

**W A Morris** Lce. Corpl. Kings Royal Rifles. <sup>1</sup>

William Morris d. 27 Jul 1917 age 37 at the Somme. <sup>2</sup> [Note: this makes his year of birth c1880.]

1880 Birth of **William Alfred A Morris** registered Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. <sup>3</sup>

1880 **William Alfred Ambrose Morris** bap. 1 Aug 1880 at St Peter's Church, Freshford; father James Morris occupation Butcher, mother Eliza Greenhill, abode Freshford. <sup>4</sup>

1881 Census shows James Morris Head Mar. age 42 Butcher b. Christian Malford, Wilts, living at House and Shop Butchers, High Street, Freshford with wife Eliza G age 37 (?32) b. Freshford, Somerset and children Mary L J age 10 Scholar b. Freshford, Somerset, Thomas A age 5 Scholar b. Freshford, Somerset, Gertrude S Morris age 3 b. Freshford, Somerset, **William A A** age 9 Mo. b. Freshford, Somerset, also Sophie A Morris sister unm. age 46 Governess b. Christian Malford, Wilts, and servants Laura Dunsden unm. age 13 Domestic Servant b. Hinton Charterhouse, Somerset, and John Russel unm. age 26 Butcher & Slaughterman b. Monkton Combe, Somerset. <sup>5</sup>

1891 Census shows James Morris Head m. age 52 Post Master & Grocer b. Christian Malford, Wilts living at High Street, Freshford, with wife Eliza G age 47 b. Freshford, Somerset and children Mary J s. age 20 b. Freshford, Somerset, **William A A** age 10 Scholar b. Freshford, Somerset, and assistant Ellen Pearce s. age 35 Telegraphist, Living on Own Means b. Freshford, Somerset. also Sophie A Morris sister s. age 58 b. Christian Malford, Wilts. <sup>6</sup>

1901 Census shows James Morris Head m. age 62 Post Master, employer, b. Christian Malford, Wiltshire living at High Street, Freshford, Somerset with wife Eliza G age 57 Baker & Grocer b. Freshford, Somerset and children Mary L J s. age 29 Organist b. Freshford, Somerset, Thomas A s age 24 Baker & Grocer b. Freshford, Somerset, **William A** age 20 Postal Clerk b. Freshford, Somerset, and brother-in-law Arthur L Watts age 65 s. Living on Own Means, b. Freshford, Somerset. <sup>7</sup>

1911 Census shows James Morris age 72 Baker, Grocer & Post Master b. Christian Malford, Wilts living at High Street, Freshford, Bath, Somerset, Employer at Home, Freshford, Bath (Nine Rooms), with wife Eliza G age 67 married 41 years (4 children born alive, 4 children still living) Assisting in the business, children Thomas Arthur Morris age 34 single Assisting in the business b. Freshford, Somerset, **William Alfred Ambrose Morris** age 30 single Assisting in the business b. Freshford, Somerset and servant Ellen Eliza Humphries age 24 single General Servant (Domestic) b. Hinton Charterhouse, Somerset. <sup>8</sup>

### ***Morris & Watts Families***

1861 Census shows **Thomas Watts** head age 57 Post Master & Grocer b. Freshford, Somerset living at Freshford with wife **Jane** age 52 Grocer Wife b. Farley, Somerset children Arthur L age 25 Baker, Catherine I age 22, George H age 20, Butcher, **Eliza G** age 17, and Henry S age 10 all un b. Freshford, Somerset and servant Ellen [illeg] age 16 House Maid b. Norton, Somerset. <sup>9</sup>

1866 On 20 Mar 1866 will of **Thomas Watts** late of Freshford in the County of Somerset Grocer and Baker who died 29 September 1864 at Monkton Combe near Freshford was proved at Wells region the oath of **Jane Watts** of Freshford aforesaid Widow the Relict the sole Executrix. Personal Estate under £2,000. <sup>10</sup>

1871 Census shows **James Morris** Head Mar. age 32 Butcher Master b. Christian Malford, Wiltshire, living at High Street, Freshford with wife **Eliza G** age 32 Butcher's Wife employing Boy b. Freshford, Somerset sister Sophia A Morris unm. age 36 Assistant b. Christian Malford, Wilts, and daughter Mary L J age 1mo Scholar b. Freshford, Somerset, also John Russell unm. age 16 Errand Boy b. Monkton Combe, Somerset. <sup>11</sup>

1871 Census shows **Jane Watts** head Unm age 42 Baker Grocer employing 1 man & 1 boy b. Farleigh Castle, Somerset living at High Street, Freshford with son Arthur L unm age 35 Baker b. Freshford Somerset and

servant Ellen Pearce unem age 16 Employed in Telegraph Business b. Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. <sup>12</sup>

