

Captain Arthur Gilbert Walsh Church

20th July 1918

Dawlish Gazette – 3rd August 1918

“ PRO PATRIA ”

Dawlish people have always taken an especial interest in the welfare of the Territorials, and a feeling of deep regret ran through the community on Monday at the sad news of the death in action of Capt. Arthur G W Church, son of Lieut-Col. C T W Church, of Gortlee. The deceased was a Second-Lieut. in command of the Dawlish detachment at the outbreak of war, and shortly afterwards proceeded with his Battalion to India. Subsequently he took part in the successful operations against the Turks, culminating in the capture of Jerusalem, and was promoted Captain. Since then he has seen service in France and returned home only a few weeks ago after an absence of 3 years and 9 months. On arriving back to duty he found that his company, which formed part of a flying column, was just on the point of going into action. The complement of officers was made up, but he asked and obtained permission to take his men into action, and to the great grief of all ranks was killed whilst leading the Company.

Capt. Church was a true gentleman and a very gallant and capable officer, esteemed by all. His men would do anything for him. As one of them has said he was “as straight as a die, and would never ask a man to do anything that he would not do himself.” He had worked hard to make himself a thoroughly efficient officer. Two much-respected Dawlish families are plunged into mourning by his death. The deep sympathy of the community is extended to Col. and Mrs Church and family.
