



## **FARNDON DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

*Remembering the Men of Farndon*

### **The Gauterin family of Farndon**

*Including*

#### **Private ARTHUR GAUTERIN**

1063 Cheshire Yeomanry  
230746 10th (Shropshire and Cheshire Yeomanry) Battalion,  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry  
T/232832 Army Service Corps  
*Survived the war*

#### **Private 31518 JOHN GAUTERIN**

Cheshire Yeomanry  
2nd Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment  
Died of Wounds 16 Oct 1916 Aged 23

#### **Private ERNEST GAUTERIN**

King's Liverpool Regiment  
*Did not serve abroad*

#### **Private 555866 FREDERICK GAUTERIN**

547 Agricultural Company, Labour Corps  
*Did not serve abroad*

**THE GERMAN GAUTERINS**

**THE CLUBBES OF CHURTON**

## Gauterin Family History

Gauterin is a French Huguenot (Protestant) name, originating during the religious wars of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries in France, when Catholic fought Protestant. The Protestant's rights were protected by the Edict of Nantes in 1598, with a view of promoting religious tolerance, however, when Louis XIV came to power this edict was annulled and the Huguenots were left with no choice but to flee to more tolerant countries. Consequently, an estimated 200-300,000 left France forever, taking with them their manufacturing and trading expertise.

At this time, Friedrich II of Prussia, recognising that there was a significant skill set available which would be valuable to his country, offered land, a 10 year tax exemption, and freedom of worship to the Huguenots. Land to the north of Frankfurt was offered and gratefully accepted by many families, who founded a community and named it Friedrichsdorf after their benefactor.

For many years this was a French enclave in what would later be part of a unified Germany under Bismarck, however, the native population gradually integrated so that the ethnic mix became more German as time wore on, although the proliferation of French Christian names continued throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Into this community was born Charles Gauterin (my great grandfather) in 1850 to parents Alphonse and Marie Gauterin.

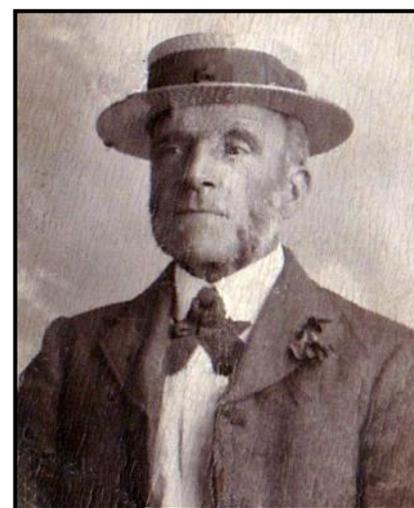


After the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, Prussia acquired further territories and it soon became apparent a war with France was being manipulated by an increasingly militaristic dynasty. Accordingly, in the course of preparations, Charles received his call up papers for the Prussian Army. As young as he was, he knew that he could not fight and kill Frenchmen and he, along with others in the community, were put in an intolerable position, so he left those shores for Britain, although his sisters fled to Austria.

## The Gauterins in Farndon

Charles gradually began to work his way up north, taking any work that was offered. By 1881 he was in Farndon and working as a butler, living at The Lodge in Church Lane, a cottage that originally served the main building of Farndon Hall. In 1881, it was being run as a small boarding house by Frances Hughes, and it is likely that Charles was working in the more substantial Hall for the master Gilbert Parry. The Hall had previously been used as a boys school, but the new owner was living on income from his estate.

Charles' future wife Jane Woollam, meanwhile, was living in a cottage just a few yards away on Bridge Street, and was employed as a dressmaker. She was a local girl born in Farndon, and her father's family had lived in the village or local hamlets, where they had farmed for generations.

