



## DEATH AND SERVICE NEWSLETTER

It has been a busy, but enjoyable, few weeks for the Death and Service projects, with four talks under my belt in the same number of weeks. Each has brought a warm welcome, and, with so many graves researched, it has provided me with an opportunity to share details of ones I haven't included in previous years. You can find some photos from the events later in the newsletter.

Also in this issue, I take a look at another useful website, [astreetnearyou.org](http://astreetnearyou.org), which is a great starting point for those looking to find out how the First World War impacted their community.

For this month's grave, I head to Portishead to uncover the sad story of twins who fought and died for their country and a family devastated by their loss.

War Graves Week takes place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May, with a range of events planned by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. You can find a link to what's coming up in the coming pages.

Until next time.

*Richard*

ISSUE 37: JUNE 2026

Keep in touch:

Website:

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

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

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

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**Death and Service:**  
**Volumes 1-3** are available in  
paperback and eBook.



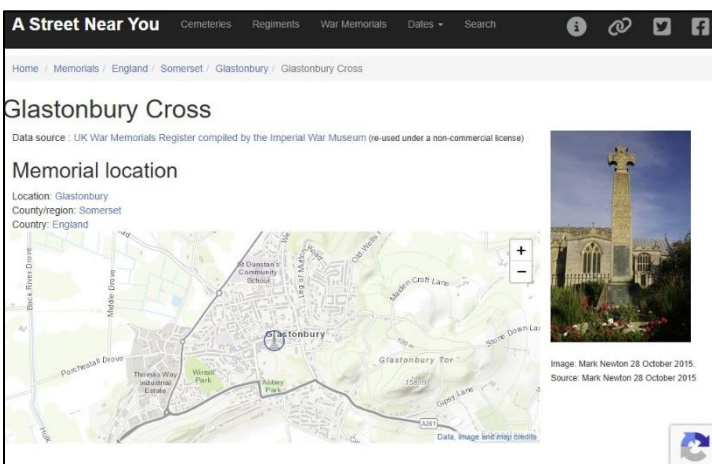
# BEHIND THE RESEARCH: A STREET NEAR YOU

There are plenty of websites that enable the avid or amateur researcher to find out about those who gave their all during the First World War. Many assume that you are looking for information about a particular individual, and require you to have a good understanding about how and where they served. But for those with a passing interest, there are fewer options.

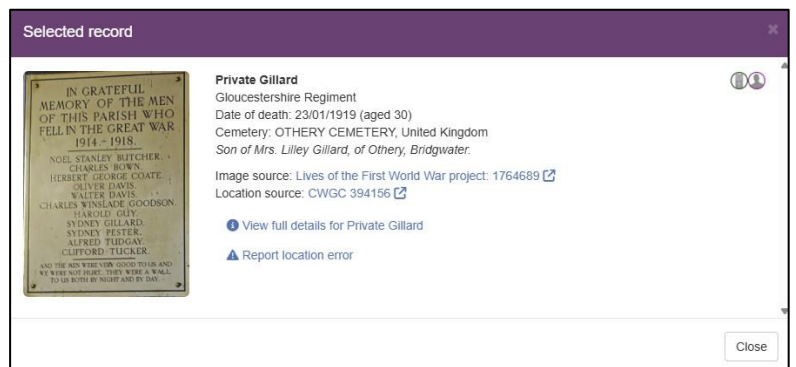
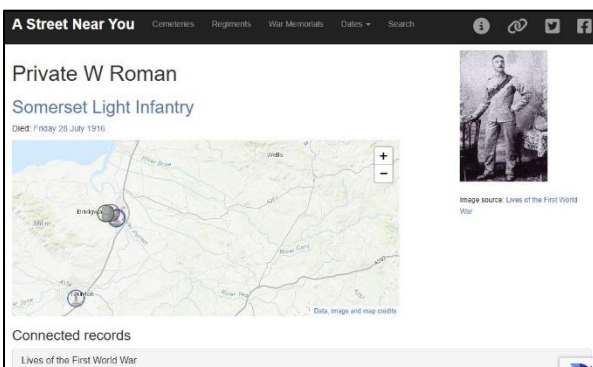
While I have always used the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website as the starting point for the research I do, this has its limitations. Being the formal repository for the WW1 and WW2 memorials around the world, this formality also works against it, and the search facility isn't necessarily as interactive as it could be. (The fact that you can't search by general location on the website as you can on the smartphone app is another bugbear of mine, but that's not the focus of this article.)

