



ARTHUR CHARLES
SNOW

1904 - 1924

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A 2011 certified copy of Arthur's death certificate.

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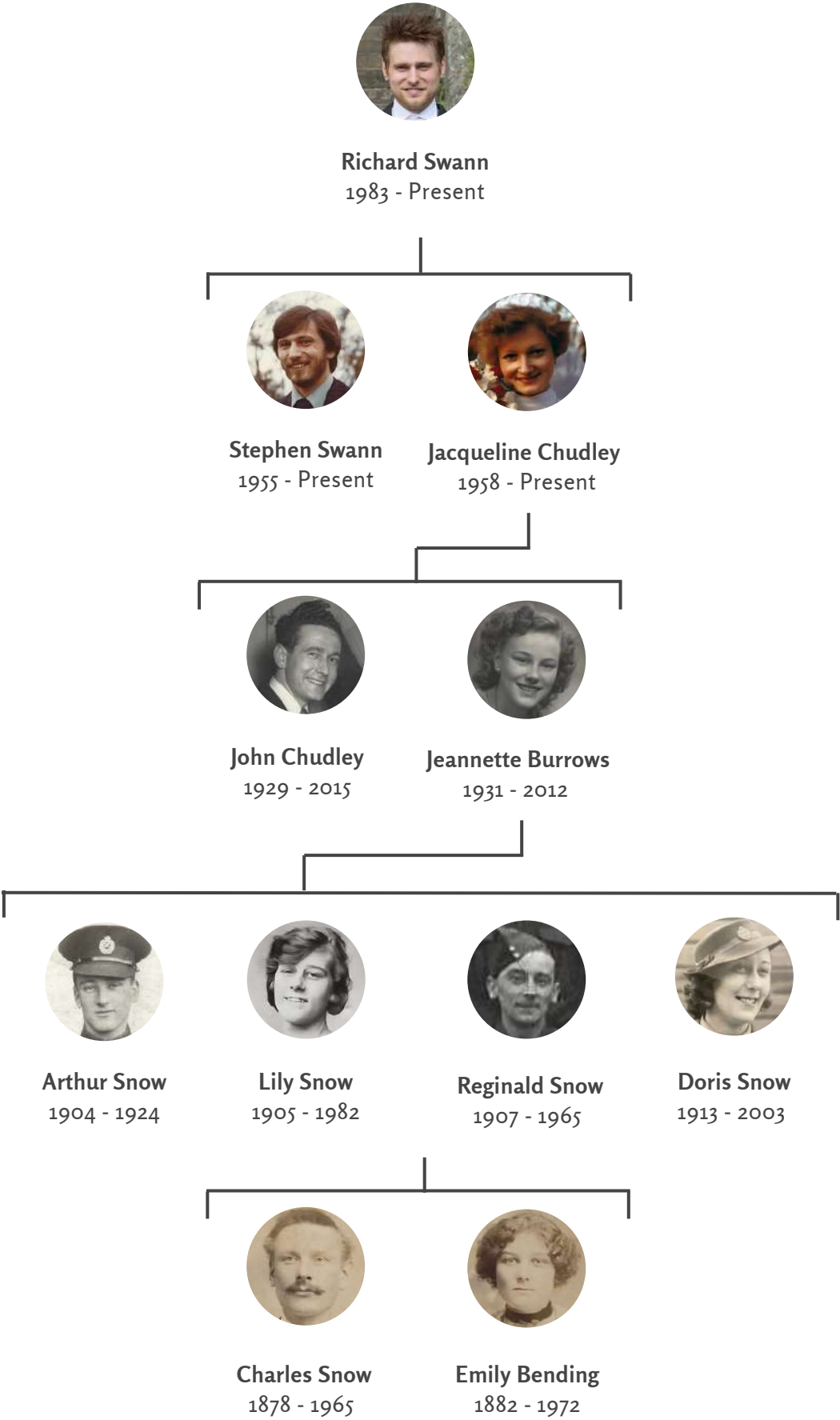
A photo of Arthur's grave at Shorncliffe Military Cemetery.

INTRODUCTION

This document examines the discovery of a collection of photos, personal effects, letters and telegrams regarding my great uncle Arthur Charles Snow. Arthur tragically died of pneumonia in 1924 and was laid to rest at Shorncliffe Military Cemetery by his comrades of the 9th Field Coy. Royal Engineers.



MY RELATION TO ARTHUR



ARTHUR'S EARLY LIFE



Arthur Charles Snow was born on the 19th of February 1904. The photograph above shows baby Arthur with his father Charles and his mother Emily.

The Snow's family address at this time was 3 Roseberry Terrace, Frieze Hill, Taunton TA1 1EZ. The house still exists today.





Arthur was baptised on the 6th of April 1904 at St James' Church, Taunton. The photo above is the church interior in 1912. The image on the right is the church circa 1904 and the image below is Arthur's baptism certificate.



Died 4th Dec 1924 at Sharncliffe

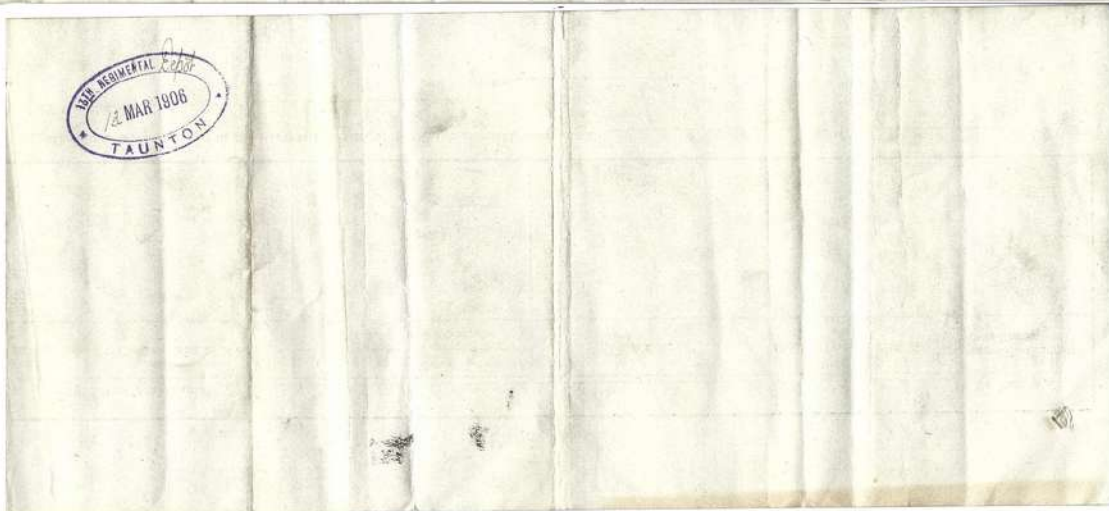
Age 20 $\frac{10}{12}$ Page 133.

Baptism solemnized in the Parish Church of Taunton S. James in the Year 1904

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was Performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1904 Apr 6 No. 1060	Arthur Charles	Charles "	Snow	3. Roseberry Terrace	Engine Driver	T.R. Wilekton

The above is a TRUE COPY of the BAPTISM REGISTER of the Parish aforesaid, extracted this fourteenth day of March in the Year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and six By me F.W. Young.

7d



7

LIFE IN THE MILITARY

RANK OF BOY IN THE ROYAL ENGINEERS



The image above is Arthur's name plate which was possibly used on a trunk or suitcase. The image below is Arthur on the right possibly on the day he got his uniform and then sent this photo to his parents.

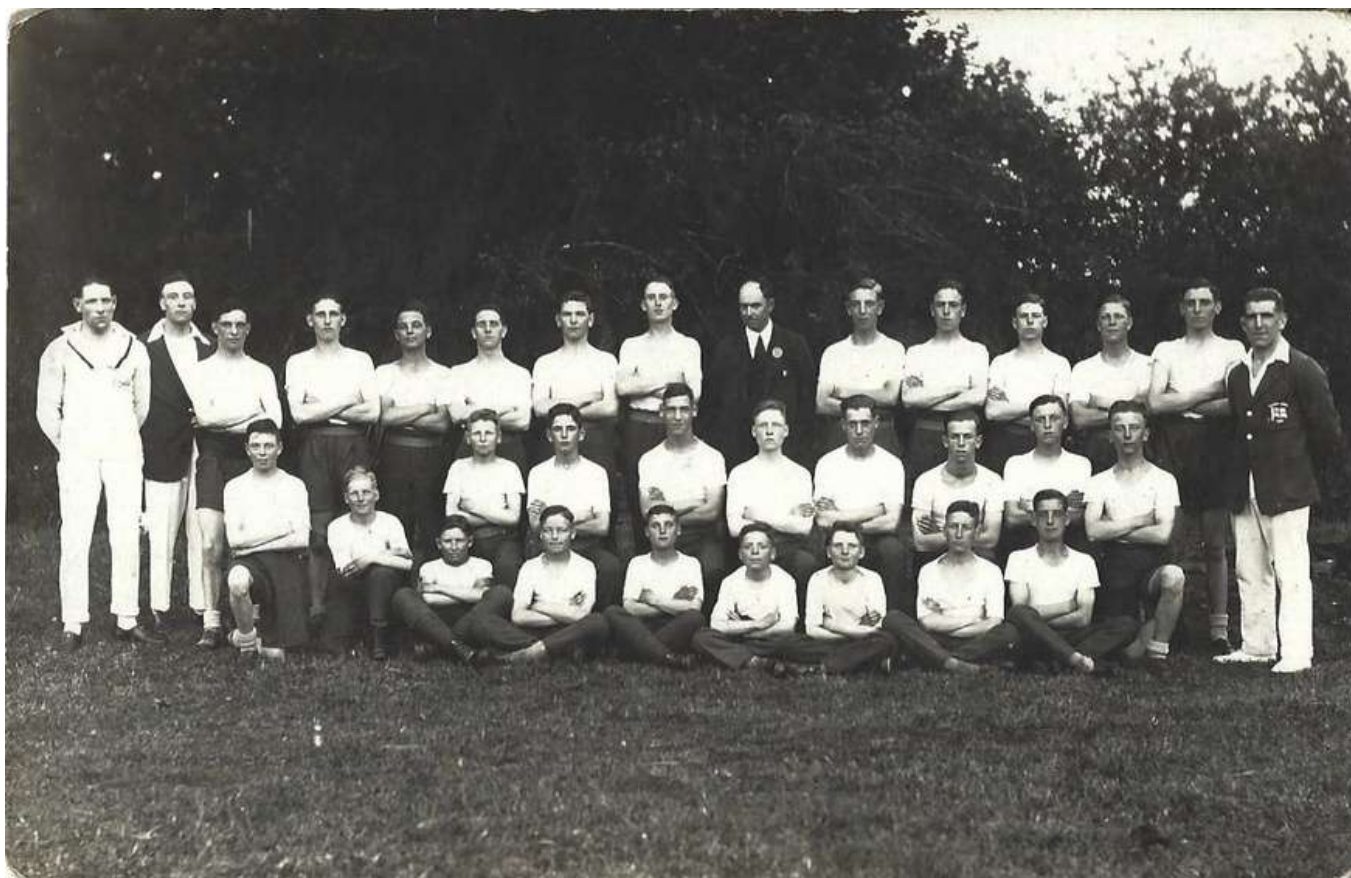


The Regulations for Recruiting for the Regular Army published in 1903 laid out the criteria under which boys aged between fourteen and seventeen years could be recruited and the roles they were permitted to take on. Any boy enlisting in this way had to produce:

- A certificate of good character
- Birth or baptism certificate which Arthur appears to have used (see page 4)
- Proof of elementary school education to at least Standard V
- Written parental consent

Boys could enlist for a trade, in which case their Terms of Engagement were less flexible. Arthur enlisted as an electrical engineer which you can see in his notebook on page 18.

For boys being enlisted to the Royal Engineers, they could serve as trumpeters, buglers or musicians. Their main service started on their 18th birthday.



Physical education group photo

Arthur appears to be on the bottom row 5th from left.



Royal Engineers group photo

Arthur appears to be on the top row 5th from left.



The photo above with "R.E. Sports. 3." written on it was amongst the discovered photos of Arthur. "R.E" is the Royal Engineers however I cannot determine where he is in the lineup.

The photo below appears to be the Royal Engineers given the uniforms but as with the top image I cannot determine where Arthur is.



