



DEATH AND SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the third edition of the Death and Service newsletter.

With the summer weather truly against me, the last month has, by necessity, been a quieter one on the photographic front, but even though I haven't been wandering Somerset's graveyards, that doesn't mean I haven't been busy.

The first draft of *Death and Service Volume II* has now been passed across to the amazing people at Mirador Publishing, to cast their expert eye across my military ramblings once more.

My aim is still for it to be released later this year and a date for the official book launch is scheduled in for the end of October. The plan is for this to be accompanied by signing events and further talks have already been scheduled in for November (Bridgwater Library) and January (Somerset Western Front Association).

These are exciting times, and further details will be forthcoming in future editions of the newsletter and on social media. Keep 'em peeled, as Shaw Taylor used to say!

To keep in touch with what's going on, visit the website and join the mailing list. Similarly, if you would be interested in hosting an event, or know of someone who would, please use the contact details to the right.

Best wishes,

Richard

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Keep in touch:

Web:

<https://deathandservice.co.uk/>

(Join the mailing list
from the front page)

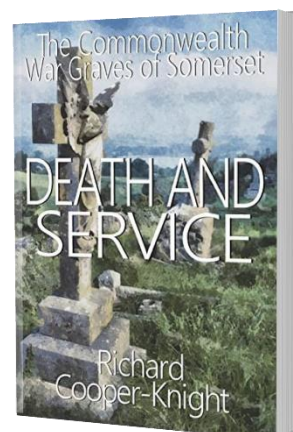
Facebook: [@deathandservice](https://www.facebook.com/deathandservice)

Instagram: [@deathandservice](https://www.instagram.com/deathandservice)

Email:

deathandservice@outlook.com

Death and Service: The Commonwealth War Graves of Somerset is available through Amazon and all good bookshops.



GRAVE OF THE MONTH



Grave Location:

St Mary's Church
Coach Road
Wolborough
Newton Abbot
TQ12 1EH

Name: Steer, WH

Rank: Driver

Regiment: Royal Army Service Corps

Date of death: 10th February 1919

Age at time of death: Unknown

Cause of death: Unknown

The life of WH Steer is destined to remain lost to time. Details of his first names and date of birth are not obtainable and, other than the fact that his father was called Thomas, there is no other information about his family.

He had enlisted as a Driver in the Army Service Corps by August 1918, but there is no record as to where he served or for how long he did so. All that can be confirmed is that he was based in Warwick after the conflict ended, and this is where he died, of causes unknown, on 10th February 1919.

WH Steer was brought to Devon for burial - presumably this is where Thomas and the rest of his family lived - and he was laid to rest in the graveyard of St Mary's Church in Wolborough, near Newton Abbot.

Do you have any further information about Driver WH Steer?

Drop me a line at:

deathandservice@outlook.com

Did you know?

Of the Somerset graves researched on the website, 94 (17%) of the fallen were serving in the Somerset Light Infantry, 45 in the Royal Navy (including the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and Merchant Navy), 39 in the Royal Army Service Corps, 37 in the Devonshire Regiment and 30 in the Royal Field Artillery.

Outside of Somerset, 180 (37%) of the servicemen and women served in the various branches of the Royal Navy, 23 in the Royal Engineers, 21 in the Royal Army Service Corps, 20 in the Royal Sussex Regiment and 18 in the Royal Air Force (Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service).



UNKNOWN GRAVES

While the majority of Commonwealth War Graves have details of the grave they are marking on them, there are others whose names will remain unknown.

From Cornwall to Kent, Sussex to Carmarthenshire, the regularly carved headstones of Portland stone have tragically little upon them.

These are the servicemen and women whose ships sank, and whose aircraft crashed, and all means of identification were lost.

They will forever be known only unto God, but who will be remembered in perpetuity.



The **Death and Service website** includes the graves of close to 1100 servicemen and women from more than 110 military regiments.

Discover more through the link below.

<https://deathandservice.co.uk/>

Until next time...

Richard