

Wilfred Baker

Private, Wiltshire Regiment. Enlisted September, 1914. Prisoner of war, April, 1918. Died in hospital after Armistice. 1914-15 Star, General Service and Victory Medals.



WILFRED BAKER WAS born in Biddestone in 1894; his parents were Arthur and Mary Jane (née Brown). Arthur was a Biddestone man and was working as an agricultural labourer when Wilfred was born, but died before his son was two years old. Mary then married George Woodman, himself a widower, who lived next door to the Bakers on the High Street in Biddestone. George Woodman was a waggoner at a timber yard. In 1901 Wilfred, aged six, was living in Biddestone with his mother and stepfather, his sister Florence and half-brother William Woodman. He had one other elder sister, Ethel.

By 1911, Wilfred, aged 16, had left school and was a garden labourer. He enlisted for the Army at the start of the war and was a Private in the Wiltshire Regiment, serving in France in April 1915. *War Records of Corsham* details that he was taken as a prisoner of war and then died in hospital. This is borne out by his service and burial details, which confirm his death on 23rd October 1918, and a grave and headstone in Cologne Southern Cemetery. He was 24 years old.

Wilfred is named on the Corsham War Memorial although no clear and direct link with Corsham has been established.