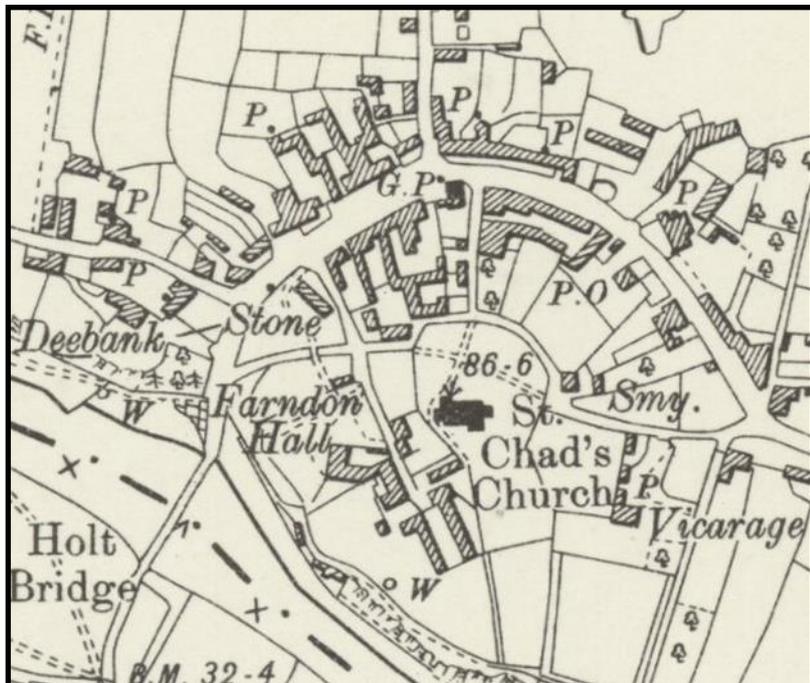


Charles Gauterin c.1890

Also staying with Jane was Thomas Sergison, a young boy of sixteen who had been orphaned after the death of both of his Irish parents. His father was Richard Sergison, the schoolmaster of Fern Hill and the school sadly folded after his death. The Woollams took in the 5 year old on the death of his mother Rachel in 1869 and brought him up as their ward.

By mid-1881, Jane had married Charles Gauterin, which no doubt turned a few heads in the sleepy village – a local farmer’s girl marrying a German recently arrived, but Charles was quickly accepted and made Farndon his permanent home. He soon realised the income of a butler would not be enough to support his growing family, and he made the brave decision to set himself up in business as a carrier.

By 1891, he and his family had taken over the Lodge and were the sole occupants, although there were now six children and they could afford a live-in servant. By 1901 the family had grown to eleven children and the business had evolved from carrying goods to and from Chester and Broxton Station (which had opened in 1872), to a bus service running regularly from Farndon to Chester and Wrexham.



**Farndon c.1900. The Lodge is in Church Lane, immediately to the left of the church.**

All eleven children were still at home; Mary (1882), Elizabeth Elsa (1883), Charles Richard (1885), Frederick William (1886), Jenny (1888), **Arthur (my grandfather – 1890)**, Richard (1891), John (1893), Ernest (1895), Emily (1896), Beryl Selina (1900).



**Jane (Woollam) Gauterin c 1900**

The older children soon began to leave the nest; Mary married in 1905, and eldest son Charles married in 1907 and was living nearby in Church Lane with an infant son, while working as a bus driver for his father, which also operated as a post bus.

Elizabeth was a live-in cook in a large house in 24 Liverpool Road, Chester, and Frederick, still single, had also moved to the town to work as a mail cart contractor for the G.P.O. (likely to be linked to the family business).

In 1911 at the time of the census, seven of the children were still at home. Jenny, now twenty-three, was ‘assisting at home’, Arthur, twenty, was working for the local Blacksmith, Richard (19) and John (17) were assisting in the family business, Ernest (fifteen) was a telegraph messenger boy, and Emily (fourteen) and Beryl (eleven) were still at school. Later, the business would be extended to run an omnibus service to Chester and charabanc trips (and would be eventually bought out by Crosville), but that was in the future.



