ellen (née Ebdon, married in 1892) from Thorncombe, Dorset. They had met while working at a brush factory in Ottery St Mary in 1891. Alfred was

the oldest of their three sons (they also had five daughters). The census record shows that after living for a couple of years in Axminster they went back to London (they were living in Hackney in 1901) before returning to Axminster in about 1902. In 1911 they were living on Gas Lane, and Alfred was also working at one of the local brush factories.

Further information can be found in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 13 July 1916.

John FROOM

He was killed in action on 13 January 1915 in France. His name is on the Le Touret Memorial (Panels 8 to 9) and on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (2nd Battalion). His service number was 3/7846. The report of his death, in the Western Times of 5 February 1915 states that he had been killed in the trenches, while serving with 'B' Company of the 11th Devonshire Regiment.

Links to Axminster:

John's birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1872, and the census record gives his place of birth as Kilminster. His parents were Joseph Froom, an agricultural labourer from Shute, and Jane (née Solway, married in 1863) from Dalwood. He was the older of their two sons (they also had eight daughters). The family lived in Musbury and (by 1891) at Kilminster Cross. John married Ethel Sarah Larcombe from Lyme in 3Q1896. At the time of the 1901 census they were living with Ethel's parents in Lyme, and by 1911 they were on Castle Hill, Axminster, but the census record shows that their children (at least two sons and three daughters) were born at Yeovil, Portland and Greenwich as well as Axminster. In 1911 John was working as a wharf labourer for a local coal merchant, and Ethel was a brush worker. She continued to live on Castle Hill.

Raymond John GIMBLETT

He died on 20 February 1919 in Belgium. He is buried in Halle Communal Cemetery (grave ref. A.61), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery (15th Division Ammunition Col.). His service number is not known.

Links to Axminster:

Raymond's birth was registered in Taunton (Somerset) district in 2Q1894, and the census record gives his place of birth as Churchstanton (then still in Devon). His parents were John Gimblett, a policeman from Lewdown, and Selina Jane (née Ryall, married in 1888) from Lidford. Raymond was the younger of their two sons (they also had two daughters). In 1901 John was the village policeman based at Hawkchurch, and in 1911 he was at Colyton (and Raymond was attending the Grammar School). The family subsequently settled in Axminster, and 'Belmont, Lyme Road.

Percy Henry GRIBBLE

He was killed in action on 12 March 1915 in France. His name is on the Le Touret Memorial (Panels 8 to 9), and on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (2nd Battalion). His service number was 8534.

Links to Axminster:

Although the registration of his birth has not been found, the census record gives Percy's year and place of birth as about 1889 and Axminster. His parents were Henry Charles W Gribble, an agricultural labourer from Uplyme, and Eliza (née Larkworthy, married in 1889) from Kenton. Percy was the oldest of their three sons and a daughter. In 1891 the family was living on Willhaye Lane, as they were in 1901. Eliza Jane died later that year, and Henry died in 1907. By 1911 Percy (along with his brother George) was serving in the Devonshire Regiment in Malta.

Archibald James HARRIS

He was killed in action on 9 April 1915 in Belgium. He is buried in Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery (grave ref. II.N.51), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Corporal in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (1st Battalion). His service number was 9391.

Links to Axminster:

Archibald was baptised at Dalwood on 26 July 1891. His parents were William Harris from Kilmington, and Ellen (née Davey, married in 1887) from Dalwood. He was the third of their nine sons (they also had a daughter). In 1901 William was a gardener and the family was living at Marsh Cottage, Dalwood. In 1911 he was working on the roads for the Rural District Council, and the family was living at Dicken's Marsh, Dalwood. By then Archibald had enlisted in the 1st Battalion of the Cornwall Light Infantry, and was based at Gravesend Barracks.

John Fowler HARRIS

He died on 16 May 1916 in France. He is buried in Hebuterne Military Cemetery (grave ref. I.C.1), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Berkshire Regiment (1st/4th Battalion). His service number was 2723.

Links to Axminster:

John's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1895, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Harris, a baker from Dinnington, Somerset, and Frances (née Fowler, married in 1890) from Hawkchurch. John was the youngest of their three sons. Frances died in 1895, and William was re-married to Elizabeth Ann Patterson of Axminster, in 1898. At the time of the 1901 census the family was living on Trinity Square, and later moved to 'The Beeches', King Edward Road. By 1911 John was lodging in Exeter and working as a shop assistant.

William HAYSOM

He was killed in action on 12 November 1915 in France. He is buried in Browns Road Military Cemetery, Festubert (grave ref. V.D.6), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (west face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (9th Battalion). His service number was 15820.

Links to Axminster:

William's birth was registered in Wimborne (Dorset) district in 4Q1883, and the census record gives his place of birth as Sturminster Marshall. His parents were William Hayson, a gardener from Bere Regis, and Louisa (née Warr, married in 1879) from Pullham, Dorset. William was the second of their three sons (they also had three daughters). In about 1889 William and Louisa moved to Axminster, where (in 1891 and 1901) they were living on Secktor (Sector) Road. By 1911 William was working as a labourer at a local sawmill, and living at Townsend Cottage, Lyme Road with his parents.

