

George Rowe – Service and Medical History

Taken together, the records of postings and medical reports reveal a good deal about George's experiences in the army. He enlisted twice. He joined the Sherwood Foresters in 1901 and served in Singapore for a while. When his term of service expired in 1913 he re-enlisted. In 1910 he married Beatrice Street in Donyatt. Somehow after being an agricultural labourer in 1901 he had become a stonemason by 1913!

One is forced to the conclusion that the heavily tattooed George had a number of nefarious adventures which lead to his acquiring some unfortunate diseases. A number of liaisons in Singapore and other places probably led to the afflictions reported in his record sheets. Beatrice was heavily pregnant when they married, and their second child was born only 11 months after the first.

Images 1 and 2 Descriptions on attestation

31 April 1901

George was examined at Derby on joining the army. His birthplace was given as Bingham and his declared age was 18 years 2 months.

He was a labourer.

Height: 5 feet 3¼". Weight 137 pounds.

Chest: 36" maximum expansion 38".

Physical development was "Fair".

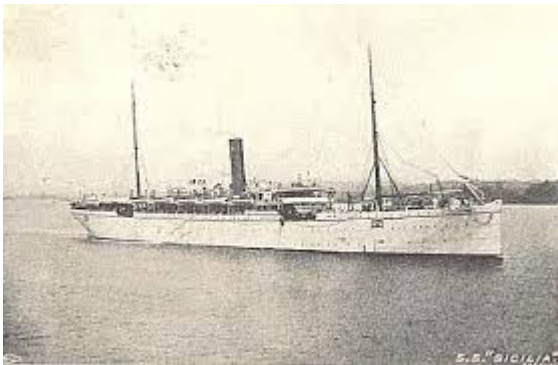
He had been vaccinated in infancy but was re-vaccinated on 13th May 1901.

On the Description, completed on 30/4/1901 - additional information:

Eyes: Grey. Hair: light brown.

Image 3

His record of hospitalisation from 1901 reveals much geographical movement and poor health:



He spent the period April to mid-October 1901 at Derby then Aldershot, presumably training. On 18th November he embarked on the troop ship Sicilia to Malta arriving on the 28th.

He was immediately hospitalised suffering from Gonorrhoea until 23rd January. He had shown symptoms on board and was in the ship's hospital during the 8 day passage. He underwent a further 56 days in hospital in Malta.

By 20th October 1901 he was back in Aldershot hospital with influenza. After six days he made a "mild recovery". On the 3rd November he was pronounced fit for service in Singapore.

He was examined there on the 12th December for an extension of service.

He was in hospital in Singapore from 1st March 1906 until the 15th May (76 days). He was diagnosed with "Soft Chancre", a sexually transmitted disease.

Image 4 - Statement of the services form from 1901.

Records his enlistment on 29/4/1901 and his rank of private. From 3/8/01 to 9/8/01 he was "in civil power" [does this mean he had been arrested?].

Then a note "To Duty" Private 18/8/01.

Posted [unreadable] 15/10/01 and again, to Battalion on 18/11/01.

He seems then to have been "awarded 8 days imprisonment", released on 26 December, no explanation is given.

BUT on 9th February 1905 he was [rubber stamp] "permitted to extend his service to 8 years with the colours.

He was posted to the 2nd Battalion on 23/?/09 and then transferred on 28 April 1909 to "AR" [Army Reserve?].

On 28 April 1913 he was "discharged on the termination of first period of engagement. He then attested for his second period of service on 10th May.

He had accumulated 12 years of service, 7 years counting towards pension.

Image 5

The Military History form summarises his 12 years' service, but is generally unreadable. Under education, he is noted as being awarded a certificate on 25/4/03 and attending a "second course" at Bulford 2/9/04.

*[Bulford Camp was on Salisbury Plain. It was built on the first 750 acres of Salisbury Plain purchased by the army in 1897. It was bought because the chalk land was ideal for training the Cavalry and Yeomanry. The original hutted camp was built in 1900 on the site of the present Sling Barracks. The railway **extension** linked Bulford Camp to Amesbury in 1906.]*

In addition to recording again details of his wife and children, a note of his father is also on the form as next of kin: "father, George, Newgate Street, Bingham, Notts. Brother Frederick and Sister Nelly".

