

RESEARCHING YOUR BRISTOLIAN ANCESTORS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR A GUIDE



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FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

W W W . B R I S T O L 2 0 1 4 . C O M

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12th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. (Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum)

Alice Sampson from Bristol, a Territorial Forces Nursing Sister at the Casino Hospital in Calais. (K Stone)

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INTRODUCTION

The First World War is part of every family's story.

In the twentieth century, Britain was involved in two huge conflicts that we call World Wars.

Few people are left nowadays who have any memories of living through the First World War, and our image of that conflict is one of death on a terrible scale in the mud and trenches of the Western Front.

And yet the "Great War" features in the story of most British families.

If you talk to older relatives, you will quickly uncover tales of what your grandparents or great-grandparents and other forebears did in that war.

Someone might have some mementoes; medals, postcards, a photograph of a young man posing for a studio photograph in a uniform ...

You might think it's going to be difficult to find out about these people, but it's usually quite easy to discover a little about them. With luck and perseverance, you can find out quite a lot.

Why would I want to research my First World War ancestors?

For all sorts of reasons.

It's getting easier all the time. More and more information is being put online where it can be easily searched. Email or internet phone calls mean you can contact people around the world quickly and cheaply.

It's fun! Once they get started, many people find it addictive and enjoyable. This is real-life detective work – with none of the dangers.

You could find something amazing. You might find that you had an ancestor who did something heroic, though it's equally interesting to find a forebear who was a criminal. Even if your ancestors were ordinary (as most were), you may well be intrigued by the details of their lives.

New friends. Family history research can bring you into contact with other enthusiasts – and with members of your extended family – perhaps people you had no idea you were related to.

It makes the First World War more real. It gives you a direct and personal connection to history.

THE BACKGROUND

The First World War

The First World War was the biggest conflict in history until that time.

As a direct result of military and naval operations, more than 16 million people were killed worldwide, including civilians. At least twice that number suffered wounds of some kind.

The war disrupted normal life, and so it indirectly caused even more deaths; people working in factories making war materials were killed or hurt; food shortages caused malnutrition and deaths in some parts of the world. At the war's end, influenza killed between 50 million and 100 million globally; this pandemic almost certainly spread as a result of the war.

Before 1914, the war was widely expected; competition between the "Great Powers" of Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia had led to a race to create bigger and better-equipped armies and navies.

This in turn had led to a system of alliances. So when the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary was assassinated by Serbian nationalists, Austria-Hungary and its principal ally Germany declared war on Serbia. Serbia's principal ally was Russia. Russia's principal ally in turn was France. While Britain was not formally allied to any of them, it had long been understood that if France was threatened, Britain would come to her aid because Britain would not tolerate German domination of the continent.

When war broke out at the beginning of August 1914, the German plan was to attack France quickly in great strength, hoping for a rapid victory so her armies could then deal with the Russians in the east.

The German strategy in the west was to hit France through neutral Belgium. Britain had guaranteed Belgium's safety, so now Britain joined the war on France's side.

The German attack on France had stalled by late 1914 and the war on what became known as the Western Front settled into a stalemate with both sides facing one another in a complex of trenches stretching from the Channel coast down to Switzerland.



The old professional British Army in action in France and Belgium within weeks of war being declared.

Over the coming years, both sides tried to break the stalemate, with little success and horrendous casualties. Most of the events we call "battles", such as the Somme, Third Ypres (Passchendaele) or Verdun were in fact campaigns drawn out over weeks or months.

The combatants on the Western Front included African, Asian and Indian troops from British and French colonies, as well as Canadians, New Zealanders and Australians. There were also troops from Portugal on the Allied side and, following the United States' entry into the war in 1917, Americans as well.

Combat operations were not restricted to the Western Front. In the Gallipoli campaign in 1915, British and French troops tried to knock Ottoman Turkey, Germany's ally, out of the war, and open a new route to attack Austria-Hungary and then Germany.

Italy joined the war on the Allied side in 1915, hoping to gain territory from Austria-Hungary. A number of soldiers who had enlisted in Bristol served on the Italian Front in 1917/18.

There were also operations in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and south-eastern Europe.

The war was fought at sea, too, with a few large battles and several smaller ones. The Royal Navy blockaded Germany in an attempt to starve her into surrender, while Germany used U-Boats to sink Allied merchant shipping.

For much of the war, the outcome seemed to be in the balance. Germany had defeated Russia by 1917, but could not defeat the Allies, which now included America, on the Western Front. In the summer of 1918 the British Army spearheaded a new attack. The 'Hundred Days' offensive comprehensively defeated the Germans, who sought an end to hostilities.

Bristol's Part in the War

Bristol in 1914 was a relatively prosperous city of over 350,000. The Port of Bristol, taking in the City Docks and Avonmouth and Portishead docks, was busy bringing in grain, timber, wine, tobacco and more. Successful new businesses had been opened up importing bananas and frozen meat.

The city also had other thriving industries: boots and shoes, clothing, spirits, chocolate, pottery, soap and more. It was also making motor vehicles, carriages and trams and, since 1910, aircraft.

The city was run by a small elite of wealthy men, but the working classes were now starting to organise in trade unions. There had been a number of disputes in several industries as workers tried to improve their conditions.

When war broke out, large numbers of men, mostly young and single, volunteered to join the Army. After this initial flush of enthusiasm, Bristol provided a steady stream of volunteers until conscription was introduced in 1916.

About 55,000 Bristolian men served in the forces; around half of the able-bodied men of military age in the city.

About 6,000 died. Most were killed in combat or died of wounds, but the numbers also include those who died in accidents or of disease.

Many of those who returned had been wounded – some of them several times – and some were permanently disabled.

Other able-bodied men were exempted from service because they were doing jobs essential to the war effort or had vital skills; engineers, scientists, dock workers and a lot of farm workers were retained at home.

There was also a large number of Bristol men working as merchant seamen. Their contribution is easy to overlook, but many of these men died as a result of U-Boat attacks. We do not know exactly how many Bristolian seamen lost their lives; it was certainly several hundred.

Officially, around 1,200 Bristolians also died of influenza in 1918-19, but the real number might be higher. If anyone in your family tree died unexpectedly young in those years, the cause of death might well be influenza.

For women, the war brought revolutionary changes. By the war's end, they could vote in elections for the first time. During the war itself, they found a huge range of new work opportunities opening up. The demand for manpower in the forces led to women working in traditionally male jobs, as well as in factories producing war materials.

Bristol's industries played a significant part in the war effort. Women worked in factories producing shell cases, aircraft, engines, explosives, motorcycles and more. In 1918 a plant opened at Avonmouth making mustard gas and filling shells with it.

Bristol was also a major centre for the treatment of wounded men. The Bristol Royal Infirmary, General Hospital, Southmead and Cossham Hospitals all became military hospitals. The Stapleton Asylum became the Beaufort War Hospital. Large houses around the city, including Ashton Court Mansion, Kings Weston House and Red Maids School, were also hospitals.

