

## *William Oliver*

Private, 12th Battalion Gloucester Regiment. Enlisted May 22nd, 1915. Went to France November 22nd, 1915. Was wounded at the Battle of Guillemont, September 5th, 1916. Present at Delville Wood. Went to Italy early in 1917, and returned to France for the "Big Push". Home on leave, September, 1918; returned to France September 14th, 1918, and shortly afterwards was transferred to 1st Devons, as his own regiment was cut up rather badly. While acting as servant to the chaplain of the 1st Devons he was killed near Cambrai, on November 7th, 1918. Awarded 1915 Star and General Service Medal.



WILLIAM OLIVER was born in Corsham in 1893; his parents were William and Jane Oliver. William was a GWR signalman originally from Calstone near Calne. The family lived in Hastings Road in Corsham and had three older children, Emily, Frederick and James, before William and then his younger sister Mary were born. William's father died in 1898 aged only 49, but the family managed to stay in Hastings Road as Jane worked as a laundress and her elder sons Fred and James were both working as stone quarry labourers. In 1911, and still living in Hastings Road, William was employed as a domestic gardener and Mary was a charwoman. Unfortunately Jane died in 1914, before the start of the war.

When William enlisted for the Army in May 1915 he gave Box as his place of residence. *War Records of Corsham* details

## CORSHAM COMMEMORATES

William's service history, which saw him originally with the Gloucester Regiment in France in November 1915 and wounded at the Battle of Guillemont before his regiment was transferred to Italy and then back to France. He was subsequently transferred to the 1st Devon Regiment where, as servant to the chaplain of the regiment, he was killed in action on 7th November 1918. He was 25 years old. William is buried at the Pont-sur-Sambre Communal Cemetery, Nord, France.



*William Oliver's headstone in France.*