

Frederick Robert KINGDON

Born Dawlish Q2, 1890
Sapper 286416

Died 18 March 1919, aged 28
Royal Engineers, "G" Depot Coy

Frederick Robert Kingdon was the grandson of William and Eliza Kingdon. William (1828-) was a sawyer, born in Thorverton, mid-Devon. Eliza (1832-) was from Newton and in 1861 they were living at High Bullen, Silverton with five children, all born in Silverton:

William , son, 8 (1853-)
Louisa, dau, 6 (1855-)
Mary Ann, dau, 4 (1857-)
Ellen Eliza, dau, 2 (1859-)
George, son, 3 mths (1860-)

By 1881 young William, 27, was a lodger with Thomas and Martha Selley at Park Gardens, Silverton. William is shown as a gardener. In 1882 William married Mary Ann Routley (GRO ref St Thomas, 1882, Oct-Dec, vol 5b, p 117). Mary Ann Routley (1858-) was born in Sowton to Charles (1827-) and Mary Ann Routley (1827-) and her father was an agricultural labourer.

By 1891, William and Mary Ann Kingdon were living at 8 Brook Street, Dawlish, with four children, all born in Dawlish, indicating that they had lived there at least since 1884:

Charles William, son, 7 (1884-)
Arthur George, son, 5 (1886-)
Annie, dau, 3 (1887-)

Frederick Robert, son, 1 (1890-1919)

(GRO birth ref 1890, N.A., Apr-Jun, vol 5b, p 100)

and two boarders:

Robert Routley, 23 (1868-) a gardener
Robert Shelston, 28 (1863-) "

Ten years later they were at Manor Row (continuation of Brook Street) with another daughter:

Alice, dau, 8 (1893-)

Charles William Kingdon was a carpenter's apprentice and Arthur George Kingdon was a mason. There were five children in total, all surviving till the 1911 census.

All three sons enlisted in the war in the Royal Engineers, and were awarded British War Medals and Victory Medals.

Charles William Kingdon was a Driver, service no. 172009.

Arthur George Kingdon left Dawlish ca. 1907 and moved to Rainhill in the Liverpool area to work as a Tiler and Slater. He married Catherine Ann Hooper in 1911. During the war he lost an eye as a Sapper, service no. (T) 6886 in the Royal Engineers.

Surviving Army records show that **Frederick Robert Kingdon** enlisted in 1913, aged 23, and was placed in the Royal Engineers, service no: 24849. He had been working as a plumber and living with his parents at 36 Manor Row, Dawlish. In time he became a Sapper, service no. 286416.

"G" Depot Company, Royal Engineers, appears to have been placed at Chatham and may have provided a posting for those wounded at the front. Nothing further of FRK's service record can be found here.

Dawlish World War One Project

The *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* reported the inquest at which it was found that **Frederick Robert Kingdon** died from an accident. While out shooting rabbits he shattered his arm and died through loss of blood. It was also reported that he lost a limb in the war. He is on the records of the Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Soldier Service which may suggest that he was still receiving medical attention from war injuries. The same news report states "There are 9,921 officers and 173,527 other ranks now patients in hospitals and convalescent homes in the UK."

Frederick Robert Kingdon is inscribed on the Devon Roll of Honour for Dawlish.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: KINGDON. F.R. SPR. R.E.

Devon Heritage site info: 286416 Sapper Frederick Robert Kingdon of "G" Depot Coy, the Royal Engineers. Son of William and Mary Ann Kingdon, of 51, Manor Row, Dawlish. Born in Dawlish in the June Quarter of 1890. Died 18 March 1919, aged 29.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: KINGDON, FREDERICK ROBERT Sapper 286416
18/03/1919 Age: 29 Royal Engineers, "G" Depot Coy.
Grave Ref: 724. [Dawlish Cemetery](#)
Son of William and Mary Ann Kingdon, of 51, Manor Row, Dawlish.

Last known address: 36 Manor Row, Dawlish (1911 Census)

Next of kin: William Kingdon, father.

References:

Free BMD refs

refs via subscription websites;

National Newspaper archive

Exeter & Plymouth Gazette

Census data

WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920

UK, Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Soldier Service Records 1760-1920