

COMMEMORATING THE DEATH OF
Gunner George Carter West
2nd Divn, Heavy Trench Mortars,
Australian Field Artillery



Who died in Flanders on 15th April 1917, aged 39



Dawlish World War One Project 1914-18 /2014-18
Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and
Dawlish Town Council
www.dawlishww1.org.uk



Welcome to this Act of Commemoration.

Dawlish Town Council and Churches Together in Dawlish and District are commemorating the death in the service of the nation of every Dawlish person who was killed as a result of enemy action during the First World War.

Today we remember the death of George Carter West who volunteered for action but died on April 15th 1917.

After the First World War, it was decided in Dawlish that a single town War Memorial would be erected close to the parish church, and no church would have its own War Memorial. In keeping with this decision, these Acts of Commemoration take place in the town centre churches without regard to the denomination of the person they commemorate and they are led by a minister or pastor of the host church. The same Order of Service is used at each service. When we remember men listed on the War Memorials in St. Mary's Cofton or St. George's Holcombe, the service is held in the appropriate village church.

There will be opportunity to talk to the leader of the service afterwards when light refreshments will be served. You are invited to take a reproduction of St John's Gospel which was given to every service person during the First World War.

Please join in the words which are in **heavy type**.

Churches Together in Dawlish & District
28 High Street,
Dawlish, EX7 9HP

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Introduction

We have gathered today as part of our commemoration of those Dawlish people who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the First World War.

We remember those who were killed in action,
those who were maimed and those whose minds were disfigured
by conflict.
the bereaved and the lost and those who lived in darkness,
the families which were shattered,
and all who held in silence the unspeakable memories of warfare.

In particular today on the 100th anniversary of his death we remember George Carter West who died in action while in the service of his country.

Prayer

Almighty God, the Lord of all,
today we pause to remember with gratitude
the life and death of George Carter West
knowing that he was, is and always will be
known and loved by you.

We thank you for his willingness to fight for our country
even if necessary to the point of death.

And today we remember his family and friends
who grieved at his death
and whose lives were never the same.

Amen.

We hear about the life and death of George Carter West

Reading Romans 8:31-39

What, then, shall we say? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord

please stand

A prayer of Commemoration

We remember before God George Carter West

Lord, have mercy

Today we commit George Carter West to the love of God

We give thanks for his life, and grieve at his death

May he rest in peace

and rise In glory.

He shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

age shall not weary him, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

we will remember him.

We will remember him.

A candle may be lit or a bouquet may be placed before the pieta.

A time of silence

We remain standing

The Commitment to all those who died in the service of the nation.

Lord God, Father of all,
in thankfulness for George Carter West
and in his memory
we pledge ourselves
to bring comfort to the sad, the lonely and the distressed;
to bring relief to all who are in need
and to serve you and to work for peace.
Keep us ever mindful of the struggles
and achievements of former generations
and so make us grateful
now and in the days to come.
Amen

O Lord, our maker and our strength,
from whose love in Christ we can never be parted
either by death or life:
Look in mercy on those for whom we pray this day,
and grant us your protection and peace,
that we may be saved in body and soul,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

As we ask for deliverance from the forces of destruction
and for peace in our time and In our lives
we pray together:

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
AMEN.

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the Queen,
the Commonwealth and all the world
peace and concord:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

Amen.

George Carter WEST

Born Dawlish, Q2, 1877 - Died Flanders, 15th April 1917, aged 39

George Carter West was the cousin of Albert Henry West who died in Flanders near Ypres on the 4th October 1917.

Their joint grandparents were Edward and Fanny West.

Edward West (1813-1874) was born in Kenton and was a gardener. He married Fanny Pike (1817-1892), who was born in Exeter, on 30th August 1835.

In 1861 they lived at 9 Regent Street, Dawlish with six children:

William Charles West (1841-1921)

Mary Ann West (1846-1924)

Frederick Pike West (1849-1923) father of **George Carter West**

Thomas Pike West (1851-1931) father of Albert Henry West

George Edward West (1854-1902) who worked for the Post Office, Dawlish, 1911

Robert John West (1856-1919)

Frederick Pike West married Nancy Carter (1850-1901) in 1873.

By 1881 they were living at Bay View Cottage, Richmond Place and had five children, Roseina, 7, Edward, 6, Sydney, 2, and Emily, 11 months. **George Carter West** was born to them in Dawlish in 1877.

For the census of 1881 **George C West, 4**, was a visitor to William and Kate Carter at North Street, Otterton. William was a butcher and the son of a farmer, and it is interesting to note that **George** learned butchery before joining the army.

By 1891 Frederick and Nancy had moved to Manor Place. Frederick followed his father as a gardener. There were three more children, Charles D, 8, Herbert P, 6, and Keturah H, 2.

There are no entries to be found for **George** in 1891 or 1901 in UK census data and it seems likely that he was in the 20th Hussars where he served a 12 year term, probably from ca. 1895-1907.

It is not known when **G C West** sailed for Australia. It appears that he worked as a butcher in Brisbane before he joined up.

His enlistment papers show that he joined the Australian Imperial Force on 14th December 1914 at Townsville, Queensland for the

duration of the War. **G C West** had previously completed a 12 year term with the 20th Hussars. His civilian trade was as a butcher.

When the United Kingdom declared war on Germany at the start of World War 1, the Australian Government followed without hesitation. By the end of the war, almost 20% of those who served in the Australian forces had been born in the United Kingdom, even though nearly all enlistments had occurred in Australia.

The Australian Government had pledged to supply 20,000 men, organised as one infantry division and one light horse brigade plus supporting units.

Departing from Western Australia on 1 November 1914, the Australian Infantry Force (A.I.F.) was sent initially to British-controlled Egypt to pre-empt any attack by the Ottoman Empire, and with a view to opening another front against the Central Powers. The A.I.F. had four infantry brigades, with the first three making up the 1st Division. The 4th Brigade was joined with the sole New Zealand infantry brigade to form the New Zealand and Australian Division.

West embarked at Alexandria on 4th September 1915 to join the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force on the Gallipoli peninsula. He was promoted to Corporal on the 11th September and appears on the casualty list on the 19th at Beachops Hill.

West was taken to hospital at Mudros and thence to Alexandria where he arrived on 9th January 1916. He left Alexandria on the 14th March to sail to join the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on the Western Front and disembarked at Marseilles on 19th March.

On 11th June 1916 he transferred from the 25th Battalion to the 2nd Division Heavy Trench Mortar Battery.

On 24th February 1917 he was detached for duty with the 5th Infantry Brigade HQ. He was batman to Captain Christie at a Brigade HQ at Bullecourt when, on 15th April, a shell landed on the HQ and he was killed outright.

A fellow soldier, Gunner Higgins, stated that “He was called ‘Westie’. He was about the gamest man I ever saw and the best N.C.O. in the Battery. All the boys will tell you that.”

Extracted from a more detailed account on www.dawlishww1.org.uk