1871 Census shows John G Watts head age 36 Farmer Out Of Business b. Freshford, Somerset living at High Street, Freshford with wife Carthaine J age 32 Farmer's Wife b. Freshford, Somerset children George age 6, Kate E age 3 and Charles E age 1 all b. Westwood, Wiltshire and servant Eliza Cottle unem age 16 General Servant b. Westwood, Wiltshire. <sup>13</sup>

1881 Census shows **Jane Watts** head W age 72 Postmistress and Grocer b. Farleigh Castle, Somerset living at High Street, Freshford with sons William unem age 49 Baker and Arthur unem age 45 Postman both b. Freshford, Somerset, assistant Ellen Pearce unem age 26 Telegraphist Civil Servant b. Bradford, Wilts and servant Rose Dunsden age 16 General Servant Domestic b. Hinton Charterhouse. <sup>14</sup>

1883 Death of **Jane Watts** age 74 registered Bath. <sup>15</sup> Will with Codicil of **Jane Watts** late of Freshford in the County of Somerset widow who died 3 January 1883 at Freshford was proved at the Principal registry by Henry Wilkins of Bradford on Avon in the County of Wilts Brewer and Maltster and Maltster George Thomas Dike of Bathwick in the County of Somerset Coal Merchant. Personal Estate £2,207 15s 6d. <sup>16</sup>

1920 MORRIS James of the Post Office Freshford Somerset died 22 February 1920 Probate London 10 April to Gertrude Sophia Turner Stephenson widow. Effects £591 17s 7d. <sup>17</sup>

### **Great War 1914 - 1918**

1915 Attestation: Regimental No. 14521; Regiment: 5th Bn KRR **William Alfred Ambrose Morris**; b. abt. 1880; Age at enlistment: 35yrs 1month; Residence 10 Livingstone Mansions, West Kensington; Occupation: Grocer; Married: No; Document year: 1915; Signed 14 Jul 1915 at St. Paul's Churchyard. <sup>18</sup>

1915 Descriptive Report on Enlistment: **William Alfred Ambrose Morris** Age: 35 years 1 month; Height: 5 feet 7 1/4 inches; Chest measurement: Girth when fully expanded 38 inches, Range of expansion 3 inches. Distinctive marks: C [complexion] Sallow; Eyes Grey; H [hair] Brown; Long Scar from chest. Name and Address of next of kin: James Morris, Freshford Bath, Father. Statement of Services: Service towards limited engagement reckons from: 14.7.15; Joined on 15.7.15; KRR Home Rfn 14.7.15; KRR Posted Rfn 23.7.15; KRR Posted (BEF) Rfn 24.11.15; Appointed L Cpl 19.5.16; Killed in Action LCpl 27.7.16. B104 -93 [?] 4.9.16; B900 to PM 5.9.16; Total Service towards Engagement to 27.7.16 (date of death) 1 years 15 days. British [illeg] Medal, Victory Medal; 1914/15 Star. <sup>19</sup>

Initially posted to the 5th Bn based in Sheerness, **William Morris** transferred to the 1st Bn KRRC, part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in France, on 24 Nov 1915. The Bn, initially in 6th Brigade of 2nd Division, transferred to the 99th Brigade of this Division on 13 Dec immediately after he arrived. <sup>20</sup> The 2nd King's Royal Rifle Corps had just lost some 460 men in the battle of Loos in Sep 15. The Division then took part in the Somme battle of Delville Wood (15 Jul - 3 Sep) **Morris** being killed in action on 27 Jul. <sup>21</sup>

1915/16 Casualty Form - Active Service. Regiment or Corps: K.R.R. C; Regimental Number: R14521; Rank: Rfn; Name: **Morris William**; Enlisted: 14.7.15; Terms of Service: Duration of War; Reports:- From whom received: O.C. 1/K.R.R. Record: Appointed L/CPL (unpaid); Place: In the field; Date: 19.5.16 (B.213). Date: 31.7.16; From whom received: O.C. 1/K.R.R. Record: Killed in Action; Place: do.; Date: 27.7.16 (B.O). <sup>22</sup>

