WILLIAM SHIRE, Private 3164 or 202807, 5th & 1/4th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry

William Shire was almost certainly William Robert Shire, the brother of Albert Edward Shire. We can find no other William in Somerset who seems to fit the right criteria, though with only one first name given it's hard to be 100% certain.

William Robert Shire was born in early 1896, the older son of farm labourer Mark Shire and his wife Flora. In later life he gave his date of birth as December 14 1895, but the 1896 date comes from the GRO Indexes. William and Albert were born in Corfe, where the family were living at the time. William was christened there on January 26 1896. In 1901 they were at Windmill Hill, Ashill, and at Swaddles Green, Buckland St Mary in 1911. By this time William, at 15, was away from home, working as a farm servant for the Trivett family, farmers in Broadway, not far from his home off Hare Lane, Buckand.

Early in the War, on September 12 1914 (a date given on his Silver War Badge entitlement) William enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry. *The History of the 1/5th Battalion* reports that 'Selected officers were despatched to the various Company areas in Somerset to conduct a recruiting campaign...no less than 916 recruits had joined the Battalion by 14th September.' William was evidently one of those persuaded by them.

As with his brother Albert, which Battalion he was in, and exactly when, is not clear; he appears to have served in the 1/4th and the 5th Btns, both originally Territorial Battalions. Both served overseas for most of the War, in India, Palestine, Egypt and Mesopotamia. His Medal Roll Index Card indicates that he didn't go abroad until August 8 1915, and then probably straight from India to Mesopotamia (Iraq and Syria) as indicated by the 5a Asiatic code on the index card.

Not all of the puzzle is clear, but from the information available, and reading of contemporary histories, this would be our best guess:

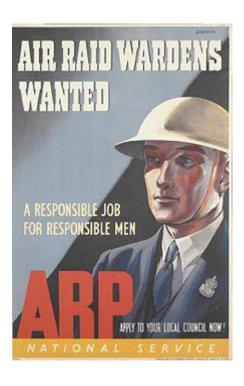
We think he left for India to join the 1/5th Btn in the summer of 1915. A draft was sent from the 1/5th to Basrah from India in May 1915, and another in August. We think William must have been in the later one. They were involved (fighting the Turks) in the infamous defence and siege of Kut on the River Tigris. The inconclusive Battle of Ctetisphon was fought in late November; the British retired to Kut; the Turks besieged them and in late April 1916 the British surrendered. The survivors were most cruelly treated; the officers were imprisoned; most of the other ranks died on forced marches or while imprisoned.

In the Battalion's <u>History</u> Private W. Shire is listed as wounded on 22 November 1915. Is this our man? He appears to have survived, so our surmise is that he was evacuated and recovered, and was transferred to the 1/4th Btn, also fighting in Mesopotamia. Unsurprisingly he is not named in the 1/4th War Diaries; his War Badge award lists him as wounded, but there is no sign of fighting up to the time he was discharged. Could this refer to failure to recover completely from the November 1915 wound?



Be that as it may, on June 9 1917, he was discharged wounded, and awarded a Silver War Badge, No 189,267 (they were uniquely numbered). The War Badge, worn with civilian clothes, made the wearer's ex-service position clear, and protected them from misplaced officious civilian patriotism.

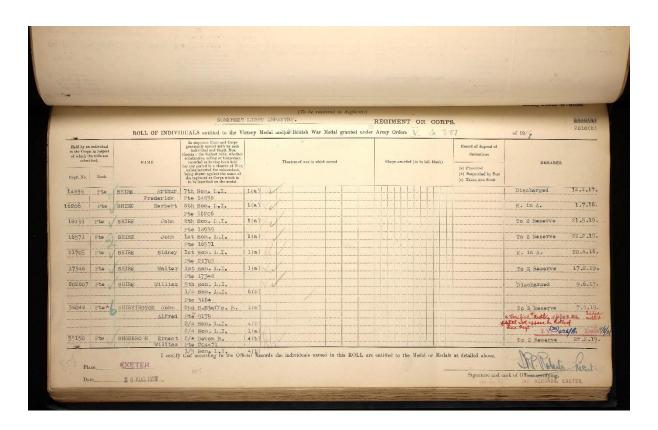
In the 1939 Register William was living at Manor Farm Cottage, Chard, and working as a Cowman. He was married, with two children living at home. "ARP" is written beside his name, so he must have been part of that voluntary force. He died in at Ashwell Farm, Wheddon Cross in 1982 aged 86.

