



## DEATH AND SERVICE NEWSLETTER

April has proved a quieter month on the Death and Service front. With all of the Somerset First World War Graves photographed, the focus has moved to researching the photos I have taken, while in the back of my mind I am mentally planning out the next volume in the series of books.

My fact-finding this month has been focused on the 90 service personnel buried in Bath's sweeping Locksbrook Cemetery, and I have included a bit of background on this beautiful location in this month's newsletter.

The research doesn't always bear fruit, however, and often meets dead ends, for a number of reasons. Private Curtis, whose grave I include in this edition, is one of those whose lives are destined to remain lost to time.

My thanks go to the Committee of the Midholme Residents' Association in East Preston, West Sussex, this month as well, as they were kind enough to invite me to give a talk on some of the county's fallen. The talk was met with genuine enthusiasm, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share some of my findings from outside Somerset.

Until next time.

Best wishes,

*Richard*

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**Death and Service:**  
**Volumes 1 and 2** are available in  
paperback and eBook.



## GRAVE OF THE MONTH



**Grave Location:**  
Locksbrook Cemetery  
5 Cedric Road  
Bath  
BA1 3PD

**Name:** Curtis, Joseph

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment:** King's Liverpool Regiment

**Date of death:** 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1921

**Age at time of death:** Unknown

**Cause of death:** Unknown

In the war grave section of Locksbrook Cemetery in Bath, Somerset, is a headstone dedicated to a Private J Curtis, of the King's Liverpool Regiment, who passed away on 3rd January 1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission confirms that Joseph Curtis had transferred to the 430th Company of the Labour Corps at some point.

Little additional information is available for Joseph Curtis. Only one service document remains, his Medal Roll Index Card. This gives the dates of his service - 22nd February 1915 to 17th October 1918 - but no other identifying details.

Without a year or place of birth, it is not possible to track down any census records. As Bath was the location of both a War Hospital and one for army pensioners, his burial in a cemetery nearby is no guarantee that the city was ever his home. There is also no report of Private Curtis' passing or funeral in any available contemporary newspapers.

The life of James Curtis is destined to remain a mystery, therefore, taken with him when he was laid to rest.

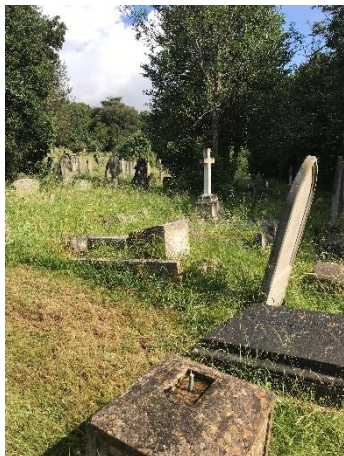
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### *Did you know?*

*Of the Somerset lives researched, there are still some unknowns. The cause of 142 of the deaths is not readily available, while the ages of eleven service men – like Private Curtis – is not known.*

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## LOCKSbrook CEMETERY, BATH

Walcot Cemetery – subsequently renamed as Locksbrook Cemetery - opened in the western outskirts of Bath in 1864. It remained open for burials for the parishes of Walcot, Weston and St Saviour's for more than 70 years.

The sweeping twelve acres of land now act as a nature conservation site, the last resting place for over 30,000 people now a tranquil haven for wildlife.

There are more than 122 military graves in the cemetery, 90 of which are from the First World War.

**Locksbrook Cemetery, 5 Cedric Road, Bath BA1 3PD**

