

Walter Stoyle - 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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We regret to have to announce that another Dawlish soldier has fallen in the service of his country at the front, viz., Pte. Walter Stoyle, of the 2nd Devons. Deceased's mother, a Dawlish woman (Mrs Lovell), now resides at Bridgwater. He is a nephew of Mrs Fred Ferris and Mrs Harry Lucas, of this town and a half-brother of Pte. W. F. J. Lovell, of the 24th Field Ambulance (Wessex Division), at the front, a member of the "Gazette" printing staff who volunteered for active service early in the war. Deceased's mother received the sad news from Corpl. C. Warren, of C Co., 2nd Devons, who writes in high appreciation of his comrade. He says:

"I am sorry to be the bearer of bad tidings to you, but it is with the greatest sympathy that I tell you of the death of your son Walter, who was killed in action on the 11th of this month (March). I hope it will lessen your sorrow when I tell you he died without any pain, as his end was sudden. I thought you would like to hear the news from a comrade who was with him when he died. Your son was very popular with his chums and was one of the best men I had in my section. He did splendid work on the 10th, he being the first man in the German trench, which he cleared with bombs. He was a brave lad and you will be proud of him, knowing that he died a soldier's death while fighting for his King and country. I have also dropped a line to his sweetheart, as requested by him in a slip of paper I found on him and also sent back her photo. I can say no more except once more again to offer you my sincere sympathy on behalf of my section and myself."

It might be added that deceased joined the 2nd Devons seven years ago. Two years later he left with the regiment on foreign service in India and Egypt, returning to England in September last, when he spent a short time at Dawlish.