Patients at the Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol. (Bristol Post)



The city made a huge effort to raise money for the welfare of serving soldiers and the wounded. A number of existing organisations, such as the YMCA and the Red Cross, grew alongside new bodies such as the Inquiry Bureau. These were run entirely by volunteers, and much of the work and management was carried out by women.

So your male ancestors in the Army or Navy were not the only ones involved in the war effort. If you had any forebears living in Bristol between 1914 and 1918 the war would have affected their lives in many ways, big and small.

The British Army in the First World War

When the war began, Britain had the world's most powerful navy, but her army was tiny compared to the numbers mobilised by most of the other Great Powers.

France and Germany could field more than 3.5 million men each through conscription. Britain's small army, by contrast, was made up of long-service volunteers, men who had signed up for several years.

In addition to the 250,000 or so regulars, there were around 200,000 reservists. Many of these were men who had completed their terms of service but were still young enough to be recalled, while others had simply completed a term of training.

There were also 270,000 men of the 'Territorial Force' (TF). These were part-time volunteers with day jobs who drilled regularly and attended annual training camps.

The British Army, like every other, was organised into separate arms of service.

Infantry

These formed the bulk of the Army in 1914-18. They fought on foot, using the Short Magazine Lee-Enfield rifle, the bayonet and hand grenades. These last are usually referred to in accounts from the time as "bombs". Infantry units also included machine gun sections and, later in the war, other weapons such as mortars.

Cavalry

The Army had several famous cavalry regiments which went to war in 1914 on horseback. The TF included cavalry regiments, too, usually designated 'Yeomanry' regiments. Cavalry were used for reconnaissance, and were held in reserve to exploit breakthroughs in enemy lines. As the war on the Western Front became increasingly static, they tended to be used in infantry roles. They did, however, fight in more traditional cavalry fashion elsewhere, particularly the Middle East.

Artillery

In 1914 the Army's artillery was organised into the Royal Field Artillery (RFA) and the Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). The RFA manned guns towed by teams of horses and were employed on the battlefield, often in close proximity to the enemy. The casualty figures among RFA units were every bit as high as those among the infantry. The RGA manned larger guns which were usually sited behind the lines and fired on enemy positions from a distance. Casualties among these were also high.

There were support arms, such as the Royal Army Service Corps, responsible for logistical and support services. The Royal Engineers, commonly known as the sappers, performed a range of important functions. The most obvious ones in the First World War involved designing and constructing trenches, and attempting to destroy enemy systems, for example by constructing explosive-filled mines underneath them. The Royal Army Medical Corps ran the Army's medical services, from dressing-stations near the front line all the way back to base hospitals in France and Britain. Given the huge numbers of horses and mules employed by the Army, the Royal Army Veterinary Corps was also large and important.

Organisation

The basic unit of organisation in the British Army, then as now, was the regiment. The primary loyalty of each soldier was to the regiment, with its distinct traditions, history, cap-badges and the other small touches which made each a little different from the rest. These ranged from the elite Guards regiments all the way to small local militia and yeomanry companies of part-time volunteers.

Apart from the Guards, the infantry mostly served in "county" regiments, linked to particular areas.

The regiment was very flexible. Its size could easily be expanded in wartime through the raising of additional battalions.

The Gloucestershire Regiment, for instance, had three battalions in 1914. The 1st was in Hampshire, the 2nd was stationed at Tianjin in China, while the 3rd, the reserve battalion, was at Horfield Barracks in Bristol. In addition to these regular Army units, there were also three Territorial Force battalions attached to the regiment, the 4th and 6th in Bristol and the 5th in Gloucester.

By the war's end, the Gloucestershire Regiment had, at one time or another during the conflict, 25 separate battalions on its books. Most of these were so-called "service battalions" made up of men enlisted for the duration of the war. In official documents these were often designated with the word "Service" (sometimes in brackets) after the battalion number.



The peacetime army was augmented by Territorial Force battalions. These are men of the Bristolian 6th Battalion at their annual summer training camp. (Robin Pine)

The battalion, which, strictly speaking, is what soldiers mean when they refer to a “unit”, comprised just over 1,000 officers and men at full strength. In practice, it was usually a lot less due to losses, sickness and other reasons.

In 1914 an infantry battalion was usually made up of four companies, each comprising four platoons, plus a machine gun section. A number of battalions – usually four – made up a brigade, and a number of brigades – usually four – made up a division. The division would also have its own supporting artillery and cavalry.

Recruitment

When war was declared, it was understood that the Army would have to expand hugely. The War Office resorted to advertising campaigns, such as the famous poster of General Kitchener pointing at the viewer. There was a widespread feeling among Britons that if you were young, fit and single you should join up.

By 1915 voluntary recruitment was no longer providing enough men, so men were asked to enlist for service at a later date when the Army called on them. This was under the so-called Derby Scheme, a measure that was somewhere between volunteering and conscription. It, too, failed to raise enough men and conscription was brought in in 1916. Eventually, all able-bodied men, married or single, between 19 and 41 were liable for



The famous Kitchener recruitment poster.

military service whether they liked it or not. The minimum age was later lowered to 18, the maximum age was periodically raised.

Exemptions

Many men were exempt from serving because they were in “starred” occupations – work that was vital for the war effort.

The 1916 Military Service Act also established local tribunals to which a conscripted man could appeal. The Bristol Tribunal held its hearings at the old Council House on Corn Street.

The records of almost all the country’s military service tribunals were destroyed in the 1920s, and none remain for the Bristol area. Their proceedings were, however, sometimes reported in the local press, though usually they did not give the name of the men appealing.

Men appealed on grounds of family responsibilities or having to run a business. Others presented medical certificates showing they were unfit. Often, an employer would appeal on behalf of an employee who had been called up, claiming he was essential for the business. The tribunal could turn an appeal down, and the man went into the Army, or it could grant temporary exemptions from service for a few weeks or months, or complete exemptions. “Conditional” exemptions were also common. These were given to men doing important work on condition that they undertook some type of war work in their spare time, or joined the local volunteer regiment, a sort of First World War Home Guard.

Conscientious objectors

The tribunals could also exempt men on grounds of conscience. The number of conscientious objectors was small; about 17,000 men out of the five million who served at one time or another between 1914 and 1918.

Some conscientious objectors agreed to join the army as non-combatants, doing various jobs which did not require them to carry weapons. Others were permitted to do alternative work, such as in factories or on farms. A very small number of 'absolutists' refused either military service or alternative work on the grounds that in doing this they were helping the war effort and probably freeing up another man to fight. These men were usually treated very badly, ending up enduring harsh prison conditions. We think there were about 40 of these from the Bristol area.

Bristol's Soldiers and Sailors

The Army

The overwhelming majority of Bristolians serving in the war did so in the Army. There were men from Bristol in almost every British corps and regiment.

