

## *David Alfred Ball*

Corporal, King's Royal Rifle Corps. Enlisted at Bridgend, January, 1915. Served with 13th Battalion K.R.R.C. Fought at Loos and the Somme. Killed in action September 12th, 1918. Buried at Terescault Military Cemetery [*sic*]. 1914-15 Star, General Service and Victory Medals.



DAVID ALFRED BALL was born in 1891 in Corsham. His father John was the town blacksmith, and lived on Station Road. John and his wife, Sarah Jane (née Rudman) already had four boys, Thomas, William, John Morgan and George. By 1901 two sons, William and John, were employed in the family business – William as a blacksmith and John as a wheelwright. There was another brother Edwin and a sister Florence, who in 1901 was living next door to the family home with her grandparents, Thomas and Mary Rudman. The 1911 census confirms that John and Sarah had a total of nine children – seven survived beyond childhood. It seems that David had moved away and was a coal miner (hewer) in Herefordshire before he enlisted in the Army in 1915.

The Medal Rolls Index and *War Records of Corsham* confirm that David joined the Kings Royal Rifle Corps as a Private and served in France, surviving the Battles of Loos and the Somme. He was reported as killed in action on 12th September 1918. He was 27 years old. Contrary to the above, he is buried in the British Cemetery in Villers-Plouich.

Five of David's brothers served during the war. His elder brother George was killed in action in March 1918.