

Gerald Easterbrook RUNDELL

Born: Q2 1894, Tiverton
Private, 20657

Died 23 March 1916, Wareham, Dorset, aged 21
9th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry

James Rundell (1853-1926) was born in Walsall and moved with his mother to 52 Fore Street, Tiverton by 1871 (census date). In 1892 he married Winifred Mary J Rundell (1861-1926) of Portsmouth, Hants, and was in business as an ironmonger.

They were still at Tiverton when **Gerald Easterbrook Rundell** was born, and for the 1901 census.

By 1911 James had retired and the family were living at 3 Sea Lawn Terrace, Exeter Road, Dawlish and **Gerald** is described as "Student". He was then 17 and is not shown on Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour and so is likely to have finished his school days in Tiverton.

The account of his death in the *Western Times* of 28 March 1916 shows that **Gerald Rundell** had been working as a bank clerk in Warminster before he enlisted. The *UK Register of Soldiers' Effects* reveals that his father was not paid a War Gratuity because it was "not admissible under six months service". He appears to have enlisted at Yeovil, Somerset, some time in January 1916 and was attached to the 9th Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry. This was one of the battalions of Kitchener's New Army of volunteers and was in training before being sent to one of the theatres of war.

The *Western Times* account shows that **G.E. Rundell** had been in the army about eight weeks, and had been ill for some days. On March 16th he reported sick and the Medical Officer attended him at his hut. However, he "did not keep his bed, and after three or four days looked brighter. R.A.M.C. evidence [to the inquest] showed that deceased was in a state of collapse on Thursday last. He was treated and placed in an ambulance for [the military hospital at] Wareham." He died in the ambulance on the way to hospital.

"Lieut Chas Salkfield, M.B., B.S., R.A.M.C. describing the result of a post mortem examination that he had made, said that the body was emaciated, and he attributed death to tuberculosis of the lungs, with an attack of acute tubercular broncho-pneumonia. A verdict of "natural causes" was returned.

He was buried in Dawlish Cemetery on Thursday 30th March, 1916.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: RUNDELL G.E. PTE. SOM. L. I.

Devon Roll of Honour: Records his name but not place of death

Devon Heritage site info:

20657 Private Gerald Easterbrook of the 9th Battalion, the Somerset Light Infantry. Son of James and Winifred Rundell of Dawlish. Born in Tiverton in the June quarter of 1894.

Died 23 March 1916 aged 20. Buried in Dawlish Cemetery.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: RUNDELL, Gerald Easterbrook, Private, 20657, 23/3/1916 Somerset Light Infantry, grave 612, Dawlish Cemetery.

References: CWGC census and BMD records. Abraham family tree (ancestry).

RUNDELL G E text
10/11/15 rbv

