

Bertram Charles HONOUR

Born Holcombe, Q4, 1890
Private 4170

Died 18 November 1916, aged 26
Devonshire Regiment, 2nd/4th Battalion

Bertram Charles Honour was a grand child of Henry Honour (1794-1888) (a Chelsea Pensioner, born in St Albans) who married Mary Spiers(1819-), born in Scotland, and they came to live in Holcombe village, near Dawlish.

They had six children, Robert H (1846-), Agnes (1848-1911), Thomas (1850-1929), Charles J (1854-), Charlotte (1856-) and Caroline (1860-).

We are interested in Thomas Alexander Honour who was born in Plymouth in the October/December quarter of 1850. His parents, Henry and Mary, were living then at the rear of 19 Lower Batter Street, St Andrew's, Plymouth.

They moved to Holcombe village ca 1853, to judge by the places of birth of the last three children.

In the 1871 census return Henry states that he was a pensioner of the 53rd Regiment in Chelsea, that his wife was a needlework seamstress and that the sons Thomas and Charles were sailors.

Thomas Honour appears in various documents as Thomas Alexander, Thomas Charles and Thomas H Honour, but these may be transcription errors, or that Charles was also Thomas Charles.

By 1881 only two children were still living at home, Charlotte, 24, unmarried and Charles, 26, a "mariner."

Henry and Mary Honour's cottage was close to that of Charles Abraham Ware Jarman and Agnes Ann (Honour), their eldest daughter. Charles and Agnes had a large family of eleven children, one of whom, Charlotte Jarman (1875-), married Frederick Bright. By this marriage, the large local Jarman family made relationships between the Honour, Kerswell and Bright families.

Unlike many 19th century families, the Bright parents had two sons only and they were both killed in the Great War. This experience was equally the case for Thomas Alexander and Emily Drusilla Honour wiping out their family name in cruel tragedy.(See individual entries in the A-Z index)

Thomas Alexander Honour married Emily Drusilla Jarman (1847-1916) in Holcombe in the July/September quarter of 1883.

Bertram Charles Honour was the first son of Thomas and Emily, being born in Holcombe in the October/December quarter of 1890.

His brother, Reginald Alexander Honour, was born on the 26th June 1894. *(see his death record on 17 October 1918)*

Thomas was still shown as a sailor in the 1901 census at the age of 49 while the boys were scholars. In 1911 the rural life of Holcombe has attracted Thomas as a "farm labourer" and both the boys are "gardeners". The *Dawlish Gazette* reported that he was "gardener at Derncleugh, Holcombe."

Emily Drusilla Honour died in the April/June quarter of 1916, just months before **Bertram**. There are no surviving Service Records for him beyond a British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Card that shows he was awarded a British War Medal.

From other sources we can see the movements of the **2/4th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment**. It was formed at Exeter in September 1914 as a Second Line battalion;

became part of 2nd Devon and Cornwall Brigade, 2nd Wessex Division.

12 December 1914 : sailed for India and came under orders of the Southern Brigade, 9th (Secunderabad) Division. (www.longlongtrail) from January 1915 to October 1917 when they sailed for Egypt (The Regimental Warpath 1914-1918).

The **9th (Secunderabad) Division** was an infantry division formation of the British Indian Army. It was part of the Southern Army and was formed in 1904 after Lord Kitchener was appointed Commander-in-Chief, India between 1902 and 1909.

The Division remained in India on internal security duties during World War I, but some of its brigades were transferred to serve with other units. (Wikipedia)

Bertram Charles Honour's records refer to "died" rather than killed in action and it appears that he succumbed to fever, as reported by the Dawlish Gazette.

His Death Grant of £12.8s.4d and the War Gratuity of £10.8s.4d were paid to his father, Thomas. On his death on 3 November 1929, Thomas Alexander Honour left £284.9s.8d to Charlotte Discombe, his sister, who had married Frederick Richard Discombe in 1888.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: HONOUR, BERTRAM CHARLES Private 4170
18/11/1916 Age: 26 Devonshire Regiment, 2nd/4th Bn.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Honour, of Holcombe, Dawlish, Devon. Buried in St. Thomas' Mount Church Cemetery.

Panel Ref: Face 9. Madras 1914-1918 War Memorial, Chennai. Madras War Cemetery is about 5 kilometres from the airport and 14 kilometres from the central railway station. The cemetery can easily be located on the right hand side of the road 1 kilometre from St. Thomas Mount.

It is not known if there is a record in the Devon Roll of Honour for Holcombe.
B.C.Honour is listed on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.

Holcombe War memorial inscription, located on the west face of St George's, Holcombe:
Pte Bertram C Honour 2nd/4th Devons

The Devon Heritage site does not have information about those listed at Holcombe St George's Church memorial.

Last known address: Holcombe, Dawlish

Next of kin: Father, Thomas Alexander Honour

References:

Free BMD records

Honour family records

Refs via subscription site (Ancestry.com)

Census records from 1851 to 1911

International Find a Grave Index

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War

British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Card

National Probate Calendar

MaureenSmale family tree (Ancestry)

Dawlish World War One Project

HONOUR B C text

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