1915/16 Medical History of **Morris, William Alfred Ambrose**. General Table:- Birthplace: Freshford, Somerset Examined: on 14 Jun 1915. Declared age 35 1/2 years. Trade: grocer. Height: 5 feet 9 1/4 inches. Weight: 155lbs. Chest measurement: Girth when fully expanded: 38 inches, Range of Expansion: 3 inches. Physical Development: Good. Vision: R.E.-V=6/12, L.E- V=6/24. Marks: Large scar front chest. Tatoo 2 dots back left wrist. Slight defects: Slight cast left eye. Approved: *Gerald Fitzgerald MD* Medical Officer. Enlisted: St Paul's Churchyard on 14 Jul 1915. Joined on Enlistment 5th KRRC Reg No. R14521. Transferred to 1st K.R.R.C. Became non-effective by: Killed in Action C915 on 27th day of July 1916. Signature *A R Davies* Colonel i/c Rifle Records. <sup>23</sup>

1916 **Morris, William Alfred Ambrose**; Rank: Lance Corporal; Service No. R/14521; Date of death: 27/07/1916; Age: 37; Regiment: King's Royal Rifle Corps 1st Bn; Grave Reference: 9.F.48 Cemetery:

London Cemetery & Extension, Longueval, Somme <sup>24</sup>; Son of Mr & Mrs Morris of Freshford, Somerset. <sup>25</sup>

1916 Regiment: Kings Royal Rifles. L/Cpl [illeg.] Statement of the Names and Addresses of all the Relatives: Widow: none. Children: none. Father [blank]. Mother: Eliza G Morris; Post Office, Freshford, Bath. Brothers Full Blood. Thos Arthur Morris age 43, [same address]. Sisters: Mary Louisa Crook age 48, Airdrie Alberta Canada; Gertrude Sophia Stephenson age 41, Walton [house or cottage], Freshford, Bath. Declaration: I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier now living in the degree enquired for. *Eliza G Morris* Declarant, Relationship to the Soldier: *Mother*, Address: *Post office, Freshford, Bath*. I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by [blank] and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief. Dated at *Freshford* this *18th day of August 1919*. Signature of Minister or Magistrate: *J W Lewis*, Qualification *Clerk in Holy Orders*, Address: *Freshford, Bath*. <sup>26</sup>

1916 Personal Effects. Name [illeg.]; No. 14521; Rank: Rfl; Regiment: KRR; [Details of the effects are illegible]. <sup>27</sup>

1916 Memorandum for The Officer in charge of Rifle Records Winchester. WAR OFFICE Park Buildings, St James's Park, London, S.W. 23 November 1916. E/281128/1 (Accounts 4.) Will you please note that any articles of personal property now in your possession or subsequently received by you belonging to the late *No. R/14521 Lance-Corporal William Alfred Ambrose Morris, 1st Battallion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps* should be dispatched to:- *Mrs Eliza G Morris, Post Office, Freshford, Somerset*. Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your possession or that may hereafter reach you should be forwarded to:- *the same person*. [signed] *C Harris* Assistant Financial Secretary. <sup>28</sup>

1917 From *KRRRC (NA) Effects Dept, Winchester*. To *Mrs E G Morris, Post Office, Freshford, Somerset. Station Winchester*. Date *12.6.17*. Sir or Madam, I am directed to forward the undermentioned articles of private property of the late *No. R14521 LCpl Morris W A A 1st RRC*, and would ask that you kindly acknowledge receipt of the same on the form opposite:- *1 leather wallet cont. letters, 1 photo*. These are the only articles at present forthcoming, but should any further articles be received at any time they will be duly forwarded. Yours faithfully *S Quentin* Officer in Charge Records. -- *Freshford Bath June 18 1917*. SIR, I have to acknowledge receipt of articles as stated opposite. Yours faithfully, *E G Morris*. <sup>29</sup>

1920 From *Rifle Record Office, K.R.R. Corps, Winchester*. To: *Mrs E. G. Morris MADAM*, herewith Scroll Kindly acknowledge hereon. *H F Johnson Capt.* for Lieut. Col. Officer i/c Rifle Records. Received *E G Morris* [illeg.] 1920. *With my many thanks*. <sup>30</sup>

Rifle Record Office, K.R.R. Corps, Winchester. 23/2/ 1930 [sic]. Dear Madam:- The 1914-15 Star which would have been conferred upon **Rfn Morris W A A** is shortly to be issued. As you have been nominated in the recipient's will you [illeg.] underneath the address to which you require it and return the letter to the above address. The Star will be forwarded to you in due course. It will not be necessary to make application for it, but please keep us informed of any changes in your address, quoting the above [illeg.] number. I am your obedient servant [illeg.] for Lt-Col Officer i/c Rifle Records. *Mrs E Morris* Address: *Post Office, Freshford, Bath*. <sup>31</sup>

I hereby acknowlegde receipt of the 1914 15 Star granted in respect of the service of **R/14521 Rfn W A A Morris** K R Rif C. Signed *Eliz W*. <sup>32</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Plaque on Freshford Village war memorial sited on the village Tynning.

