



Near Arras 1917 (Imperial War Museum)

***“There have been so many killed or mortally wounded near me, and who knows but that it might be my turn next”.***

A letter to his parents written by a 20 year old Private (Imperial War Museum)



**The local papers carried  
news of Halbertonians killed  
and wounded...  
Here are some examples of  
the reports...**

## 1915

*“Private Arthur Thomas Gooding of the 8<sup>th</sup> Devons was killed in action at the end of September. Mr Gooding was a steady young man who loved his church and its services, he was a member of the Young Men’s Bible Class, a bell ringer, and had acted as organ blower”.*

Tiverton Gazette

## 1916

*“The number of boys who have made the supreme sacrifice from the vicinity of the Post Office is four, namely Edgar John Smith, Thomas Gooding, Henry Dymond, and now Walter Garnsworthy. A good number of the Halberton boys are in the thick of the fighting on the Somme just now”.*

Western Times 06.10.1916

**1917**

*“Mr and Mrs Jameson of Crow Green received news that their son, Leonard, had been killed in action. Three more sons are in the thick of the fighting”.*

Tiverton Gazette

**1918**

*“Sapper WA Harris died in Kempston Military Hospital. He was buried in Halberton Churchyard. All employees of EV Twose, where Sapper Harris previously worked, attended the funeral. PC Searle and the Church Choir, of which he had been a member, headed the procession. Mr and Mrs Harris, his parents, received a letter of sympathy from King George and Queen Mary”.*

Tiverton Gazette

*Private Walter Bidgood was reported wounded and wrote to his parents to say he is alright.*

*He said “In the charge I was hit on the head and stunned – that’s the worst of having a big head”*

Tiverton Gazette, 1915

*“Private Tidball, of the Devons, formerly of Beggars Bush, Halberton, was reported missing.*

*In error, in August 2015, he had been reported killed and afterward read of his own death in a local paper”.*

Western Times 03.03.1916

*Corporal Way, son of Mr. and Mrs. Way, of Crosspark Cottages, Halberton, has been wounded by shrapnel bullets, and is now in a London hospital. About a year ago he was gassed.*

Tiverton Gazette, 1916

*“Private Wm. Scorse, Devons, whose parents reside at Ash Thomas, Halberton, has been wounded on the French Front in the arm and thighs and has lost an eye. He is now in London Hospital”.*

Western Times 14.12.1917

*“Trooper Stanley Jameson, of the Kings Own Hussars, whose parents reside at Crow Green, Halberton, was wounded in the Cambrai Battle, and is now in North Wales”.*

Western Times - Friday 14 December 1917

*“Mr. Treloggen, of Manley Farm, has been notified that his son, Signaller W. C. Treloggen, R.F.A., has been gassed and rendered temporarily blind. His condition, however, is hopeful. He has written to his parents from hospital at Leicester”.*

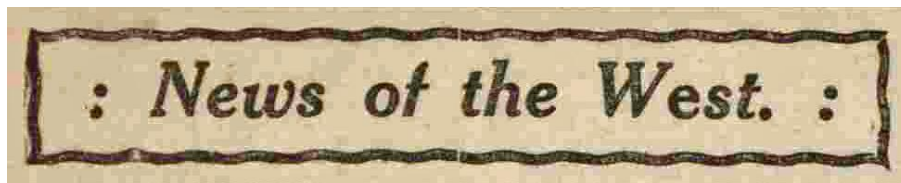
Western Times 05.07.1918



**The Distinguished Conduct Medal  
(George V version)**



**Queuing at the Bureau de Change  
London Victoria Station (Daily Mail)**



In 1915 Captain John H Morris Arden, son of Mr A H Arden of Coombe House, was awarded the Companion to the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry and devotion to duty, while serving in the Expeditionary Force. *“At Neuve Chapelle, when the Battalion on his right was driven from the trenches, he formed his company, under heavy fire, to a flank: counter attacked the German right with great determination and thereby enabled the Battalion to re-occupy the trenches”.*

Tiverton Gazette

In 1916 the military medal for good work in the field was awarded to Sgt. W. H. Cater, of Halberton who was made Company- Sergeant-Major in the Devons

Western Times 11.08.1916

In August 1917 Lieutenant MR Smith who was serving in Mesopotamia (Iraq) with the Devon Regiment was mentioned in Despatches of the Commander in Chief, Sir Stanley Maude.

Tiverton Gazette

In 1918 Corporal W. W. Andrews, whose wife and family were well-known in Halberton, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. For nine hours he kept up communication with brigade headquarters until wounded. *“When getting the lines mended he showed great contempt of danger, and, as well, made a most gallant attempt to extricate a wounded comrade from a blown-in dug-out”.*

Western Times 13.09.1918



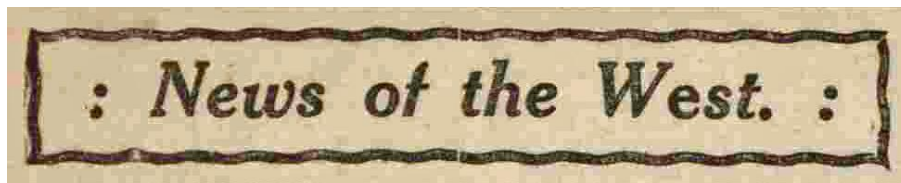
# LEAVE

**In 1915, the German, French, and British armies gradually allowed fighters to take a few days of leave at the rear, and if possible, to return home.**

**Soldiers were allowed one leave every fifteen months on average, while officers were allowed one every three months.**

*“The first night I came home, I got into my old bed and do you think I could sleep? No. Sleep wouldn’t come. It was the first bed I’d laid in since I’d joined the Army and when mother brought my cup of tea up in morning she found me fast asleep on the floor. Now that’s true. I’d got so used to sleeping hard that I couldn’t sleep on a soft bed”.*

*(Imperial War Museum, a Royal Fusilier)*



*“W. Bidgood of the Devons has been spending seven days' leave with his friends in the village”.*

Western Times 19.05.1916

*“Sapper Wm. Harris, whose parents reside at Chelsea Cottage, Halberton, has just been home on leave, after having been on active service in France for the past two years”.*

Western Times 27.07.1917

*“P.C. Searle on Saturday night arrested Stoker Charles Tooze, R.N, Eastbrook, Burlescombe, at Netherexe Farm, Halberton, being an absentee without leave. The magistrates remanded him to await an escort”.*

Western Times 01.02.1918