

**ST JAMES CHURCH TAUNTON**  
**WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIAL PROJECT**

# **William Bale**



William Bale's grave in Romeries, France

**Name:** William Bale

**Rank:** Private

**Service Number:** 20540

**Regiment:** Somerset Light Infantry

**Battalion/Unit number:** 8th Battalion

**Date/year of Birth:** c.1893

**Place of Birth:** ?

**Place of Residence:** 7 York Terrace, Taunton

**Date of Death:** 10th October 1918

**Place of Death:** France

**Burial/Memorial:** Romeries Communal Extension Cemetery

In 1901 William was living at 7 York Terrace with his father Edward (a postman), mother Rose Ellen, sister Alice and brother Henry. Henry was a Lance Corporal in the Royal Fusiliers and survived the war. In 1911 the family were at the same address but Alice and Henry had moved out. William worked as a clerk in an insurance office and in 1913 he married Minnie Morrell Brice. The couple would go on to have two children.

As part of the 8th Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry, William would have been attached to the 37th Division fighting in France. During the closing phases of the war the 37th Division was involved in an action called the Pursuit to the Selle, which took place from 9th to 12th October as the British Army pushed East from Cambrai. It was on 10th October, described by one diarist as a "cold, damp, misty day" that William was killed.