

Sapper James Edwin Kerswell

25th October 1918

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We deeply regret to announce that the news was received yesterday of the death by fever in Palestine of Sapper James Edwin Kerswell, R.E., eldest son of Mrs Kerswell, of Penlee, Dawlish. A wire first came to hand stating that he was seriously ill, followed in half-an-hour by a notification of his death. Mrs Kerswell's youngest son, Pte Sidney Kerswell (London Fusiliers), died at Malta of wounds received in the Gallipoli campaign. Her only surviving son is on service. Profound sympathy will be felt with the mother and family in this severe blow, which came without warning.

The deceased was chief clerk at the Dawlish Post Office at the time of joining the Army, having occupied this position for some years; in fact he was due for the promotion which his abilities warranted. He had had previous experience of soldiering as a Volunteer in the Boer War, serving through that trying campaign as a telegraphist.

Mr Kerswell was a Past Master and former Secretary of the Dawlish Loyal "Salem" Lodge of Freemasons. He was an enthusiastic member of the craft, and during his term of office showed a wide knowledge of freemasonry and a thorough grasp of lodge business. The deceased was indeed a man of much ability and many attainments, and his death is a distinct loss not only to the postal service which he adorned, but to the community at large.