



More than just a name...

Some of the possessions of **Wilfred Birchall** are still kept in his family after a century.

His work at Old Hall Farm meant he was in a 'Reserved Occupation' but a sense of duty prompted him to volunteer.

He joined the Gloucestershire Regiment which went to

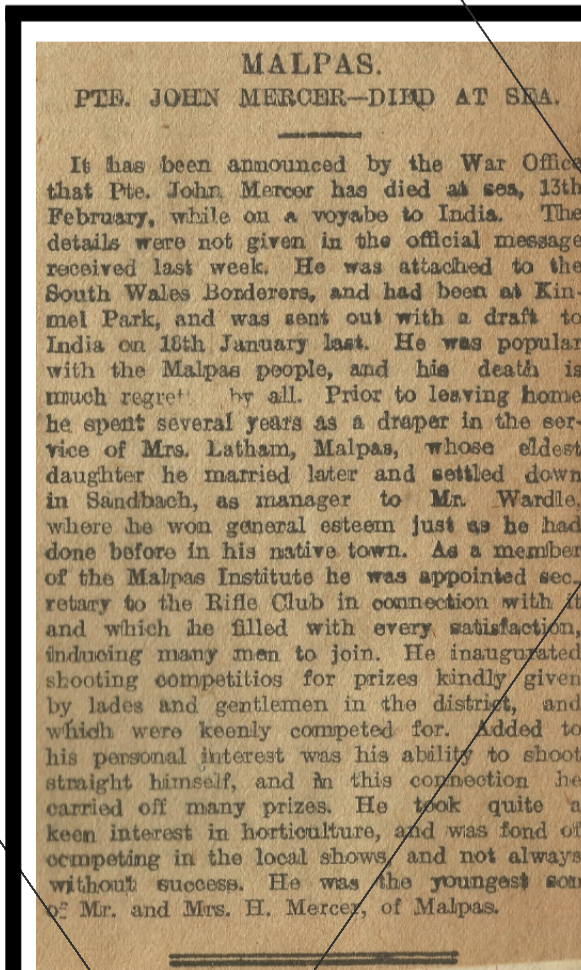
France in March 1916 and his death occurred two years later when it suffered heavy losses in the final German offensive of the war.

He was shot in the stomach and died from the wounds, leaving his wife Alice, their 12 year old son John and daughter Lucretia, aged 10.



Sidney Allen was killed in Flanders - as a stretcher-bearer carrying wounded comrades.

It happened in February 1916 to the 20 year old from Cross o'th' Hill. He was a farm worker at Low Cross Hill when he joined-up in September 1914.



This is how the news of the death of **John Mercer** was reported.

His wife, the former Lillian Lathom whose family had a draper's business at The Cross, was widowed after only 15 months.

The couple had married at St Oswald's in November 1915 and moved to Sandbach for him to begin a new job.