

No 25 March 2017

1. 46749 Sapper George Frederick Bamford, First Durham Fortress Royal Engineers. In 1911 24 year old Fred was working as a joiner and wheelwright. He was living with his widowed mother Mary Hannah at what was then Water Street but when he joined the Durhams on 10 December 1915 his address was then Church Street (Water Street having become Church Street in the meantime). By 1918 he was listed as Private 305927 in the Tanks Corps. The following year he married Annie Ashmore of Chesterfield. Fred died in 1947 when they were living in Dore.
2. 313434 Lance Corporal William Henry Shirt Royal Engineers. In the 1911 census 13 year old Bill was at school in Chesterfield but in 1901 he had been living with father Benjamin Somerset and mother Ada Shirt in the family draper's and tailors 's shop on Towngate. Bill was attached to three different Army units in his military career. He joined the Army Service Corps and then was attached to the Machine Gun Corps before being transferred to the Signals Corps of the Royal Engineers. He married Nellie Hancock in 1923 and his various roles in the village (including as choir master) are vividly recorded in After Seth. Bill died in August 1978.
3. 24725 Bombardier Oswald Ashton Howe Royal Field Artillery. 15 year old Edale born Oswald was living in Bradwell with his parents Walter and Martha Elizabeth in 1911. His occupation was given as Grocery Shop assistant. Towards the end of the war he was listed as 619589 Pioneer Driver.
4. 29758 Private Ernest Bower Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. The records show that Ernest enlisted in the North Lancs in November 1915 and was wounded and left the Army in July 1917. Although both Ernest and Sydney are listed in the Bradwell Roll of Honour it has not been possible to establish their connection with the village. The 1911 Census Summary Book shows a Mr Bower with a lock-up shop in Bamford.