

COMMEMORATING THE DEATH OF

Wilfred Carman

Company Sergeant Major The Devonshire Regiment



Who died on 20th June 1918,
near Arras, aged 27



Dawlish World War One Project 1914-18 /2014-18

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Dawlish Town Council

www.dawlishww1.org.uk



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 Wilfred Carman who volunteered for action but died on 20th June 1918.

After the First World War, it was decided in Dawlish 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 a minister or pastor of the host church. The same Order of Service is used at each service. When we remember men listed on the War Memorials in St. Mary's Cofton or St. George's Holcombe, the service is held in the appropriate village church.

There will be opportunity to talk to the leader of the service afterwards. You are invited to take a reproduction of St John's Gospel which was given to every service person during the First World War.

Please join in the words which are in **heavy type**.

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

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

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
Wilfred Carman who died in action while in the service of his country.

Prayer

Almighty God, the Lord of all,
today we pause to remember with gratitude
the life and death of Wilfred Carman
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 Wilfred Carman

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 Wilfred Carman

Lord, have mercy

Today we commit Wilfred Carman 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 Wilfred Carman
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:

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,
and 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.

Wilfred CARMAN

Born Chudleigh 20 November 1890

Died France 20 June 1918, aged 27

Company Sergeant Major 240083 1/5th (Territorial) Battalion,
The Devonshire Regiment

Wilfred Carman was the son of Robert Burton Carman (1853-1931) and Harriet (nee Snell)(1855-1917). They were married in 1884 and Robert was a groom/coachman living in Fore Street, Chudleigh in 1891.

The Snell family were residents of Chudleigh for most of the 19th century.

By 1901 Robert and Harriet had moved to Dawlish Lodge, Mamhead where Robert was employed as a groom.

In 1911 they were living at Alma House, Luscombe Terrace, Dawlish and Robert was still employed as a groom. They had lost one child out of five born before this date, and **Wilfred** was working as a carpenter and cabinet maker while his sisters Hilda, 23, and Norenie, 18, were unmarried.

Wilfred joined the Territorials in March 1908 at the age of 17 and became a proficient soldier to reach the rank of Sergeant in charge of the Dawlish Detachment by the outbreak of war.

In 1908, when the Volunteers became part of the newly formed Territorial Army, two long-standing Devon volunteer units merged to form the 5th (Territorial Force) Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment. Based on Plymouth, the 5th recruited from the south-west of the county. The outbreak of war found them at their annual camp on Woodbury Common, Exeter. They never returned.

The 1/5th were sent to India in October 1914. They spent two years at Multan, supplying drafts to units in operational theatres. In March 1917 they left for Egypt and early May found them at El Arish. In June they crossed into Palestine, where the newly-appointed General Allenby was planning how to capture Jerusalem by Christmas. Their baptism of fire came on 8th July at Samson's Ridge, near Gaza, when they were heavily shelled. After Beersheba was captured in late

October the Battalion took part in the advance towards Jerusalem. Their march was often a torment of heat, dust, thirst and exhaustion. On 13th November they advanced under heavy fire and took the Turkish positions at Junction Station, suffering 57 casualties. On the 19th they took the town of Saris at a cost of another 39. In another attack on the 23rd at El Jib the Turks' machine guns reduced the Battalion's attacking force to six officers and 120 men, who were pinned down behind the stone walls surrounding an old vineyard. Now mustering only 250 men, the 1/5th continued the advance beyond Jerusalem in torrential rain and in late December received a welcome influx of reinforcements.

In May 1918 the 1/5th were ordered to France where they fought on the Marne.

In June 1918 the 1st/5th Battalion was at Fonquevillers, a village about 18 km south west of Arras. The War Diary shows that it was relieved on the night of 18/19 June and moved to the area occupied by the forward battalion of the Reserve Brigade, relieving the 2/4th Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

“On the 20th June, ‘D’ Company in RUM TRENCH was heavily shelled at midday. Casualties were 3 Other Ranks(O.R.) killed, 6 O.R. wounded. During the night the area occupied by the Res. Bde. Was heavily shelled with gas shells but no casualties resulted. “ (from the War Diary)

Company Sergeant Major Wilfred Carman was one of three killed by a shell-burst on the 20th June. An extract from the *Dawlish Gazette* records the incident and carries a tribute from his company officer, Captain Arthur G W Church, who was to die in action himself only a few weeks later. He said that C.S.M. Carman was an upright and gallant soldier, and a faithful and loyal friend. He had been on continuous service without home leave since 1914.

His name is inscribed on both the Devon Roll of Honour and the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.