Later, details of his marriage were entered – to Beatrice Louisa Street, spinster, in St Mary's church, Danyatt, spinster, on 13 January 1910. Witnesses Eli Street and Mabel Street. Their children are noted: Phyllis

Mary, 15th May 1910 at Chard, Wyndham Eli on 15 June 1911 at Chard and Cecil [unreadable date] at Chard.

Image 6

11 May 1913

George re-enlisted at Taunton in Section D of the army reserve, having served already in the Sherwood Foresters from 1901. He answered yes to the question "Have you been discharged within the last six months after completing your first period of engagement?", and "Fair" to the question "What character did you receive on discharge?"

Image 7

The accompanying form (Rowe2) 'description on attestation', listed:

Age: 30y 1 month.

Height: 5 feet five inches.

Complexion "Fresh": Eyes "blue". Hair "Fair2.

Chest: 40", waist 35".

Trade: Stonemason. His occupation in 1911 census had been farm labourer!

He was married and his address was Donyatt Nr Ilminster.

His various tattoos were described:

Right Arm: "Edith" clasp hands, flags, birds, spiders, dancing woman, swords, snake,

Left Arm: "NELLIE" Woman with flags, dragon, bird, palm tree and snake, scorpion, woman

He also had a small scar on the back of his neck and large scars on both groins.

Next of kin was Wife: Beatrice, of Donyatt, Nr Ilminster, Somerset.

Sons: George, Windham

Daughter: Phyllis

[Scroll down to view images](#)

Image 1

Army Form 178

MEDICAL HISTORY of

Surname Rose Christian Name George

Examined { on 30 day of April 1901,
 at Duty

Birthplace { Parish Bingham
 County 20th

Declared Age 18 1/2

Trade or Occupation Salmon

Height 5 Feet 3 1/4 Inches.

Weight 137 lbs.

Chest measurement { Minimum 36 inches.
 Maximum expansion 38 inches.

Physical Development Fair

Small Pox Marks Nil

Vaccination Marks { Arm Right | Left
 Number 3 |

When Vaccinated Infancy

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease
Nil

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection.
Nil

Approved by A. K. ...
 (Rank) Major
 Medical Officer

Examined for re-engagement
 day of _____ 1901

* Considered _____
 (Signature) _____
 Medical Officer

* If unfit, state disability.

Re-vaccinated on 13 day of May 1901

Arm Left Number Three

Result Satisfactory
 (Signature) A. K. ...
 Medical Officer

Enlisted on 29 day of April 1901, at Northampton

	Corps.	REGTL. NUMBER	DATE.
Joined on enlistment ...		<u>6925</u>	<u>29 4 01</u>
Transferred to ...			

PROPOSED FOR CHANGE OF CLIMATE OR DISCHARGE BY A MEDICAL BOARD.

Station	Date	Disease	Result

N.B.—This sheet to be disposed of in accordance with instructions in the Regulations for Army Medical Services, on the man becoming non-effective, the date and cause being stated on next page.

B.F. Co. 80,000 3-1900 Forms E 178
 836 2

Image 2

Army Form 178

MEDICAL HISTORY of

Surname Rose Christian Name George

Examined { on 30 day of April 1901,
 at Duty

Birthplace { Parish Bingham
 County 10th

Declared Age 18 1/2

Trade or Occupation Salmon

Height 5 Feet 3 1/4 Inches.

Weight 137 lbs.

Chest measurement { Minimum 36 inches.
 Maximum expansion 38 inches.

Physical Development Fair

Small Pox Marks Nil

Vaccination Marks { Arm Right | Left
 Number 3 |

When Vaccinated Infancy

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease
Nil

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection.
Nil

Approved by A. K. ...
 (Rank) Major
 Medical Officer

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B.F. Co. 80,000 3-1900 Forms
E 178
2