The Lodge, Church Lane, Farndon





**24 Liverpool Road in Chester, where Elizabeth Gauterin went into service as a cook, and where Ellen Ball, Frederick's future wife, also worked as a housemaid.**



**Farndon School Group B c.1903.  
Richard is top row fourth from the left, with his brother John fifth from left.**

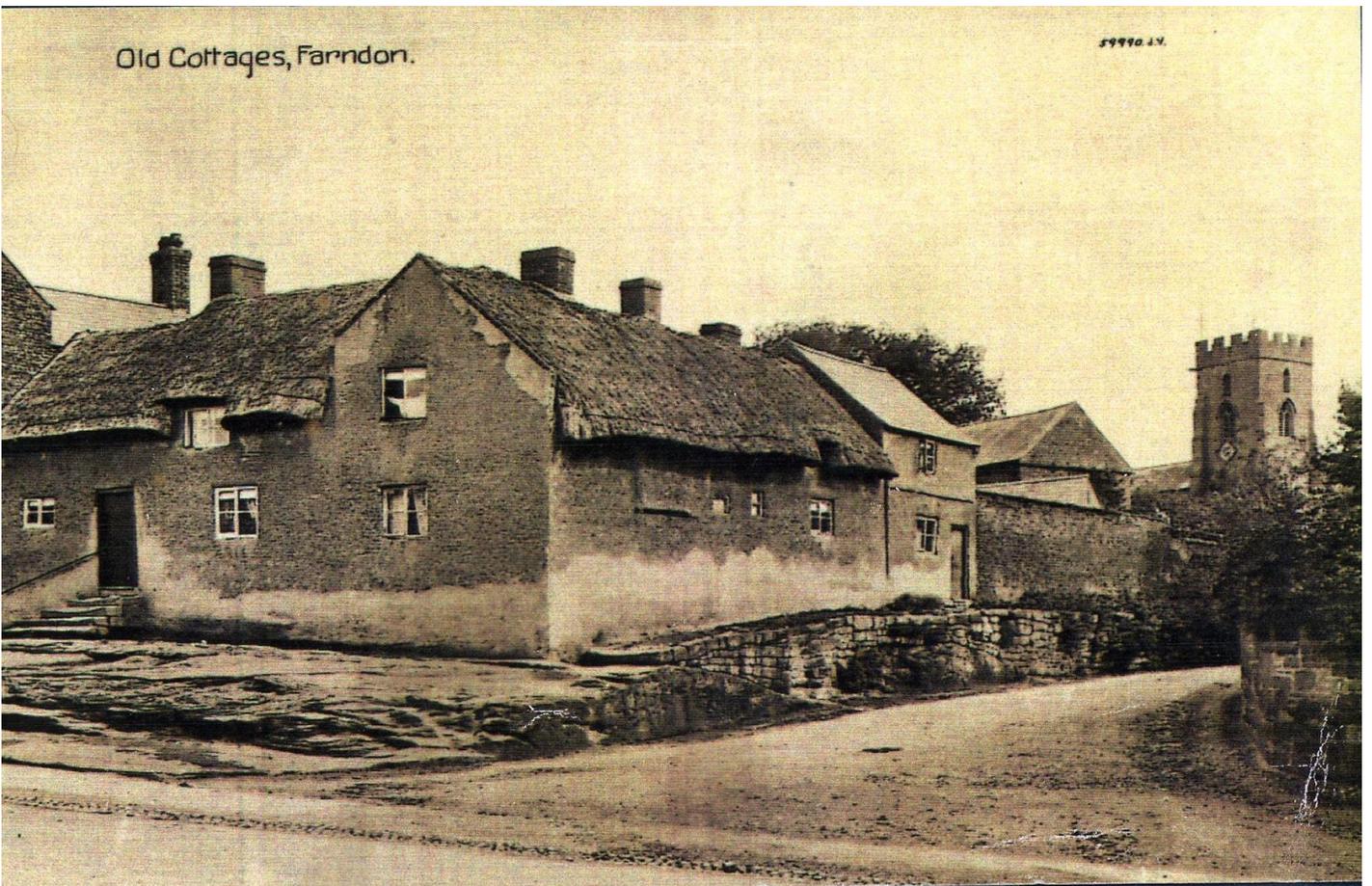


Church Lane, Farndon.



Old Cottages, Farndon.

59990.14.



