

Leonard Charles DALLMAN

Born Mamhead, Q3, 1896
Sergeant Gunner 54450

Died Salonika, Greece, 6 December 1918, aged 22
Royal Field Artillery, "A" Battery, 113/115 Brigade

Leonard Charles Dallman was the second child of Leonard John Dallman (1861-1931) and Lucy Ann Holder (1871-). They were married in 1892 in Surrey (GRO ref 1892, June, Kingston, vol 2a, p 630). They had four children:

Lily May,	dau, (1895-)	born in	Richmond, Surrey
Charlie	son, (1896-1918)		Mamhead
Nellie	dau, (1898-1985)		"
Gertrude	dau, (1902-)		Dawlish

Leonard Charles Dallman appears to have been known as Charlie from an early age. His grandfather, Henry Dallman (1824-) was working as a Groom in 1871 when he and his wife Elizabeth (1826-) lived at Pawsons Road, Croydon, Surrey with six children.

Leonard John Dallman was born in Kent at Keston, near West Wickham (GRO ref 1861, Apr-Jun, Bromley, vol 2a, p 260) and worked as a gardener, an occupation which was passed on to his son.

Charlie was born at Mamhead (GRO ref 1896, Jul-Sep, St Thomas, vol 5b, p 69) but the family came to live at 3 Frederick Cottages in Dawlish ca. 1901.

Charlie must have joined the army early in the War as he was awarded the 1914-1915 Star, as well as the Victory Medal and the British War Medal, suggesting that he joined when he was 18. He progressed to the rank of Sergeant at the age of 22 when he died.

Leonard Dallman is described in some records as being with "A" Battery, 113th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery (RFA).

This brigade was originally comprised of A, B, C and D (Howitzer) Batteries RFA and the Brigade Ammunition Column. It was placed under command of the 25th Division. The batteries were all armed with four 4.5-inch howitzers.

On 31 May 1916 the brigade was reorganised. A, C and D (Howitzer) Batteries all left and became the D (Howitzer) Batteries of 110,111 and 112 Brigades respectively. They were replaced by the D Batteries (field gun units) from those brigades.

110th Bde. RFA was raised to support the 25th Division, and moved to France on 25th September 1915. The Division was engaged during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

In early 1917 many RFA Brigades were detached from Divisions and placed under orders of higher formations. From this point they were known as Army Brigades. This change in command and organisational structure affected regular, Territorial and New Army units alike. Throughout the war there were many changes, with batteries being moved from one brigade to another. This tended to blur the distinctions between regular, Territorial and New Army brigades, increasingly so as the war progressed.

In May and June 1917, 110th Bde. RFA took part in the Battle of Messines, and in July / August, the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). Having lost half its strength in the first onslaught of the March 1918 German offensive near Bapaume on the Somme, carrying out a fighting withdrawal for a week and covering more than 36 miles, the reinforced 25th Division was

moved near to Ploegsteert in Flanders, and was caught up in the renewed German attack (the Battles of the Lys) in April, where it lost two-thirds of its fighting strength in five days of heavy fighting withdrawing to Bailleul. On 9th May, the remnants of the Division left by train to recuperate in a quiet stretch of the front at the Chemin des Dames; it arrived just in time for the next German offensive, the Third Battle of The Aisne, 27th May to 6th June 1918. Once again thrown piecemeal into action against a rapid German advance, the 25th Division was virtually destroyed. The Service Battalions were broken up and the Divisional Headquarters was sent back to England to rebuild, while what remained of the Divisional Artillery stayed in France to support other formations.

It appears from the records accessed that **Sergeant Leonard Dallman** was transferred to the 115th Brigade, serving with the 26th Division. Fighting at first in France they were moved to Salonika via Marseilles in November 1915. In mid 1918 some units were moved back to France while others were in action at the Third Battle of Doiran. Advance units crossed the Serbian-Bulgarian border on the 25th September and the Armistice with Bulgaria came two days later. The Division advanced towards Adrianople in Turkey but the fighting was soon at an end and the 26th Division became part of the Army of the Danube and later, the occupation of Bulgaria. The press announcement in the *Plymouth and Exeter Gazette* of Thursday 19 December 1918 stated that **Sergt Dallman** died in Salonika from pneumonia, and the Register of Soldiers' Effects records his death with "A" Battery, 115th Brigade at 78th Field Ambulance Station, Salonika.

Leonard Dallman is inscribed on the Devon Roll of Honour as having died in Bulgaria, and he is also on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: DALLMAN L.C. SERGT. R.F.A.
Commonwealth War Graves entry: DALLMAN, L Serjeant 54450
06/12/1918 Royal Field Artillery, "A" Bty. 113th Bde.
Grave Ref: III.A.12. [Sofia War Cemetery](#), Bulgaria

Devon Heritage site info:

54450 Sergeant Leonard Charles Dallman of "A" Battery, 113th brigade, the Royal Field Artillery. Son of Leonard John and Lucy Dallman of 3 Frederick Cottage, Dawlish. Born in the September Quarter of 1896. Died 6 December 1918 aged 22

Last known address: 23 Manor Row, Dawlish
Next of kin: Leonard John Dallman, father

References:

Free Birth, Marriage, Death refs

Longlongtrail.co.uk

livesofthefirstworldwar.org

wartimememoriesproject.com

refs via subscription sites:

census data

UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects

Georgia Smith family tree- Ancestry