Benjamin HOSKINS

He died of heart disease on 24 September 1915 at Plymouth. He is buried in Axminster Cemetery (grave ref. C.F(A).98), and a report in the Western Times of 29 September 1915 states that he was buried with military honours. His name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (3rd/4th Battalion). His service number was 818.

Links to Axminster:

Benjamin's birth was registered in Axminster district in 3Q1870, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Hoskins, a labourer, and Elizabeth (née Batstone, married in 1870) a dressmaker, both from Axminster. Benjamin was their eldest child in a family of three sons and a daughter. In 1871 the family was living on Paradise Row, in 1881 on Castle Street (with Elizabeth's parents) and in 1891 on Willhay Lane. Benjamin married Emma Jefford from Stockland in 3Q1894 at Farnham in Surrey, possibly during a pre-War enlistment. Their first son (Reginald HOSKINS: see below) was born at Aldershot, but they subsequently returned to Axminster where they had another son and five daughters. In 1901 Benjamin was working as a house painter and the family was living on Whitpot (Widepost) Lane. In 1911 they were at 2 Hillhead Terrace, on Musbury Road.

Reginald HOSKINS

He was killed in action on 30 November 1915 in Turkey, in the Dardanelles. He is buried in Green Hill Cemetery (grave ref. II.E.20), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Private in the Wiltshire Regiment (5th Battalion). His service number was 19924.

Links to Axminster:

Reginald's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1894, though the census record gives his place of birth as Aldershot. His parents were Benjamin HOSKINS (see above) and Emma (née Jefford, married in 1894). He was the oldest child in a family of three sons and four daughters. By 1911 he was working as a shop assistant in Axminster.

Further information can be found in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 22 December 1915.

Percy Nicholas KENDALL

He died on 31 May 1916 in the United Kingdom. His name is on the Plymouth Naval Memorial (ref. 16), but not on the Axminster War Memorial.

He served as a Stoker (1st Class) in the Royal Navy (HMS Indefatigable.). His service number was K/17321.

Links to Axminster:

Percy's birth was registered in Totnes district in 2Q1890, and the census record gives his place of birth as Dartmouth. His parents were Elias E Kendall, a lath maker from Plymouth and Elizabeth (probably née Roberts, probably married in 1883). At the time of the 1891 census they were living at Uphington Street, Exwick. Percy's connection to Axminster derived from his marriage (in 4Q1910 in Newton Abbot district) to Clara M Mitchell, who was from Axminster. At the time of the 1911 census they were living with her parents, and their new-born son, on Castle Hill.

Leonard William LETHABY

He was killed in action on 3 February 1917 at Kut, in Iraq. His name is on the Basra Memorial (Panel 11), and on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Lance Sergeant in the Devonshire Regiment (1st/4th Battalion). His service number was 597.

Links to Axminster:

Leonard's birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1890, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Lethaby, a blacksmith from North Molton, and Sarah Emma (née Brimicombe, married in 1878) from Mamhead. Leonard was their only son (they also had three daughters). By 1891 the family had moved to Axminster and was living on Castle Hill. William died the following year. Sarah Emma remained in Axminster, working as a dress maker on Castle Hill. By 1911 Leonard was working as a brush trimmer for one of the local brush factories.

Thomas LOUD

He died on 4 September 1918 in Belgium. He is buried in Lussenthoek Military Cemetery (grave ref. XXIV.D.25A), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Driver in the Royal Engineers (228th Field Company). His service number was 173787.

Links to Axminster:

Thomas' birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1896, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were George Loud, an agricultural labourer, and Tryphena (née Davis, married in 1882), both from Axminster. Thomas was the fifth of eight sons (they also had six daughters). In 1901 the family was living on Castle Street, and Tryphena and her oldest daughter were working in one of the local brush factories. In 1911 they were on Castle Hill.

Archibald Norman LUFF

He died of malignant malaria on 23 July 1917 in Salonika, Greece. He is buried in Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston (grave ref. B.335), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Private in the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) (9th Battalion). His service number was 25664.

Links to Axminster:

Archibald's birth was registered in Axminster district in 3Q1894, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Edward Luff, a former soldier in the Royal Marine Artillery, from Frensham, Surrey, and Alice Mary (née Stocker, married in 1891) from Axminster. He was the second of their three sons. The family lived at Woodbury Cottage in 1901, and in 1911 (after Edward's death in 1906, aged about 72) at Woodbury House, where Alice was a boarding house keeper. Archibald was by then apprenticed to an ironmonger in Axminster (Messrs Matthews). A report in the Western Times of 8 April 1916 states that he had successfully appealed against a call-up, on the grounds that he was at that time providing the only support to his widowed mother.

Francis Charles LUMBARD

He died of his wounds on 25 April 1918 in France. He is buried in Crouy British Cemetery, Crouy-Sur-Somme (grave ref. I.B.27), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Private in the Northamptonshire Regiment (2nd Battalion). His service number was 49776.

Links to Axminster:

Francis' birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1899, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Sidney Lumbard from London, and Emily (née Moulding, married in 1897) of Axminster. Francis was the oldest of their two sons (they also had two daughters and a step-son: see below under Ernest MOULDING). In 1901 the family was living on Combe Lane and Sidney was an agent for Pearl Life Assurance while Emily was a laundress. By 1911 they had moved to Musbury Road and he was working as a coal waggoner.

