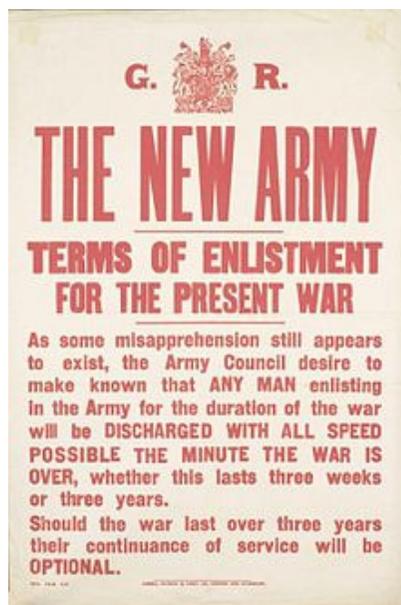


KITCHENER'S NEW ARMY

Contrary to the popular belief that the war would be over by Christmas 1914, Kitchener predicted a long and brutal war and he believed that an overwhelming force of new, well-trained and well-led British divisions would prove a decisive blow against the Central Powers. Kitchener fought off opposition to his plan, and attempts to weaken its potential, including piece-meal dispersal of the New Army battalions into existing regular or Territorial Force divisions. Kitchener declined to use the existing Territorial Force as the basis for the New Army, as many of its members had volunteered for "Home Service" only, and because he was suspicious of the poor performance of French "territorials".



Because of the huge numbers of men wishing to sign up, in places queues up to a mile long formed outside recruitment offices. There were many problems in equipping and providing shelter for the new recruits. Rapidly the Government added many new recruitment centres, which eased the admissions burden, and began a programme of temporary construction at the main training camps. Almost 2.5 million men volunteered for Kitchener's Army. of volunteer recruits,

Those recruited into the New Army were used to form complete Battalions which included the famous Pals' Battalions under existing British Army Regiments. The first New Army divisions were used at the Battle of Loos in the autumn of 1915, and they were sorely tested in the Battle of the Somme. The initial BEF—a single army of five regular divisions in August 1914, two armies comprising 16 divisions by the end of the 1914 when the Territorials had been deployed—had grown to five armies totalling around 60 divisions in strength by the summer of 1916, approximately 2 million men, of whom around half were infantry (the rest were gun crews, supply and logistics men etc.).

Churches Together in Dawlish and District

Dawlish Town Council

COMMEMORATING THE DEATH OF GERALD EASTERBROOK RUNDELL

Born: Spring 1894, Tiverton Died 23 March 1916, Wareham
aged 21



**9th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry
who died of tuberculosis while in training on
23rd MARCH 1916**



Dawlish World War One Project 1914-1918 / 2014-2018
Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Dawlish Town Council



Welcome to this Act of Commemoration.

Dawlish Town Council and Churches Together in Dawlish and District are commemorating the death in the service of the nation of every Dawlish person who was killed as a result of enemy action during the First World War.

Today we remember the death of Gerald Easterbrook Rundell who volunteered for action but died on 23rd March 1916 of pneumonia before his basic training was completed.

After the First World War, it was decided that a single town War Memorial would be erected close to the parish church, and no church would have its own War Memorial. In keeping with this decision, these Acts of Commemoration take place in the town centre churches without regard to the denomination of the person they commemorate and they are led by the minister or pastor of the host church. The same Order of Service is used at each service.

There will be opportunity to talk to the leader of the service afterwards when light refreshments will be served.

Please join in the words which are in heavy type

You are invited to take a reproduction of John's Gospel which was given to every service person during the First World War. Light refreshments will be available after the service.

Churches Together in Dawlish & District
28 High Street, Dawlish, EX7 9HP

GERALD RUNDELL

Gerald was born in Tiverton though his father was born in Walsall and he moved with his mother to 52 Fore Street, Tiverton by 1871. In 1892 he married Winifred Mary J Rundell (1861-1926) of Portsmouth, Hants, and he was in business as an ironmonger still living in Tiverton when Gerald was born. By 1911 James had retired and the family were living at 3 Sea Lawn Terrace, Exeter Road, Dawlish and Gerald was then described as "Student". He is likely to have finished his school days in Tiverton.

The account of his death in the *Western Times* of 28 March 1916 shows that Gerald Rundell had been working as a bank clerk in Warminster before he enlisted. He appears to have enlisted at Yeovil, Somerset, some time in January 1916 and he was attached to the 9th Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry. This was one of the battalions of Kitchener's New Army of volunteers and it was in training before being sent to one of the theatres of war.

The *Western Times* account shows that Gerald had been in the army about eight weeks, and had been ill for some days. On March 16th he reported sick and the Medical Officer attended him at his hut. However, he "did not keep to his bed, and after three or four days looked brighter". RAMC evidence to the inquest showed that "the deceased was in a state of collapse on Thursday last." He was treated and placed in an ambulance for the military hospital at Wareham" but he died on the way to hospital.

"Lieut Chas Salkfield, MB, BS, RAMC describing the result of a post mortem examination that he had made, said that the body was emaciated, and he attributed death to tuberculosis of the lungs, with an attack of acute tubercular broncho-pneumonia. A verdict of "natural causes" was returned.

The *UK Register of Soldiers' Effects* reveals that his father was not paid a War Gratuity because it was "not admissible under six months service".

Gerald was buried in Dawlish Cemetery on Thursday 30th March, 1916.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.
AMEN.**

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the Queen,
the Commonwealth and all the world
peace and concord:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

Amen.

Introduction

We have gathered today as part of our commemoration of those Dawlish people who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the First World War.

We remember those who were killed in action,

those who were maimed and those whose minds were disfigured by conflict,

the bereaved and the lost and those who lived in darkness,

the families which were shattered,

and all who held in silence the unspeakable memories of warfare.

In particular today on the 100th anniversary of his death we remember Gerald Rundell who died while in training to serve his country.

Prayer

**Almighty God, the Lord of all,
today we pause to remember with gratitude
the life and death of Gerald Rundell
knowing that he was, is and always will be
known and loved by you.**

**We thank you for his willingness to fight for our country
even if necessary to the point of death.**

**And today we remember his family and friends
who grieved at his death
and whose lives were never the same.**

Amen.

We hear about the life and death of Gerald Rundell

Reading Romans 8:31-39

What, then, shall we say? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

please stand

A prayer of Commemoration

We remember before God Gerald Rundell

Lord, have mercy

Today we commit Gerald Rundell to the love of God

We give thanks for his life, and grieve at his death

May he rest in peace

and rise in glory.

He shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

age shall not weary him, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

we will remember him.

We will remember him.

A candle may be lit or a bouquet may be placed before the pieta.

A time of silence

We remain standing

The Commitment to all those who died in the service of the nation.

Lord God, Father of all,

in thankfulness for Gerald Rundell

and in his memory

we pledge ourselves

to bring comfort to the sad, the lonely and the distressed;

to bring relief to all who are in need

and to serve you and to work for peace.

Keep us ever mindful of the struggles

and achievements of former generations

and so make us grateful

now and in the days to come. Amen

O Lord, our maker and our strength,

from whose love in Christ we can never be parted

either by death or life:

Look in mercy on those for whom we pray this day,

and grant us your protection and peace,

that we may be saved in body and soul,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

As we ask for deliverance from the forces of destruction

and for peace in our time and in our lives

we pray together: