

Carpentry experience: Charles Penson

Images 1, 2 and 3

There are five records pertaining to Charles' carpentry. He had been employed by Messrs. Walker and Sons of Tythby, agricultural implement manufacturers. The army asked for a reference (inevitably on a form!) which Mr Walker duly completed.

The firm had employed him since February 1913 and at the time of application still employed him. He was "sober and honest". Walker said his character was "alright, have seen nothing contrary to this." He was described as a journeyman, with no reference to having served an apprenticeship. They had "simply heard that he was a reserve man".

The reference was dated 9th Jan 1915.

Images 4 and 5

Naturally, once enlisted, the army tested his skill level. On 19th January 1915 he was rated as "proficient", qualifying him for pay at the rate of 1/= [per day]. On the 1st August 1916 he was uprated to Skilled and paid 1/8d. Image 4 is the note from his examiner.

Scroll down for images

Image 1

Confidential. 5691

IMMEDIATE.

Station NOTTINGHAM

Date 8-1 1915

DEAR SIR,

Mr Charles Robert Penson a candidate for enlistment, has named you as a reference to his character and trade qualifications.

I am therefore to request that you will kindly reply to the questions given overleaf, and return this letter to me at your earliest convenience.

A stamped and directed envelope is enclosed for reply.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

W. Walker
Recruiting Officer,

Messrs Walker & Sons
Tythby
Notts

Images 2 and 3

The following is a description of the man—

Age 31 1/2 years. Height 5 feet 5 1/8 inches.

Complexion fresh Eyes brown Hair brown

QUESTIONS.

1. Has Charles Robert Penson, whose description is given above, and who gives his address as Chapel Lane Bingham (Wotts) been employed by you as a Carpenter?
2. If so, when, and for how long?
3. Please say why he left you.
4. Do you believe him to be sober?
5. Do you believe him to be honest?
6. Can you give any other information as to his character?
7. What is his trade or occupation?
8. Has he served an apprenticeship, and if so, for how long?
9. Give your opinion of his capabilities, stating, if applicable, whether he is a partly trained apprentice, an improver, journeyman, leading hand, charginer, &c., &c.
10. Has he to your knowledge, or have you ever heard that he has served in the Army, Navy, Royal Marines, Militia, Special Reserve, Territorial Force, Imperial Yeomanry or Volunteers? If so, please state which.

Army Form B. 64c.

General description _____

ANSWERS.

1. Yes
2. Since February 1915
3. Has not yet left
4. Yes
5. Yes
6. Character all right. Have seen nothing contrary to this
7. Jones or Price makes
8. Do not know anything about this
9. Journeyman
10. Simply heard he was a Reserve Man

Signature Francis Walker
for Francis Walker
 Trade or Profession Hgt. Implemen. C. Repairer
 Address T. H. W.
Bingham - Wotts
 Date 9th Jan 1915