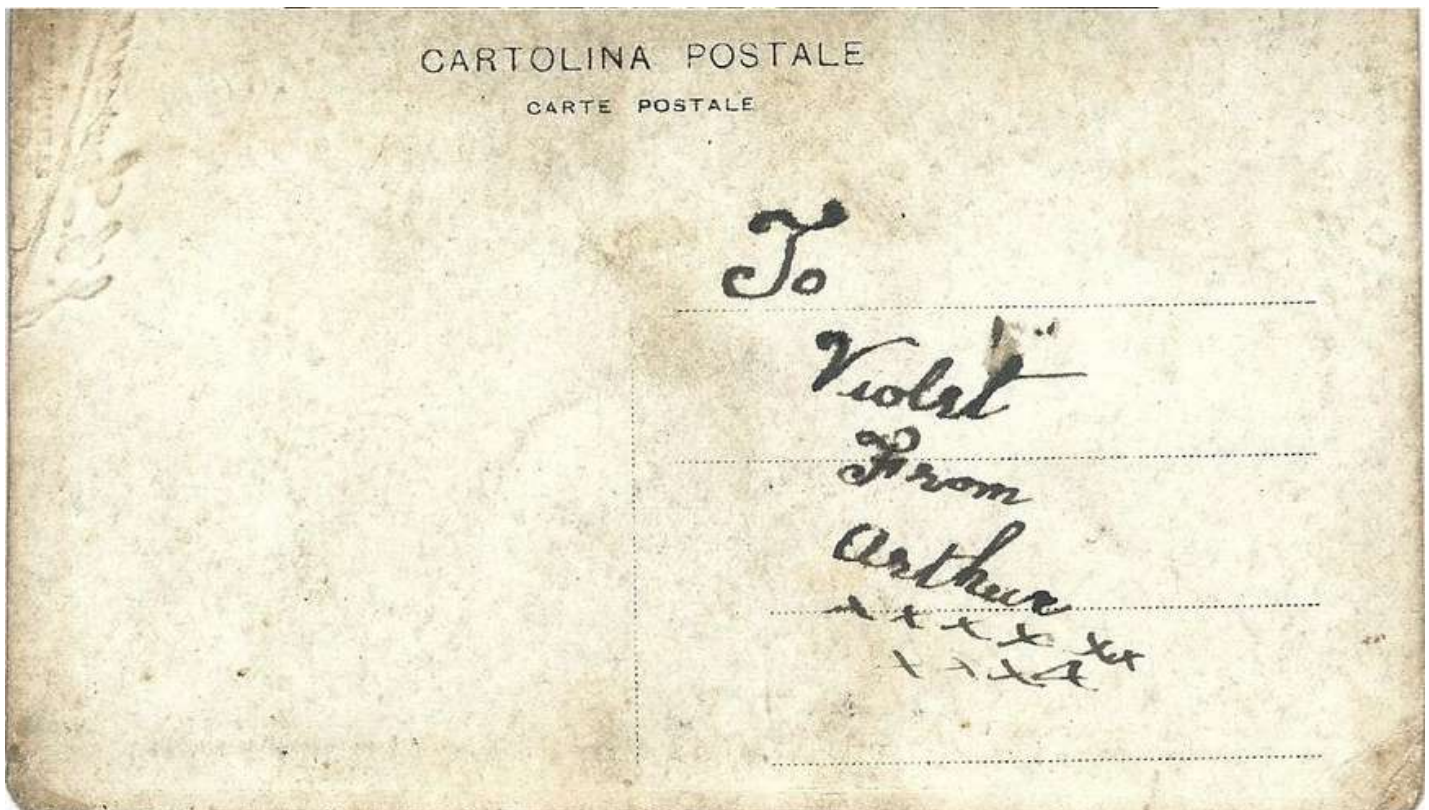


THE SWEETHEART?

The photo on the left shows Arthur on the right during boxing training. On the back of this photo it reads "To Violet from Arthur XXXXXXXXXX"

In Arthurs notebook there is 2 references to "Violet Lane" and he was expecting her photo in return. See the notebook references on pages 16 and 25.

Also in Arthur's notebook on page 16 is a reference to a Master C. Lane of 11 St Augustine St, Taunton, possibly Violet's brother?



MILITARY EDUCATION

In 1861 the Army Certificate of Education was introduced as a new inducement towards learning. On the recommendation of the Council of Military Education three levels or standards were set out and were linked with promotion in the ranks.

Army Form, C. 310.

G  R

Third Class
Certificate of Education

Awarded on the authority of the Army Council.

EW Ward
Secretary Army Council.

To

N^o 618833, *Boy A. Snow,*
of the 1st Reserve Battalion, Royal Engineers
On the recommendation of Inspector of Army
*Schools** *Dover District*

Date 14th November, 19 19

Attainments.

Arithmetic:—Compound Rules and Reduction of Money,
Avoirdupois Weight and Lineal Measure,
Simple Addition and Subtraction of Vulgar
Fractions, a simple Messing Account.

Writing from Dictation:—Proficiency in Writing
Regimental Orders.

Composition:—Writing a simple letter.

H. J. ...
Lieut-Colonel, R.E.
Commanding 1st Reserve Battalion, R.E.

** Or other Officer duly authorized.*

The document on the left is Arthur's third-class certificate which specified the standard for promotion to the rank of corporal. The candidate was to read aloud and to write from dictation passages from an easy narrative, and to work examples in the four compound rules of arithmetic and the reduction of money.

It is often forgotten how important the army was in educating working class men in the early twentieth century. Many young men joining the military had very limited education, few were truly literate thanks to nineteenth century reforms of the education system. Many had left school at a very young age and had only limited reading, writing and arithmetic skills.

The army education certificates encouraged them to learn and prepared them for potential promotion whilst giving an ever more technical military a pool of better educated and more useful men.

The document below is Arthur's second-class certificate, necessary for promotion to sergeant, entailed writing and dictation from a more difficult work, familiarity with all forms of regimental accounting, and facility with proportions and interest, fractions and averages.

Arthur references passing both his first and second class certificate of education exams in his notebook on page 18.

Army Form C.309.



S **R**

Second Class Certificate of Education

Awarded on the authority of the Army Council.

To

R. Wade
Secretary Army Council

N^o *618838* *Boy Snow AB*
of the Royal Engineers.
On the recommendation of Inspector of Army
Schools Captain E J Waldron, I.A.S.
Date 30th January 1920.

Attainments.

Arithmetic: *Reduction; Simple Practice and Proportion; Vulgar and Decimal Fractions; Averages, Percentages and Proportional Parts; Simple Superficial and Cubic Measure; Regimental accounts.*

Writing from Dictation.

Composition: *Writing a simple essay.*

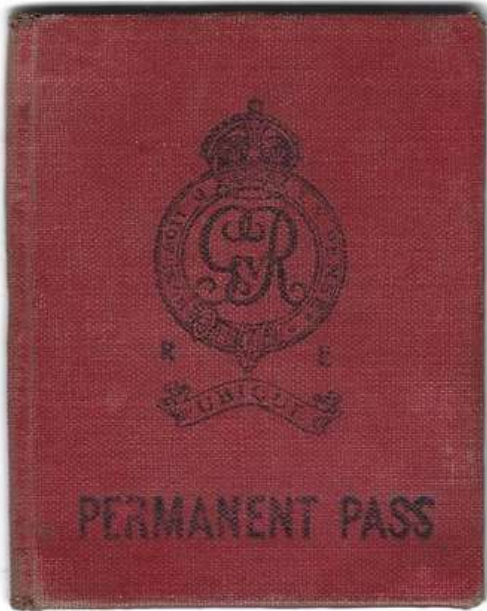
John G. G.
Lieut-Colonel G.C.

Commanding Royal Engineers
Or other Officer, duly authorized

Gosport.
Maltby & Sons, Lith.

* 5092 11-2730 P.2502, 100/10 11, 10. FORM C.309/31.

PERSONAL EFFECTS



The item on the left is Arthur's Royal Engineers Permanent Pass which allowed him to be away from his military unit for a limited period of time. Time away on a pass was not counted against leave, the annual allotment of days off from duty.

The front bears Royal Engineers cap badge with the crown & cypher of King George V.



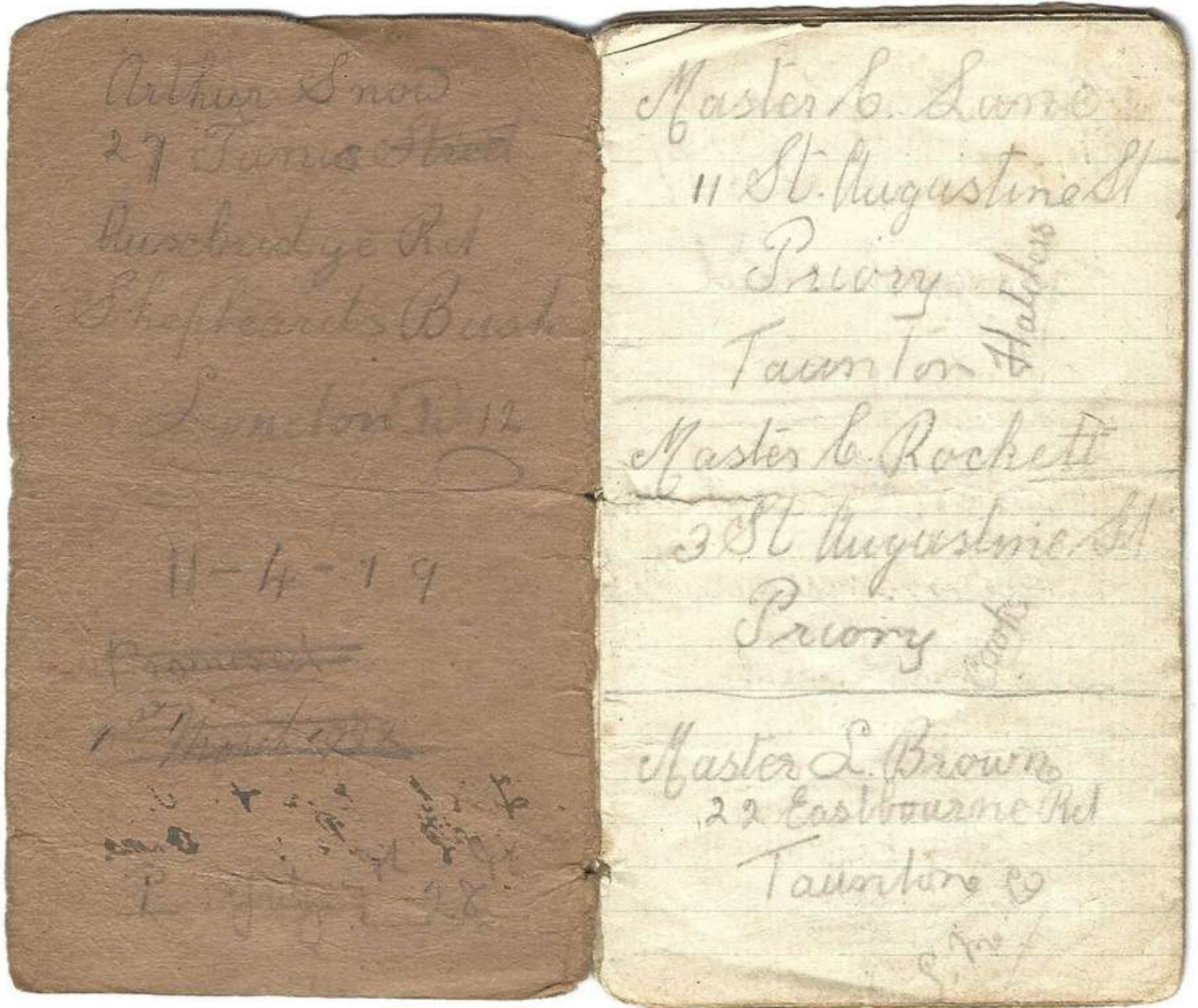
Inside it is stamped with 22nd Fortress Company. Fortress Companies were responsible for the maintenance of the defences at those places designated as fortresses. They also worked with Royal Garrison Artillery, operating defence electric lights to illuminate enemy vessels which ties in with Arthur's choice to learn his trade as an electrical engineer (see notebook reference on page 18)



Arthur's brown leather wallet, bearing his initials A. C. S. in gold leaf, which contained his notebook.

The notebook is extremely fragile with most of the pages written in pencil.

