

## George Henry GIBBINGS

Born Q1 1886, Dawlish  
Corporal, Service No: 3854 / 7304

Died 17<sup>th</sup> June 1916, aged 30  
Devonshire Regt, 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battn

**George Henry F T Gibbings** was the oldest son of Henry F and Mary A Gibbings who lived at Chapel Street, Dawlish. **George's** birth is shown in the March Quarter of 1886 (Newton Abbot district, Vol 5b, p116).

In 1891 Henry Frank Gibbings was a cellarman and his wife a laundress.

In 1901 **George** was 15 and working as a Yard boy on a cattle farm, and the family with six children had moved to Manor Row.

By 1911 **George** had enlisted with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment and was a Lance Corporal in barracks in Malta. He had enlisted in the regiment ca. 1903 at Teignmouth. His service records do not exist, as far as can be established. The following press item reveals his army experience:

*Exeter and Plymouth Gazette of Friday 23 June 1916*

"Mr Frank Gibbings of Manor Row, Dawlish, received news yesterday of the death of his eldest son, **Sergt. George Gibbings**. When war broke out deceased was serving in Egypt. He returned to England with the regiment and was sent to France. After a few months active service there he was invalided home in consequence of a breakdown in health.

He recovered, and subsequently went to Mesopotamia. He contracted enteric fever, and died in a Bombay hospital on June 17<sup>th</sup>. He was 30 years of age and had served in the army 13 years.

He leaves a widow, but no children. Much sympathy is expressed with the widow, the parents and members of the family."

**George Henry Gibbings** had married Florence Batters in Devonport in Q2 1907. (Apr-Jun, Vol 5b, p701). The Death Grant of £13.14s.4d and the War Gratuity of £11.10s.0d were paid to his "Widow and sole legatee" and his rank was shown as Sergeant.

The Victory Medal and the British War Medal were sent to his widow and his rank was shown as Acting sergeant with a Regimental number 7304.

He was buried at the Kirkee Cemetery and is shown on the 1914-18 Memorial, Mumbai(Bombay), Maharashtra, India.

Commonwealth War Graves entry:

GIBBINGS, George Henry Corporal 3854, 17/06/1916

Age 31 Devonshire Regiment 1st/6th Bn. Panel Face C. Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, India. Son of Frank Henry and Mary Gibbings, of Dawlish, Devon; husband of Florence Gibbings, of 1, Lansdowne Place, The Hoe, Plymouth.

Devon Roll of Honour - He is not included on the Devon Roll for Dawlish.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: GIBBINGS G.H. SERGT. DEVON REGT.

He is shown on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.

Devon Heritage site info:

3854 Sergeant George Henry Gibbings of the 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment.  
Son of Frank and Mary Gibbings of Dawlish; husband of Florence Gibbings of  
Lansdowne Place, Plymouth. Born in Dawlish in 1886. Died 17 June 1916 aged 31.

**1/6th Battalion Territorial Force, the Devonshire Regiment.**

04.08.0914 Stationed at Barnstaple as part of the Wessex Division.

05.08.1914 Moved to Plymouth and then to Salisbury Plain and attached to the Devon & Cornwall Brigade.

09.10.1914 Embarked for India from Southampton arriving at Karachi 11.11.1914.

30.12.1915 Moved to Basra and joined the 36th Indian Brigade.

12.05.1916 Joined the 14th Indian Division which engaged in various actions as part of The Mesopotamian campaign including;

Advance to the Hai and capture of the Khudaira Bend, Capture of the Hai Salient, Capture of Sannaiyat, Second Battle of Kut, Passage of the Tigris, Fall of Baghdad (1917), Passage of the 'Adhaim, Action of the Shatt al Adhaim, Second action of Jabal Hamrin, Third action of Jabal Hamrin.

(The Long, Long Trail)

References: CGWG, census and BMD records      Forces War Records & CWGC site  
UK, WW1 Service Medal and Award Rolls  
UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919  
UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects 1901-1929

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