Albert Charles MAIDMENT

He died on 30 June 1916 in Iraq. He probably died of his wounds, at Kut. His name is on the Basra Memorial (Panel 11), and on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st/4th Battalion). His service number was 2840. A report in the Western Times of 28 June 1916 stated that he had been captured at Kut. This must have been some time before he died.

Links to Axminster:

Albert's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1890, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Henry James Maidment, a labourer from Gillingham, Dorset and Sarah Jane (née Manning, married in 1876) from Branscombe. Albert was the fourth of five sons (they also had six daughters). Since at least 1881 the

family had lived on Silver Street, where they remained for many years. By 1911 Albert was working for one of the local brush factories.

Frederick D MAIDMENT

He died on 24 April 1918 in France. He is buried in Adelaide Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux (grave ref. II.F.21), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (2nd Battalion). His service number was 3/7053. It can be assumed that his body was only identified later, because a report in the Western Times of 10 September 1918 described his as "missing", several months after his recorded death.

Links to Axminster:

Frederick's birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1878, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Henry James Maidment, a labourer from Gillingham, Dorset and Sarah Jane (née Manning, married in 1876) from Branscombe (see above under Albert Charles MAIDMENT). Frederick was the oldest son in the family. Although the marriage record has not been found, he evidently married a young widow called Beatrice Florence Chick (née Pavvey, from Stockland) in about 1910, and they had a daughter to go with her son from her first marriage.

William Charles MENCE

He died on 25 July 1919 in Axminster Hospital. He died of illness contracted when serving in Salonica, Greece. He is buried in Axminster Cemetery (grave ref. C.F(A).115), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps. His service number is not known. He served in Mesopotamia (in 1916), France (in 1917) and Salonica (from 1917 to 1919).

Links to Axminster:

William was baptised at St Jude's, Mildmay Grove, Islington on 17 June 1877, the son of William Cookes Mence, a chemist of 9 Poet's Road, Islington and his wife Susanna Pasley (née Lowe, married in 1876). William (the father) was from Barnsley in Yorkshire, and as well as a chemist he was a dentist. The census record gives their son's place of birth as Blackheath, but by 1891 they were living on Claremont Road, Surbiton. William (the son) was the eldest of two sons and three daughters. William (the son) studied medicine, and in 3Q1906 married Dorothy Wynn Mytton while he was practising in Wales. By 1911 the family had moved to Peranporth, Cornwall. They had three sons and a daughter, the youngest of whom was born in Axminster district in 1914, Dr Mence having moved to practise medicine in the town. His widow later lived at Quarry Farm, Uplyme.

Ernest James MOULDING

He died on 6 October 1917 in Belgium. He is buried in Lussenthoek Military Cemetery (grave ref. XX.I.1), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Private in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) (1st Battalion). His service number was 241347.

Links to Axminster:

Ernest's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1891, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His mother was Emily Moulding who, in 1891 was living with her parents and working as a laundress at Millbrook, where her father was an agricultural labourer. On that occasion Ernest's name was recorded as Ernest Bond Moulding. When his mother married (see above under Francis Charles LUMBARD) he went to live with the Lumbard family. Ernest married Bessie L Searle in 2Q1913, and they had a son. She was subsequently re-married in 4Q1919 to Leonard F Bowles, and lived at Fareham in Hampshire.

Ralph William PAGE

He died on 5 November 1918 in Axminster district. He is buried in Axminster Cemetery (grave ref. C.O.71), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Lance Sergeant in the Devonshire Regiment (1st Battalion). His service number was 8441.

Links to Axminster:

Ralph's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1889, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Page, a brush maker from Bethnal Green, London, and Elizabeth (née Legge, married in 1884) from Axminster. He was the oldest of three sons (they also had two daughters). In 1891 the family was living at Ottery St Mary (where there was another brush factory), but by 1901 they had settled on Kilmington Hill. They subsequently moved to Gas Lane. In September 1907, at the age of 18, Ralph joined the Devonshire Regiment, and in 1911 was with them at Lucknow, North Tidworth, Wiltshire (wrongly recorded as Robert Page). In 3Q1912 he married Beatrice M White, and they had a son and a daughter. She was re-married in 1Q1927 to William B Harding, and lived at Devon Cot, Worston, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset.

Albert H PARKER

No substantive links to have yet been found between anyone of this name and Axminster.

Archibald Thomas PARSONS

He died on 9 October 1917 in Belgium. His name is on the Tyne Cot Memorial (Panels 9 to 10), but not on the Axminster War Memorial.

He served as a Private in the Coldstream Guards (2nd Battalion). His service number was 20185.

Links to Axminster:

Archibald's birth was registered in Axminster district in 3Q1884, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Henry Parsons, a tailor from Tedburn St Mary, and Emily Louisa (née Marley, married in 1879) of Axminster. He was the third in a family of seven sons. In 1891 the family was living on Coaxden Road, Chardstock, but by 1901 they were again living in Axminster parish, at Weycroft. Archibald Thomas was working as a gardener by then, as he was in 1911, while living at West Coker, Somerset.