However, another website – [astreetnearyou](http://astreetnearyou.org) – has interactivity at its core. When you visit, you are presented with a global map, which you can zoom in and out of, allowing you to find WW1 graves around the world. The map also links the serviceman or woman to any other locations connected to them – place of birth, other memorials they are include on, etc.

Away from the map view, [astreetnearyou](http://astreetnearyou.org) provides a range of search options. You can search by cemetery, regiment or war memorial, providing a clear snapshot of those WW1 fallen pretty much anywhere in the world. Where available, the site includes photographs of plaques and individuals, and suggested links to other people guarantee you will disappear down a rabbit hole of potential connections.



As with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's site, information about individuals is limited, but that is not the point of the website. Carefully curated by James Morley, whose background includes working for the Imperial War Museum, [astreetnearyou.org](http://astreetnearyou.org) is designed to be a starting point, a launch pad for local and amateur historians to learn more about how the Great War impacted their community.



## GRAVE OF THE MONTH



**Grave Location:**  
Portishead Cemetery  
Clevedon Road  
BS20 6TA



**Name:** Parry, Stanley

**Rank:** Gunner

**Regiment:** Royal Field Artillery

**Date of death:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1915

**Age at time of death:** 27

**Cause of death:** Enteritis

Stanley William Parry was born in the spring of 1890 in St George's on the outskirts of Bristol, Gloucestershire. One of four children to Herbert and Susannah Parry, Stanley was a twin to brother Roland. Herbert was a commercial clerk for a chemical manufacturer, and this afforded the Parry boys a level of education, with both Roland and Stanley attended the Colston Endowed School in Bristol.

Tragically, Susannah had died when Stanley and Roland were just 3 years old: their younger brother, Wilfred, had died the year before, when just a babe-in-arms. By the time of the 1911 census, Herbert had moved the family to Portishead. He was still working as a clerk, while both of the twins were employed as insurance clerks. Their older brother, Edwin, was also a clerk, in the docks at Bristol, and Herbert had employed a live-in housekeeper, Mary Govier, to look after him and his sons.

When war came to Europe, both Stanley and Roland enlisted. The two of them joined the Royal Field Artillery as Gunners. While full service records are not available, Stanley was assigned to the 40th Trench Mortar Battery, while Roland became attached to A Battery of the 240th Brigade.

Stanley was serving in France in the summer of 1916, when he became ill.

*The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon, at Portishead Cemetery, of Gunner Stanley Wm Parry, who... died at Mile End Hospital, London, on September 19th. The deceased, who was 27 years of age, was always somewhat delicate in health, but was anxious to serve his King and country, and joined the [Royal Field Artillery]. He was brought to London from France on the previous Saturday suffering from enteritis, and although he lived until his father reached him, he died shortly after. He was the third son of Mr HC Parry... whose two other sons are also serving, one in France and the other in Egypt.*

*[Bristol Times and Mirror: Monday 25th September 1916]*

Gunner Stanley William Parry was laid to rest in Portishead Cemetery, just a short distance from the family home.

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Roland continued to serve his country in France, but tragedy was to strike the family once more.