Church Lane c.1905



Local Bus service to Chester outside 'The Raven' (Farndon Arms) c.1905-1910

After two decades of rural village life, it was clear that Farndon, was to be the permanent home for Charles and his family, and he wisely applied for naturalisation as a British subject. He may have been motivated by the political situation in Europe, as the militaristic rumblings from the now united Germany, plus the British government's weak responses must have raised concerns in his mind. This status was granted on 9 April 1902 by the Home Office, and authorised on their behalf by Harry Barnston M.P. of Crewe Hall, as the local Justice of the Peace (and costing £5!).

Harry Barnston went on to serve as an officer in the Cheshire Yeomanry and was extremely popular with his tenants and constituents when he went on to become an MP, however, he was by no means a modest man, and someone unkindly commented that he suffered all his life from having three admiring sisters who never ceased to tell him how wonderful he was, and as a bachelor no-one to redress the balance!



**Modern view of Church Lane. The Lodge is the first house on the left.**

**Modern view of the Old Forge, Church Lane, Farndon**

**The Smithy can also be seen in the previous view of the bus, behind the man leaning on his bicycle**

**(Arthur Gauterin was working for the local blacksmith)**



B37688

No. 12465

(A.)

NATURALIZATION ACTS, 1870.

Certificate of Naturalization to an Alien.

Whereas Charles Gaunterin

an Alien, now residing at Farendon in the County of Chester.

has presented to me, the Right Honourable Charles Thomson Ritchie one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State,

a Memorial, praying for a Certificate of Naturalization, and alleging that he is a

Subject of Germany, having been born at Friedrichsdorf; and is the son of Alphonse and Marie Gaunterin, both subjects of Germany: of the age of Fifty-two years: a Carrier: is married and has Eleven Children under age residing with him, viz:

- Mary Gaunterin aged 19 years
- Elisabeth " " 18 "
- Charles " " 16 "
- Frederic " " 15 "
- Jenny " " 14 "
- Arthur " " 12 "
- Richard " " 10 "
- John " " 8 "
- Ernest " " 6 "
- Emily " " 5 "
- Beryl " " 2 "

and

plication he has resided for  
 when naturalized, to reside  
 ces of the case, and have  
 r proving the truth of the  
 the same relate to the  
 by the said Acts, I grant  
 enthal.  
 ized as a British Subject,  
 in the United Kingdom  
 l privileges, and be subject  
 ject is entitled or subject  
 he shall not, when within  
 Subject, be deemed to be  
 of that State in pursuance  
 t effect.  
 Name this 20<sup>th</sup> day

Ritchie

and that in the period of eight years preceding his application he has resided for five years within the United Kingdom, and intends, when naturalized, to reside therein :

And whereas I have inquired into the circumstances of the case, and have received such evidence as I have deemed necessary for proving the truth of the allegations contained in such Memorial, so far as the same relate to the Memorialist :

Now, in pursuance of the authority given to me by the said Acts, I grant to the aforesaid Charles Gauterin

this Certificate, and declare that he is hereby naturalized as a British Subject, and that, upon taking the Oath of Allegiance, he shall in the United Kingdom be entitled to all political and other rights, powers, and privileges, and be subject to all obligations, to which a natural-born British Subject is entitled or subject in the United Kingdom ; with this qualification, that he shall not, when within the limits of the Foreign State of which he was a Subject, be deemed to be a British Subject, unless he has ceased to be a Subject of that State in pursuance of the laws thereof, or in pursuance of a Treaty to that effect.

In witness whereof I have hereto subscribed my Name this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 1902.

HOME OFFICE,  
LONDON. Chas. J. Ritchie

Oath of Allegiance.

I, Charles Gauterin

do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Edward, His Heirs and Successors, according to law.

So help me GOD.

(Signature of Alien) Charles Gauterin

Sworn and subscribed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 1902, before me

(Signature) Harry Barastou

Justice of the Peace for Brockton Div. of Chester

A Commissioner for Oaths.

Crews Hill, Farrndon  
Cheshire



No. 12466

NATU  
Certificat

Whereas Mr  
an Alien, now residing at  
the County

has presented to me, the

£5

336812

Miriam  
Abraham  
Sarah  
Annie  
Flora

B37/888

No. 12446

(A.)