Thomas Frank PAVEY

He died of his wounds on 16 May 1918 in France. He is buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen (grave ref. P.XI.K.3A), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Lance Corporal in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (7th Battalion). His service number was 31763.

Links to Axminster:

Thomas' birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1890, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were John James Pavey, a rural postman from Axminster, and Mary Ann (née Beer, married in 1876), a dressmaker from Axmouth. He was the youngest in a family of five sons and a daughter. In 1891 the family lived on Lyme Road, but by 1901, by when John had died, had moved to South Street. In 1911 Thomas was working in Yeovil as an assistant to a grocer. The report of his death in the Western Times of 21 May 1918 confirms that his mother was still living in Axminster, at 'Erin House', Chard Street, at that time.

Ernest William PEACH, MM

He died on 20 October 1918 in Germany. He is buried in Cologne Southern Cemetery (grave ref. X.F.6), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Lance Corporal in the Coldstream Guards (2nd Battalion), and was awarded the Military Medal. His service number was 22758.

Links to Axminster:

Ernest's birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1892, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Andrew Peach, an iron moulder from Uplyme, and Elizabeth A (née Membroy, married in 1877) from Axminster. He was the youngest of three sons (they also had two daughters). The family lived on Willhay Lane for many years. By 1911 Ernest was working as a bricklayer and living at 11 Hillhead, on Musbury Road with one of his brothers.

William Henry Edward Villiers PERCY-HARDMAN

He died of his wounds on 1 March 1917 in Iraq. He is buried in Amara War Cemetery (Shaikh Saad Old Cemetery Memorial), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Captain in the Devonshire Regiment (4th Battalion Territorial) and the Machine Gun Corps. His service number is not known.

Links to Axminster:

William's birth was registered in Chelsea (London) district in 4Q1876 under the name William Henry E Hardman. He was apparently an only child; his father was Edward Hardman, a painter and glazier from Hereford, and his mother was called Clara, and from Laxfield, Suffolk. No record of their marriage or her maiden name has been found. At the time of the 1881 census the family was living at 15 Royal Avenue, Chelsea. In 1891 William and his mother were again at 15 Royal Avenue, as was a visitor called Henry Percy, a retired builder from Exeter (who had also been staying with Edward Hardman at the time of

the 1871 census, 20 years earlier). Edward Hardman was still alive (he died in 1896) but not at home. By 1901, although the marriage details have not been found, Clara was listed as Clara Percy, a farmer's wife, at Sunnylands, Dalwood, and her son, recorded as William H P Hardman, was living with her 'on his own means', as was Eva M Percy, recorded as her daughter. In 1911 Henry and Clara Percy were living at Thornlea, Dalwood, while William Henry Percy-Hardman, described as a manufacturer of aerated waters, was living at Prospect House, Lyme Road, Axminster with his family. His wife was Rosa May (née Newbery, married in 1902) of Axminster. They had a son and a daughter by 1911, and a second son, Cecil, later that year (see the text dealing with the WWII section of the Axminster War Memorial for further details). The report of his death in the Western Times of 8 March 1917 states that before the war he had served as the Chairman of Axminster Parish Council.

Frederick Charles PERHAM

He was killed in action on 3 February 1917 at Kut, in Iraq. He is buried in Amara War Cemetery (grave ref. XXI.K.3), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Sergeant in the Devonshire Regiment (1st/4th Battalion). His service number was 200694.

Links to Axminster:

Frederick's birth was registered in Axminster district in 3Q1885, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Charles Perham, a mason from Axminster, and Maria Louisa (née Pillar, married in 1882) from Teignmouth. Frederick was the second son in a family of five sons and three daughters. In 1891 the family was living on Willhaye Lane, in 1901 they were at Poplar Mount, and in 1911 back on Willhaye Lane. As early as 1901 Frederick was working for one of the local brush factories.

John PERHAM

He died on 1 May 1916 in Iraq. He probably died of his wounds, at Kut. His name is on the Basra Memorial (Panel 11), and on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (2nd/4th Battalion). His service number was 3215. A report in the Western Times of 28 June 1916 stated that he had been captured at Kut. Precisely how this connects to his death is unclear.

Links to Axminster:

John's birth was registered in Tiverton district in 2Q1882, and the census record gives his place of birth as Uffculme. His parents were Jesse Perham, an agricultural labourer, and Sarah (née Willey, married in 1867), both from Chardstock. John was the third of five sons (they also had five daughters), and the family remained in Uffculme for many years. In 4Q1900 John married Elizabeth Jane Gagg from Stoke Gabriel, and in 1901 they were living at Millbrook, Axminster and John was working as a sawyer. They had three sons and a daughter. By 1911 John was a timber carter, still at Millbrook.

Frank Harry Tom PERRYMAN

He died on 19 November 1919 in Warrington district (Cheshire). He is buried in Axminster Cemetery (grave ref. C.G(A).108), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Private in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (Depot). His service number was 032331.

Links to Axminster:

Frank's birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1889, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Barnabas Perryman, a carpenter and house builder from Branscombe, and Emily (née Searle, married in 1885) from Beer. Frank was the only son in a family with five daughters. Barnabas and Emily lived on Lyme Street in 1891, and then on South Street. By 1911 Frank was working as a servant in a big house in Cornwall Gardens, South Kensington.