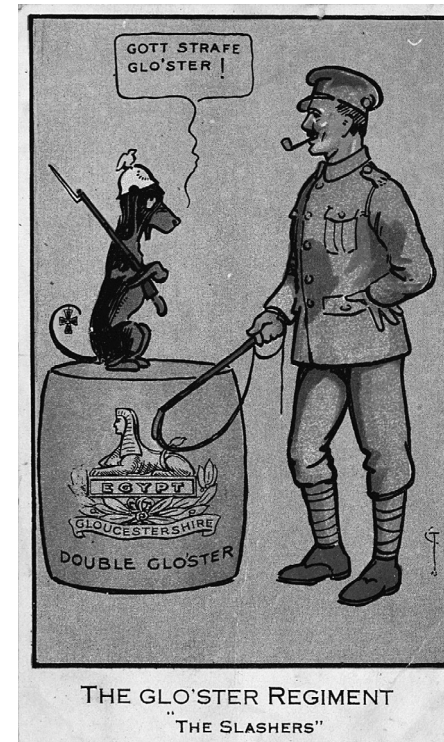
Those conscripted after 1916 had little say in where they were sent. Some with particular skills might go to specialised units, but most ended up in infantry regiments.

Before 1916, volunteers could often join the unit or corps of their choice, and the Army had a number of units which had a strongly Bristolian character.

Quite a few joined the Somerset Light Infantry, which many living to the south of the river regarded as their "local" regiment. More, however, opted for the Gloucestershire Regiment.

We list here some of the formations which had a lot of Bristolians in them. If you have a Bristolian ancestor who joined up before 1916, there is quite a good chance he was in one of the following:

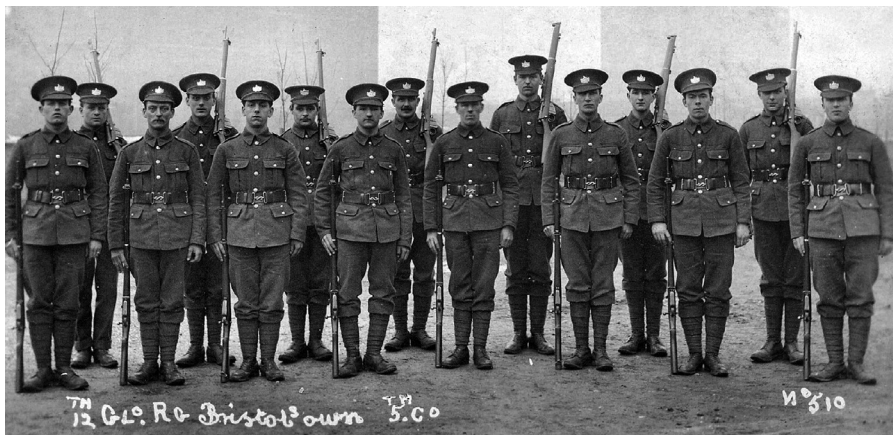
1st and 2nd Battalions, Gloucestershire Regiment. These were the two active service battalions of the old peacetime Army; many men were from Bristol or the wider county of Gloucestershire. Both served on the Western Front, and the 2nd was later moved to Salonika.



*Humorous Gloucestershire Regiment postcard.
(Bristol Record Office, BRO 43207/7/36)*

4th and 6th Battalions, Gloucestershire Regiment. These were Bristol-based TF battalions which both served in France. Both also raised new "second line" battalions from volunteers (designated the 2/4th and the 2/6th respectively), while the 6th raised a third new battalion (3/6th). They served on the Western Front, and the 1/4th also fought in Italy.

7th and 8th Battalions, Gloucestershire Regiment. These were service battalions, formed from volunteers from Bristol and Gloucestershire; when 2,000 of them were marched to Tidworth on Salisbury Plain in August 1914, half were left in one field to form the 7th, while the other half were sent into a neighbouring field to form the 8th Battalion. The 7th saw action at Gallipoli and in the Middle East and suffered very heavy casualties. The 8th was on the Western Front and had two Victoria Cross winners. Its temporary commanding officer Adrian Carton de Wiart won the medal at the Somme, and in 1918 the Bristolian Captain Manley Angell James won it for gallantry at Bapaume.



12th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. A purely Bristolian unit raised from volunteers in 1914. This was one of the so-called "pals' battalions" of the Army; it was initially accommodated at the 'White City', the site of an international fair in Ashton Meadow. Known as "Bristol's Own", it went to France in November 1915 and served on the Somme, at Passchendaele and later in Italy before going back to France. By then losses and new drafts of men meant it was no longer really a Bristolian unit.

14th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. Formed from volunteers previously rejected by recruiting officers for being beneath the regulation height, it was thus dubbed the "Bristol Bantams". The battalion was initially based at White City, went to France in 1916 and took part in the Somme campaign. By 1917 it was accepting drafts of men of normal height from all over the country.

The 3rd South Midland Field Ambulance. A TF unit of the Royal Army Medical Corps based at Colston Fort in Kingsdown. It was attached to the 48th Division, and saw service in France and Italy. Volunteer recruits early in the war went into a second line known as the 2/3rd South Midland Field Ambulance. This, too, served in France.

Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. A TF cavalry regiment recruiting from across Gloucestershire, it had several Bristolian troopers. It had three "lines", of which the 1st served overseas, at Gallipoli and in the Middle East. The 2nd was a home defence unit, while the 3rd supplied replacements for the first two.

North Somerset Yeomanry. A TF cavalry regiment which raised three lines during the war. The 1/1st served in France, mostly fighting on foot, though it did see some cavalry action in 1918. The 2nd and 3rd lines were for home service. From July 1916 the 2/1st was mounted on bicycles.



Opposite: New recruits for "Bristol's Own" – the 12th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment – in training at White City. Note B Bond warehouse in the background. (Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum)

Left: Men of "Bristol's Own" – the 12th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment – in their improvised barracks at White City. (Bristol Record Office, BRO 43207/8/49)

1st South Midland Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. A TF unit – an artillery brigade was considerably smaller than an infantry one – which could trace its history back to mid-Victorian times. It has gone through several name changes, but there has been a volunteer artillery formation based at Whiteladies Road from Victorian times to this day. It saw action in France, and from volunteers raised a second line (2/1st South Midland Brigade). These were later renamed 240 and 306 Brigades Royal Field Artillery respectively. Both saw extensive action in France (240 was also in Italy).

127 and 129 Batteries, Royal Garrison Artillery. These were batteries of heavy guns raised from volunteers in Bristol, both initially based at White City before serving in France. Many of the volunteers were Bristol and Gloucestershire police officers.

South Midland Royal Engineers. Based on Park Row, this was a Territorial unit which raised a second line from volunteers. Both served in France; the second line was one of the formations responsible for digging mines under enemy lines which were exploded prior to the Somme attack.

The Royal Navy

Aside from men already serving in the Navy in 1914, about 600 Bristolians – members of the Royal Naval Reserve (usually former Naval personnel) and members of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (the naval equivalent of the Territorial Force) – went to war in 1914. Some 2,829 men enrolled in the Navy during the war itself. These men served on ships throughout the navy, though many reservists served on P&A Campbell ("White Funnel Line") paddle steamers which were pressed into wartime service as minesweepers. Minesweeping was dangerous work, but the proud boast of the Campbell men was that none were lost through enemy action.