NATURALIZATION ACTS, 1870.

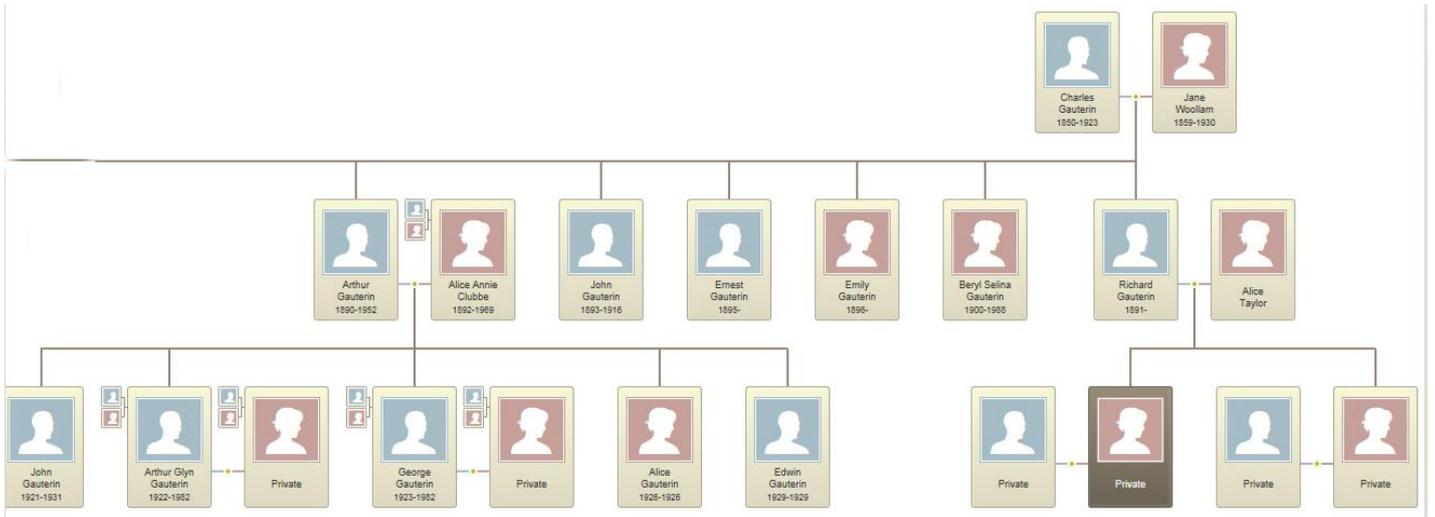
Certificate of Naturalization to an Alien.

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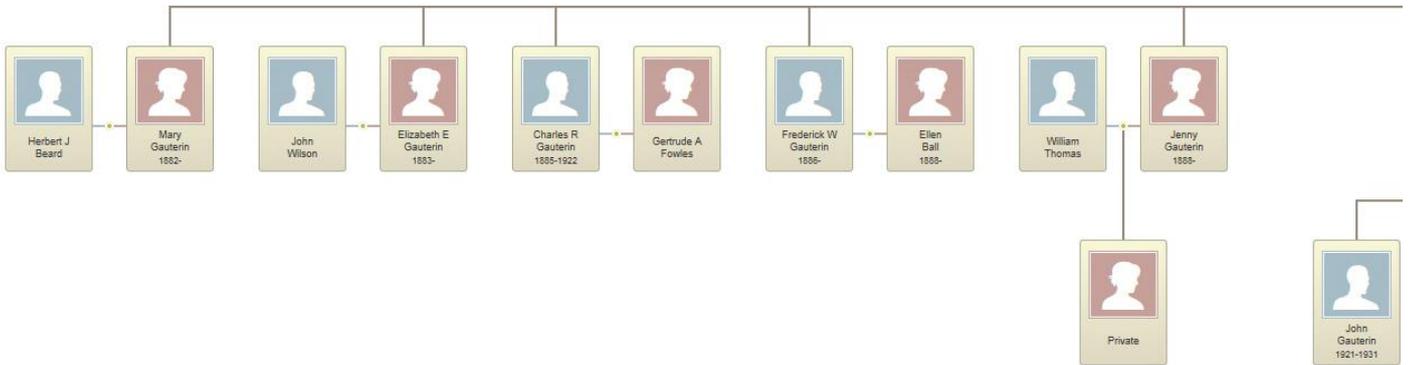
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**Brief extract from the Gauterin family tree.  
The chart below is an extension to the left side of the chart above.**



