

Private John Jeffry Nicholls

12th October 1918

Dawlish Gazette – 26th October 1918

ROLL OF HONOUR.

Two of the most prominent public men in Dawlish East and West, viz., Messrs W T Leaman, J.P. (chairman of the Urban Council), and J J Nicholls (Rural District Councillor, etc., of Eastdon farm), have recently suffered bereavement by the war.

Mr Leaman has just heard of the death of his third son, Pte Steve Leaman, a sniper of the signalling section of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Deceased's home was in S. Wales, where he formerly worked in a coal mine. He leaves a widow and one child to mourn his death. He had been twice wounded in the war. The officer of his detachment, writing to his widow, speaks in high terms of his soldierly qualities and special aptitude for the difficult and dangerous work he had been carrying out. This is the second son of Mr Leaman to be killed in the war.

Mr and Mrs J J Nicholls have to mourn the loss of their youngest son, John Jeffrey Nicholls, of the Canadian Field Ambulance, who died of wounds in France on Oct. 12th. He was aged 25. Those who knew him can well understand that no considerations of personal safety would stand in his way when there was duty to be done, however dangerous. He was one of the most **dashing and most popular playing mem-**

ber of the Dawlish Association football team a few years ago. His prowess on the field of play was carried into the grim game of war.

Deep sympathy will be felt with both families in their bereavement.

Dawlish Gazette – 2nd November 1918

Mr and Mrs J J Nicholls, of Eastdon farm, Dawlish, have had a letter from Major Harold McGill, the officer commanding the Canadian Field Ambulance of which the late Pte John J Nicholls, their youngest son, was a member. He expresses the deepest sympathy with the family, and says the deceased was wounded on the 12th inst. whilst faithfully carrying out duties connected with the care of the wounded. His injuries were of such a nature that there was no chance for him from the first, and he died on the way to the casualty station. Two officers and one other man were killed by the same shell. He continues: "We shall miss your son very much in our unit, for he was a man thoroughly reliable and efficient, and could always be counted upon in an emergency. I hope that the knowledge of your son's splendid service in the unit, and the fact that he died in the performance of his duty, may be some slight consolation to you in your bereavement"—Pte Nicholls, it may well be added, was awarded the Canadian silver medal some months ago for gallantly bringing in a wounded officer.

