

# Holy Lands

## The 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Devonshire Regiment and the Battle of Jerusalem

Away from the  
Western Front

The 'Holy Lands' project traces the young men who left North Devon to fight in Palestine a century ago, especially at the Battle of El Foka on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1917. As part of the national **Away from the Western Front** project, we are researching and documenting this often overlooked campaign of the First World War. These young farmers grew up learning about the Holy Land at Sunday School; what was it like in reality?



Two photos from the Museum's collections

**Above:** A group of North Devon soldiers in training at Woodbury Common near Exeter. The Museum has the diaries of Private Herbert Algar (back centre) describing the Battle of El Foka, in which the Battalion suffered 300 casualties.

**Left:** The Royal North Devon Yeomanry leaving Barnstaple Square, 1915.

We welcome any stories or objects that could add to Barnstaple & North Devon Museum's research or collections. If you can help, please contact Adam Murray on 01271 346747 or [adam.murray@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:adam.murray@northdevon.gov.uk).

This exhibition is part of the 'Away from the Western Front' project (2017-2019) which is running a range of events and activities across the country looking at individual soldiers' stories, to fully understand what made the conflict a World War.

[www.awayfromthewesternfront.org](http://www.awayfromthewesternfront.org)



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