PREPARING TO RESEARCH

This guide will assume throughout that you are searching for information on an ancestor who served in the Army.

It's important to remember, though, that while millions of Britons were in the armed forces, most were not, even at the war's height. Many were too young or too old, or were in civilian occupations considered essential to the war effort. And of course the number of women in uniform was relatively small.

"Proper" family history research covers everyone, though, and if you're seeking out forebears who were civilians, or who were in the Navy or merchant marine, you will hopefully find some useful tips in the following pages.

Rule 1: Find Out What You Already Have!

Before you get online or start visiting archives, you should assemble the information and material you already have at hand.

Millions of men were in the British Army in the First World War, and Britons back then had a narrower range of forenames and surnames than nowadays. If you're looking for plain old George Smith, you've got a problem. If, though, you're looking for Corporal George Frederick William Smith of the 6th battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment, who lived in St Philips, Bristol, you should be able to find out more.

It pays to make a careful study of what your family already has in its possession, and to make some notes.



Left: The "dead man's Penny". Bronze plaque awarded to the next-of-kin of men killed in the war. (Eugene Byrne) Right: "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred". Three of the most common medals awarded to First World War servicemen. (Bristol Post)



Medals

Medals weren't just awarded for gallantry; all who served in the Army, Navy and merchant marine and some other organisations were all entitled to service medals.

Many families still have these in their possession. The most common are the **1914 Star** or the **1914-15 Star**, given to men who were already in the forces, or those who joined up in the war's early stages; the **British War Medal**, given to all officers and men who had served between 1914 and 1918; and the **Victory Medal** given to all men who had served, and also to women who had been nurses or in the women's services.

Veterans often referred to these three medals as "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred", after a popular newspaper cartoon of the 1920s.

These medals almost always will have the holder's name and regimental number and regiment stamped on them (look on the back or the rim). This is valuable information.

If you possess a medal awarded for bravery, it will make your research easier, as you will probably be able to find the official citation and newspaper reports about the events behind the award. See below how to do this.

You might also have one of the bronze memorial plaques issued to the next-of-kin of service personnel killed in the war. It was sometimes known as "the dead man's Penny". This will have the name of the deceased, and usually his regimental number as well.

Photographs

Few individuals took cameras to war with them, but many had photos of themselves in uniform taken in photographic studios; these were usually then printed on postcards to send to loved ones. You might have some of these in the family. There might also be group shots taken of the soldier's platoon, company, squadron (cavalry or RAF), artillery battery or brigade, or infantry battalion.

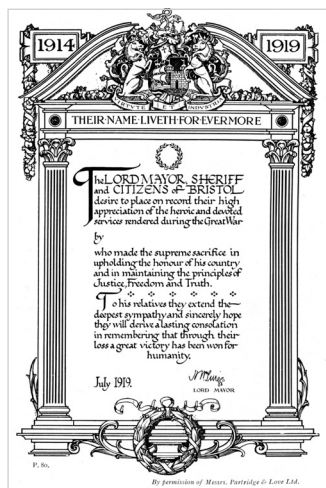
You can learn a lot from photos. The first thing to look for is the cap-badge; this can tell you the regiment he belonged to if you don't already know it.

Then look for badges of rank. Chevrons on the arm are for non-commissioned officers. Officers will have bands on their sleeves, along with stars ("pips") and, in the case of senior officers, crowns as well. These insignia will also be on their shoulders.

There are other distinctive marks to look out for. If a man has a thin vertical stripe on the left sleeve of his tunic, it means he has been wounded. If more than once he may have several "wound stripes".

Postcards and letters

Postcards were the equivalent of text messages or emails. With several postal deliveries each day, people bought and sent them in huge numbers. Cards from servicemen might have scenes from France, or humorous or sentimental or patriotic pictures. See what the messages on them tell you. The addresses, if they were to immediate family members, can be useful. If you have any letters, you will find much more information; they are one of the few ways in which you can gain any insight into your ancestor's personality.



Other memorabilia

You may also have official papers, such as a discharge certificate, or perhaps some newspaper clippings. If you had a Bristolian ancestor killed in the war, you might have one of the certificates given to his family by the city.

Certificate given to the next-of-kin of Bristolians killed in the war.



Postcards were the emails and text messages of their day.

Other family members

There may well be a "family historian" among you, someone who knows a great deal about the grandparents, great-grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins. See what they know.

There's no harm in approaching cousins and more distant relatives – for instance if you're in touch via Facebook or other social media – to see what information they have.

Once you've been through all these steps, you might actually stop trying to find out more, particularly if you've found someone else has already done the research!

Regimental badges

In photos you can usually identify a soldier's regiment or corps from his cap-badge – assuming he's wearing one, and not a steel helmet (which came into general use in 1916).

Looking up badges can be difficult, so it helps if you have some ideas as to which regiment he was in. You can then search the web and see if it matches the pictures online.



Left: Design of Gloucestershire Regiment front badge. (Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum).
Right: Gloucestershire Regiment back badge. (Bristol Post)



The Gloucestershire Regiment's badge is of a sphinx resting on a panel saying 'EGYPT' (a former battle honour) over a cluster of laurel leaves and a scroll saying 'GLOUCESTERSHIRE'.

The Glosters also wore a distinctive "back badge" on the back of their caps. This was a smaller version of the front badge. Men often took extra back badges to make into keepsakes and charms for loved ones.

The Somerset Light Infantry badge was a castle battlement from which hung a hunting horn. In the middle of the arrangement were the letters PA for Prince Albert. Queen Victoria's husband became the regiment's patron following its actions at Jalalabad in Afghanistan. The badge is topped with a scroll saying "JELLALABAD".

Ideally You Need...

Before getting online or visiting archives to trace your military ancestor, try to have as much of the following information as possible:

1. His **full name**.
2. His **regiment**. Preferably the **battalion** as well.
3. His **regimental number**. Each man was assigned a number by his regiment. If he transferred to another regiment, he would be given a new number, but most men stayed with the same regiment. The number is a pretty reliable form of identification.

4. **Next of kin**. If you know the names of his parents and siblings, and the family's likely home address(es), this will be useful.

5. **Other information**. Note down what you know about where he served, whether he was wounded. If he was killed, do you know when or where?

What Am I Looking For?

Before you go online it's as well to have some idea what you hope to find. Again, we're talking mainly about an ancestor who served in the Army, but many of the same principles will apply to other forebears as well.

Some of basic things you are hoping to find are:

His service record. These are simple bureaucratic records of a soldier's service, promotions, disciplinary problems and other matters. Many of these documents were destroyed in the Blitz during the Second World War; your man's record may no longer exist.

Census returns. The 1911 Census can tell us where he was living three years before the war started, and, hopefully, something about his next-of-kin.

