

John Frank Wills – 24<sup>th</sup> October 1914

## Dawlish Gazette

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1914

Sad news has reached Mrs Wills (of Old Town Street) and family this week. She had two sons called up with the Reserves, Messrs Jack and Jim Wills, both in the Devons. A letter was received from Jim, the younger, on Thursday, conveying the mournful news that his brother had been killed and that he was wounded. The deceased was a farm hand, an industrious, reliable man, and worked for Mr Nickels, of Holcombe. Both the brothers were fighting together in the same trench. A shell first knocked away a portion of the trench and shortly after another came and hit the deceased in the head, killing him instantly and wounded the other in the back and head. The two were talking together at the time. They had barely escaped being hit the day before and when the first shell came along remarked to each other, "That's the second time." Mr Jim Wills says he is not hurt badly himself and wonders how he escaped being killed outright.

*When John Wills died his brother, James was with him in the trenches and was wounded.*

## Dawlish Gazette

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1914

Ptes. J Wills, F Brooks and T Stevens, wounded Dawlish men of the Devons, are in hospital in Oxford. On Thursday news was received by relatives in Dawlish that Pte S Quantick (of the Devons) and Pte Bowden (of the Coldstreams), had been wounded, neither seriously.

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## Dawlish Gazette

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1914

Pte James Wills, of the Devons, has recovered sufficiently from the wound he received when his brother was killed beside him in the trenches to be able to come home.

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