*Mr HC Parry... has received the sad intelligence that his son, Rowland G Parry [sic], of the [Royal Field Artillery], was killed in action on the 17th September. A letter from deceased's officer stated that Gunner Parry was returning to the battery when a shell burst on the track, killing deceased instantaneously, death being absolutely painless. The letter further states that Gunner Parry had been a very valuable member of the battery, and will be missed by them all. Gunner Parry was the second of Mr Parry's three sons to lay down his life in the great fight, a twin brother having died in a military hospital in London last year. The other son, the eldest, is serving in Palestine.*

*[Bristol Times and Mirror: Saturday 29th September 1917]*

Roland George Parry was 28 years of age when he died. He was laid to rest in the Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, in Ypres.

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Herbert Parry passed away in the summer of 1920, at the age of 62. He had outlived three of his sons, as well as being a widower for 27 years. He was laid to rest in Portishead Cemetery with his son Stanley.

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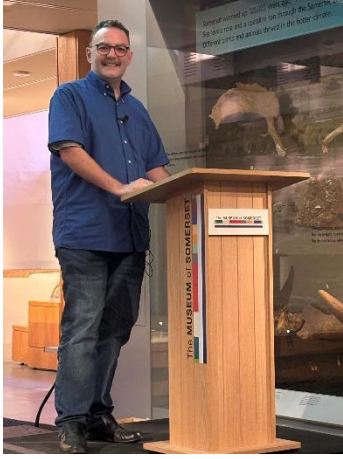
Edwin Parry, Stanley and Roland's older brother, had returned from the First World War by the summer of 1919. He resumed his work as a clerk at the docks in Bristol, and married schoolteacher Annie Homewood in August 1919. They went on to have three children, Barbara, Gwladys and Roland. Edwin died in September 1959, at the age of 71 years old.

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### ***Did you know?***

*While many siblings died fighting in the First World War, there is little information to confirm the number of twins who were killed. Like Stanley and Roland, however, it was unusual, but not uncommon, particularly where brothers had enlisted in the same regiment.*

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## SPRING TALKS

It has proven to be a busy few weeks for presentations, and the spring series of talks is coming to an end. My thanks go out to everyone who took the time out to come and see me share the research I have undertaken, and to those who have expressed their interest both at the time and subsequently.

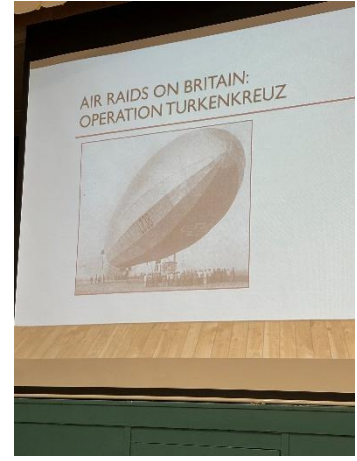
On 21<sup>st</sup> April, the Friends of the Museum of Somerset (top) offered a great venue – the museum’s main hall – and the local tales uncovered some interesting connections with those in the audience.



Names also resonated with the Minehead Conservation Society (above), particularly as I was able to focus on the WW1 dead who are buried in the town’s cemetery when I spoke to them on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the Wessex branch of the Western Front Association (below) offered a very warm welcome, and a chance for me to discuss stories of people outside of Somerset.





Last, but my no means least, it was really good to shift attention to something completely different – the German air raid on Chatham on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1917 – with the regulars at the WFA's Somerset branch.


There is one more talk left in the spring season, with plenty more to come later in the year. The back page of the newsletter gives details of upcoming events.

War Graves Week is an annual programme of events event run by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to explore the stories behind some of the graves in burial grounds across the country.

This year's event runs from 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May, and the programme for the South West includes talks at [Haycombe Cemetery, Bath](#) and [St Andrew's Churchyard, Clevedon](#), as well as others in Gloucestershire, Devon, Dorset, and Cornwall.