What he was doing in the war. For this we need the war diaries of his battalion, a day-to-day logbook of the unit's activities, whether in combat, training or at rest.

Where, when and how he died. If your ancestor was killed in the war, you'll want to know this.

Stories about him. Don't get your hopes up here – but if you're lucky you might find accounts of his deeds, whether gallantry citations, or perhaps an article or two on his wartime service in a local newspaper or magazine.

RESEARCHING ONLINE

Starting Points

If you think your ancestor was killed in the war, the very first place to look is the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** website at www.cwgc.org

This commemorates the 1.7 million British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in the two World Wars.

Hopefully you will have gathered enough information about him to easily identify him when you search the site. It will tell you when he died and where he is buried. Many casualties on the Western Front, however, have no known burial place and are commemorated on monuments like the Menin Gate or the Thiepval Monument.

Lives of the First World War is a project run by the Imperial War Museum to piece together information about the lives of over eight million men and women in uniform and working on the home front during the war.

Go to livesofthefirstworldwar.org and you might be able to find a few scraps of information about your ancestor. You might possibly even find that someone else has uploaded a lot of information.

Genealogical Sites

There are a number of websites devoted to family history research. The most useful ones charge users a monthly or annual or "pay-as-you-go" fee to use their facilities.

It is well worth investigating these as the leading ones contain huge amounts of information.

Two of the most commonly used ones are Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk) and Findmypast (www.findmypast.co.uk)

Both of the above, for instance, have a great deal of useful data, including military and naval records. Before paying any site, carefully check if it has information which you think will be useful, such as service records, census details and details of medals awarded.

Ancestry, for example, has medal records, but also records of men awarded the Silver War Badge, given to those who had been discharged from the services because they were no longer fit to fight because of wounds or illness.

The most popular genealogy sites are adding new data all the time.

About a third of the service records for private soldiers and non-commissioned officers survive (some, which were partially damaged by fire, are known as the "burnt records"). The contents of each soldier's file will vary widely, but should include things like attestation forms, which will tell you where he enlisted, his age at enlistment (NB: some who volunteered in 1914-15 lied about their age), home address and next of kin. The service record should also include medical records, which will usually tell you how he was injured and where he was hospitalised. Notes on his disciplinary problems can sometimes be very interesting!

If you do decide to sign up to a genealogy site – a month's subscription should be all that you need – it need not cost much. Note that you can also access Ancestry free via Bristol's libraries and the Bristol Record Office.

War Diaries

Service records are usually quite dry and factual and won't give you any idea of what your ancestor and his comrades were doing from one day to the next. For that, consult his unit war diaries.

These were log-books kept by each unit, recording its daily activities and sometimes, depending on the literary style of the officer keeping the diary (usually the battalion Adjutant), they can be quite vivid.

If the diary records an action on a particular date in which men were killed or wounded, and you know your own ancestor was killed or wounded on that day, you will have a pretty good idea of what happened to him. Usually, though, only officers are mentioned by name; other ranks are not often named. The diary will also tell you what the unit was doing when out of the line, relating leisure activities like football matches or entertainments.

Many war diaries are now available via the National Archives website, with more being uploaded (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk); there is a small charge for downloading them.

Regimental Histories

In addition to the war diaries, there are numerous regimental histories and memoirs by individual soldiers. It's worth asking your local library about these.

Regimental Museums are also a useful source of information, though they should not be consulted until you have found out as much as you can online first. See chapter below on the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. For a useful directory of other military museums in the UK, see the Army Museums Ogilby Trust website at www.armymuseums.org.uk

The Imperial War Museum has an immense collection of papers and diaries that have been left to it over the years. It's worth checking here to see if they have any material relating to the unit your ancestor served with. See www.iwm.org.uk/collections-research

There are also several official and unofficial sites devoted to individual regiments and their history. If you have a particular query about the regiment, go to one of these sites. If the information is not on the site, there may well be a forum for people to post questions; if the site doesn't have a message board, there may be useful contacts who can be emailed.

Newspapers

There are now millions of pages of old British local and national newspapers and magazines online, available to be searched by certain keywords. Some of these can be accessed at libraries (see below).

The best site for consulting these is the British Newspaper Archive at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk You have to subscribe, but you can sign up for just a month for a small amount. This will give you access to dozens of old papers from around the UK covering the war period, including – for Bristol – the *Western Daily Press*, which in 1914-18 was a purely Bristol paper.

Papers were subject to censorship in the war, but you will find plenty of stories about the activities of local battalions, and even the odd photograph. You might even be lucky enough to find a mention of your ancestor. The deaths of officers were usually reported at some length, while the exploits of a man who won a gallantry medal might be covered in detail. The papers also published letters from men serving at the front describing particular actions they had been in, or simply describing their day-to-day activities. The same applies to seamen; the *Western Daily Press* carried a lot of reports and letters from men whose ships had been attacked by U-Boats.

Tip: If you know, or suspect, that your ancestor was a regular churchgoer – and many more people were in 1914 than nowadays – try to establish which church he attended, and then see if copies of its **parish magazine** from the war period still survive. These very often carried articles about the activities of their parishioners at the Front. Check with your local reference library, or ask the church itself. Parish magazines can be very valuable if you're trying to find out more about working class men who might not otherwise have had much written about them in the local newspaper.

Women at War

By 1918 there were several thousand women in the services, and organisations such as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Women's Royal Naval Service, the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, the Royal Army Medical Corps (mostly as nurses, but there was also a handful of women doctors) and the Voluntary Aid Detachment. Some of these service records are on Findmypast, and on the National Archives site, but they are not complete and often contain little useful information.

Other Useful Sources Online

If your ancestor was in the Royal Air Force or its predecessor before 1918, the Army's Royal Flying Corps, there is less information readily available on the web, but try **The Aerodome** (www.theaerodrome.com) and the **Air War** (www.airwar1.org.uk)

Bristol 2014 at www.bristol2014.com is coordinating a large number of commemorative events around Bristol for the centenary. It has useful links as well as articles and information about Bristol's part in the war. Some of the partners in Bristol 2014 are producing research and databases on specific groups of people, which will be of value for genealogists.

Faces of the First World War. Portraits of men who served in WW1.
www.1914.org/faces

Familyrelatives. Genealogical research site. Subscription or pay-per-view.
www.familyrelatives.com

Forces War Records & Military Genealogy. Access to wide range of military records for a fee. www.forces-war-records.co.uk

The Genealogist. Paysite for genealogical researchers; resources include marriages contracted in France and Belgium in the First World War, and records of officers and men who were prisoners of war. www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Imperial War Museum. Large amount of material and information relating to the First and Second World Wars, plus details of the First World War commemorative events and exhibitions at the different Museum sites across the country. www.iwm.org.uk

Know Your Place Bristol. Might be some help with Bristolian forebears; it has vast amounts of historical information on a map of Bristol, including several locations of First World War relevance, as well as photos. maps.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace

The London Gazette. If your ancestor was an officer, his records are unlikely to be online. You will have to travel to the National Archives to read them, but the appointment, promotion and resignation of officers is recorded in the *London Gazette* at www.thegazette.co.uk If he was decorated for gallantry, the *London Gazette* will have a record of it, and may also have the "citation", the official account of the action(s) for which the medal was awarded.