Image 3

Christian Name	Station, or Troop Ship	Date of arrival at the Station, or of Embarkation	Dates of				Disease	Number of Days in Hospital	Remarks on nature of the disease; how induced; if mild or severe; if completely recovered from; whether any particular treatment was adopted. In venereal cases state nature of primary disease, and whether mercury has been given. If an accident state whether it occurred on duty and whether a Court of Inquiry was held.	Signature of Medical Officer
			Admission to Hospital		Discharge from Hospital					
			Day	Mo.	Day	Mo.				
		29-4-01						Pro. Admission		
		15-10-01						ADMISSION		
		18-11-01	21-11-01	28-11-01		Gonorrhoea	9	Transit		
	Malta		28-11-01	07-12-01		"	5	Discharge		
	Aldershot		30-10-01	07-10-01		Influenza	6	Full recovery		
	ARKHURST							Examined for service in Singapore 12-10-01 for 20 days		
								Commanding Sgd. Derbyshire Regt.		
								2-NOV-1904		
								Lieut. Colonel		
								COMD. 2 nd Bn. THE SHEPHERD FORESTERS		
	Singapore	19-10-01						Examination of service in Singapore 12-10-01 for 20 days		
	"		1-12-01	12-01-02		Soft Chancre	4	Contaminated by contact with prostitute		

Image 4

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. *6925* Name *George Rowe*

Corps in which served	Battal or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Awards, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pension		Service not allowed to reckon towards G. C. Pay		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
					years	days	years	days	
				recounts from <i>29.4.07</i>					
				on <i>30.4.07</i>					
			<i>Pte</i>	<i>29.4.07</i>					
		<i>In Civil Power</i>		<i>30.8.01</i>					
		<i>20 duty Private</i>		<i>9.8.01</i>					
				<i>10.8.01</i>					
		<i>Relief Posted</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>15.10.01</i>					
		<i>Posted</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>18.10.01</i>					
		<i>Awarded 5 days</i>		<i>3-11-01</i>					
		<i>Permitted to extend his service to 8 years with the Colours.</i>		<i>9.2.03</i>					
		<i>4</i>							
		<i>Granted Class Service Pay at d per diem.</i>							
		<i>2nd Posted</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>28.09.09</i>					
		<i>transferred</i>	<i>Sgt</i>	<i>28.10.09</i>					
		<i>Discharged on the termination of first period of engagement</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>28 APR 1913</i>					
		<i>Arrested</i>							
Total Service forfeited as above									
Total Service towards Engagement to <i>28 APR 1913</i> (date of discharge)					<i>12</i> years	<i>0</i> days			
" " " Pension to <i>28 APR 1913</i>					<i>12</i> years	<i>0</i> days			

Image 5

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

Service at Home and Abroad (including former service of re-enlisted men, when allowed to reckon towards G. C. Pay or Pension).

COUNTRY	FROM	TO	YEARS	DAYS
	18-11-01	11-12-06	5	34
	11-12-06	28 APR 1913	6	14
	<i>Total</i>		<i>12</i>	<i>48</i>

N.B.—The Count only to be shown—it is not necessary to show separately the service in the different Kingdoms of Great Britain, Ireland, Scotland and France to be shown under the general term "Home."
For mode of computing Service Abroad, see Queen's Regulations.

Initials of Officer making the entry

2. Whether educated at (Apply only to Regt.)
Name of School (or Institution) or Local Government Board } Duke of York's Royal Military School
Royal Hibernian Military School
Industrial School under Home Office

3. Certificates of education ...

4. Passed classes of Instruction ...
Granted On Certificate 25.4.03
2nd course Bullford 2.9.07

5. Campaigns (including Aerials) ...

6. Wounded ...

7. Effects of wounds ...

8. Special instances of gallantry ...

9. Medals, decorations and amicitiae ...

10. Injuries in or by the Service ...

11. Deferred Pay issued ...
(1) On first transfer to Reserve £ s. d.
(2) On second transfer to Reserve £ s. d.
(3) On Discharge £ s. d.

12. Deferred Pay refunded ...
(1) On rejoining the Colours £ s. d.
(2) On (Credited to the public in the Accounts of _____ to _____) £ s. d.

Name and Address of next of kin ...
Father George navigated to the wham both
Robert (C) Hedwell
Sister (C) Hall

13. Particulars as to Children

Particulars as to Marriage

(a) Christian Names of Woman to whom married and whether spinster or widow, (b) place and date of marriage, (c) name of officiating Minister or Registrar, and (d) names of two witnesses	(e) Date of being placed on Marriage Roll	(f) Initials of Officer
<i>Phyllis Louisa Street, St Mary's Church, Spinkite, Dorset, 13.1.1910</i>	<i>13.1.1910</i>	<i>Bl</i>

Christian Names	Date and Place of Birth	Date and Place of Baptism, and Name of officiating Minister
<i>Phyllis Mary Wyndham Hill</i>	<i>5.5.10</i>	<i>Christ Church</i>
<i>Colin Howard</i>	<i>8.6.11</i>	<i>Christ Church</i>

NOTE.—These entries are to be made from time to time as they occur, and initialled by the Officer making the entry.

