

## William John DEW

Born Q1 1885, Cardiff, Glamorgan  
Private 10728

Died 25 September 1915, Flanders aged 30  
Devonshire Regiment, 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion

**William John Dew** was one of five children of the marriage of John Dew (1860-1909) and Louisa Harriet Hodge (1859- ).

**William's** grandfather was Joseph John Dew (1836-1903) and Joseph appears with his mother, Margaret, in Rosemary Lane, St Edmund, Exeter in 1851. His mother was a laundress born in Clyst St Mary, ca 1791. After this point the name Joseph is dropped and he is shown as John in later censuses.

By 1861 John was married to Ann Babel (1838-1890) and working as an engineer in paper mills, with their son John Dew, 8 months old. They had a large family, John (1860-1909), George (1862-1936), Bessie (1864-1942), Samuel (1866-1941), Henry James (1868-1927), Charles (1870-1871), Walter, (1872-1914), Alice (1875-1907), Charles William (1878-1907) and Albert (1879-1911).

By 1891 (Joseph) John Dew was a widower and working as a mason's labourer with Bessie, Walter, Charles William and Albert living at home at Wilsons Cottages, Exwick Hill. In the next property Samuel Dew was living with his wife Harriet (1866- ).

By 1901 Joseph John was 63, but still a general labourer and Bessie (36) was with him working as a laundress, with Alice (26) and Fred, described as a son aged 7.

Joseph died in 1903, aged 67.

The first child, John Dew (1860-1909) married Louisa Harriet Hodge on 17 August 1879 in the Parish Church of St Thomas, Exeter. She was born in Exeter St Thomas, in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1859, the daughter of Thomas Hodge (1831- ) and Sarah Ann Hodge (1834- ). Sarah Hodge became a widow by the age of 35 (census 1871) and living as a laundress at 1 Haven Banks, Exeter St Thomas, with Louisa Harriet and five other children.

John Dew and Louisa married but a census entry for 1881 has not been found. He is also missing from the 1891 census and it may be that he went abroad and was divorced between 1891 and 1897 when Louisa remarried.

In the 1891 census Louisa Dew is head of household, married, age 30 and working as a charwoman. She lived at 10 Alphington Street, Exeter, with Annie Louisa \*(b, Q4 1879, St Thomas), Frances Alice (b Q2 1882, St Thomas)), **William John (b Cardiff)**, Sarah E (b Cardiff, 1886) and Alfred Thomas (b Exeter, Q1, 1890 – 31/5/1916).

*\* Annie Louisa Dew married Alfred Dorothy on 26 January, 1900, at Powderham. Alfred Dorothy enlisted aged 38. They had a child Reginald Alfred Dorothy.*

Louisa Dew married James Morris/Morrish in Exeter in Q4, 1897 and in 1901 they are shown as living at Redhill Cottage, Powderham with Alfred Thomas Dew, 11, step-son, Frederick Morris, son, 1, and Florence Morris, 5 months. James Morris was a wagoner.

*(Alfred Thomas Dew is separately recorded, dying at the Battle of Jutland, 31 May 1916)*

**William John Dew** married Sarah Monk in Q3, 1907, in the Newton Abbot district. The census of 1911 gives his occupation as a General Labourer (railway company) and they lived at 7 Chapel Street, Dawlish with three children, Annie Louisa (b.Dec 1907 ), Emily Kate (b.Mar 1909) and William John (b.Mar 1910-Dec 1971) all born in Dawlish. There were also twins born in Q2,1911 Alfred G and Rose M but they both died in Q2,1915.

After **William John Dew's** death, Sarah married Charles Jarvis in Q1, 1917 in Newton Abbot district and had a further family of three daughters, Alice, Edie and Elsie.

A War Gratuity of £3.10.0d was paid to Sarah Jarvis in July 1919.

**(William) John Dew** enlisted at Exeter and joined the new 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment. His military records give him the single Christian name of John. His Service number is very close to that of Albert Hooper (10723) and they were of similar age so may have enlisted together.

He is recorded as Killed in action at the Battle of Loos, 25 September 1915.

*The Western Times, Friday 29 October 1915*

"Official news was received at Dawlish, Monday that Privates B.Hooper, W.Stevens, and **J.Dew** had been killed in action.'

'**Private John Dew**, who enlisted in Kitchener's Army, was also attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Devons. He was a married man and leaves a wife and three children."

*The Dawlish Gazette*

*SATURDAY, October, 30th, 1915*

"Fears for the untimely fate of other local men of the 8th Devons who took part in the fighting of Sept. 25th have been only too sadly confirmed this week....

... Monday, however, brought sad news in three cases, when official notifications were received of the deaths of Ptes. J Dew, A J Hooper, (known to his intimates as "Bert") and W H Stevens. The first named leaves a widow and four children."

He was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 15 Star.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: DEW, John, Private 10728, died 25/9/1915, aged 30 Devonshire Regiment, 'D'Coy, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Panel 35-37 Loos Memorial  
Son of the late John and Louisa Dew, husband of Sarah Jarvis (Formerly Dew) of 10 Chapel Street, Dawlish.

He is shown on the Devon Roll of Honour but does not appear on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour, possibly because he was at school in Exeter.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: DEW W.J. PTE. DEVON REGT.

Devon Heritage site info:

10728 Private (William) John Dew of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment.  
Husband of Sarah Dew of 11 Chapel Street, Dawlish. Born in Cardiff in 1885. Died 25 September 1915 aged 30.

Last known address: 7 Chapel Street, Dawlish (1911 census)

Next of kin: Sarah Dew, wife.

## Dawlish World War One Project

### References:

Free Birth Marriage Death records

Marriage Cert for John Dew/Louisa Harriet Hodge from GRO

Alfred Thomas Dew – see separate WW1 casualty record

Refs via subscription sites:

Census records.

Army Register of Soldiers' Effects

Family records

Raward/Brown/Heath family tree – Ancestry

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