The Long, Long Trail. Easy-to-use and understand website devoted to the First World War. Look here for basic information on units, ranks, medals, military terminology, Army life and events of the war. See www.1914-1918.net

The National Archives website has a First World War section with details of the information it has available online or in the paper archives. See www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war. There are also service records for Navy and Air Force officers, ratings and airmen downloadable for a small fee. See www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/our-online-records.htm

If you had an ancestor serving in the **Royal Navy**, or who was a **merchant seaman** in the First World War, look at the superb **Naval History Net** site (www.naval-history.net). There is a lot of information here; if your man was in the Royal Navy and you know what ship(s) he served on, there's a good chance the site will have the logbooks, relating the ship's day-to-day activity. The site also has the complete official history of the merchant service during the war; this is very detailed, and tells the story of many of the merchant ships that were sunk or, in some cases, managed to evade enemy raiders or U-Boats. If your merchant or Naval forebear was on a ship sunk by a U-Boat, the **U-Boat Net** site (www.uboa.net/wwi) contains information on every single German submarine in the First World War and an extensive database of incidents and attacks.

Maritime Memorial Trust. Site about Royal Navy, Army, merchant marine personnel and civilians who lost their lives at sea in both World Wars. www.maritimememorialtrust.com

The National Museums Scotland site has information on centenary commemorative events north of the border. www.nms.ac.uk. For Wales, see Wales Remembers/Cymru'n Cofio at www.walesremembers.org

Thousands of British railway workers served in the forces in the First World War. **The National Railway Museum** site has a table of more than 20,000 of them at www.nrm.org.uk/RailwayStories/worldwarone.aspx

Soldiers' Wills. Section of the government website allowing you to search for and download (for a fee) soldiers' wills. www.gov.uk/probate-search

The Western Front Association promotes knowledge of understanding of the First World War. Site has useful and interesting information and articles. www.westernfrontassociation.com

Empire and Commonwealth Soldiers

Soldiers, sailors and airmen from the British Empire and Dominions played an important part in the conflict.

In 1914 Bristol had particularly close links with Canada, with many Bristolians having emigrated there in the early years of the twentieth century using the regular liner services from Avonmouth. Many of these ex-pat Bristolians returned to Europe, either to enlist in the British forces, or in the military contingents that Canada sent to the war.

But troops from Australia, New Zealand, Africa, the Caribbean and India (including what is now Pakistan and Bangladesh) also fought on the Western Front, the Middle East and elsewhere.

If your ancestor served in the forces of one of these countries, you may be able to find out something about them using some of the sites mentioned on previous pages. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission site (www.cwgc.org) has sections devoted to Canada, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, each with links to sites with further information and, in many cases, service records. There is also a section on India's contribution, though this currently does not have any links.

With the centenary of the war's outbreak, it is also worth doing a Google search for new information and records coming online from commonwealth countries.

For soldiers from the Caribbean, try **The Caribbean Roll of Honour**. This is at caribbeanrollofhonour-ww1-ww2.yolasite.com

Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom during the war, though conscription was not introduced there. You should be able to research Irish ancestors in the forces in the same way you'd research a British one. For more specific information and tips, try the Irish Great War Society at www.irishgreatwarsociety.com

FURTHER RESEARCH

Stuck? Then Get Help!

You might well find at some point that your research has hit a brick wall, and that there are some questions which appear impossible to answer. Don't worry – there are plenty of sources of help.

Professionals: You can search the internet for "genealogists" or "family tree researchers" and you will quickly find there's no shortage of people out there who will do the job for you – at a price. Many of the sites mentioned on previous pages also offer research services. If you do decide to use a professional, make sure you agree in advance what it is they are going to do for you, and how much it will cost. It's no different from hiring a plumber!

Online forums: Many of the websites mentioned on previous pages have their own message boards for people to post and answer queries. These can be very helpful; an experienced amateur researcher can often instantly answer riddles it might take you days to solve. As well as the forums on genealogical and history sites, there is also a number of specialist sites which are purely forums for researchers. These include Rootschat (www.rootschat.com), Family Tree Forum (www.familytreeforum.com) and others. If you do post a query or join in a conversation thread, don't be afraid of telling everyone you're a newbie; genealogists are friendly.

Write to the papers: Most local newspapers are happy to publish letters from people trying to find information about family members who used to live in their town. So if you know that an ancestor came from, say, Huddersfield, but can find out nothing about his/her family there, try writing to the local paper there (the *Huddersfield Examiner*, in this case) saying you're trying to find information about – give their full name – who lived at – give the address – in the year xxxx ... along with any other information you have. If you don't want the paper to publish your full postal address, then make sure you give your email address at the end of the letter/mail.

With any luck, you might be hearing back from a distant relative from your extended clan.

For queries about Bristolians, write to the *Bristol Post's* 'Bristol Times' section – bristol.times@b-nm.co.uk

Local history societies: Most communities in Bristol and elsewhere have individuals and societies researching their local history. If you have some queries about a place you think your ancestor came from, see if you can track down the local group online. You'd be amazed how many there are. Avon Local History and Archaeology maintain a list of groups for the area at www.avonlocalhistandarch.co.uk

Ask at the relevant **libraries and museums!**

See the following pages...

Or join the **Bristol & Avon Family History Society**

See also the following pages ...

The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum

If you're trying to find out about any ancestors who served in the Gloucestershire Regiment, you are fortunate.

In Gloucester, there is an excellent museum dedicated to the "Glorious Glosters" and other regiments associated with the county. The museum comes with a very useful website, and has better research facilities than most other regiments in the Army.

If you have queries concerning one of the Gloucestershire battalions in the First World War, look at the website at www.glosters.org.uk first, as a lot of archival material can be searched online.

You can currently type the name of a soldier who served in the regiment in the war and get back some basic details of his service. The search will also tell you if there are any items in the museum collection relating to him.

For a more vivid picture of what life was like for the men who served in the regiment in the war, visit the museum, which has recently been refurbished. Opening hours and charges are on the website.



One of the displays at the recently refurbished Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum in Gloucester. (Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum)

For more detailed research, you can visit the archives – you will need to make an appointment for this. Alternatively, you might prefer to pay the museum’s archivists to do your research for you. For a fee of (currently) £35 you can commission a report on individual soldiers. This is for an hour’s work; the archivist will tell you if there is any other likely material or advise you on other sources you could try.

The museum’s archives also include the battalion war diaries.

The Somerset Light Infantry

A lot of men volunteering for the Army in the Bristol area during the First World War joined the Somerset Light Infantry rather than the Gloucestershire Regiment. The regiment no longer exists, though there are displays on its history at the Somerset Military Museum at Taunton Castle.

