

Dawlish Gazette – 6th January 1917

MILITARY FUNERAL AT
DAWLISH.

A military funeral, always an impressive event, took place at Dawlish on Monday last, when the mortal remains of Rifleman L W Blackburn, of the L.R.B., were interred at the Cemetery. The circumstances of the young soldier's death, away from home and kinsfolk, after very brief illness, had aroused the keen sympathies of the community. The cortege left the Cottage Hospital at 2.30, and was headed by a firing party, under Sergt Lloyd, followed by the platoon to which deceased belonged, and then the fine L.R.B. band, which played beautiful funereal music to a slow march. The procession went direct to the Cemetery, where the whole of the service was conducted by the Rev Elsen Doddrell, chaplain to the Battalion. A large crowd of people attended the funeral.

The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, with the deceased's hat and rifle laid on it. A plate bore the inscription: "Rifleman L W Blackburn, died Dec. 29th, 1916, aged 18 years." The mourners were Mr and Mrs Blackburn (father and mother) and Mrs Blackford (sister). Floral tributes included one from "A" Company and another from the Matron and staff of the Cottage Hospital. At the close of the service, three volleys were fired over the grave. The band then played a verse of "Thy will be done." Beautifully rendered, pianissimo, it was perhaps the most touching part of an affecting service. The sounding of the "Last Post" (the soldier's requiem) by a party of buglers under Bugle-Major Molde, concluded the ceremony.