

## *Oscar Bush*

Gunner, Royal Field Artillery (Reservist). Called up August, 1914. Killed in action near Poperinghe, November, 1914. Mons Star, General Service and Victory Medals.



OSCAR BUSH WAS born in Biddestone in 1887, the youngest child of Joseph and Emma Bush, who already had three daughters, Mary, Clara and Miriam. In 1891 the family were living in Yatton Keynell, where Joseph was an agricultural labourer, but by 1901 they were back in Biddestone, with Oscar, then aged 14, the only child left at home. Joseph was a general farm labourer and Emma was working as a rag sorter at the paper mill.

Oscar enlisted at the age of 18 years and 7 months in March 1906. His service record shows that he was only



*Oscar Bush's last resting place, at Poperinghe cemetery.*

## CORSHAM COMMEMORATES

5 feet 3 inches tall. He married Annie Strong in Windsor in March 1912 and they had two children, Phyllis and Maurice, before he was deployed to France at the start of the war. Both children were baptised in Biddestone.

Oscar was a Driver in the 54th Battery of the Royal Field Artillery and had been in theatre since 18th August 1914, as part of the British Expeditionary Force, when on 11th November 1914 he received a gunshot wound to the chest in service near Poperinghe in West Flanders. He died in a military hospital on 12th November 1914 and is buried in the new cemetery in Poperinghe.

The *Wiltshire Times* reported that he had been in the employ of Lord Islington in the gardens at Hartham Park prior to the war. His son Maurice was less than a year old when Oscar died. Some time after his death the local constabulary was involved in tracing his wife Annie, because the Ministry needed to send on his war medals – she was eventually found in Huddersfield.