

*Bradford-on-Avon*  
*Boer War and World War Biographies*

**Gilbert Burton – 1877-1922**



Gilbert Burton

Gilbert Burton was born in Church Lane, Bradford-on-Avon on 6 April 1877, the son of George and Emily Burton.

In 1891 he was 14 and lived at Wine Street, Bradford-on-Avon with his parents and five younger brothers and sisters. At this time he was a cloth worker.

Later, a waiter by occupation and a member of the 1st Wiltshire Rifle Volunteer Corps, he enlisted into the Wiltshire Regiment at Devizes on 24 November 1899, aged 19 years, 8 months. As a Private in the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, Burton served in the Boer War and was awarded the Queen's medal with three clasps and the King's with two. He then served in India, being transferred to the Army Reserve in November 1911.

In civilian life he returned to live and work in Bradford-on-Avon.

With the outbreak of WWI he returned to the Colours, rejoining his old regiment and with them he entered the France/Flanders theatre of war on 7 October 1914. The regiment was heavily involved in the 1st Battle of Ypres and on 22 October 1914 Burton was seriously wounded which resulted in the amputation of his left leg and severe chest wounds. He was discharged from the Army in February as being no longer fit for military duties.

For his services he was awarded the 1914 Star with clasp trio, the Silver War Badge and a tribute medal from his home town.

Having overcome his physical difficulties, in November 1918 Burton was appointed a member of the Corps of Commissionaires and was attached to a large printing house in Bedford Street, Strand, London. He was employed as such until November 1921 when he was taken ill.

Returning to Bradford-on-Avon he died of bronchial pneumonia on 22 April 1922, aged 45.

**Source: Medal Catalogue, 2014 and Census Information**