You can find a list of events, many of which have dates across the summer and details of how to book, on [the website](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS (CLICK ON THE POSTER TO LEARN MORE)



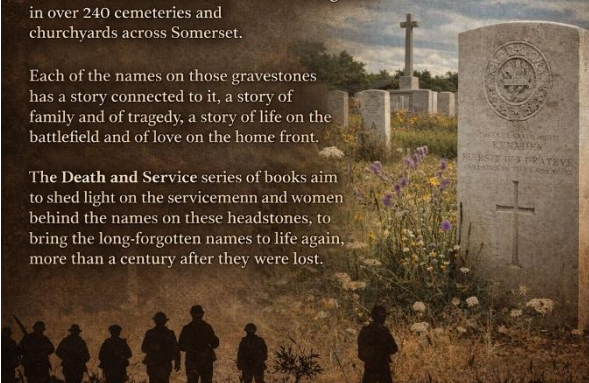
# Death and Service:

## The Commonwealth War Graves of Somerset

There are more than 800 First World War graves in over 240 cemeteries and churchyards across Somerset.


Each of the names on those gravestones has a story connected to it, a story of family and of tragedy, a story of life on the battlefield and of love on the home front.

The *Death and Service* series of books aim to shed light on the servicemen and women behind the names on these headstones, to bring the long-forgotten names to life again, more than a century after they were lost.



Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026 7:00pm  
Clevedon Civic Society, St Andrew's Church Hall, BS21 7UE

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2026 7:30pm



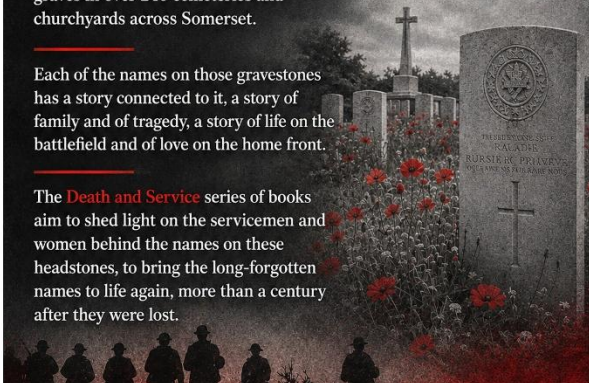
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Wellington Museum & Local History Society,  
Wellington Prep School TA21 8NT

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2026 7:30pm



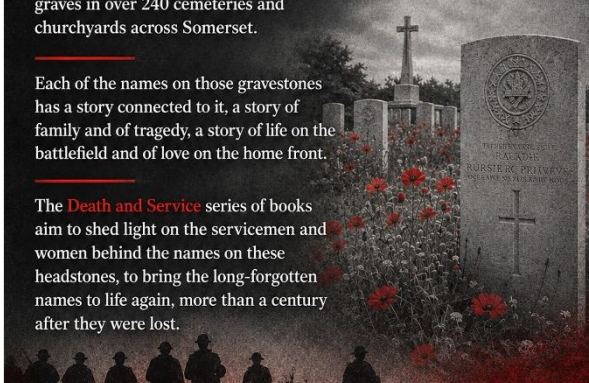
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Radstock Museum, Chilcompton Village Hall BA3 4EX

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2026 7:30pm



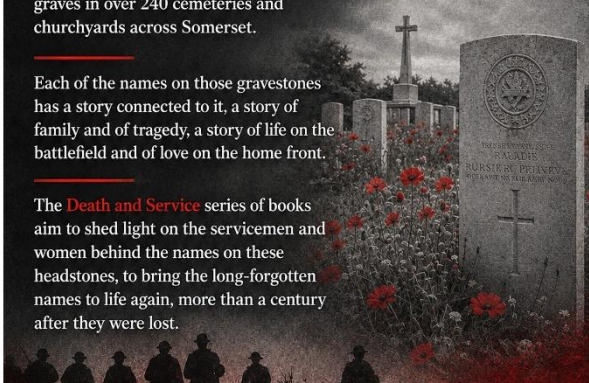
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Evercreech History Society,  
Evercreech Village Hall BA4 6JP