<sup>2</sup> Alan Dodge, *Freshford - History of a Somerset Village* (2000; reprint, Freshford Manor Bath Somerset: Freshford Publications, 2000) Page 150.

<sup>3</sup> England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983 for Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire for Jul-Aug-Sep 1880 Vol 5a Page 130.

<sup>4</sup> FreeREG <http://www.freereg.org.uk/> © 1998-2013 copyright by the Trustees of FreeBMD, Charity No.: 1096940. File 19108.

- <sup>5</sup> 1881 England Census RG11/2050, Bradford on Avon, Bradford South Eastern 16 Folio 100 Page 14 Schedule 51.
- <sup>6</sup> 1891 England Census RG12/1930 Bath, Twerton 16 Folio 135 Page 6 Schedule 23.
- <sup>7</sup> 1901 England Census RG13/2335, Bath, Twerton 20 Folio 148 Page 18 Schedule 136.
- <sup>8</sup> 1911 England & Wales Census RG14/14681 Bath, Twerton 18 Schedule 20.
- <sup>9</sup> 1861 England Census RG9/1298, Somerset, Freshford 16 Page 6 Schedule 34.
- <sup>10</sup> England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations),1861-1941 Ancestry.com for 1883 Page 197.
- <sup>11</sup> 1871 England Census RG10/1923, Bradford on Avon, Bradford South Eastern 16 Folio 10 Page 10 Schedule 50.
- <sup>12</sup> 1871 England Census RG10/1923, Bradford on Avon, Bradford South Eastern 16 Folio 10 Page 10 Schedule 48.
- <sup>13</sup> 1871 England Census RG10/1923, Bradford on Avon, Bradford South Eastern 16 Folio 10 Page 10 Schedule 49.
- <sup>14</sup> 1881 England Census RG11/2050, Bradford on Avon, Bradford South Eastern 16 Folio 100 Page 15 Schedule 53.
- <sup>15</sup> England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index: 1837-1983 for Bath for Jan-Feb-Mar 1883 Vol 5c Page 448.
- <sup>16</sup> England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations),1861-1941 Ancestry.com for 1883 Page 197.
- <sup>17</sup> England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations),1861-1941 Ancestry.com for 1920 Page 318.
- <sup>18</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920.: Army Form B 2505 Attestation Short Service for Duration of War.
- <sup>19</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920.: Descriptive Report on Enlistment etc.
- <sup>20</sup> The Long, Long Trail - The British Army in the Great War of 1914-1918. The Long, Long Trail is owned, designed, built and written by Chris Baker. <http://www.1914-1918.net/krrc.htm> The King's Royal Rifle Corps.
- <sup>21</sup> The Long, Long Trail - The British Army in the Great War of 1914-1918. The Long, Long Trail is owned, designed, built and written by Chris Baker. <http://www.1914-1918.net/2div.htm>. The 2nd Division.
- <sup>22</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920.: B. 103.1 Casualty Form - Active Service.
- <sup>23</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920.: Army Form B.178 Medical History.
- <sup>24</sup> Longueval is a village 40 kilometres north-east of Amiens and 12 kilometres east-north-east of Albert, a town on the D929 road from Amiens to Bapaume and Cambrai. High Wood was fiercely fought over during the Battle of the Somme until cleared by 47th (London) Division on 15 September 1916. It was lost during the German advance of April 1918, but retaken the following August. The original London Cemetery at High Wood was begun when 47 men of the 47th Division were buried in a large shell hole on 18 and 21 September 1916. Other burials were added later, mainly of officers and men of the 47th Division who died on 15 September 1916, and at the Armistice the cemetery contained 101 graves. The cemetery was then greatly enlarged when remains were brought in from the surrounding battlefields, but the original battlefield cemetery is preserved intact within the larger cemetery, now know as the London Cemetery and Extension. The cemetery, one of five in the immediate vicinity of Longueval which together contain more than 15,000 graves, is the third largest cemetery on the Somme with 3,873 First World War burials, 3,114 of them unidentified.
- <sup>25</sup> Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Details [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) 2946002.
- <sup>26</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920.: Army Form 5080 - Relatives.
- <sup>27</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920.: Army Form W. 3032 dated 22 Sep 1916.
- <sup>28</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920.:Effects- Form 118A dated 23 Novemeber 1916.
- <sup>29</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920. Army Form B. 104-126 Letter - Forwarded private property.
- <sup>30</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920.: Rifle Record Office letter A.Q. 2075.

<sup>31</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920.: Letter A.R./ Star/7950.

<sup>32</sup> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920.: Receipt.