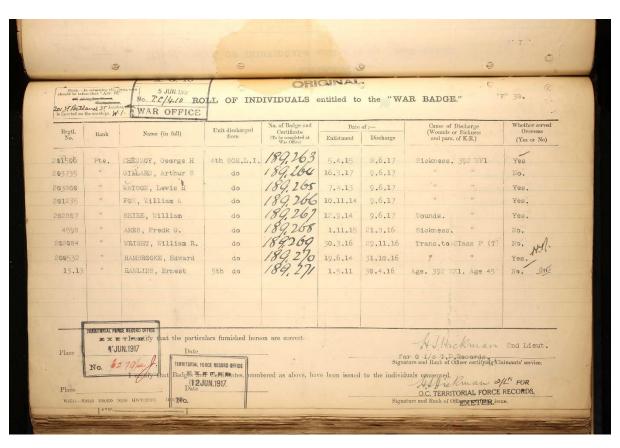


			BEE!	N. S. CA.	se read the E	'acample	and the	Instru	ctions	given on the oth	her side of t	ke paper, as we	WALES, IS	blamus. The e			(To be filled up gifter.	
	ts of the Schedule will be tree	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Fundy.	dass Bh				es to MA		1000			entistical Tubles.	e veturns one not to be as	ed for proof of	age, as in	BIRTHPLACE of every possess.	NATIONALITY of overy Person burn in a Persona Country	
Family, who (1) pessed 2nd, was (2) arrived morni having	orsen, whether Member of Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, the night of Sunday, April 1911, in this dwelling and dive at midsight, or in this dwelling on the gr of Monday, April 3rd, not, been enumerated elsewhere.	"Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative,	For In under or stitle the in moon actor one p one m	ne year he age tha as s month,"	Write "Single," "Marrod," "Widowe," opposite the sames of all persons aged 15 years and upwards,	Completed partial harmag has listed to leave the control of the co	(lf m	Schedal	alive to ringe, n because " in ?).	The reply sho Procussion If ongaged in particular le	suy Teads of ind of work sic sterial worked	precise branch of	Industry or Service with which water is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the barriers carried on by the supplyer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be unrowned here. No story record for Possess because a power analysis.	Trade or Industry, (1) "Ymphyor" (100 in employing prisons other than donness ther than donness there is no in the control of	same of cuch	(1) If been in the United Kingdom, write the name of the Gonzay, and Yow so Parish. (2) If been in any arber part, of the name of the Ingenderey, Colony, etc., and of the Province or Bose. (3) If been in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country, with the name of the Country. (4) If been at eas, write "As See," Nort.—In the case of previous control of the Country.	(1) "Hestish sub- ject by parcest age." (2) "Networking: British sub- ject," giving year of man year of man radination. (3) If of foreign mationality	Sebeda (1) ** T Deal, of and Dum (2) "Tat (3) "Lun (4) " Im or minds
	must be included. entering names see Examples on back of Schofele.	Head	Ages of Malos. 3.	Ages of Females.	Married	one year water waster one."	Children Born Alive.	and thring	bed a	See Instruction of Schedule.	10.	Examples on back	vanic is present employment. If employed by a public hist (Daramentary, Mandeled, see elect when histy (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.) 18.	(that is meither	Individual at library at library.	born character shan in Raginal or Wales, some whicher "Bendam" a "Vintor" in this Country. Astanian Lea Down	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	sours ne
2 born 3 Lely 4 Nella	olin Trivett Trivett	Wife Doughter Daughter	45	43 22 20	Marries Lingle Lingle	1 23.	16	<i>1</i> -	2	17	ughter ?	Dairy work	110	Worker	San	Thate " Thate " Backland It Mary	British	
5 Nenn 6 Minn 7 Char 8 Will	i Trivett Les Dening	Durchter Visitor Lervant	51	11 500	Married	* 7	-4-	3	-r	Jehor Jehor Form	Moches do	19	10	Worker O	Son	& Buchland It Mary Devon Sidbury Tomorset Trull	150	
9 10																	100 A SOC.	H
12 18 14																		
		proper the Enume 3 and 6 separately, creates of second related at the second related all service an and here corrected	cator.)	Total Tensies	Persons.	0				k Town	Write belo Dwelling (H Count the ki	To be filled up by we the Humber of case, Tenement, techen as a room nding, lobby, oh- e, office, shop,	Rooms in this I declar or Apartment).	re that this Sci	hedule is co	on in occupation, or in charge, receily filled up to the best of a		