ARTHUR'S NOTEBOOK

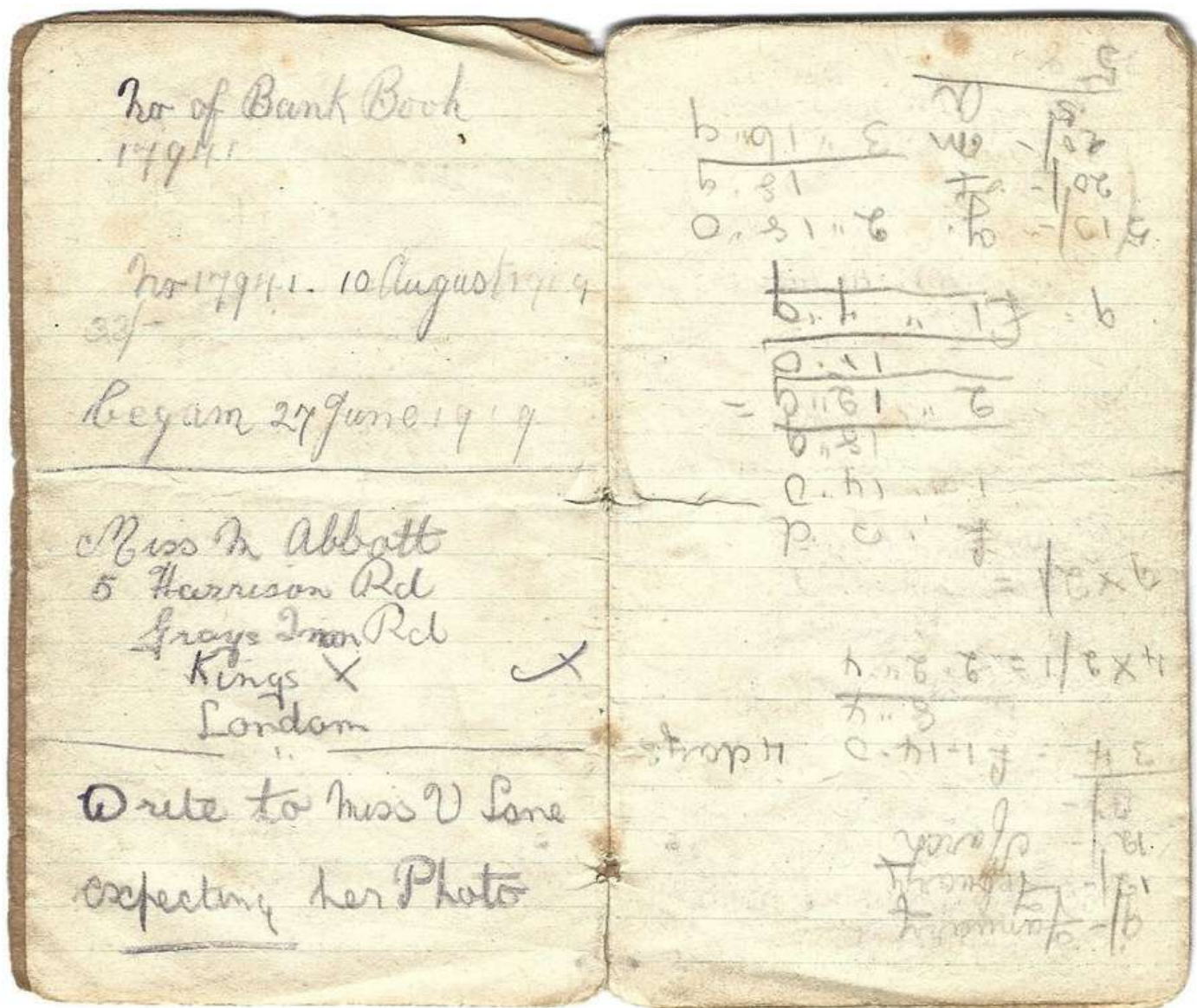


PAGE ONE

Contains Arthur's name and an address of 27 [illegible] Uxbridge Road, Shepherd's Bush London W12. 11-4-19.

PAGE TWO

Address of Arthur's friends in Taunton. As well as Master C. Lane there is also a Violet Lane mentioned later in the notebook who could have been the recipient of the photo on page 11.

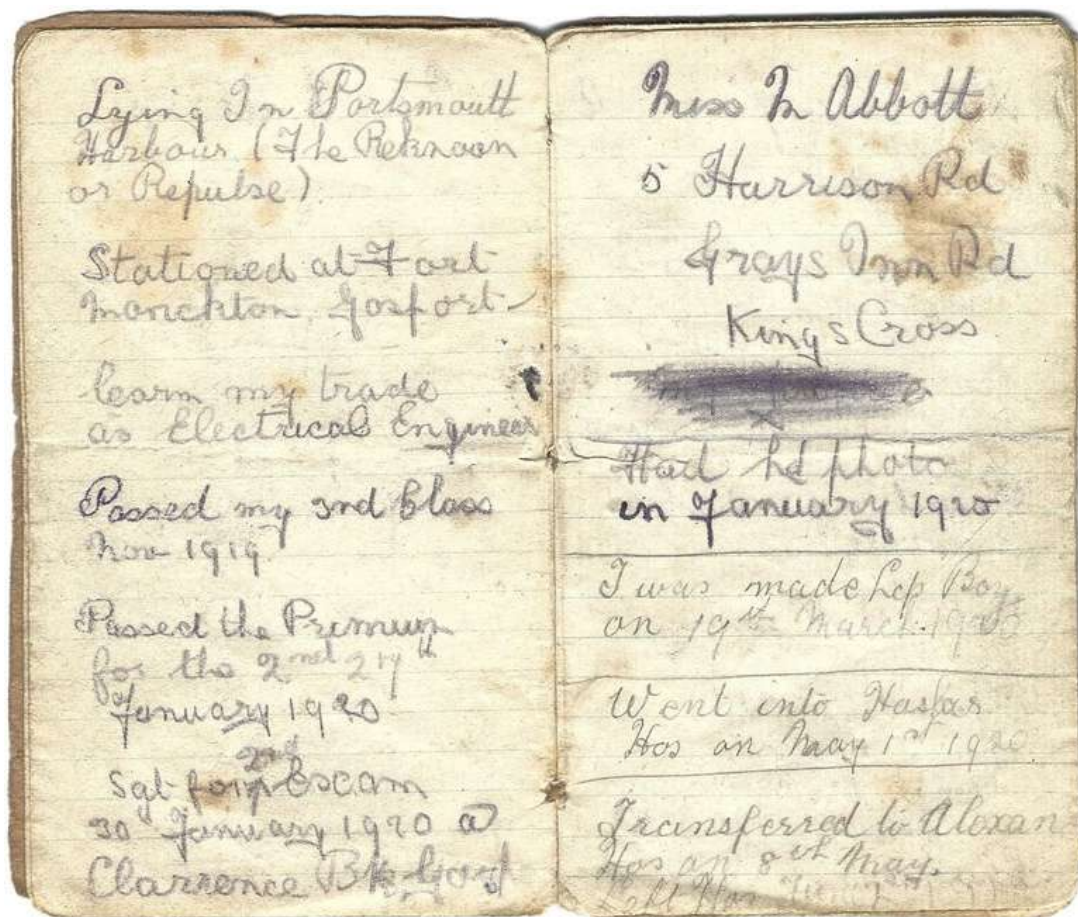


PAGE THREE

"Write to Miss V Lane, expecting her photo" could this be "Violet" from the photo on page 11?

PAGE FOUR

Appears to be written upside down compared to all the other pages in the notebook. Possibly revision for his third or second class exams which he passed. See the certificates on pages 12 and 13.



PAGE FIVE

"Learn my trade as Electrical Engineer"

"Passed my 3rd Class 1919 Nov 1919"

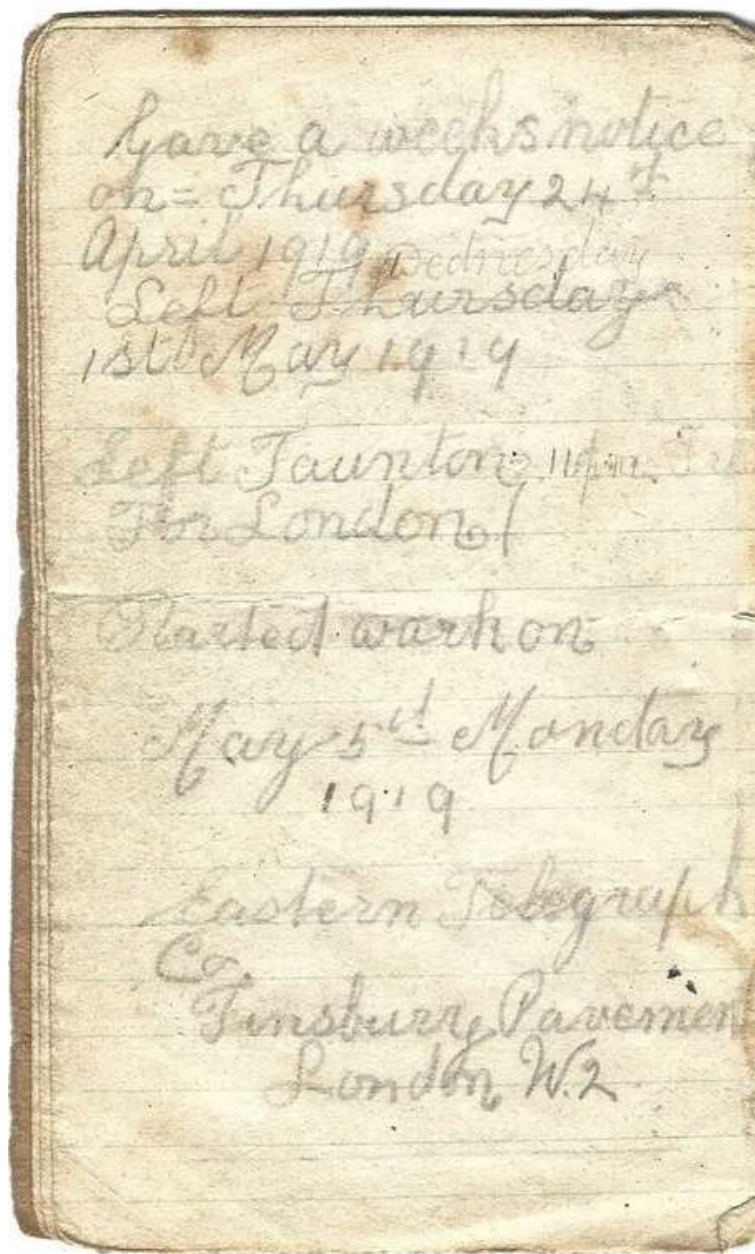
"Sat for 2nd exam 30th January 1920 at Clarence B[illegible] yard"

Arthur's certificates for both these exams survive and are on pages 12 and 13.

PAGE SIX

"Had hd photo in January 1920" hd could be an abbreviation of "head" and Arthur could be referring to this head photo below, the original un-restored, un-coloured version used on the front cover of this document.





PAGE SEVEN

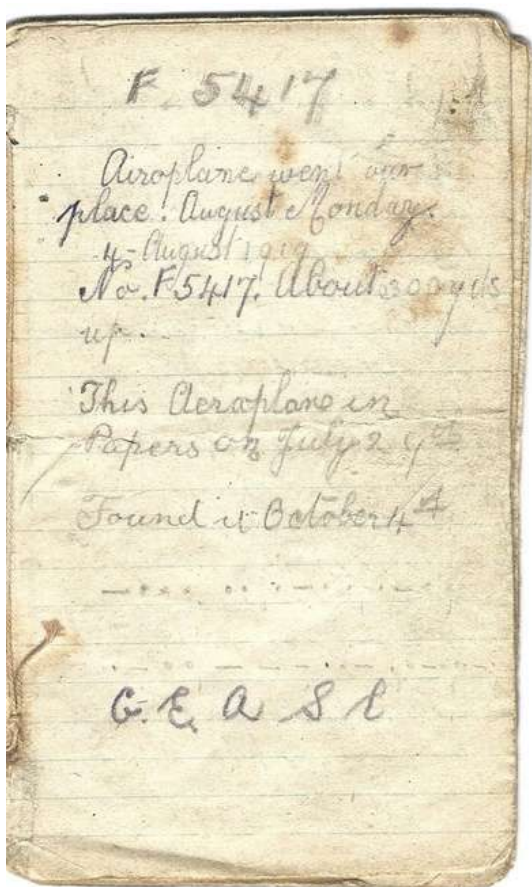
"Gave a weeks notice on Thursday 24th April 1919, Left Thursday 1st May 1919"

"Left Taunton for London"

This could be Arthur requesting leave to help the family move from 3 Roseberry Terrace, Frieze Hill, Taunton to 27 Bryony Road, Shepards Bush, London W.12.