Thomas Leonard PHIPPEN

He died of enteric fever on 26 August 1916 in Iraq. He is buried in Basra War Cemetery (grave ref. VI.K.22), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Corporal in the Devonshire Regiment (1st/4th Battalion). His service number was 1508.

Links to Axminster:

Thomas' birth was registered in Axminster district in 3Q1890, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Thomas Phippen, a shoe maker from Axminster, and Ellen (née Dennis, married in 1882) from Great Torrington. Thomas (the son) was the third in a family of four sons. Thomas (the father) and Ellen lived on Castle Hill until Ellen's early death. By 1911 Thomas (the son) was boarding in Bridport (on King Street), and working as a cabinet maker.

James POMEROY

He was killed when his ship was sunk by a submarine on 16 July 1918 off the northern coast of Ireland. His name is on the Plymouth Naval Memorial (ref. 28), and on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Leading Stoker in the Royal Navy (HMS Anchusa.). His service number was K/15314.

Links to Axminster:

James' birth was registered in Honiton district in 4Q1889, and the census record gives his place of birth as Luppitt. His parents were James Pomeroy, an agricultural labourer from Luppitt, and Jane (probably née Russell, married in 1869) from Weymouth. James (the son) was the seventh of eight sons (there were also three daughters). By 1901, aged just 12, James (the son) was living and working as a cow boy on a farm at Upottery. He married Emma N Hoare from Uplyme in 2Q1916 and they had a daughter. His widow subsequently lived on Coombe Street, Lyme Regis.

Further information can be found in the Western Times of 23 July 1918.

Ralph POMEROY

He died on 8 September 1916 in Iraq. His name is on the Basra Memorial (Panel 11), and on the Axminster War Memorial (south face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st/6th Battalion). His service number was 3815.

Links to Axminster:

Ralph's birth was registered in Honiton district in 2Q1886, and the census record gives his place of birth as Luppitt. His parents were James Pomeroy, an agricultural labourer from Luppitt, and Jane (probably née Russell, married in 1869) from Weymouth (see above under James POMEROY). Ralph was the sixth son of the family. By 1901 he was living and working as a cow boy on a farm at Upottery. He married Evelyn Florence Wood from Seaton in 3Q1906 and they had three sons and a daughter. At the time of the 1911 census Ralph was a carter working for a road contractor at Colyton. Evelyn subsequently moved to Castle Street, Axminster.

John Henry RICHARDS

He died on 2 November 1918 in the United Kingdom. He is buried in Axminster Cemetery (grave ref. C.C(A).101), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment. His service number was 42070.

Links to Axminster:

John's birth was registered in Axminster district in 3Q1897, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were John H Richards, a carter on farms from Branscombe, and Laura (née Goddard, married in 1889) from Axminster. John was the youngest of their three sons (they also had three daughters). In 1891 the family was living on a farm at Chard, but by 1911 they had returned to Axminster, and to Fairy Lane, Musbury Road. John (the son) was by then working for one of the local brush factories, as were his mother and several siblings. On 23 December 1917 John (the son) married Dorothy Kate Ford of Hartington Road at St Barnabas' Church, South Kensington. His occupation and address appear in the parish register as a Private in '385 Labour Company' (a logistics unit), and 47 Hartington Road, the home of Dorothy's parents. Dorothy was subsequently re-married in 3Q1920 to Albert L Jeffery of North Street.

Colin Thomas F ROUGH

He died on 8 February 1919 in Axminster district. He is buried in Axminster Cemetery (grave ref. C.E(A).105), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery. His service number was 81889.

Links to Axminster:

Colin's birth was registered in Bridport (Dorset) district in 4Q1896, and the census record gives his place of birth as Charmouth. His parents were Thomas John F K Rough, a dairyman from Winkleigh, and Zelia Nine (née Rendell, married in 1896) from Guernsey. Colin was the eldest child in a family of three sons and four daughters. In 1901 they were living at Charmouth, but by 1911 the family had moved to Higher Wyke Farm, which Thomas farmed for many years.

William James RUSSELL

He died of his wounds on 3 December 1915 in Iraq. He is buried in Amara War Cemetery (grave ref. I.A.9), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Corporal in the Devonshire Regiment (1st/4th Battalion). His service number was 1306. The Western Times of 31 December 1915 stated that he had gone to Ferozepore (India) with the 1st/4th Devon Territorial Force, where he had been appointed to the rank of Corporal. His term of service had almost expired, but he evidently decided to extend it. "Being among the first to volunteer for the Gulf, he sacrificed his stripes and joined the 2nd Dorsets".

Links to Axminster:

William's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1888, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were James Russell from Dartmouth, who mostly worked as a railway labourer, and Elizabeth (née Warry, married in 1879) from Axminster. William was the eldest of their four sons (they also had five daughters). In 1881 James and Elizabeth were living on Castle Hill, but by 1891 they had moved to Ottery St Mary where they were both working in a brush factory. By 1901 they were back in Axminster, on Gashouse Lane, and later (in 1911) at Mount Pleasant. William worked as a carpenter. He evidently enlisted in the Devonshire Regiment at around the time of the 1911 census (his age was recorded as 23 years and 8 months), though the surviving record is incomplete and confusing. Nevertheless, it is clear that he enlisted well before the outbreak of war. The report quoted above (from the Western Times of 31 December 1915) records that he had always been keen on shooting, and had been part of a team before War broke out which won the 'Milne Holme' and other trophies. Before joining up he had been a member of the RAOB. He was well-known around town, sang in the choir and played football for the Tigers.