More importantly for researchers, the Somerset Light Infantry Archive is held at the Somerset Heritage Centre, which is at Norton Fitzwarren, on the outskirts of Taunton. See www1.somerset.gov.uk/Archives/

Your Local Library

Owning a library card is extremely helpful. Your library can be a mine of information and contains a range of useful resources.

If you can’t afford the subscription to www.ancestry.co.uk, you can access it free of charge from one of the computers at your local library, though you may have to book a session in advance.

There are other pay-sites which you can access from home by simply typing in your library card number.

These include the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, which tells the life stories of thousands of interesting and important figures in British history, and the digital archive of *The Times* newspaper. To see what resources are available, go to www.bristol.gov.uk/page/leisure-and-culture/24-hour-library

Looking at the local history section of your library, you might be surprised to see how many books have been produced down the years, many on highly specialised and obscure local subjects.

But what’s on the shelves is just the tip of an iceberg. There are thousands of other local books in storage, some very old and very rare. You will probably find that there is a book or two on the organisations your ancestor was part of, whether it’s one of Bristol’s companies, shipping lines, or a military formation.

To see what’s available, search the catalogue at www.librarieswest.org.uk

If you want to borrow a book that’s not held at your local branch, you can still order it for collection from there. This takes a few days and there is a very small fee.

Bristol Reference Library

Bristol’s Reference Library (the upstairs part of the Central Library) has a wealth of local information, much of it material you won’t find anywhere else.

This includes:

The Roll of Honour. This is a typewritten list of the names of all the men of Bristol who were killed in the war.

Army, Navy and Air Force Lists. These are books with details of all the officers (not other ranks) in the armed services nationally, giving details of enlistment dates and promotions.

Electoral Registers. These are lists of people who are registered to vote in council and parliamentary elections. The Central Library has the registers up to 1913, and those from 1950 onwards. The Bristol Record Office holds a full run of electoral registers, including records for the years in between. These give names and addresses, but bear in mind that women, and large numbers of working class men, did not have the vote until after the First World War.

Trade directories. Useful if you’re trying to find out someone’s precise address, though you will not find everyone included, as they primarily list tradespeople. Think of them as forerunners of the Yellow Pages. There are several of these from various years.

In the First World War, Bristol readers had several **newspapers and periodicals** to choose from.

The Reference Library has most editions of these, and most are not available online. Some are on microfilm, and you have to book time on a microfilm reader. In practice there are usually a few readers free and you can just drop in any time to use one. But if you’re making a long or difficult journey in, then call in advance to book on 0117 903 7202.

It's not as easy to check these as it is with newspapers stored online as you can't search through them by keyword, so you need a little luck and some forward planning. If, for instance, you know the date on which the person you're researching was killed, or received a medal, then looking through the papers on the dates shortly after that time might yield some results.

The main newspapers covering the war period at the Reference Library include: *The Western Daily Press*; *Bristol Times & Mirror*; *Bristol Evening News*; *Bristol Observer* (though they do not have the 1914 copies).

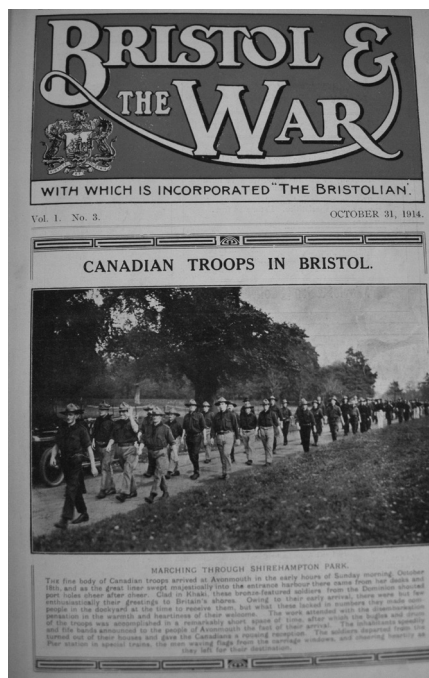
There are also a number of weeklies, or other publications covering smaller areas, including: *The Avonmouth Mail & Shipping Gazette*; *Bristol Guardian*; *Clifton Chronicle*; *Redland Free Press* (1912-13 only); *Horfield & Bishopston Record*; *South Bristol Free Press*; *South Gloucestershire Gazette* (1913-14 and 1918-20 only).

There are other more specialist publications, too, such as *The Bristol Boy Scout* (1916-1919) or the *Clifton Society* magazine.

The Library also has a bound set of a magazine called *Bristol and the War*. This was published intermittently between 1914 and 1917 and carried photos and features about Bristol's home front and Bristolians serving in the forces. It mentions several individuals, other ranks as well as officers. It published small profiles of men serving, or of those who died, as well as letters from soldiers at the Front.

Tip: If you don't know, ask! Bristol's library staff are all very friendly and helpful, and the staff at the Reference Library are extremely knowledgeable. Many library users are carrying out family history research, so the staff are used to answering questions.

If you have any queries about what you're looking for, ask the staff at the desk, or call on 0117 903 7202.



Bristol and the War magazine, intermittently published between 1914 and 1917. (Bristol Reference Library)

For more on family history in Bristol's libraries, see www.bristol.gov.uk/page/leisure-and-culture/family-history-libraries

Bristol Record Office

The Bristol Record Office (BRO) holds a vast collection of documents, maps, pictures and other materials about the history of Bristol and surrounding areas from medieval times to the present. It makes these available to the public free of charge.

It has a number of resources you may find useful in your ancestor research. As with Bristol's libraries, its searchroom offers free access to www.ancestry.co.uk and holds the Bristol Roll of Honour, Army, Navy and Air Force Lists and trade directories.

There's also the full run of local electoral registers (none were compiled for the years 1916-1917), which give names and addresses of voters (all male before 1918, but excluding those working class men who didn't have the vote until 1918). They are useful for finding names if you know an address, but you can't find people by name only.

While you can conduct most of your basic ancestor search online, the BRO, like the Reference Library, holds a great deal of local material you won't find anywhere else. This can be useful for possibly finding more details about your ancestor(s), and is very useful indeed for finding out more about Bristol during his/her lifetime.

BRO has numerous sources related to the First World War; in preparation for the 2014 anniversary, its staff and volunteers have been identifying and cataloguing this material.

An online guide to First World War sources should be on the Bristol Record Office website by the time this guide is published, but some of the most significant collections are described below. Many are evocative personal papers which offer some insight into living during the war in Bristol and beyond.

Among the wealth of material, you may find some of the following of use or interest:

Souvenir brochure of the 12th (Service) Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, 1915 (RefNo. 42601/1/1). A printed history of 12th "from its inception in September 1914, to its departure from Bristol on June 23rd and 26th, 1915". The guide also contains a roll call of the battalion companies, with soldiers listed by name.

Lord Mayors' scrapbooks. The personal papers of the three Lord Mayors between 1915 and 1918: Barclay Baron (RefNo. 36819), Frank Sheppard (RefNo. 11173) and Henry W Twiggs (RefNo. 32759). They document each mayor's term in office, including

wartime duties such as charitable events and outings for wounded soldiers, often with photographs, newspaper cuttings, programmes and other materials.