"Started work on May 5th Monday 1919. Eastern Telegraph Co. Finsbury Pavement, London W.2"

This is Arthur referencing his fathers new job and the reason for the family's relocation from Taunton to London. Charles Snow's job for the Eastern Telegraph Co. is confirmed in the Arthur's death notices on page 48.



PAGE EIGHT

"F.5417"

"Aeroplane went over place! August Monday"

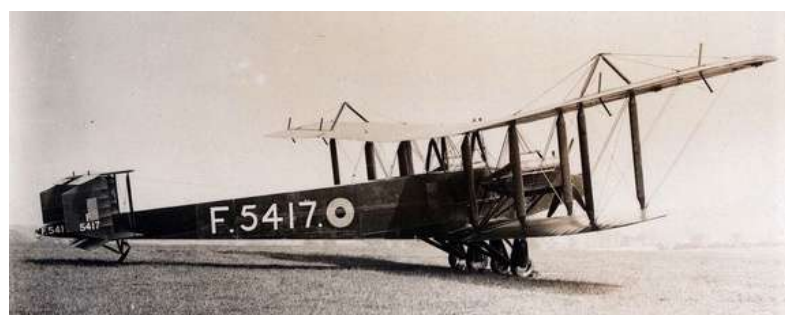
"4-August 1919"

"No F.5417 about 300 yards up"

"This aeroplane in papers on July 29th"

"Found it October 4th"

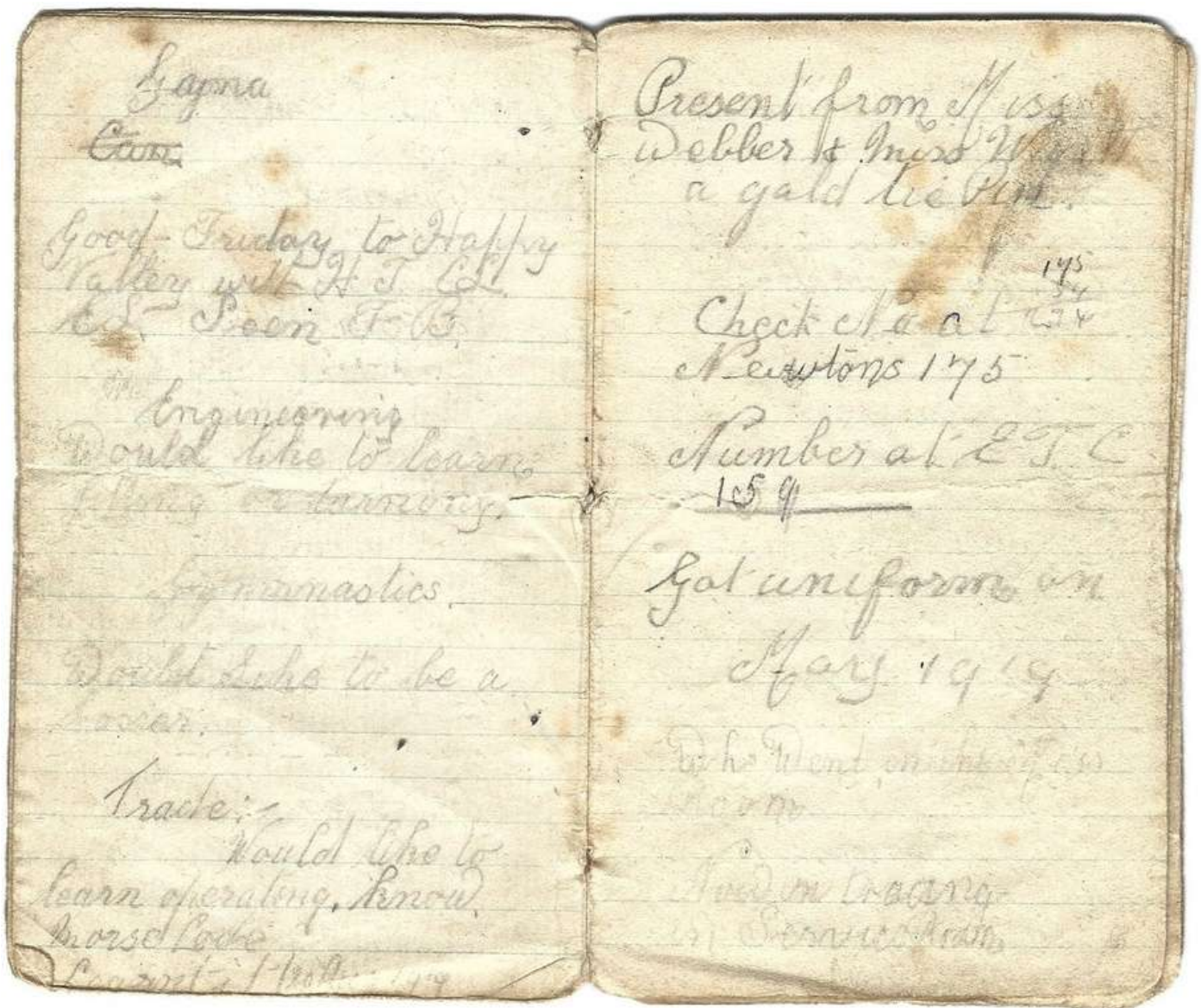
"G-EASL"



F.5417 was a was a Handley Page O/400 biplane bomber used by Britain during the First World War. When built, the Type O was the largest aircraft that had been built in the UK and one of the largest in the world. The Type O made such an impression that for many years after the war any large aircraft in Britain was referred to as a "Handley Page", even getting a dictionary entry.

This would explain why Arthur added this event to his notebook and it's funny to think that Arthur spent 3 months in 1919 trying to find out more about F.5417 in newspapers and nearly 100 years later I am doing the same thing, trying to find about F.5417 on the internet!

G-EASL was a Handley Page O/10 12 passenger transport variant. It's possible Aurthur may have been based near the Handley Page factory at this time.



PAGE NINE

"Engineering"

"Would like to learn [illegible] in January"

"Gymnastics"

"Would like to be a boxer"

"Trade:-"

"Would like to learn operating. know"

"Morse code"

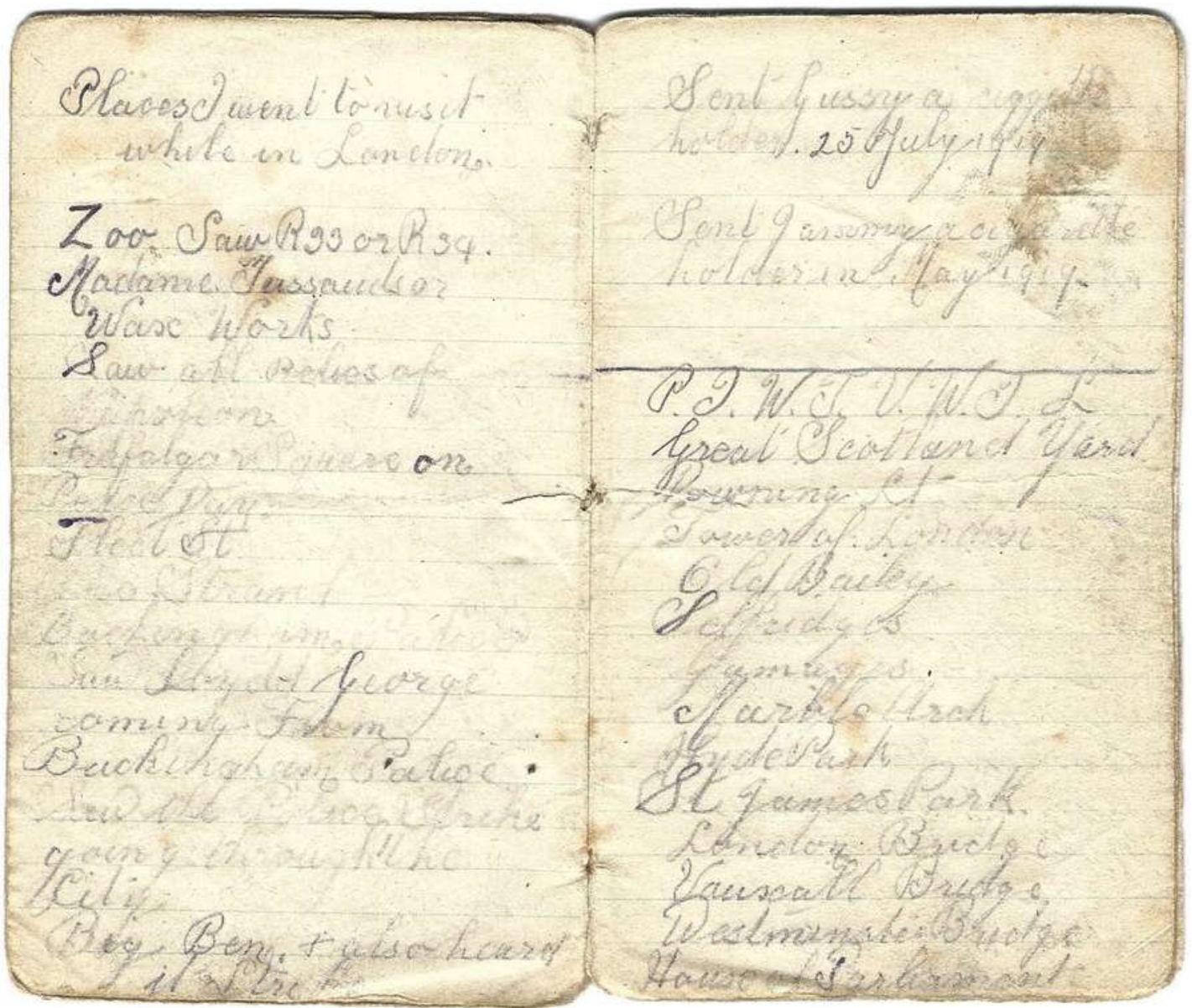
This seems to be Arthur setting himself goals for his training.

PAGE TEN

"Present from Miss Webber & Miss W[illegible] a gold tie pin"

"Got uniform on May 1919"

Arthur was 15 at this time so this was his first uniform for the rank of "Boy" possibly the same uniform from the photo on page 8.



PAGE ELEVEN

A list of London tourist attractions but interestingly Arthur attended the Peace Day parade in London, 19 July 1919 and saw prime minister David Lloyd George.

"Trafalgar Square on"

"Peace Day"

"Saw Lloyd George"

"coming from"

"Buckingham Palace"

"Saw the Palace [illegible]"

"going though the"

"City"

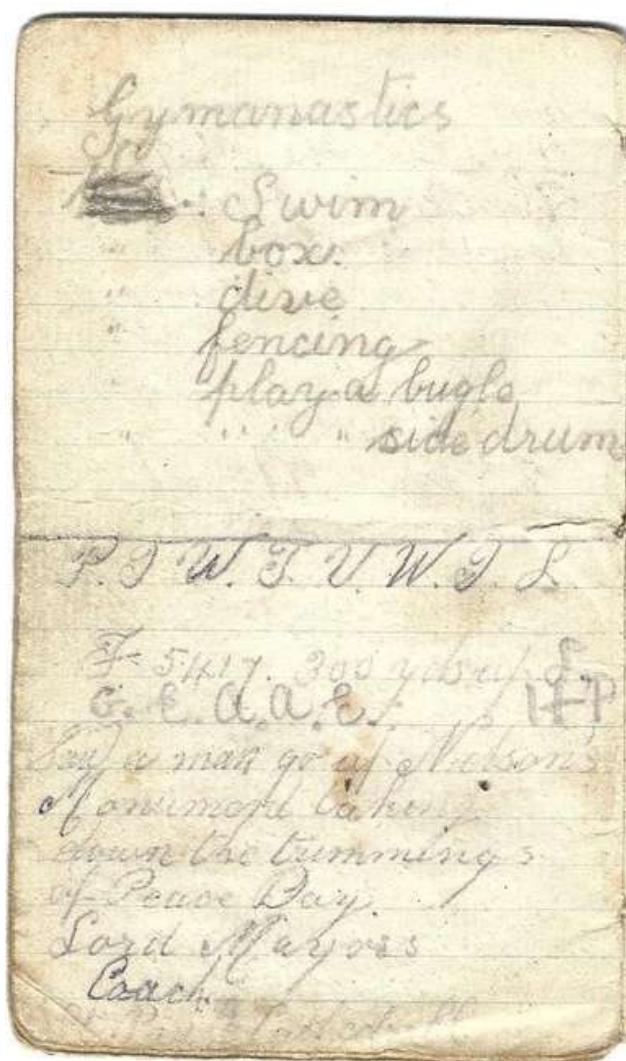
PAGE TWELVE

A continuation of the London tourist attractions Arthur visited during the Peace Day parade in London, 19 July 1919.