## Arthur Gauterin

When war in 1914 became inevitable, one can only imagine the consternation in the Gauterin household, (as, no doubt, in every other family in the village, with young men of military age). Arthur had already joined the Cheshire Yeomanry and was mobilised as part of B (Eaton) Squadron, concentrating at Eccleston by 10 August, where it was joined by the remainder of the Welsh Border Mounted Brigade. August was spent fitting out, administering medicals, and other essential preparations. By 3 September 1914, the Regiment was ready to move to their appointed war footing location at Thetford in Norfolk.

There were 2,000 men and 1,800 horses to transport, and it took 13 special trains to accomplish the move. But first, the whole contingent, along with all accoutrements, including the Chester Ambulance Corps, paraded down Eaton Road through the main streets of Chester, and around the Cross, to muster at the Cattle Market (now Gorse Stacks), so that the horses could be fed and watered. Once the march was completed, and before entraining, B Squadron was sent on ahead and halted in the Town Hall Square, so that the people of Chester could say goodbye to their local Squadron. It was much appreciated by large crowds lining the streets, leading the local press to describe the scene as,

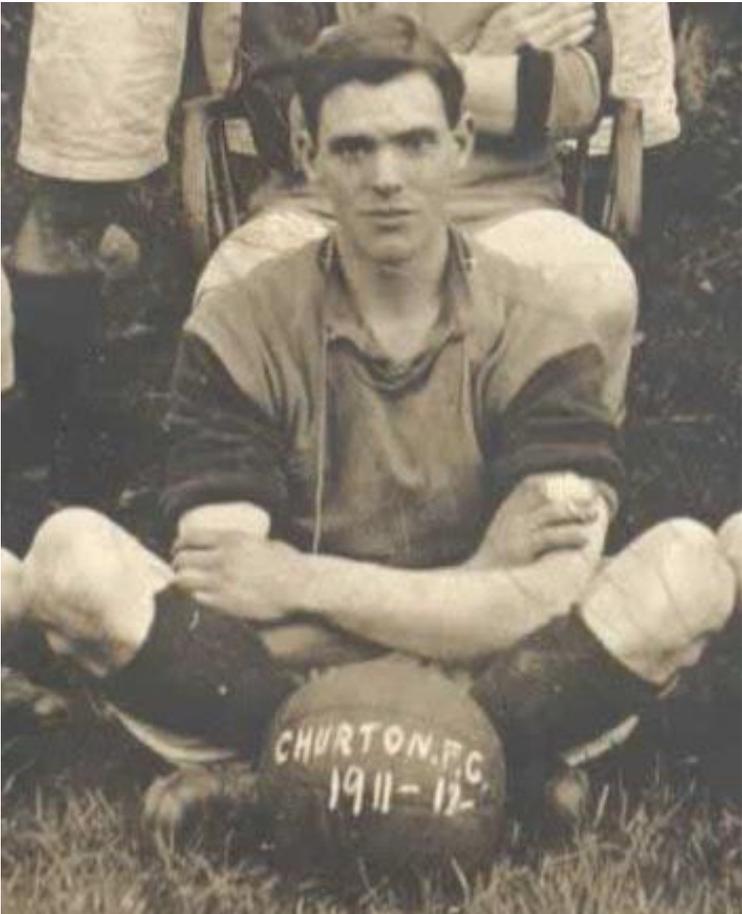
‘the Squadron equipped as for war, standing within the truly magnificent square and its architectural beauty, as one that will not easily be forgotten’.

It must have been a superb sight and sound. But out of the 2,000 men on parade to the station, 186 would lose their lives and not return. Meanwhile, the remainder of 1914-15 was spent in Norfolk training, waiting for the call up to the Front.