Ernest Gibbs SILK

He died on 5 June 1916 in UK waters when his ship struck a mine. His name is on the Plymouth Naval Memorial (ref. 17), but not on the Axminster War Memorial.

He served as an Officers' Steward (2nd Class) in the Royal Navy (HMS Hampshire.). His service number was L/1054.

Links to Axminster:

Ernest's birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1893, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Daniel Frank Silk, a cabinet maker, and Sarah Jane (née Trivett, married in 1884), both from Axminster. Ernest was the fourth of their five sons (they also had two daughters). In 1891 the family was living on Silver Street, but by 1901 had moved to Townsend Avenue, Devonport (Daniel Frank was working in the Naval shipyards by then). At the time of the 1911 census Ernest was an Officers' Cook (3rd Class) on HMS Hannibal, at Devonport.

William Rogers SILK

He died of his wounds on 25 March 1918 in France. He is buried in Vignemont French National Cemetery (grave ref. F.4), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars. His service number was 11949.

Links to Axminster:

William's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1891, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Francis Silk, a shoe maker, and Elizabeth (née Coles, married in 1873), both of Axminster. William was the fifth of their seven sons (they also had two daughters). At the time of the 1891 census, just before William's birth, the family was living on Castle Street, where they remained for many years (by 1911 it had been re-named Phoenix Lane). By 1911 William had moved to Maiden Newton in Dorset, where he was working as a carter for a timber merchant.

Further information can be found in the Western Times of 4 May 1918.

Albert John SLOMAN

He died on 28 March 1918 in France. His name is on the Arras Memorial (Bay 9 or 10), and on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the London Regiment (1st 13th Kensington Battalion). His service number was 492118.

Links to Axminster:

Albert's birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1886 (with his name recorded as Alfred John), and the census record gives his place of birth as Membury. His parents were James Henry Harris (alias Sloman) and Mary Ann (née Gill, married in 1875), a lace worker from Kilmington. James Henry Harris / Sloman does not appear on any of the census returns with his wife and family, though he was evidently still alive as late as 1924 (by when he was 70). At the time of the 1881 census Mary Ann and three children were in the Axminster Union Workhouse, and in 1891 she was living at Greendown, Membury. In all she appears to have had four sons and a daughter, with Albert being the youngest. In 1901 Albert was living at Chubbs Farm, Axminster, and working as an agricultural labourer. In 1911 he was again living with his mother, this time at Millbrook, and again working on a farm.

Edwin Alfred William SNELL

He died of typhus on 8 April 1915 in North London. He is buried in the churchyard of St Mary's, Hendon (Special Memorial), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Middlesex Regiment (16th Battalion). His service number was DS/336.

Links to Axminster:

Edwin's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1894, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Henry Snell, a baker and confectioner from Honiton, and Annie (née Summers, married in 1882) of Axminster. Edwin was the third of four sons (they also had two daughters). The family lived for many years on Lyme Street. By 1911 Edwin was working as a hairdresser. Henry and Annie later moved to 32 West Avenue, Hendon in North West London.

Samuel Solomon SNELL

He was killed when his ship struck a mine on 5 June 1916 in UK waters. He is buried in Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery (grave ref. F.29A). His name is not on the Axminster War Memorial.

He served as an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy. His service number was 211373(PO).

Links to Axminster:

Samuel's birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1883, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Samuel Snell, a sawyer from Chardstock, and Sarah A (née Perham, married in 1879) of Axminster. Samuel was the younger of their two sons (they also had four daughters). By 1891 the family was living on Castle Hill, where they remained in 1901. Samuel had joined the Royal Navy by 1911, and at the time of the census that year he was staying in a household in Portsmouth which included a tailoress called Alice Maud Davey, who he married later that year (in 4Q1911). She lived at 61 Church Road, Landport, Portsmouth.

Thomas Summers SNELL

He died on 22 March 1918 in France. His name is on the Arras Memorial (Bay 7), and on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Essex Regiment (11th Battalion). His service number was 35908.

Links to Axminster:

Thomas' birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1889, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Henry Snell, a baker and confectioner from Honiton, and Annie (née Summers, married in 1882) of Axminster (see above under Edwin Alfred William SNELL). Thomas was the second son of the family. By 1911 he had moved to Clerkenwell in London where he was working as a hairdresser.

John SPILLER

He was killed in action on 23 October 1914 at Givenchy, in France. His name is on Le Touret Memorial (Panels 8 to 9), and on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st Battalion). His service number was 5502.

Links to Axminster:

John's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1879, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Spiller, a mason, and Jane (née Howe, married in 1863), both from Axminster. John was their fourth (and youngest) son (they also had seven daughters). The family lived for many years on, or just beyond, Castle Hill, but by 1901 had moved to Poplar Mount. John married Lily Boalch of Axminster in Axminster district in 2Q1909, and became a plumber on North Street. They had two sons and two daughters, and their second son was born after John's death.