When the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28th June, Saturday 19th July was declared a bank holiday, known as Peace Day. King George V called it, a 'festival of victory' in London, including a victory parade with 15,000 Allied forces troops led by their commanders and thousands of people in attendance.

Video of this event at Trafalgar Square can be seen at:

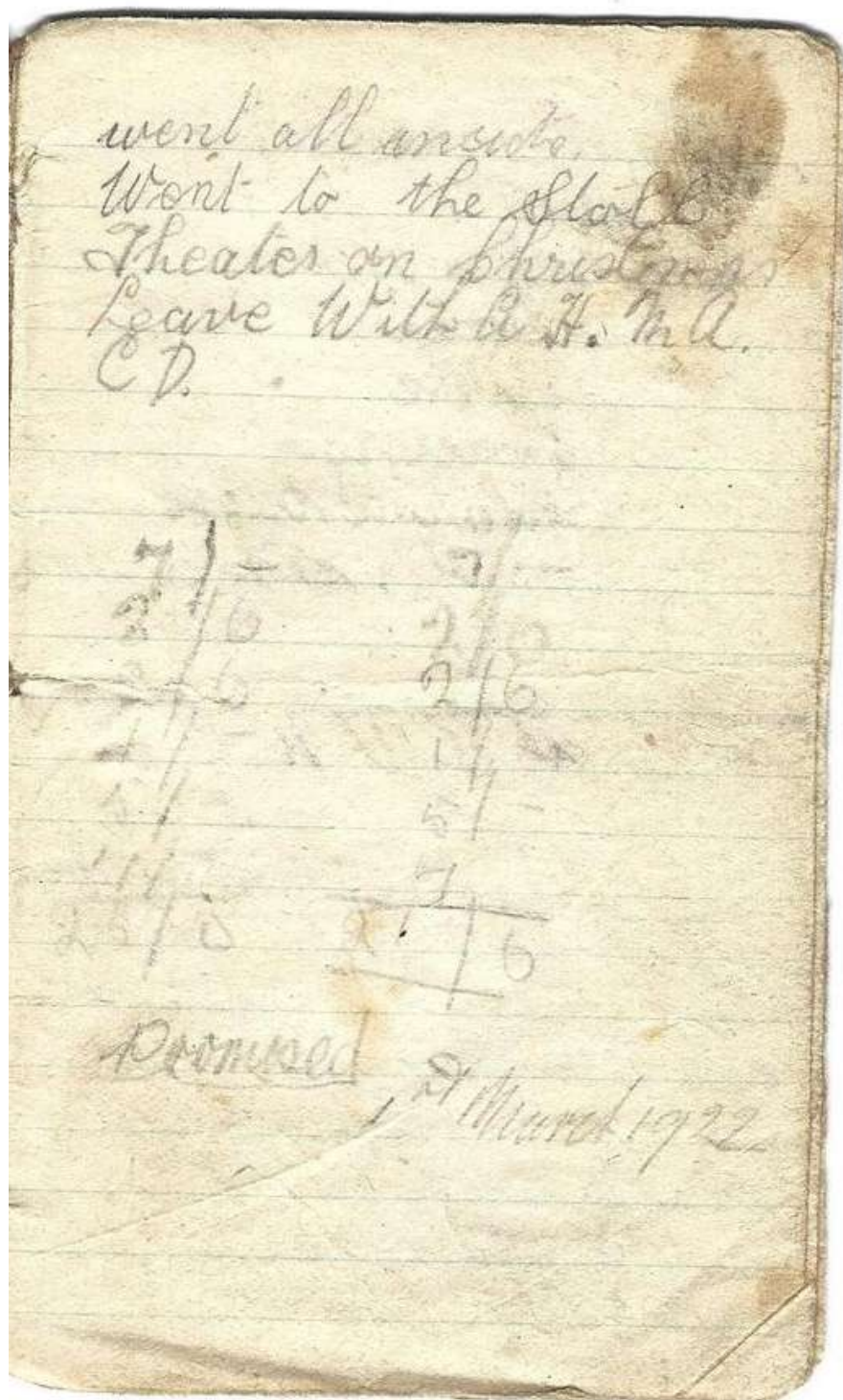
<https://www.britishpathe.com/asseit/95408/>



PAGE THIRTEEN

A list of training activities and "F.5417 300 yards up & G-EAAE Saw a man go up Nelsons Monument to take down the trimmings of Peace Day. Lord Mayor's Coach"

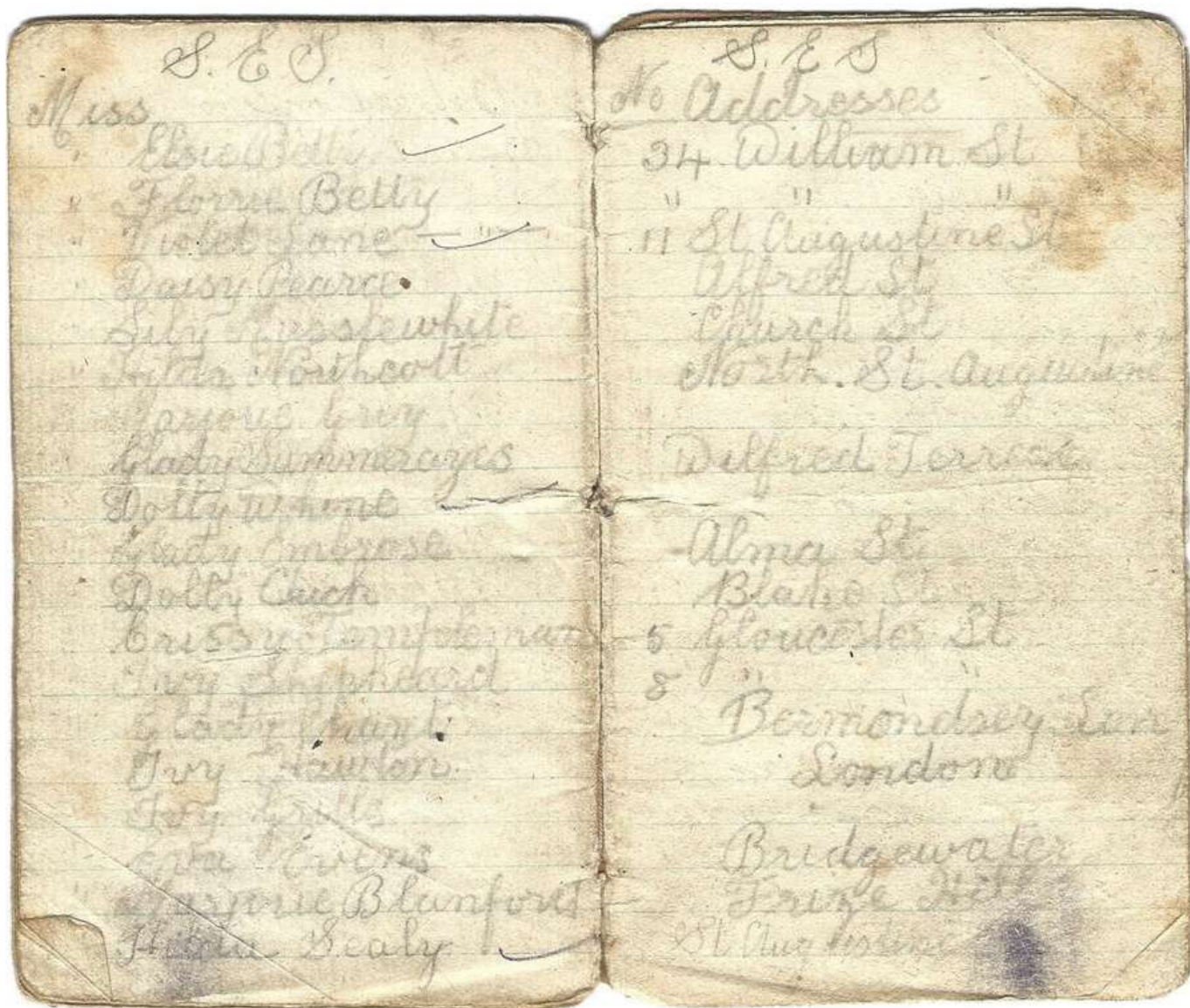
Handley Page O/400 F.5417 from page eight is mentioned again along with G-EAAE, another Handley Page O/10 12 passenger transport variant, photographed above where you can get a sense of the size of these aircraft. The photo on the right shows Nelson's Column on peace day with the trimmings Arthur mentions. Could the aeroplane on the top left of the photo be F.5417 or G-EAAE?



PAGE FOURTEEN

"Promoted 1st March 1922"

This was 11 days after Arthur's 18th birthday so he will have been promoted from Boy to Sapper.

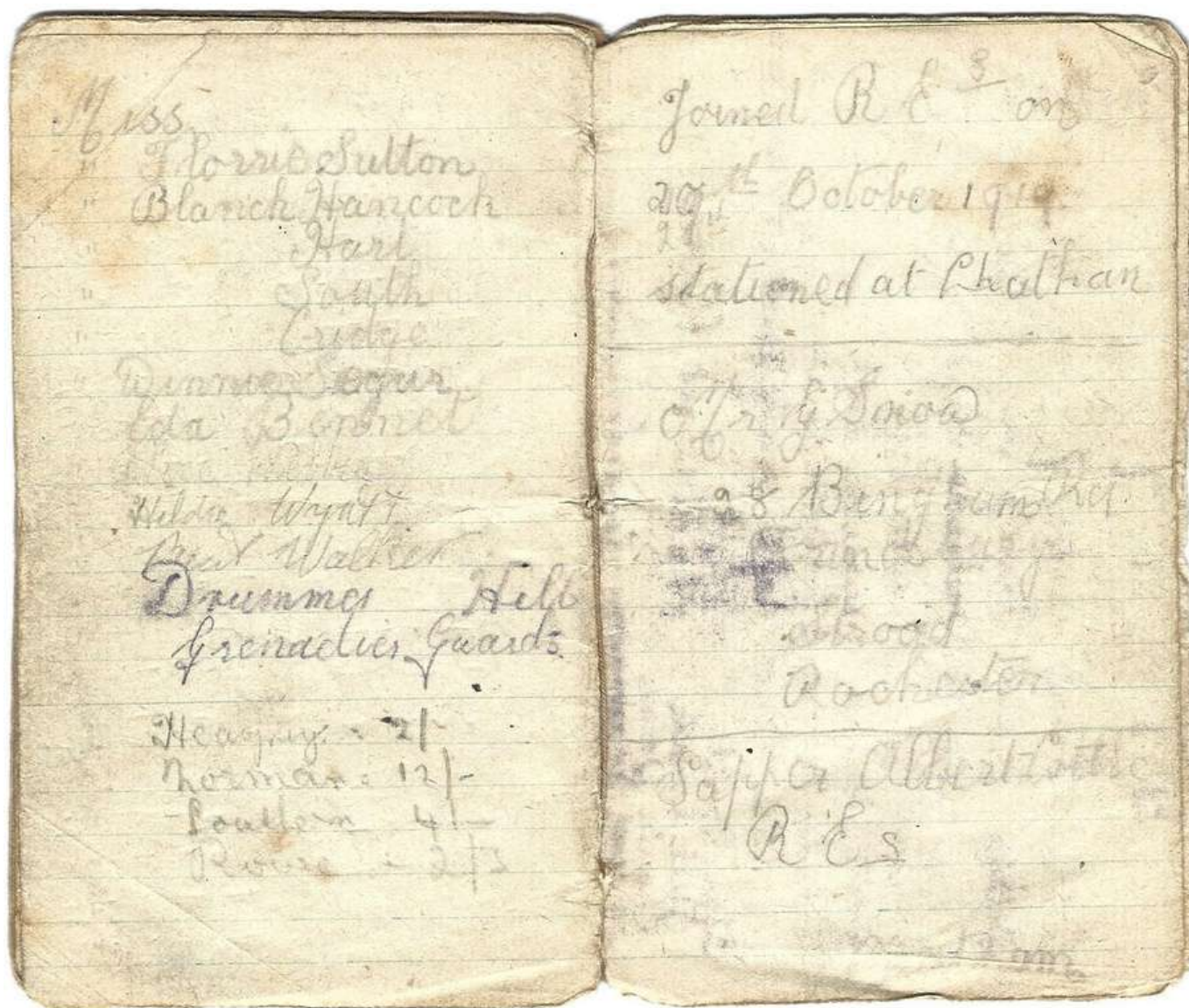


PAGE FIFTEEN

An impressive list of potential sweethearts! Violet Lane is mentioned again with a tick next her name along with three other girls. Could these be girls who Arthur has sent his photo to?

