# WW1 Possible Participants - 'R - S'

**Frederick Read** (1911), b Christchurch, 12, school inmate. (StB), DCLI Dec 1915, Dec 1916

No definite record of service with DCLI found on FMP or ANC – many people with same name

**Frederick Richards** (1911), b Kentisbeare, 32, carpenter

No certain records found on FMP or ANC

**Harold Richards** (1911), b Tiverton, 11, scholar

Born in Tiverton in October 1899, he was the son of Josiah and Edith Richards. His father was a Prudential Assurance Agent and in 1911 the family were living at Roberts Cottage in Boobery. *[it is likely that the family moved soon after the Census, because Roberts Cottage is understood to be the house which the Cluetts occupied when they came to Sampford Peverell at about that time].* Harold joined the R.N.A.S. on 18th January 1918 and described his occupation as “Fitter & Turner”. He trained as an “Air Mechanic” at RAF Cranwell (during which time he was briefly on HMS President II and HMS Daedalus, and was awarded the Air Force Medal in November 1918, finally being transferred to the RAF Reserve in June 1919

**Walter John Ridler** (mentioned in tribunal June 1918)(np) (1911), b Dulverton, 39, harness maker

Presumed not to have seen service in WW1: he would have been 42 when the war started and 46 when he appeared before a Military Tribunal in June 1918, at which the Western Times of Friday, 14 June, records him as being “Grade 2” and “in the employ of Mr Wood, harness maker. Case to be dealt with by the War Agricultural Committee”. We have no record of his case being discussed.

**Walter Sidney William Ridler**, cook's mate, home on leave Sep 1917 (np).(1911), b SP, 12, scholar. ER 1919/20S/20A: Higher Town, Cooks Mate M18762 HMS Devonshire RN.

Born 21st December 1897 \* *(Service record on FMP)* Son of Walter John Ridler, harnessmaker, born Dulverton, and wife Thomazine (née Ashman)

**Service Record – Royal Navy Seamen** *(FMP)*

**Period of Engagement** – 12 years (from 31st January 1916)

**Previous Occupation** – Baker

Started as “Probationary Cook's Mate second class” on HMS Vivid.

Thereafter on large number of vessels, progressively as “Cook's Mate”, “Cook” and “Leading Cook” until invalided to the RN Hospital Plymouth (with pulmonary tuberculosis) in January 1927, which presumably ended his naval career (12 months early) – and no doubt shortened his life, as he died only 4 years later.

His service record consistently records his character as “Very Good” and his ability as “Superior”. He was “Passed educationally for Petty Officer” in December 1922. In Q2 of this year he married Alice M. Jarman (reg. Tiverton). They had two children: Sydney F (1923) and Jeffrey G (1926).

\*He clearly added a year to his age on enlistment (or the clerk entered his birthdate incorrectly). Freebmd gives his birth as Q4 1898 (reg. Tiverton) and his death as Q1 1931. aged 32. Also, the 1911 Census shows him as aged 12.

**James Adolphus Roberts** (1911), b Poplar, 15, indoor servant and school inmate

Inconclusive for WW1, but he seems to have gone to America at some point and served in WW2 – Ancestry has US Draft Registration Card dated 1942. Shows born 26 Jan 1896, living in New York.

**Robert Rooks** (1911), b Bradninch, 28, farm labourer

Robert Carnall Rookes was born on 25th June 1882 and joined the Royal Navy (Service Number 203153) in February 1899 and served on a number of ships and shore establishments (firstly on HMS Impregnable and lastly HMS Arrogant). He signed for a 12-year engagement but was invalided out in January 1901, after just 2 years (reason not known). No WW1 service record was found.

**William Francis Rowe** (1911), b Styfield Green, 13, school inmate. (StB), R West Surreys Aug 1915, Dec 1915, Dec 1916

Great uncle of Martin Walsh who said he served on the Western Front and Gallipoli.  Returned to Guildford.  Enjoyed gardening. MW wrote "I once asked him about the trenches with the mud and rats and all; he  grinned and said “Well you just had to get on with it”."

Service record on fmp. Enlisted Guildford, lived in Shalford nr Guildford. 3075/205890 private in 2/4 Battn The Queens Royal West Suerrey Regiment. Enlisted 17 Oct 1914, went to Egypt, Gallipoli, Egypt, ill, invalided to England, sent to France 1917, wounded in action 25 Jun 1917 and October 1918 (GSW Lt Wrist),

**C Russell** (StB), Gloucester Regt Dec 1916

Not found

**George Henry Russell** (1911), b Chertsey, 13, school inmate. (StB), Canadian contingent Dec 1916. (HC: left for Canada 24 May 1912 with other St B boys)

Record on Anc (Canada). B 18 Apr 1897 London, no living relations, enlisted Sherbrook Quebec 17 Sep 1915. 5’ 6 1/2”

**William Henry Russell** (1911), b Uffculme, 14, butcher's boy

FMP has a 'scrap' of a record referring to a William Henry Rousell [sic] of Kentisbeare, a gardener, assigned to “Ox & Bucks, No. 48734, on 14th May 1919”. Possibly 'our man' but unlikely.

**Henry William Russell** ER 1919: Booberry, S/2/12026 Sgt 21st P of L Sup Co RASC. Not found on fmp or anc.

**Edmund James Salter** in Egypt 1918 (np) (1911), b b SP, 18, butcher's boy.

Born in Sampford Peverell in 1893, son of butcher James Salter. Served in the Army Service Corps and the Devonshire Regiment (Service Number 67142), including at least 2 years with the ASC in Egypt, as the Western Times reported on 12th April 1918: *“information has just been received by Mr and Mrs J Salter, butcher, of Paulett House, Sampford Peverell, that their only son, Pte. E.J. Salter, A.S.C., has just won a certificate and bronze medallion, and is now qualified as an Instructor, having passed all the necessary tests. Mr Salter has been in Egypt over two years”'* He was wounded, and discharged on 3rd July 1919.

