James Edwin Kerswell

182777 Sapper,
Yeomanry Mounted Division,
Signal Squadron, Royal Engineers

Born: 1878 April 10th Ballycastle, Co Mayo or Belderrig, Co. Sligo?
Son of James, a gardener (born Crediton 1838) and Fanny Little Kerswell (born Looe 1858)

1891 The family were living at 5, Alexandra Place, Dawlish
Brothers Fred & Sidney; sisters Minnie, Augusta, Isabella Lora & Edith.

1904 at 26 yrs joined Army Post office Corps (859) after living some years with his brother Frederick in Stalybridge near Chester - at 20 Mottram Place as a boarder in a lodging house - both working as a sorting clerk and telegraphist

Description from enlistment record:
5'6.5" tall; pale complexion; light hair; grey eyes; scar on forehead; Religion: C of E.

The family then lived at 4 Aexandra Place, Dawlish
James was discharged in London after 6 years
on 21/04/1910 returning to live in Hatcher St Dawlish.
Transferred to Army Reserve

1911 Census: Post Office Clerk in Dawlish.
Living at 20 Hatcher Street, Dawlish
with widowed mother and brother Sidney and sisters Isabella, Edith and Olive

Enlisted at Exeter

Died: 25 October 1918 in Egypt age 39

Victory medal   British medal

Buried Egypt, Haifa Cemetery A.15 Israel and Palestine   (Inc.Gaza)

Haifa was captured by the Mysore and Jodhpur Lancers on 23 September 1918 and the 33rd Combined Clearing Hospital was moved to the town on the 15 October. Haifa War Cemetery, which was originally part of the German cemetery, was used mainly for hospital burials, but some graves were brought in from the battlefields.

Haifa was of great strategic importance during the Second World War because of its deep water harbour and airfield. It was also the terminus of the railway line from Egypt and of the Kirkuk-Haifa oil pipeline. Haifa became one of the main supply bases and arms depots serving the Middle East forces and a large naval depot was established at Haifa Bay. The cemetery was again used during the early part of the war until the new war cemetery at Khayat Beach was opened.

Haifa War Cemetery now contains 305 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 86 of them unidentified. Second World War burials number 36.