PAGE SIXTEEN

The addresses for all the potential sweethearts on the previous page.



PAGE SEVENTEEN

Even more potential sweethearts along with what looks like betting odds.

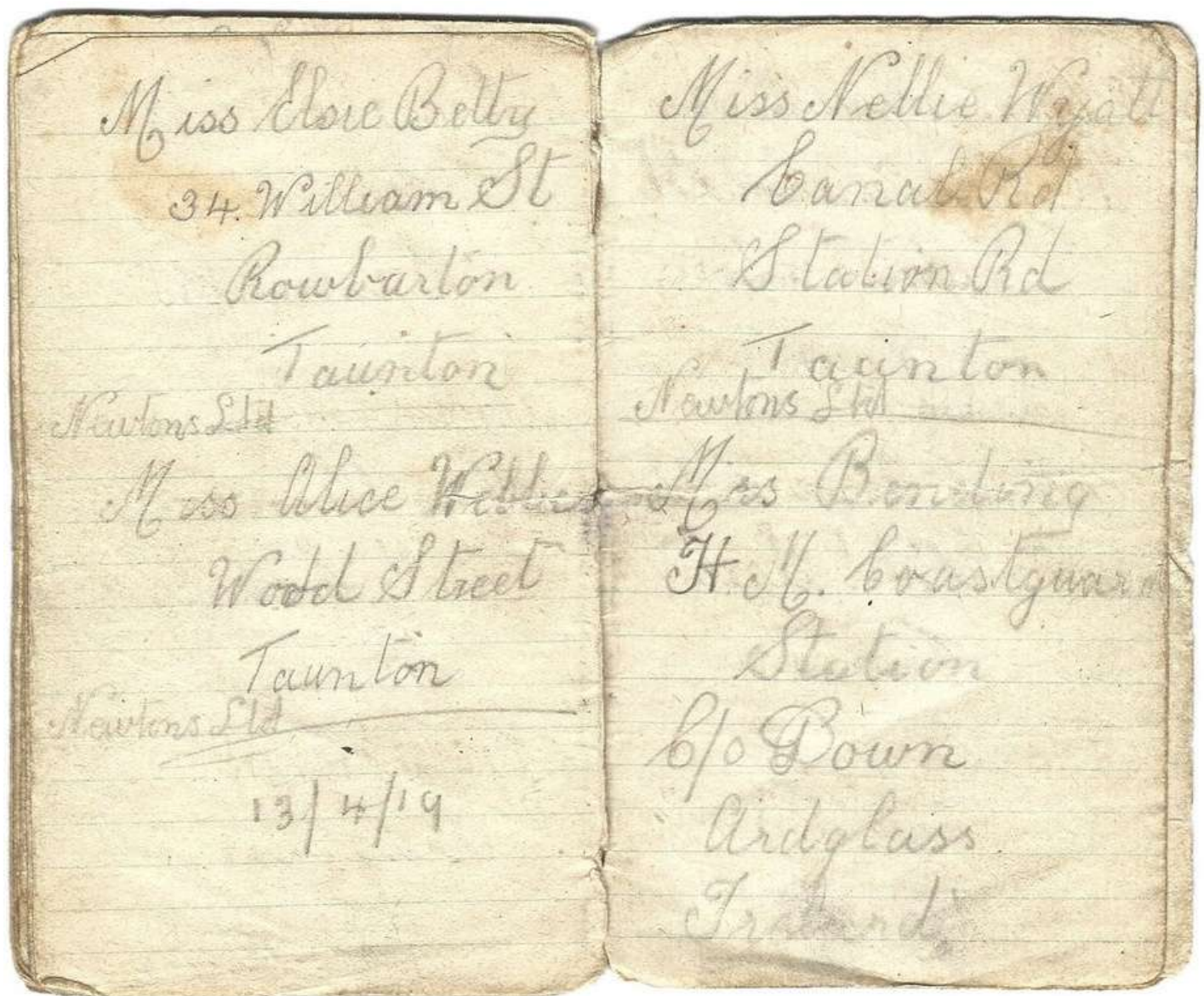
PAGE EIGHTEEN

"Joined R.E 8th on"
 "29th October 1919"
 "Stationed at Chatham"

Chatham is the Royal Engineers headquarters and the Royal School of Military Engineering.

"Mr G Snow"

I've not been able to find any relation of Arthur's with a first name beginning with G.



PAGE NINETEEN

Yet more potential sweetheart addresses. Miss Elsie Betty is also mentioned on page fifteen of his notebook, one of the girls with a tick next them. Alice Webber is also mentioned on page ten of his notebook "Present from Miss Webber"

PAGE TWENTY

"Miss Bending"
 "H.M. Coastguard"
 "C/o Down"

The surname Bending is Arthur's mothers maiden name so this could be a cousin. Also note the lack of first name compared to other entries.

Mrs Rayland
14 Gloucester St
Haydon Rd
Taunton

Master H. Tucker
1 Eastbourne Rd
Haydon Rd
Taunton

Hanbury & Catching
Middle St

Foot ball club
made up in January.
I play as centre-
Forward. Playing
Gosport League Team
Saturday 24th January.
Am Vice-Captain in
the R.C. boys team +
also on the committee.

W.F. Lovell-Capt.
24th January 1920

Monckton United
Football Club.

Fort Monckton.

W.F. Lovell.
Capt. Gosport.
D. G. 21. Capt.

PAGE TWENTY-ONE

"Mrs Rayland" Following her second marriage, Arthur's maternal grandmothers surname changed to Rayland. So as with "Miss Bending" on the previous page and with the lack of first name or initial I suspect this is another cousin.

PAGE TWENTY-TWO

This page has been written in pen and thus is much more readable than the previous pages. Arthur has joined the Monckton United football club playing as centre forward and is the vice captain.

27 M. V. 7
 No 18.838
 Arthur Snow: centre forward V. Cape
 Arthur Hunt Inside Right (Clarroman)
 Sandy Gairdrie Right
 Fiddler New: Inside Left
 Jack Denyer: Outside Left
 Fiddler Acherard Centre Half Back
 Pat (Fred) Gish: Left Half Back (Treasurer)
 Tom Cantle Right
 Bill Lovell Full Back (Cape)
 Charlie Doves
 Fiddler Denyer Captain

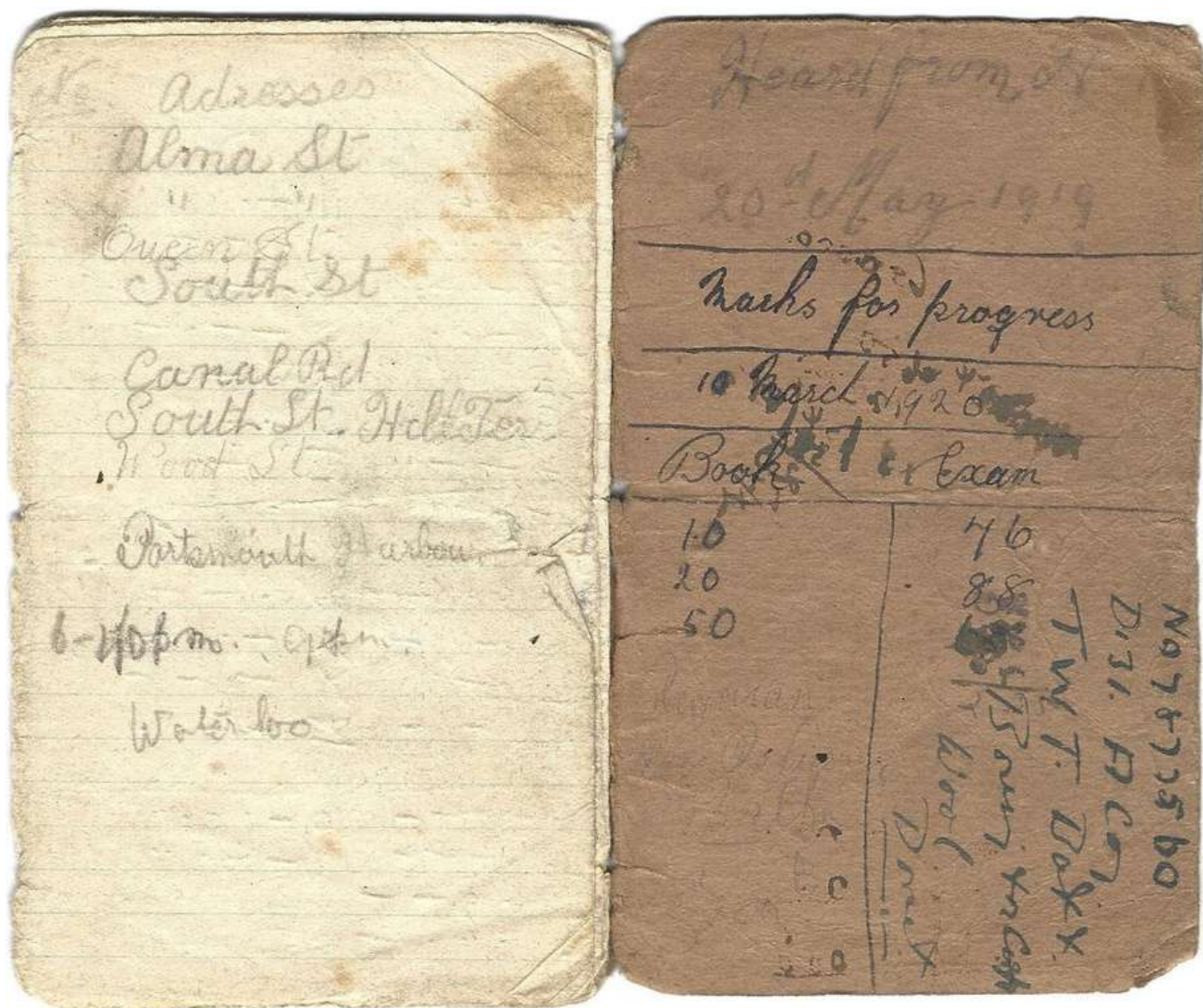
PAGE TWENTY-THREE

A team listing for Arthur's newly formed football club detailed on the previous page.

The Morse Code of S.
 A . - - N - -
 B - . . . O - - -
 C - . - . P - - -
 D - . . . Q - - -
 E . R - - -
 F . . . S . . .
 G - - . T - -
 H - . . . U - - -
 I . . . V . . .
 J - - - - W - - -
 K - . - X - - -
 L - . . . Y - - -
 M - - - Z - - -
 FIGURES.
 1 - - - - 6 -
 2 - - - - 7 - - . . .
 3 - . . - - 8 - - - . .
 4 - 9 - - - . .
 5 -

PAGE TWENTY-FOUR

Morse code which would have been very handy to have in his wallet. This has been originally written in pencil and then then overwritten in pen.



PAGE TWENTY-FIVE

A collection of street names from Gosport and Portsmouth, likely from when Arthur was stationed at Fort Monkton. It is unclear what these street names are for.

PAGE TWENTY-SIX

This looks like Arthur was planning to obtain revision books for his next exam, possibly the first-class certificate which he would never be able to take.

The address on the bottom right is for Bovington Camp, the same place where his brother Reg was stationed but the service number is different.

ARTHUR'S BROTHER REGINALD



This section has been included so a face can be put to the letter on the next page. Arthur's brother Reginald is on the bottom row first left of the photo above.

Reginald was in the Royal Tank Corps. In the photo below, I believe Reginald is on the top row, fourth from left. These two photos were amongst the photos of Arthur.



ARTHUR'S LETTER TO REG

Boy R.W. Snow.
787365.
Hut D.7. H Coy
W. T. B. Royal Tank Corp.
Bovington Camp.
Wool.
Dorset.

Spr. A. C. Snow.
No. 1859314.
9th Field Coy. R.E.
Shorncliffe

Dear Reg,

Just these few lines in answer to your letter which I received this morning, hoping it left you in the best the same as it has reached me. Well Reg I suppose you are glad you are getting your ticket. I bet & I bet you had the wind up when dad sent down & cancelled it. eh, but it's alright now, I know I should have liked to have had mine once but I don't want it now. Well all I can say is good luck to you Reg & hope you get on outside. Well Reg my leg is a lot better thank goodness & in about a weeks time I think it will be properly alright. Well Reg I think this is all this time so cheerio. Your Loving Bro Arthur xxx
If you get home before expected don't forget to write to me.

