

### **Private William Vittles**

William, the son of George and Thirza Vittles, was born on 6 November 1878, and baptised on Christmas Day in the Parish Church at Shobrooke, just north of Crediton.

He married Emily Selley at Dawlish Parish Church on 15 June 1901, and worked as a carter on a farm in the Dawlish area. Later the family moved to Leigh Cottages at Silverton, where William worked as a carter on Leigh Barton Farm.

William enlisted in the 8th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment at Exeter, and the battalion travelled to France in August 1915, and fought in the Battles of Loos and the lengthy Battle of the Somme.

Private 24778 William Vittles died on 15 February 1917 in the field of battle, however his death was not caused by injuries received but from pleurisy.

He is buried in the Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, and is remembered on the memorial at Silverton.

**Contributor Graham Parnell**