**Joseph Salter** (1911), b Tiverton, 32, inn keeper. b 1879 Tiverton**.** No military record found

**Harry Sampson** (1911), b Morebath, 28, farm waggoner.

Born 1883. Army service (4th Devonshire) pre-war. No definitive WW1 record found.

**Arthur William Saunders** (1911), b SP, 21, farmer assisting father.

 Inconclusive

**Seymour Saunders** (1911), b SP, 23, farm assistant.

Inconclusive. B SP 1888. Possibly served in Dorsetshire Regiment, service number 6932. Went to France in Dec 1914

**William Saunders** (1911), b SP, 33, mason assisting father. Tribunal March 1916 rejected request to be "starred" (np). Inconclusive

(***A Scorse*** - see casualties)

**John Scorse** Royal Engineers, son Charles christened in SP 4 Feb1917 (1911), b SP, 21, plate layer.  ER 1919: Booberry, WR 256742 Cpl 275th Rly Co RE.

 B SP 1890**,** Corporal, Royal Engineers, Service No. 175210 then corporal in Railways unit 256742, as acting sergeant.

**Albert Searle** (1911), b Liverton, 38, farm cowman.  Probably too old. No military record found. Maybe

**Henry James Searle** (1911), b Exeter, 26, book keeper / clerk at butter factory. Inconclusive

**Albert Selway** (on leave from trenches Aug 1917)(np) (1911), b Uffculme, 27, general labourer. Born Uffculme 1884 (parents James and Eliza). Married Florence Bristow 1913 (reg. Tiverton). No military record found. Maybe 2347 in RASC, went to France 1914

**Francis George Selway** signaller in Royal Dublin Fusiliers, missing.  May 1918.  Parents in Mount View, Bolhill, SP. ER 1919 Wink Cottage.

findmypast records a Francis G. Selway, birthplace and residence Sidwell, Devon, a private (service number 19440) in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, killed in action in 'France and Flanders' on 21st March 1918. Effects & £29.10.7 went to his father Samuel. CWGC says commemorated at Pozieres memorial. Parents Samuel and Eliza lived in Wink Cottage, SP (Electoral Roll 1918 – 1921)

**Henry Alfred Shapland** (1911), b Kingsnympton, 39, domestic coachman. Aged 42 at start of War. No military record found.

**Josiah Shelmerdine** (StB), Army Dec 1915, Dec 1916.  Probably the one born in 1899, in Stockport workhouse in 1901.Was in Liverpool Regiment Service No. 62624 Private, Labour Corps  5468 Private, and Worcestershire Regiment  74953 Private.

**William Sheppard** (StB), 3rd Devons Dec 1915, Dec 1916. Numerous 'candidates' – none conclusive

**William Robert Skinner** army, married 2 Apr 1916 (PR). He was from Sidmouth, not Sampford Peverell, but married a Sampford girl (Ida Hurford) who in 1911 was a parlourmaid in a Sidmouth household.  He was a private with 4th Devons and 7th Worcs, served with the BEF in France and was invalided out (with 'trench foot' in October 1917.  He didn't fully recover and died in 1919.

**Edmund Cousins Smith** (1911), b Burlescombe, 24, farm assistant to father. Inconclusive

**Ernest James Smith** ER 1919: Wink Cottage, 468927 Pte 697th Agric Co.  Military record not found.

**Wilfred Newton Smith** In ER 1920S absent voters but no military info: Cross Hill Cottages.  In Cross Hill SP in 1911 with family – his father was a head teacher.  He stayed in SP till 1928, when he married, and moved to Tiverton.

**William Smith** (1911), b Halberton, 16, farm labourer.  Not enough info to find.

**William Henry Smith** (1911), b Wellington, 27, farm assistant to father.  Inconclusive

**Charles Soley** (1911), b London, 15, farm servant. 1911 was in SP as farm servant for Tom Disney Great Landside farm, born London 1896.  Possibly 553529 London Regiment, or Charles Sydney Soley 196187 RHA gunner.  Or Charles Thomas Soley 118292 Labour Corps from Ealing Common.

**William Stacey** (1911), West? Essex, 12, school inmate.  Inconclusive.

**Horton George Stamp** (1911), b Bishopsteignton, 13, school inmate. (StB), Wessex Regt Dec 1915, Dec 1916. Private (464050) Royal Army Medical Corps, enlisted 1915.   Numerous documents on findmypast relating to the issue of a Silver War Badge (not valid because the soldier had died – 21.5.1920 –  before the badge was applied for) and the subsequent correspondence about it with his sister.

**Frederick Stanford** (1911), b Orpington, 14, indoor servant & school inmate. (HC: b 7 Feb 1897, left for Canada 1 Jun 1911 with other St B boys.  No definite military record found.

**John Stevens** army, (fmp).  Joined army in 1880 so not WW1 - ignore

**Tom Stevens** army, (fmp). Military record on FMP.  Joined Royal Army Medical Corps in June 1918.  Was 45 yrs 10 months old, lived in Putney, worked as milk carrier.  Born Sampford Peverell 22 Aug 1872, bap SP 23 Nov 1872.  1881 census with family in Higher Town with parents William and Maria. 1901 in Paddington with his sister working as milk carrier.  1911 in Wandsworth with wife Kate and 3 children.

**J Sweet** Mentioned in newspaper report.Not enough info to trace