Further information can be found in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 20 November 1914.

Thomas SPILLER

He died on 21 August 1918 in the United Kingdom, and is buried in Feltham Cemetery (grave ref. DD.39B). His name is not on the Axminster War Memorial.

He served as a Private in the Royal Defence Corps (13th Battalion). His service number was 112.

Links to Axminster:

Thomas' birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1864, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Spiller, a mason, and Jane (née Howe, married in 1863), both from Axminster (see above under John SPILLER). Thomas was their second son. He married Annie White of Kilmington in Axminster district in 2Q1890, and became a gardener. In 1891 they were living at Balfour Terrace, Kilmington with their eldest son, but by about 1894 had moved to Poplar Mount, Axminster, and by 1911 had moved again, to Willhays Lane. They had at least six sons and two daughters. Annie subsequently moved to 98 Queens Road, Feltham, Middlesex, which is where Thomas was buried.

William John SPILLER

He died on 6 September 1916 in France. His name is on the Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 1C), and on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (9th Battalion). His service number was 15893.

Links to Axminster:

William's birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1889, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were William Spiller, a mason, and Jane (née Howe, married in 1863), both from Axminster (see above under John SPILLER). William John was their third son (of four). He married Celia Larcombe of Lyme Regis in Axminster district in 2Q1899. In 1901 they were living with her family at Lyme, but by 1911 had settled on Castle Hill. William, like his father, was a mason, and played rugby. He and Celia had four sons prior to the 1911 census, and appear to have had a daughter and a fifth son thereafter.

Further information can be found in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 13 October 1916.

Charles Frederick SPRAGUE

He was killed in action on 9 May 1915 in Belgium. His name is on the Ploegsteert Memorial (Panel 3), and on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Lance Corporal in the Devonshire Regiment (2nd Battalion). His service number was 8760.

Links to Axminster:

Charles' birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1890 (as Frederick Charles Sprague), and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Frederick Sprague, a labourer and ex-Navy sailor, and Mary Jane (née Smith, married in 1889), both of them from Axminster. Charles was the eldest in a family of three sons and a daughter. In

1891 the family was living on South Street, in 1901 on Willhaye Lane, and in 1911 on Widepost Lane. By that time Charles had joined the Devonshire Regiment, and was a Private with them in Malta.

Leslie Walter SPRAGUE

He was killed in action on 3 February 1917 at Kut, in Iraq. He is buried in Amara War Cemetery (grave ref. XVIII.F.7), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st/4th Battalion). His service number was 1863.

Links to Axminster:

Leslie's birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1895, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Thomas Sprague, a wheelwright, and Edith (née Bowdige, married in 1883), both of them from Axminster. Leslie was the third of their five sons (they also had five daughters). In 1891 the family was living on Market Place, and in 1901 on Market Place. By 1911 Edith, by then widowed, was a nurse, still in Axminster, and Leslie was living with her.

Reginald Charles SPRAGUE

He was killed in action on 3 February 1917 at Kut, in Iraq. He is buried in Amara War Cemetery (grave ref. XVIII.F.6), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st/4th Battalion). His service number was 2570.

Links to Axminster:

Reginald's birth was registered in Axminster district in 2Q1879, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Thomas Sprague, a wheelwright, and Edith (née Bowdige, married in 1883), both of them from Axminster (see above under Leslie Walter SPRAGUE). Reginald was the second of their five sons. In 1911 he was living with his widowed mother, and working as a tailor.

Frederick John STENTIFORD

He was killed in action on 30 October 1914 in France. His name is on the Le Touret Memorial (Panels 8 to 9), and on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st Battalion). His service number was 7952.

Links to Axminster:

Frederick's birth was registered in Plympton St Mary district in 4Q1887, and the census record gives his place of birth as St Budeaux. His parents were George Stentiford, a policeman (by 1891 a sergeant), and Sarah (née Martin, married in 1879), both from Drewsteignton. Frederick was the fifth of seven surviving sons (they also had a daughter). As well as living in St Budeaux the family had lived in Torquay before settling at Axminster (in about 1893). By 1911 George had retired from the police, and was a County Court bailiff. Frederick had joined the army by 1911, at which time he was a Corporal in the Devonshire

Regiment (2nd Battalion), in Malta. It is not known why he was recorded as a Private when he was killed 3 years later.

Further information can be found in the Western Times of 4 December 1914.

Henry John STRAWBRIDGE

He died on 26 September 1916 in France. His name is on the Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 7B), and on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Dorsetshire Regiment (5th Battalion). His service number was 17711.

Links to Axminster:

Henry's birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1885, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Frederick Strawbridge, a tin plate worker of Colyton, and Rose (née Male, married in 1884), of Barrington, Somerset. Henry was the older of their two sons (they also had a daughter). By 1891 they were living on Willhaye Lane. Henry married Lily Annie Emmett of Lyme Regis in 4Q1908, and in 1911 they were living on Coombe Street, Lyme Regis where Henry was working as a porter for a wine and spirit merchant.

Further information can be found in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 27 October 1916.