Image 6

SECTION D OF ARMY RESERVE.

ATTESTATION of No. 6225 Name George Havel

QUESTIONS to be put to the Man before Enlistment into Section D of the Army Reserve.

- (1) What is your name? ... (1) George Havel
- (2) Do you now belong to the Royal Navy, the Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, to what Corps? ... (2) No
- (3) Have you been discharged within the last six months, on completing your first period of engagement, from the Regular Army, or from the Army Reserve? ... (3) Yes
- (4) What character did you receive on discharge from the Regular Army; or last transfer to the Reserve? ... (4) Dis.
- (5) Are you willing to be attested for General Service in the Army Reserve † for ‡ four years provided His Majesty should so long require your services? ... (5) Yes
- (6) Are you aware that you will be liable to be called out on permanent service, in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, in case of imminent national danger, or of great emergency, notwithstanding that directions have not been given for calling out the whole of the First Division of the Army Reserve on such service? ... (6) Yes
- (7) Are you aware that, if so called out, you will be liable to be detained in Army Service for the unexpired portion of your term of Service in the Army Reserve and for a further period not exceeding 12 months if so directed by the competent Military Authority? ... (7) Yes

* If so, the man should be required to produce his Parchment Discharge Certificate and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him.
 † The competent Military Authority may, within three months of a reservist who has been called out on permanent service being appointed to a Corps, transfer him to any other corps of the Regular Forces.
 ‡ In the case of a man existing before being discharged from the Army, the four years' service commences on the day after his discharge from the Army.

I, George Havel do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY THE MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, George Havel do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL OFFICER.

I certify that I have carefully examined this man, and in my opinion he does not suffer from any disability or ailment likely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties either at Home or Abroad.

(Place) Leicester (Date) 10th May 1912.
Signature of Medical Officer: [Signature]

CERTIFICATE OF MAN'S COMMANDING OFFICER.

I certify that I have examined the documents of the above-named man, and that he is eligible for enlistment in Section D, Army Reserve. His Army Engagement expires on the 10th May

(Place) LICHFIELD. (Date) 10th May 1912.
Signature of Commanding Officer: [Signature]

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER.

The above questions were read to the man named above in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said man has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Taunton on this 10th day of May 1912.

Signature of Attesting Officer: [Signature]

RECRUITING OFFICER, TAUNTON.

Image 7

Description of

George Powell

on attestation for Sec. 9

Army Reserve.

Age	<i>30 1/2</i> ✓	Edith clasp hands	Flags, Birds, Spider,
Height	<i>5' 8"</i> ✓	Dancing woman, sword,	snake, right arm
Complexion	<i>Flesh</i> ✓	9 feathers	
Eyes	<i>Blue</i> ✓	NELLIE. Woman with flag	Dragon Head
Hair	<i>Dark</i> ✓	Palm tree, snake, scorpion	Woman left arm
Trade	<i>Stone Mason</i> ✓	Small scar back of neck	
Married or Single	<i>Married</i> ✓	Large scars both groin	
Address	<i>Donyatt W. Minster</i> ✓		

Chest *45* ✓
 Waist *35* ✓
 Size of Helmet *22 1/2* ✓
 Size and magnitude of Boots *7 1/2* ✓

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

1. Service abroad ... (Specifying countries in which served, and dates of embarkation and disembarkation.)

2. Wounded ...

3. Special instances of gallant conduct ...

4. Medals ...

5. Injuries in or by Army Service ...

6. Name and address of next-of-kin ...

44 B 104 76
Message 200
44 B 104 750
3 10 14

B 2000 in
deep to him
24 11 14

Address:-
Donyatt
W. Minster
Comerast

Wife: *Beatrice*
 Sons: *George, Windsor*
 Daughters: *Phyllis*

If Officer the entry.