

## William Alfred Victor ELLIOTT

Born Dawlish Q2,1897  
Private 27916

Died 3 November 1916, aged 19  
Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

**William A V Elliott** was the eldest child of Alfred and Agnes Hannah Elliott. Alfred Elliott (1867- ) was the second son of William Elliott (1842- ) and Jane Brooks (1841- ). William Elliott was a Boot and shoe maker living in Kenton in 1871 and 1881.

Alfred was born in Kenton but moved to Dawlish and in 1901 was established at Priory Terrace, High Street with his wife and **William A V Elliott** who was three years old. Alfred Elliott was a grocer working on his own account.

By 1911 the family had moved to Homeleigh House, Exeter Road, Dawlish and their second son, Bertram Charles Elliott had been born (1904- ).

**William A V Elliott** was first apprenticed as a tailor to Mr Cowling in the Strand. Later he moved to work in Torquay and it was there that he enlisted in February 1916. It seems likely that he was one of the first to be called up following the introduction of conscription by a Bill in Parliament in January 1916. The remnants of his Service Record show that he had been living at 27 Sunbury Terrace, Brixham and that he was unmarried.

His attestation record is dated 19<sup>th</sup> February 1916 and the parent unit was the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. He was mobilized on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1916 as a "Special Reservist in Class III, Garrison Service Home, mech transport."

He was posted on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1916 and retained at depot, 95<sup>th</sup> Training Reserve Battalion when he was given the Service Number TR/7/12212.

His death is recorded as the result of a "Bomb Accident" on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, reported in the *Dawlish Gazette* newspaper as "the accidental bursting of a hand grenade." He was sent to hospital but died on the following day. The War Office called for a Court of Inquiry and the documents were filed with the soldier's records, but have not been seen. The CWGC site indicates that he may have been posted at Chisledon Camp, Wiltshire, and that is also shown on his grave (*below*).

He was buried in Dawlish Cemetery in a grave commemorating also his mother, Agnes Hannah Elliott who died in November 1923. It is a low frame of granite set below a large cupressus in the south eastern part of the old cemetery. It is possible that his father died in Central Devon in 1951, aged 83.



Below the inscription are the words "Until the day breaks"

*The Western Times* of Friday 17 November reported the funeral. "The funeral of Pte.W.Elliott, D.C.L.I., whose death occurred at a bombing school, somewhere in England, through an accident, took place at Dawlish Cemetery on Thursday afternoon, the Rev.W.E.Withers, Wesleyan Minister,

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*officiating. The chief mourners were: Mr A. Elliott (father), Master B.Elliott (brother), Miss F.Mallett, Mr Elliott (grandfather), Mr and Mrs F.Elliott, Mr and Mrs E.Elliott, Mr. W.Kemp, Mr T.Cowling, Rev.W.E.Withers. There were some beautiful floral tributes. In addition to those of relatives and friends was one from the Wesleyan Church and Sunday School, with whom the deceased was associated for many years."*

Commonwealth War Graves entry:

ELLIOTT, WILLIAM ALFRED VICTOR, Private, 27916  
03/11/1916 Age: 19 Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 11th Bn.  
Grave Ref: 2689. Dawlish Cemetery  
Son of Alfred and Agnes H. Elliott, of Homeleigh House, Dawlish.

He is listed on the Devon Roll of Honour for Dawlish, and on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: ELLIOTT W.A.V. Pte D.C.L.I.

Devon Heritage site info:

27916 Private William Alfred Victor Elliott of the 11th Battalion, the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Son of Alfred and Agnes H. Elliott, of Homeleigh House, Dawlish. Died 3 November 1916 aged 19.

Last known address: 27 Sunbury Terrace, Brixham, Devon

Next of kin: Father, Alfred Elliott, Homeleigh House, Dawlish

References:

Free Birth Marriage Death records

Data via subscription service:

Uk, Soldier's Service Records (remnants)

Census records

Elliott family tree 2011 (Ancestry)

National Newspaper Archive