**ODDINGTON WORLD WAR 1 ARCHIVE**

**1915**

* Many had assumed that 'it will all be over by Christmas', but as the year turned, it became obvious that the conflict was going to be drawn-out. By October, women were being recruited to undertake traditional 'men's work' at home.
* On the Western Front the stalemate continued and although innovations were introduced to warfare - such as the use of poison gas by both sides at the second Battle of Ypres (April) - little was achieved.
* At sea, Britain used its superior fleet to impose a blockade on the German ports. Germany suffered shortages and, by the end of the war, food riots had occurred in a number of German towns.
* On 31 May, London witnessed its first attack from the air as bombs were dropped from the great German Zeppelin airships. During the course of the war, over 2,000 civilians were killed or injured as a result of such raids.

**WILFRED BRINKWORTH**

**Private, Gloucestershire Regiment. Born 1896. Died 18 February 1915.**

**Son of W E Brinkworth, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham. Living in Oddington in 1911. Related by marriage to the Gorton family.**

**Buried at Lille Communal Cemetery, Belgium.**

**WILLIAM BARRETT**

**Rifle brigade (The Prince Consort’s Own). Born: 1888. Killed in action 14 May 1915.  Son of Laura Smith by her first marriage. Step son to William Smith. Lived in Lower Oddington. At time of call up in 1914 he was baker living in Yardley**

**Buried at Ypres and commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.**

*CHELTENHAM CHRONICLE 8 MAY 1915*

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| Pte Ephraim Miles of Oddington has been wounded in the right shoulder, and is at present in hospital at the Town Hall, Oxford. Pte W Radburn of Broadwell has also been wounded and is in hospital at Bury St Edmunds. It is something of a coincidence that Ptes Miles and Radburn should have enlisted at just about the same time, gone out about the same time, and have been wounded within two or three days of each other. They are also both in the 2nd Gloucesters. |

*CHELTENHAM CHRONICLE 15 MAY 191*5

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| Pvt Hubert Hodson (OC). News has been received that in the gallant fight which the Canadians put up against the treacherous enemy a few days ago, Pvt Hubert Bernard Hodson of Princess Pat’s Infantry, lost his life. Pvt Hodson was the son of Rev Thomas Hodson now rector of Oddington and of Mrs Hodson. He was educated at Cheltenham College and was in his 24th year. Two of his brothers are with the Forces one an officer in the Navy and the other an officer in the 7th Gloucesters. |

*CHELTENHAM CHRONICLE 15 NOVEMBER 1915*

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| Recruitment in Stow District  Recent enlistments in the Stow District are:… Joseph E Webb (Oddington) RGA, Alfred Phillips (Oddington) RFA, Arthur F Williams (Oddington) RFA. |

*CHELTENHAM CHRONICLE 8 MAY 1915*

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| Capt Dudley Johnson DSO 2nd Battalion South Wales Borderers, of Fern Bank Oddington, who is reported wounded from the Mediterranean, won his decoration for his gallant behaviour at Tsingtau on the night of Nov 5. He showed conspicuous ability during the operations against the German positions there, and exhibited great gallantry in the rescuing several wounded men, although he was exposed to heavy fire from machine guns, Captain Johnson, who was born in 1881 was gazetted to his present regiment from the Militia in 1903. One of his brothers Lieut Mervyn T Johnson also from the South Wales Borderers, died from wounds received in the battle of Aiane last September. Another brother is the popular adjutant of the 5th Gloucesters. |