### **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.

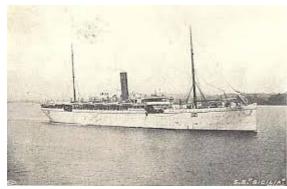
Height: 5 feet 3¼". Weight 137 pounds. Chest: 36" maximum expansion 38". Physical development was "Fair".

He had been vaccinated in infancy but was re-vaccinated on 13<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> November he embarked on the troop ship Sicilia to Malta arriving on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

He was immediately hospitalised suffering from Gonorrhoea until 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> October 1901 he was back in Aldershot hospital with influenza. After six days he made a "mild recovery". On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November he was pronounced fit for service in Singapore.

He was examined there on the 12<sup>th</sup> December for an extension of service.

He was in hospital in Singapore from 1<sup>st</sup> March 1906 until the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> February 1905 he was [rubber stamp] "permitted to extend his service to 8 years with the colours.

He was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  $10^{\text{th}}$  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, 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Ilmister.

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.

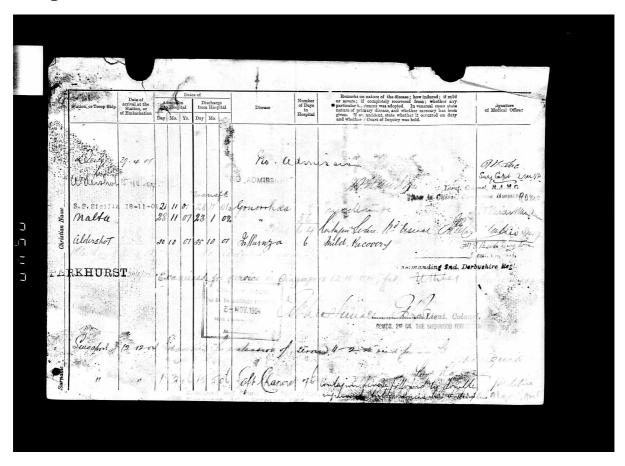
Sons: George, Windham

Daughter: Phyllis

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I	(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	_
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OATH TO BE TAKEN BY THE MAN ON ATTESTATION.  I,  I,  If the Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will be faithful and and the control of the Majesty His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, against al smies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty His Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers over me. So help me God.  CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL OFFICER.  I certify that I have carefully examined this many and in my opinion he does not suffer from any disability or ailment ely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties either at Home or Abroad.  Place)  CERTIFICATE OF MAN'S COMMANDING OFFICER.  (or late Commanding Officer if discharged).  I certify that I have examined the documents of the above-named man, and that he is eligible for enlistment in tion D, Army Reserve. His Army Engagement expires on the  Place)  Signature of CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER.  The above questions were read to the man mamed above in my presence.  I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly reed as replied to, and the said man has made and signed the declaration and taken the eath before me of the document of Attesting Officer of Attesting Officer (Attesting Officer)  Signature of Attesting Officer (Attesting Officer)  Signature of Attesting Officer (Attesting Officer)	he above questions are true and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.	
do make Oath, that I will be faithful and ar true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fitth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty and, honestly and hithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirt, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity, against all mines, and will obselve and obey all orders of His Majesty His Heirt, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officer over me. So help me God.  CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL OFFICER.  I certify that I have carefully examined this many and in my opinion he does not suffer from any disability or ailment ely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties either at Home or Abroad.  Place  Date)  191 .  CERTIFICATE OF MAN'S COMMANDING OFFICER.  (or late Commanding Officer if discharged).  I certify that I have examined the documents of the above-named man, and that he is eligible for enlistment in tion D, Army Reserve. His Army Engagement expires on the  Signature of Commanding Officer  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 reed as replied to, and the said man has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me Canada and the commanding Officer Many of the Commandin		r-
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Description of	George	Powe	on attestation for Sec.	9
Army Reserve.			¥.4	1150
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Service abroad (Specifying countries in which served, and dates of embarkation and disembarkation).		No. K	It f Offi ma he en	cer try.
2. Wounded	14	M. Com	y in	
3. Special instances of gallant conduct		3	~ 2000	À
4. Medals	Campaign and Date	Clasps	John Pr	,0
5. Injuries in or by Army Service	Wike; Beatrice	/ Addres	w. H	
6. Name and address of next-of-kin }	Sons: George, M. Daughar: Sh	Sindon & M. Se	mineti merset	
	4.			