

Reginald Charles BLACKMORE

Born Q4, 1890 Dawlish
Lance Corporal, 240413

Died 22 September 1917, Palestine, aged 27
Devonshire Regt, 5th (Prince of Wales) Battalion

Reginald Charles Blackmore was the great grandson of John and Elizabeth Blackmore. John Blackmore (1791-1864?) was born in Barnstaple and Elizabeth Perkins (1796-1875?), born in Kingsteignton. They married on 28 June 1818 at Chudleigh. They had two sons, James Blackmore and John Perkins Blackmore (1821-1901), both born in Chudleigh.

James Blackmore (1819-1905) married Elizabeth Leare (1819-1886) in Chudleigh Parish Church on 25th June 1843 and they lived at 75 Clifford Street, Chudleigh. James was a sawyer and carpenter. They had a large family:

Mary Jane 1843-

James 1844-1849

John 1846-1849

Walter 1847-1918 married Emma Quantick and they were parents to
Reginald Charles Blackmore.

Clara Ann 1849- 1944

Joseph 1851- 1915

James Henry 1852-1853

John Albert 1854-

Charles H 1856-1939

Alice 1858-

Thomas Leare 1860-1932

Elizabeth Ellen 1862-

Andrew 1864-1946 married Clara Kate Dawe (1863-1932) who was born in Dawlish. They were parents of Charles Henry Blackmore

The sons Walter and Andrew were both carpenters in turn. Each had a son who is remembered on Dawlish War Memorial and they were cousins, **Reginald Charles Blackmore** and Charles Henry Blackmore (1890- 29/8/1917) q.v., who died only days apart.

Walter Blackmore was baptised in Chudleigh Anglican church on 17th October 1847. He went to Chudleigh Primary School and was first employed as a Plough Boy (1861) before he became a carpenter and lived in Chudleigh. He was living at home in 75 Clifford Street, Chudleigh in 1871.

Walter married Emma Quantick in the July-Sept quarter of 1875 and they moved to Dawlish (ca 1884) where the 1891 census shows at 20 Old Town Street, Dawlish:

Walter Blackmore	Head, 41	Carpenter	born	Chudleigh
Emma "	Wife, 36			Coryton, Devon
Alfred "	son, 12	Scholar		Mamhead
Frederick	son, 9	"		"
Nelly (Elizabeth Ellen)	dau 6	"		"
Polly (Mary Ann)	dau 3	"		"

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Reginald	son	5mths	born	Dawlish
James "	father	widower 71	retired carpenter	Chudleigh

The 1901 census shows at 29 Old Town Street, four children:

Fred	1882-	a carpenter
Ellen	1885-	dressmaker
Polly	1888-	also a dressmaker
Reggie	1890 – 22/9/17	a scholar

Reginald Charles Blackmore was born in the 4th quarter of 1890 in Dawlish (GRO ref Newton Abbot district, vol 5b, page 92). After leaving school he worked as a compositor for a printer. In 1911, he lived with his parents at 2 Frederick Terrace with his sister Elizabeth /Ellen Cole, who was married and with her daughter Phyllis Ethel Cole (1908-) and son Charles Reginald Cole (1910-).

We do not know when **Reginald** joined the army, only that he enlisted at Plymouth. He is likely to have joined the Territorials before the war started. He was a fine athlete, and a member of Dawlish Football Club.

The Devonshire's 1/5th (Prince of Wales's) Battalion (from <http://www.keepmilitarymuseum.org>)

In 1908, when the Volunteers became part of the newly formed Territorial Army, two longstanding Devon volunteer units merged to form the 5th (Territorial Force) Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment. Based on Plymouth, the 5th recruited from the south-west of the county. The outbreak of war found them at their annual camp on Woodbury Common, Exeter. They never returned.

The 1/5th were in Millbay, Plymouth, later in August 1914 as part of Devon & Cornwall Brigade, Wessex Division. They sailed for India on 9th October 1914, landing at Karachi 11 November 1914. They came under orders of 3rd (Lahore) Divisional Area at Multan. In December 1915 they moved to Lahore.

They spent two years at Multan, supplying drafts to units in operational theatres, including 50 men who in 1915 were sent to join the 2nd Dorsets at Kut el Amara. In March 1917 they left for Egypt and landed at Suez, Egypt on 4th April 1917. Early May found them at El Arish.

On 25th June 1917 they transferred to 232nd Brigade, 75th Division.

This formation was created during the war. On 16 March 1917 the War Office gave permission to the GOC Egyptian Expeditionary Force, Sir Edmund Allenby, to form a new Division from the units of the Territorial Force which were now arriving from India. On 21 May further instructions were given that the three infantry brigades should incorporate Indian battalions; this was augmented on 11 June by instructions that each brigade should have three Indian battalions and one British. It was, strictly, a Division of the Territorial Force but "indianised" to a great extent. Division HQ came into existence at El Arish on 25 June 1917. The complete Division was a long time in formation, the artillery not being full to establishment until October 1917.

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In June 1917 they crossed into Palestine, where General Allenby was planning how to capture Jerusalem by Christmas. Their baptism of fire came on 8th July at Samson's Ridge, near Gaza, when they were heavily shelled. On the 20th they suffered 80 casualties from shelling at Umbrella Hill while supporting the Bedfordshire Regiment's attack.

After Beersheba was captured in late October the Battalion took part in the advance towards Jerusalem.

The Western Times of Friday 28 September 1917 reported: 'Pte. Reg. Blackmore, Devons, son of Mr & Mrs Blackmore, Frederick Cottages, Dawlish, has been dangerously wounded in Egypt. His parents received official news on Tuesday. Pte. Blackmore went to India on the outbreak of war, being a Territorial Volunteer. He was a fine athlete, and a member of Dawlish Football Club. Previous to the war he was engaged as a printer with an Exeter firm.'

Reginald Charles Blackmore is recorded on the Devon Roll of Honour as 'Blackmore, Reginald Charles, L/Cpl, Devon Regt, 23rd Sept 1917, Egypt' and on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour as 'Blackmore, R.C. Lance Corporal, Devon Regiment.'

Dawlish War memorial inscription: BLACKMORE R.C. L/CORPL. DEVON REGT.

Devon Heritage site info:

240413 Lance Corporal Reginald Charles Blackmore of the Devonshire Regiment, the 5th (Prince of Wales) Battalion (Territorials). Son of Walter and Emma Blackmore of Frederick Terrace, Dawlish. Born in Dawlish in the December quarter of 1890. Died 22 September 1917 aged 27.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: BLACKMORE, R C Lance Corporal 240413
22/09/1917 Age: 25 Devonshire Regiment, 1st/5th Bn.

Grave Ref: D. 97. [Deir El Belah War Cemetery](#), Palestine.

Son of Mrs. Emma Blackmore, of 2, Frederick Terrace, Dawlish, Devon.

Last known address: 2 Frederick Terrace, Dawlish

Next of kin: Walter Blackmore, father (died in 1918).

A Death Grant of £9. 4s. 4d. Was paid to his father in 1917 and a War Gratuity of £14. 0s.0d was paid to his mother in 1919.

An award of the British War Medal and the Victory Medal was made to his next of kin

References:

<http://www.1914-1918.net/devons.htm>

<http://www.keepmilitarymuseum.org>

Free Birth Marriage Death refs

Refs via subscription websites:

census records

UK soldiers who died in the Great War

UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects

Gregson/Blackmore family tree - Ancestry