Scrapbooks of Maude Boucher (RefNo. 44859). Bristol resident Maude Boucher began compiling scrapbooks when the war began and compiled 21 volumes between 1914 and 1922. Her books provide a personal perspective on the war in Bristol, through photographs, newspaper cuttings and handwritten notes.

Photographs in the Vaughan postcard collection (RefNo. 43207). The Vaughan postcard collection contains around 200 photographs related to the First World War in Bristol, ranging from recruitment material to photos of troops marching through the city and images of Belgians who sought refuge here

These are just a few examples. There is a lot of other material available, including personal papers and letters of various Bristolians involved in the war. It's well worth looking through the BRO's online catalogue (archives.bristol.gov.uk). To find all of the items on a topic, try different search terms – for example, 'First World War', 'Great War', 'World War One', 'World War 1' and 'WWI' and so on. Searching for material dated 1914 to 1918 can also produce useful results.

BRO also has a wide range of source material for more general family history research (a printed guide to this is available in the searchroom) and staff are very happy to answer queries and give advice.

Find it at 'B' Bond Warehouse (the same building as the CREATE Centre), Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN. For opening times and latest news see www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-record-office

Bristol & Avon Family History Society

Founded in 1975, and a registered charity, Bristol & Avon Family History Society (B&AFHS) works to encourage the study of family history and genealogy. It has around 1,300 members, and of course welcomes new ones.

B&AFHS has a research room at 'B' Bond, next to the Bristol Record Office. Here it has a large amount of research and reference materials, including civil and ecclesiastical data, family trees and monumental inscriptions from most churchyards and some cemeteries in the area.

Its library contains books covering genealogy and the history of local places, people, businesses and schools. There is also internet access to some of the major genealogy websites, including Findmypast and Ancestry.

The Society's volunteers can offer advice to both beginners and the experienced researchers, ranging from how to get started to tackling uncommon problems and "brick walls". The Society can't carry out detailed research, but it can be very helpful in pointing you in the right direction.

As well as extensive research experience, many of its volunteers know a great deal about the history of Bristol, and of individual areas of the city and the towns and villages around it.

B&AFHS has produced several publications, including transcriptions of parish birth, marriage and burial records and some censuses. It also sells books and historic maps relevant to the area, and publishes an award-winning quarterly magazine with members' research stories and problems, articles of interest, a 'helpdesk' and reports on meetings and information about the Society's activities and services.

There are monthly meetings in Bristol, Bath and Yate, with a guest speaker talking about a particular topic of family history or of local interest. The Society also organises twice-yearly coach trips to the National Archives at Kew. All these events are open to members and non-members.

If tracking down your First World War ancestors has fired you up to do more family history research, you should consider joining.

For further details see www.bafhs.org.uk

And Finally...

What should you do with the information you've discovered about your First World War ancestors?

Aside from sharing it with other family members, you might want to share it with others, too.

You can upload his/her story to the Bristol 2014 interactive map. This is the biggest attempt yet to map a huge and diverse collection of stories about Bristol's First World War experience and share them with the public. Go to the Great War Stories Map and App section of the Bristol 2014 website (www.bristol2014.com) and follow the instructions there.

You might want to upload the information you've found on the Imperial War Museum's Lives of the First World War site so your ancestor's story becomes part of Britain's shared history. livesofthefirstworldwar.org

Further Reading

You might find some of the following books useful.

Britain in the War

Adie, K, *Fighting on the Home Front: The Legacy of Women in World War One* (Hodder, 2014)

Bantock, A, *Not All Came Back: A Somerset Farmer's Son at Gallipoli* (Redcliffe Press/The Malago Society, 2010)

Doyle, P, *Great War British Tommy Manual: The British Soldier 1914-18* (J H Haynes & Co., 2013)

Dunn, Captain J C, *The War The Infantry Knew: 1914-1919: A Chronicle of Service in France and Belgium* (Abacus 1988)

Fowler, S, *Tracing Your Army Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians* (Pen & Sword, Second Edition, 2013)

Gregory, A, *The Last Great war: British Society and the First World War* (Cambridge University Press, 2008)

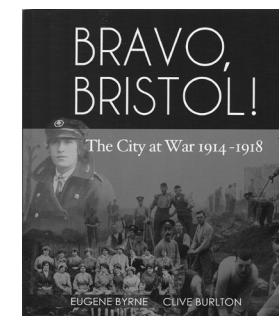
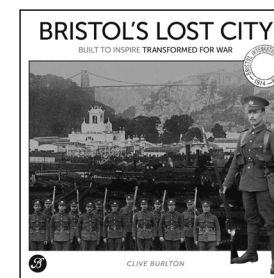
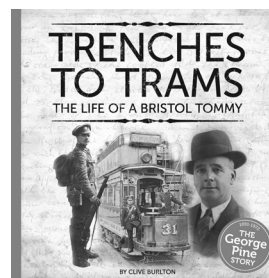
Gregson, K, *A Tommy in the Family: First World War Family History and Research* (The History Press, 2014)

Holmes, R, *Tommy: The British Soldier on the Western Front 1914-18* (Harper Perennial, 2005)

Keegan, J, *The First World War: An Illustrated History* (Pimlico, 2001)

MacDonald, L, *The Roses of No Man's Land* (Penguin, 2013). Lyn MacDonald has written a series of readable histories of various aspects of the war. This one is about the nurses.

Marwick, A, *The Deluge: British Society in the First World War* (The Bodley Head, 1965)



Bristol's war

Belsey, J, *The Forgotten Front: Bristol at War 1914-1918* (Redcliffe Press, 1986)

Burlton, C, *Bristol's Lost City: Built to Inspire, Transformed by War* (Bristol Books, 2014)

Burlton, C, *Trenches to Trams: The George Pine Story: The Life of a Bristol Tommy* (Tangent Books, 2011)

Byrne, E & Burlton, C, *Bravo, Bristol! The City at War 1914-18* (Redcliffe Press, 2014)

Marks, D, *Bristol's Own: The 12th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment 1914-1918* (Dolman Scott, 2011)

Neale, W G, *The Tides of War and the Port of Bristol 1914-18* (Port of Bristol Authority, 1976)

Patch, H & Van Emden, R, *The Last Fighting Tommy: The Life of Harry Patch, The Oldest Surviving Veteran of the Trenches* (Bloomsbury, 2008)

Stone, G F & Wells, C, *Bristol and the Great War 1914-19* (J.W. Arrowsmith, 1920)

Wadsworth, J, *Bristol in the Great War* (Pen & Sword Military, 2014)

Williamson, B (Ed), *Dear Mother: Great War Letters from a Bristol Soldier* (Redcliffe Press, 2003)

Many of these books are available in the M Shed shop: 0117 352 6600

www.bristolmuseums.org.uk



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through the Heritage Lottery Fund



WWW.BRISTOL2014.COM