13			
Name	Corps	Rank	Regtl. No.
	5- Some &	DJ. 12	*3164
			202807
SHIRE			
William	8.		
Medal.	Roll, Page.	Rer	narks.
VICTORY	2/2/102.13.16. 2010.	Dis .9.6.	17.
British	- do - do.		
STAR C	12/133 250		
	,		
0 0	,		
MITRIEL P.C	-/410.		
Theatre of War first served in	730		
	a Jasvatie		
Date of entry therein	1.8-13.		K, 1380,

MRIC









WO-95-5030-3 1-4 SLI May 1916-Oct 191

WO-95-5180-4 1-4 SLI Feb 1916-Apr.pdf

References for War Diaries

	SCHEI	ULE.	SURNAMES	O.	M.	BIRTH	1-	S, M, W.	papagonit communion	
ADDRESS.	No.	Sub. No.	OTHER NAMES.	O, V. S. P or	or F.	Day.	Year.	or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION	See INSTRUCTION
1	2	No. 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	п
	68	2	Jacobs Cothering &		F	gaple	40	M	Unpoid Don duties	
Manor Hearm	69	1	Treobs James &		M	ana	95	M	Framer	Spenal Court
	/	12	Hacols Ida . m		F	2020	98	M.	Unhaid Dom dutub	***************************************
				cord i	s off	icially clo			0 1	
243.49		4	Pin Helen on		F	9/1/	84	M	Coorder	
15/ADAIN		5	PAS Maney on	-	F	Efine	20	8	Short Hand Thist muy	
Bakers	40	1	Bonning Hilliam		M	29974			Small Holding Poulty	
U1.W		2	Berning Lonah M		F	30 Sure				Special Const
A - 0 - 1		3	Bonning Hulest &	-	M				agriculture labourer from	qual concre
Menor Starm Coffage	91	1	Luain Emma	-	1	10mz			Collar Chachenet	a.RP
· · · · · · ·	42	0	Shire Hilliam &	1	14	140cc	90	M	Fearm Cournan	
M· W	9 44	2	Strine Mabel Strong Phyllis of	-	7				Umpaid dom sutiles Raid domestic work	A
ואיוון	2	3	Shire Edward &		F				at School	263
many and	110	#	Hoodland Brichard		17					
Mumor Exarm Cottage	72	0	Hoodland Florence		M				Elove Machinist	
<u> </u>	.1	d		cord i	s off	icially clo		17	ener a monument	
20/3.48 K/WPJ M	1000	1.	Hoodiand Maron (A	at School	
Manor Frans Cottage	au.	14	Brake Harry-H			2 aug	THE REAL PROPERTY.	TO SECURE		
THOUGH CHAN I CARRELL	14	9	Brake Lillian U	-	5	2 mily	17	14.	Impaid don duties	
		a		cord i	s off	icially clo	sed.	17	VY MIMICA MOST MILLS	
Manor Starm Cottage	115	1	Male straneis &	-	M			ni	Stearon Shepherd	
The way	190	0	Mules fording 94	-	5	19 May	1	M	Impaid Dom dukel	
283 13 12 19		9	Chile Edna . 94	-	-	18 aug				so page
			This re	cord i	s off	icially clo		10	Manual Ma	Towns, and the same of the sam
8Towns and	216	1	Hills Edward		M	23 2h	93	M	Starm Carter	
	1	2	lalfor 1		=	15 16	20	1st	Unhaid Dom dutis	
ľ	1	3	PRINCE MAR	-	=	503	11	3.		
		14	Which retail		M	on	01	ii	Dinera Starra west	
Townsend	919	1	Toss - Albert . 2		M	16900	100	M	Farm Shephard	
	77	2	Voss Beatrice L		FA	108Feel		100000000000000000000000000000000000000		
UR2433	W. 2	3	Was Silen &	1	F	1400				
8 Townsend	218	1	Stucker Stered	100	M	12 040	**		General Dealer	
EC 1 A . SM	1	2	Fuche ann. &		F	14800			Shop heeper	
Townsend	99	1	Devict Junge j		M	25 1/4				
	17	2	Dowith Dorothy		F	6 hugh	12	M		
				cord i	s off	icially clo	sed.			
Stownser	80	1	Hawtir afred &		M	Seh	21	M.	Starm Cowman	
	I sold	2	Howher Ida.		F	49/24	106	M	Unhaid dom duties	
			This re	cord i	s off	icially clo	sed.			
Downsend	81	1	Haultner John &		M	26 Feh	01	M	Starm Frador driver	
•		2	Fauther Blen 3		F				Collar Machinist	
E N E P	82	1	Lufford England Georg	4					General Etarm Laboure	
		12	Elegand Empland Mayor	1					Empaid domestio duris	
			4/4						7.4.4.0	