TRANSCRIPTION

Boy R.W. Snow
787365
Hut D.7 Fld Coy
W. T. B. Royal Tank Corp
Bovington Camp
Wool
Dorset

Spr A. C. Snow
No. 1859314
9th Field Coy R.E
Shorncliffe

Dear Reg,

Just these few lines in answer to your letter which I received this morning, hoping it left you in the best the same as it has reached me. Well Reg I suppose you are glad you are getting your ticket, I bet, & I bet you had the wind up when dad sent down & cancelled it eh, but its alright now, I know I should have liked to have had mine once but I don't want it now. Well all I can say is good luck to you Reg & hope you get on outside. Well Reg my leg is a lot better thank goodness & in about a weeks time I think that it will be properly alright. Well Reg I think this is all this time so cheerio, your Loving Bro Arthur xxxxxx
If you get home before expected don't forget to write to me.

NOTES

I have read that getting your "ticket" means getting one's discharge papers and "sent down" simply means that Reg's father, Charles Snow, contacted the army and reversed the discharge request. It sounds like Reg got his own way though, and received his "ticket", as Arthur hopes that he will "get on outside", i.e. be OK in civilian life, outside the army. I believe this letter was kept as it was the last letter Arthur wrote. There is a "24" stamp on the envelope, the year Arthur died and the letter is from Shorncliffe, where he died.



ILLNESS AND DEATH

What follows are the letters and telegrams relating to Arthur's sudden and tragic death from pneumonia.

The story as told by my Grandmother, Jeannette Burrows, as told to her by my Great Grandmother Lily Snow was that Arthur was on a military exercise, got soaking wet and refused to change his uniform which caused pneumonia.

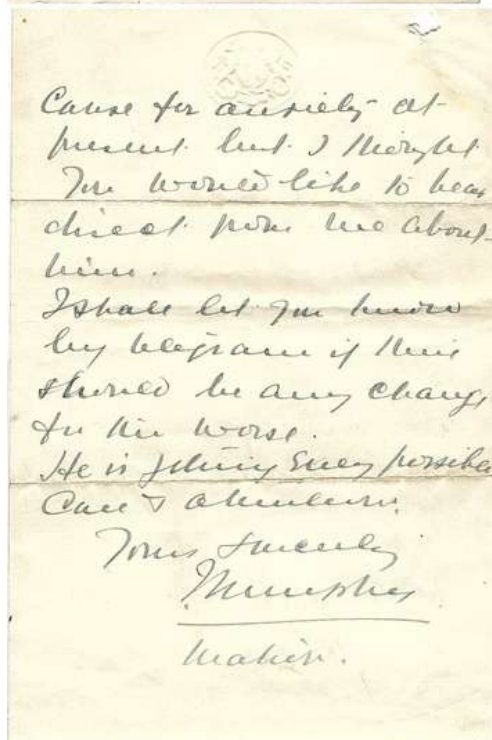
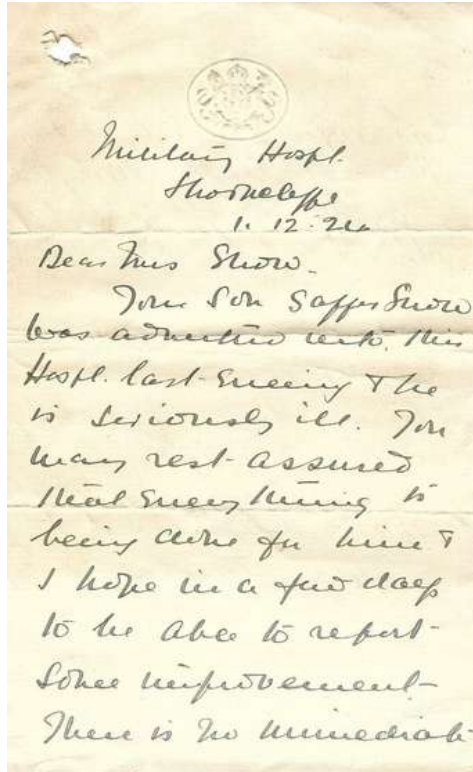
Unfortunately there is nothing to confirm this story in the documents discovered but Arthur's letter to Reg could be a clue to what happened.

In Arthur's letter to his brother Reg on the previous page he states "Well Reg my leg is a lot better thank goodness & in about a weeks time I think that it will be properly alright".

My theory as to what happened is that Arthur was was on a military exercise while his leg was still injured. He then got wet and it could have been an inconvenience or even painful to change his uniform while his leg was injured, so he elected to do his duty and finish the exercise. This lowered his body temperature causing hypothermia which weakened his immune system allowing the bacteria, virus, or fungi that typically cause pneumonia to take hold.

TIMELINE OF ARTHUR'S DEATH

DATE: 01/12/1924
LETTER RECEIVED



TRANSCRIPTION

Military Hospital

Shorncliffe

1.12.24

Dear Mrs Snow,
Your son Sapper Snow
was admitted into this
hospital last evening & he
is seriously ill. You
may rest assured
that everything is
being done for him &
I hope in a few days
to be able to report
some improvement.
There is no immediate

cause for anxiety at
present but I thought
you would like to hear
direct from me about
him.

I shall let you know
by telegram if there
should be any change
for the worse.
He is getting every
possible care and attention.
Yours sincerely
Y. Murphy
Matron

DATE:03/12/1924 10:52 AM
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

B or C.		Charges to pay	POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.		No. of Telegram	Office Stamp
At	Received	n. d.			SEXT	
From					To	
By					By	
Prefix	Time handed in	Office of Origin and Service Instructions		Words		

Shorncliffe
Snow 27 Bryony Rd. Wormholt Estate
Shepards Bush W.12
Regret 1859314 Spr Snow dangerously
ill in Shorncliffe military hospital
eastern Command if you wish to visit

B or C.		Charges to pay	POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.		No. of Telegram	Office Stamp
At	Received	n. d.			SEXT	
From					To	
By					By	
Prefix	Time handed in	Office of Origin and Service Instructions		Words		

him but cannot afford expense
take this telegram to the nearest
police station
Surgical

TRANSCRIPTION

Snow 27 Bryony Rd, Wormholt Estate
Shepards Bush W.12

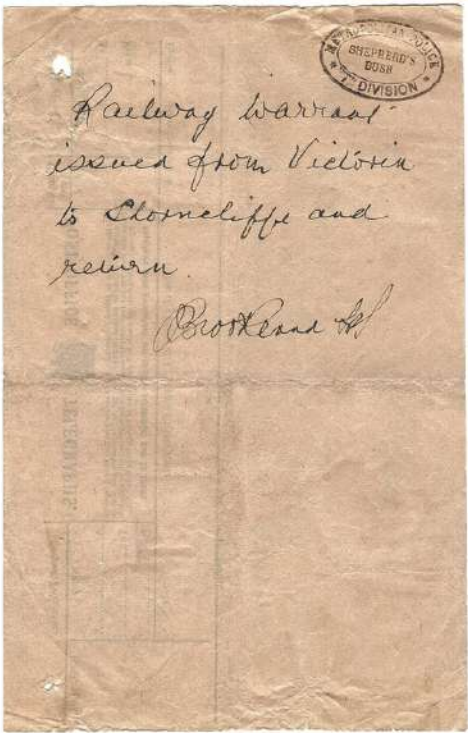
Regret 1859314 Spr Snow dangerously
ill in Shorncliffe military hospital
eastern command. If you wish to visit
him but cannot afford expense, take
this telegram to the nearest police
station.

Surgical

Railway warrant issued from Victoria
to Shorncliffe and return.
[illegible]

NOTES

A railway warrant is a voucher issued
for travel on railways for military
personnel free of charge. Here
Arthur's father, Charles Snow has
claimed the railway warrant to see his
son.



DATE: 05/12/1924 8:14 AM
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

(12306) Harrow 12/23 E.275

B or C.		Charges to pay	POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.		No. of Telegram	Office Stamp.
RECEIVED		s. d.			SENT	
At	8.14a		If the receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams. THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.		At	
From	2				To	
By	6				By	
Prefix	Time handed in	Office of Origin and Service Instructions			Words	
	8.14a	Sandgate			24	
E. Snow 27 Bryony Rd Shepards Bush Ldn W12						
Fighting hard crying mummie mummie come Charing Cross one ock will meet you Charlie						

TRANSCRIPTION

E. Snow 27 Bryony Rd, Shepards Bush Ldn, W.12

Fighting hard crying mummie mummie. Come Charing Cross one ock, will meet you.

Charlie

NOTES

Arthur's father, Charles "Charlie" Snow has sent this telegram to Arthur's mother, Emily from Sandgate post office. "ock" is short for "o'clock"

B or C.		Charges to pay s. d.	POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.		No. of Telegram	Office Stamp
At	9-49 AM		If the receiver of an inland telegram doubts its accuracy he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, and if it is found that there was any inaccuracy the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.		SENT	SHEPHERD'S BUSH LONDON 5 DEC 1924
From			THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.		To	
By			Office of Origin and Service Instructions		By	
Prefix	Time handed in				Words	
Q 9.26 M. Sandgate 25						
Mrs Snow 27 Bryony Rd Shepherd's Bush Ldn W12						
Our darling boy sinking fast no hope unconscious						

B or C.		Charges to pay s. d.	POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.		No. of Telegram	Office Stamp
At			If the receiver of an inland telegram doubts its accuracy he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, and if it is found that there was any inaccuracy the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.		SENT	SHEPHERD'S BUSH LONDON 5 DEC 1924
From			THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.		To	
By			Office of Origin and Service Instructions		By	
Prefix	Time handed in				Words	
Q						
don't come from Broken hearted Dad Charlie						

TRANSCRIPTION

Miss Snow 27 Bryony Rd, Shepards Bush Ldn, W.12

Our darling boy sinking fast, no hope, unconscious, don't come from broken hearted Dad.

Charlie

NOTES

Arthur's father, Charles "Charlie" Snow sent this telegram to Arthur's sister, Lily from Sandgate post office only 1 hour, 12 minutes after the previous telegram. Lily was age 19 in 1924 and will have been looking after Arthur's youngest sister, 11 year old Doris while her parents visited Arthur.

DATE: 06/12/1924 4:50 PM
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

(12806) Harrow 12/23 E.275.

B or C.		Charges to pay	POST OFFICE  TELEGRAPHS.	No. of Telegram	Office Stamp.
RECEIVED	S. d.			SENT	
At	M.		At	M.	
From			To		
By			By		

If the receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.

Prefix Time handed in Office of Origin and Service Instructions Words

1 4:50 M. Sandgate 21

Lily Snow 27 Bryony Road, Shepards Bush London, W.12

No hope for dear Arthur coming home tonight

Mum and Dad

SHEPHERDS BUSH 6 DE 24

TRANSCRIPTION

Lily Snow 27 Bryony Road, Shepards Bush London, W.12

No hope for dear Arthur, coming home tonight.

Mum and Dad

NOTES

Arthur's parents, Charles & Emily Snow sent this telegram to Arthur's sister, Lily from Sandgate post office. In a curious decision, Charles & Emily Snow have decided not to be at their sons bedside until his death. There could be many reasons for this, perhaps the imminent loss was so immense they could not bear it, or maybe travel was only available at certain times and they wanted to get home to comfort Lily.

DATE: 07/12/1924
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Sender's No. (427m.) Wt. P2031—X67. 10,000 Pads. 1/24. (E 414).

METROPOLITAN POLICE TELEPHONE.

Military Hospital
From *Shorncliffe* To *7th day of Dec. 1924*
Forwarded at Received at *Shepards Bush*

Please inform Mr. Snow 27 Bryony Rd. Wormholt Estate, Shepards Bush, that his son died at 3 am. this morning. Will he please say if he wishes a military funeral at Shorncliffe or for the body to be sent home.

Receiver's No. *658* (Signature) *Brookland H. 5*

TRANSCRIPTION

Please inform Mr. Snow of 27 Bryony Rd, Wormholt Estate, Shepards Bush, that his son died at 3am this morning.

Will he please say if he wishes a military funeral at Shorncliffe or for the body to be sent home.

NOTES

A telegram no parent would ever want to read. I've not been able to find out any information on this style of telegram but it has been sent from the Military Hospital Shorncliffe directly to the local police station who then sent an officer to hand deliver this telegram. Charles Snow decided on a military funeral at Shorncliffe for Arthur.