Charles Edward SWEETLAND

He died on 28 November 1917 in Belgium. His name is on the Tyne Cot Memorial (Panels 154 to 159 and 163A), and on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) (148th Company). His service number was 102807.

Links to Axminster:

Charles' birth was registered in Axminster district in 3Q1898, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Henry Sweetland of Taunton, a thatcher, and Laura (née Summers, married in 1884) of Axminster. Charles was the fifth of their seven sons (they also had two daughters). The family had evidently lived in Devizes for a short while before settling in Axminster. In 1891 they were living on Sector Road, in 1901 at Higher Wyke, and in 1911 at Abbey Gate.

Further information can be found in the Western Times of 8 January 1918.

Sidney James TUCKER

He died on 29 February 1916 in France. He is buried in St Sever Cemetery, Rouen (grave ref. A.18.1), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Driver in the Army Service Corps (Horse Transport, Railhead Supply Company). His service number was T2/11764.

Links to Axminster:

Sidney's birth was registered in West Ham (London) district in 4Q1887, though the census record gives his place of birth as Stockwell. His parents were Solomon William Tucker, a

cabinet maker of Axminster, and Maria Jane (née Oldridge, married in 1883) of London. They were living in Stockwell in 1891, but by 1901 had moved to Kilmington Hill, near Axminster (albeit without Sidney). By 1911 Sidney had re-joined his parents, and they were living on West Street, with Sidney working as a cowman.

Frederick George WHITE

He was killed in action on 18 December 1914 in France. He is buried in Pont-Du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue (grave ref. IV.A.7), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (2nd Battalion). His service number was 8545.

Links to Axminster:

Frederick was born on 21 October 1889 and baptised at Kilmington on 8 December that same year. His parents were Eli White, a general labourer from Kilmington, and Susan Ann (née Beer, married in 1886) of Stockland. Frederick was the second of their two sons (they also had two daughters). By 1911 Frederick was serving with the Devonshire Regiment in Malta, while Eli (by then widowed) continued to live at Kilmington.

Frederick Charles WILLEY

He was killed in action on 31 July 1917 in Belgium. His name is on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 21), and on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (2nd Battalion). His service number was 315013.

Links to Axminster:

Frederick's birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1890, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were Samuel Willey, an agricultural labourer from Membury, and Emma (née Dimon, but previously married to Thomas Clarke and with one daughter, married to Samuel in 1881) from Hawkchurch. Frederick was the youngest in a family of at least five sons and a daughter. In 1891 the family was living on Fairy Lane, Musbury Road, but by 1901 had moved to Payne's Place farm, and by 1911 they were living on Sector Hill. Frederick married Lucy Davis of Axminster in 1Q1910, and in 1911 they were living near Stoney Bridge (at the foot of Castle Hill), and Frederick was working as a tin plate box maker. They had a son and three daughters.

Further information can be found in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 27 August 1917.

William Henry WOODLAND

He died on 1 August 1917 in Belgium. He is buried in Hooze Crater Cemetery (grave ref. IV.C.8), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (8th Battalion). His service number was 34703.

Links to Axminster:

William's birth was registered in Chard (Somerset) district in 2Q1881, and the census record gives his place of birth as Ashill, near Ilminster. His parents were Adolphus Denman Woodland, a mason from Ashill, and Elizabeth (née Ray, married in 1872) from Ilton. William was the eldest of three sons (the family also had four daughters). In 3Q1905 William married Mary Ellen Lethaby of Axminster, and in 1911 they were living on South Street and William was working as a bricklayer.

Further information can be found in the Western Times of 5 September 1917.

Charles Young

He probably died during or shortly after the War (quite possibly in 2Q1916), having been badly wounded in 1915. His place of burial is unknown (but is probably in North London). His name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment (1st Battalion). His service number was 7084.

Links to Axminster:

Charles' birth was registered in Axminster district in 1Q1883, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were John Young, a brush maker, and Hannah (née Waddilove, married in 1866), both from London. They had moved to Axminster about a year before Charles' birth, and John worked in one of the brush factories in the town. Charles was the fifth of their eight sons (they also had four daughters). In 1901 he was living with his parents at Jackleigh, just outside Axminster, and working as a wood sawyer, but by 1911 he had moved to Highgate in North London where he was working as a fitter in the motor trade. It appears likely that he married Ada M Stark in Edmonton (North London) district in 4Q1912, and had three daughters, and that he died in North London as a consequence of the wounds which he had suffered in 1915, but this is not yet proven.

Philip YOUNG

He was killed in action on 12 August 1915 in Belgium. He is buried in the Lussenthoek Military Cemetery (grave ref. III.D.24), and his name is on the Axminster War Memorial (east face).

He served as a Sergeant in the Durham Light Infantry (2nd Battalion). His service number was 10638.

Links to Axminster:

Philip's birth was registered in Axminster district in 4Q1887, and the census record gives his place of birth as Axminster itself. His parents were John Young, a brush maker, and Hannah (née Waddilove, married in 1866), both from London (see above under Charles YOUNG). He was their seventh son, and had joined the Army prior to the 1911 census, at which time he was a Private in the Durham Light Infantry at the Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester (as was his younger brother, Ernest).