DATE: 08/12/1924 9:34 AM
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

(12806) Hatrow 12/23 E.275

P or C.		Charges to pay	POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.		No. of Telegram
RECEIVED		s. d.			SENT.
At 9:34	M		If the receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.		Office Stamp.
From			THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.		At
By					To
Prefix	Time handed in	Office of Origin and Service Instructions	Words		By
	9:34 a	London City Y.			
Snow 28 Bryony Rd, Shepards Bush					
my deepest sympathy can I help George and Mr Platt					

TRANSCRIPTION

Snow 28 Bryony Rd, Shepards Bush.

My deepest sympathy can I help?

George and Mr Platt

NOTES

This telegram has come from London City post office. Likely to be family friends offering to help with funeral arrangements but note that the address is incorrect. It should be 27 Bryony Rd not 28.

DATE:08/12/1924 4:41 PM
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

B or C.		Charges to pay	POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.		No. of Telegram	Office Stamp.
RECEIVED	A. d.				SENT	
At			If the recipient of an inland telegram desires to receive it free of charge, he must pay for the transmission and if it is found that there was any interruption to the service, the cost of the telegram will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the transmission of Foreign Telegrams.		M. 103	
From			THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.		To	
By			Office of Origin and Service Instructions		By	
Prefix		Time handed in			Words 36	

Snow 27 Bryony Rd Shepards Bush London

Funeral will be at Shorncliffe in eastern command at 2 o'clock on Wednesday if you wish to attend and cannot afford.

TRANSCRIPTION

Snow 27 Bryony Rd, Shepards Bush, London

Funeral will be at Shorncliffe in eastern command at 2 o'clock on Wednesday. If you wish to attend and cannot afford expense, take this telegram to the nearest police station.

Surgical

Railway warrant issued from Charring Cross to Shorncliffe and return. [illegible] 83T.

NOTES

The Snow family has claimed the railway warrant to attend Arthur's funeral. The date of Arthur's funeral was 10/12/1924.

Railway warrant issued from Charring Cross to Shorncliffe and return.

J. Croft, Surg. 83T.

Metropolitan Police
SHEPHERD'S BUSH
T. DIVISION

DATE: 09/12/1924
LETTER RECEIVED

Dec 9
62 Seabrook Rd,
Hythe
Kent

Dear Mrs Snow,
As I am on leave I
only heard yesterday of the
very sad death of your son
who has been with me now
in the 9th Coy for some months.
I am just writing these few
lines to express to you and
your family my very deep
sympathy in your great loss
and I know that all my
officers, NCO's and sappers
will wish to join with me
in these sentiments of very
real regret at such a
premature end to a promising
young life. I am sure you
will realise, as so many of
us did during the war who
lost brothers & sons that
they have been taken from
us young and active because
they are wanted for better
work elsewhere. It is the
only way to look on it.
He was a very nice boy
and I had a high opinion
of him, always cheerful and
ready for anything.
Believe me when I send
you my very deep sympathy.
Yours sincerely,
Arthur B. Clough
OC. 9th Fld Coy RE

TRANSCRIPTION

62 Seabrook Rd,
Hythe
Kent
Dec 9

Dear Mrs Snow,
As I am on leave I
only heard yesterday of the
very sad death of your son
who has been with me now
In the 9th Coy for some months.
I am just writing these few
lines to express to you and
your family my very deep
sympathy in your great loss
and I know that all my
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In these sentiments of very
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He was a very nice boy
and I had a high opinion
of him, always cheerful and
ready for anything.
Believe me when I send
you my very deep sympathy.

Yours sincerely,
Arthur B. Clough
OC. 9th Fld Coy RE

NOTES

Arthur Butler Clough (1888-1989), a Brigadier, was born in Lanarkshire, educated at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1909. He was a Lieutenant in Nigeria at the outbreak of the war in 1914 and was sent to the Cameroons. He was sent home from West Africa in 1916, and served on the Western Front until the end of the war.

A memoir for Arthur Butler Clough in the Royal Engineers Journal August 1989 can be found at https://www.borneo.name/maps/GSGS/Brigadier_A_B_Clough_CBE_MC_SGM.pdf

ARTHUR'S FUNERAL

WEDNESDAY 10/12/1924
SHORNCLIFFE MILITARY CEMETERY





The epitaph on Arthur's grave in the photo below reads; in memoriam, Arthur Charles Snow, Sapper Royal Engineers, Died 7th December 1924 Age 20 Years R.I.P, Erected by his comrades of the 9th Field Coy. R. E.



FUNERAL AFTERMATH TIMELINE

DATE: 11/12/1924
LETTER RECEIVED

Reference:- SH/1369/24.

Military Hospital,
Shorncliffe, Kent.
11th. December, 1924.

Dear Sir,

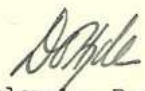
Herewith copy of Death Certificate in
respect of your Son, Arthur Snow.

Will you please remit to me the sum
of Two shillings and sevenpence, (2/7), being the
cost of this certificate.

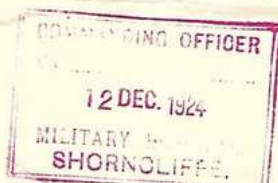
Should you require a further certificate
application should be made to:-

The Registrar of Births and Deaths,
11, Church Street,
Folkestone.

Yours faithfully,


Lieut-Colonel., R.A.M.C.,
Officer Commanding Military Hospital.

Mr. C. Snow,
27, Bryony Road,
Wormholt Estate,
Shepherds Bush,
LONDON, W.12.



DATE:13/12/1924
LETTER RECEIVED

Mr .C. Snow, 27 Bryony Road,
Shepherds Bush,
-----London W.12. -----



Reference your letter dated the 12th inst: re Certificate:

The Commanding Officer at the Military Hospital informed me that he would send the Certificate you require direct to you. If you require two more you would have to apply to the Registrar of Births and Deaths at Folkestone.

Shorncliffe.

13/12/24.
GB

C. Totham

Lieut: R.E.

O.C. 9th Field Company R.E.

Military Hosp.
Shorncliffe
14.12.24

Dear Mrs Snow,
I thank you for your
kind letter. To offer you my
deepest sympathy in the
very sad loss of your dear
boy. It was a very
real pleasure to us to
do anything for him
in his last illness &
he was such a very
good boy & so little
trouble. We all hoped
that the Doctors efforts
would succeed in curing
him but God was
pleased to take him in

his holy innocence
to heaven so he must
all be resigned.
I do hope you keep well
& are not fretting too
much. You have the
consolation of knowing
that everything possible
was done for your dear
one & that he is now
in Heaven.
I hope Mr Snow got all
Certificates in good time.
With my kind wishes to
you both & again my
best thanks for your letter
Yours sincerely
Y. Murphy
Matron

TRANSCRIPTION

Military Hospital
Shorncliffe
14.12.24

Dear Mrs Snow,
Thank you for your
kind letter, & I offer you my
deepest sympathy in this
very sad loss of your dear
boy. It was a very
real pleasure to us to
do anything for him
in his last illness &
he was such a very
good boy & so little
trouble. We all hoped
that the Doctors efforts
would succeed in curing
him but God was
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his holy innocence
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I do hope you keep well
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much. You have the
consolation of knowing
that everything possible
was done for your dear
one & that he is now
in Heaven.
I hope Mr Snow got all
Certificates in good time.
With my kind wishes to
you both & again my
best thanks for your letter
Yours sincerely
Y. Murphy
Matron

NOTES

This letter has been written by the same matron that wrote the first letter on page 34. This letter was very hard to transcribe and was only possible with the kind help of the rootschat.com handwriting deciphering & recognition forum. It appears that the matron was very religious and possibly quite old given the handwriting style. "Holy Innocences" is a common religious prayer & the liturgical "Feast of the Holy Innocents" is 28 December.

DATE: 09/03/1925
LETTER RECEIVED

9th (Field) Coy T.F.E.,
Shorncliffe,
Folkestone,
Kent.

9/3/25.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Snow,

At the request of the
Company I enclose a drawing of the
memorial we would like to erect on
Arthur's grave.

Do you consent, & is there
anything you would like to add? if so
will you kindly let me know & return the
drawing.

I take this opportunity & hope
you are well.

Yours Faithfully on behalf of
the 9th (Field) Coy T.F.E.

G.E. Beavis L/Cpl R.E.
J. Allen Sp R.E.

NOTES

Unfortunately there was no drawing of the proposed memorial included in the documents so the family must have made changes and returned the drawing as requested. This could be referencing the epitaph on the photograph on page 43 but that photo is not dated.

NEWSPAPER DEATH NOTICES

SNOW.—December 7th, at Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, Sapper Arthur Snow, Royal Engineers, aged 21 years.

SAD DEATH OF YOUNG SOLDIER.—Much regret is felt at the death of Sapper Arthur Snow, Royal Engineers, which took place from pneumonia at the Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, on the 7th inst., at the age of 21. The late Sapper Snow was the eldest son of Inspector C. Snow, Eastern Telegraph Cable Company, and Mrs. Snow, of London, who are well known in Taunton. He was under orders for Jamaica in January, and was looking forward to the trip. He was a very promising young soldier, having gained all his education certificates, including one in electrical engineering. The funeral was at Shorncliffe on the 10th inst., deceased being buried with full military honours in the presence of a large general attendance. There were numerous beautiful wreaths sent in token of sorrow and of the sympathy felt for Inspector and Mrs. Snow and family in their mournful loss.

SNOW.—In loving memory of Arthur Charles Snow, who passed peacefully away 7th Dec., 1924, at Shorncliffe, Kent. Never forgotten by his dear mum, dad, brother, and sisters.
—R.I.P.

His memory is as dear to-day
As in the hour he passed away;
There is a link death cannot sever,
Loving memories last for ever.
Sleep on, dear son, thy labour is o'er,
Thy willing hands shall toil no more;
For each of us you did your best,
God bless and grant you eternal rest.
Those who loved you sadly miss you,
As it dawns another year;
In the lonely hours of thinking
Thoughts of you are ever near.
Far and oft our thoughts do wander
To a cold and lonely grave;
Where our dear brother now is sleeping,
Midst the noble and the brave.

ARTHUR'S DEATH CERTIFICATE

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 3693079-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT					ELHAM				
1924 DEATH in the Sub-district of Folkestone					in the County of Kent				

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
289	Seventh December 1918 Military Hospital Shorncliffe Camp Sandgate U.S.	Arthur Snow	male	20 years	of Shorncliffe Camp Shorncliffe U.S. Engineers	① Pneumonia No App. Certified by P. G. Lawrence M.R.C.S.	L. G. Book Present at the death Military Hospital Shorncliffe Camp Sandgate	Eighth December 1918	J. Chadwick Registrar.

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 8th day of December 2011

DYD 165571

See note overleaf

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE
AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT
WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.



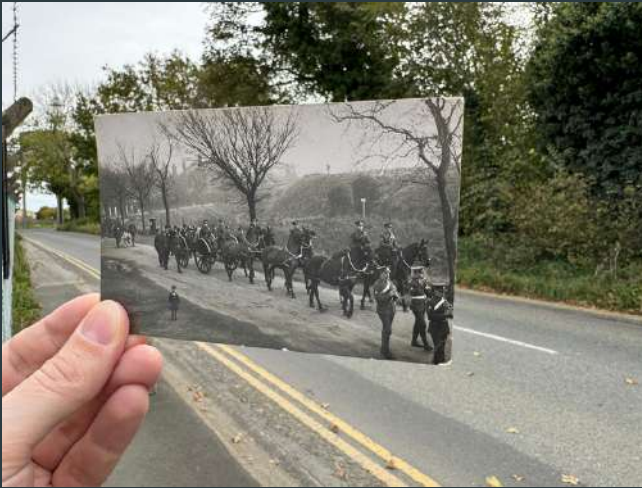
IPS 045008 33925 10310 3453P5L 028221

NOTES

This certified copy of Arthur's death certificate was requested by my mother Jacqueline Chudley in 2011 to confirm the cause of death during family tree research.

THEN AND NOW

SHORNCLIFFE MILITARY CEMETERY



The funeral procession photographer stood on the B2063 across the road from the entrance to Shorncliffe Military Cemetery.

The background earth mound is Sir John Moore's original earth redoubt now covered by woodland.

In the photo on the right is the same spot but facing right, where you can see cemetery gates.







ARTHUR'S GRAVE TODAY

SHORNCLIFFE MILITARY CEMETERY