In November that year, they converted to a dismounted unit. While in Lowestoft they received orders to embark for Egypt on the transport ship *Haverford* on 3 March 1916. The journey took twelve days and they eventually disembarked in Alexandria on 15 March, becoming part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Dismounted Brigade at the Beni Salama Camp. On 18 April 1916, the Cheshire Yeomanry entrained at Wardar and moved to Minia Lower Camp, and towards the end of May two officers and thirty-five other ranks were posted to join the 6<sup>th</sup> Imperial Camel Corps. Arthur’s war record has not survived, but the photograph of him at this time shows him in desert uniform, with camels in the background, so there is a possibility he was part of the Camel Corps detachment.

The following year the 1<sup>st</sup> Cheshire Yeomanry merged with the 1/1<sup>st</sup> Shropshire Yeomanry to form the 10<sup>th</sup> Shropshire and Cheshire Yeomanry Battalion. The regiment moved to Palestine in 1917, this time as a half battalion of the 10th King's Shropshire Light Infantry and saw fierce fighting against the





**Churton F.C. in the 1911/12 season with 21 year old Arthur Gauterin on the front row.**



Arthur Gauterin, 1<sup>st</sup> Line Cheshire Yeomanry, Norfolk 1914-15





Arthur Gauterin, 1<sup>st</sup> Line Cheshire Yeomanry, Norfolk 1914-15





**Left: Arthur Gauterin (left)  
with the Cheshire Yeomanry  
in Egypt**

**Below: Arthur Gauterin, possibly serving  
with the Camel Corps detachment**



Turks in battles for Jerusalem, Jericho and Tel Azur. Commander of No.2 Company, Captain Hugh Aldersey, of Coddington was killed in action during this last battle. He would certainly have been known to Arthur as he was the local squire of Aldersey, a neighbouring village to Farndon, and he probably also knew Thomas Edge, a local lad from Barton, who later lost his life and is recorded on the Farndon memorial.

In April 1918, they were sent to France and suffered heavy casualties in fighting around the Somme area, Bapaume and Epehy. Arthur was a farrier and so was not part of this latter deployment and was transferred to the ASC (Army Service Corps - affectionately known by the soldiery as 'Ally Slopers Cavalry'!). This posting may just have saved his life. He went on to serve until July 1919, being discharged from the depot at Prees Heath. He returned to Farndon and married Alice Annie Clubbe of the Old Farm in nearby Churton on 10 February 1920. (*see more of the Clubbes below*). On a personal family note, I was too young to get to know my grandfather properly, he had a massive stroke in the mid 1940's, after service in the Home Guard, and Arthur died in 1952 when I was only two. A great shame, I would have loved to have spent time talking to him of his experiences.



**Above:** Wedding photograph of Arthur Gauterin of Farndon and Alice Annie Clubbe of the Old Farm in nearby Churton on 10 February 1920. The photograph shows a mixture of Gauterins and Clubbes.

In WW1, Arthur Clubbe (*second row, third from the right*) joined the Royal Engineers, Joseph Clubbe (*back row, second from right*) the Army Service Corps, John Clubbe (not pictured) the Royal Army Medical Corps, and Edwin Clubbe (*middle row, second from left*) the South Lancashire Regiment, then the Cheshire Regiment.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
GAUTERIN Arthur	ches. Yeos	Pt	1063
	ches & Shrops Yeos.		230746
	A. S. C.		T/232832
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	RASC/101 B/72	17517	
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380



Medal Index Card for Arthur Gauterin showing he was awarded the British Medal and the Victory Medal for war service.

## John Gauterin

Arthur's younger brother John had also signed up in the Cheshire Yeomanry. At the time he was working as a stableman – looking after the horses in the family carrier business. He joined up on 15 October 1914 in Chester with two good friends, Bob Tilston from Holt, and Charlie Williamson from Churton (also see the separate article for C. N. Williamson). All three were assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Line, stationed in Northumberland as part of the Home Defences. German warships had bombarded the east coast early in the war, and it was thought that a threat could come in that area. I was privileged to be able to talk at length with Bob in the late 1980's; he was the only one of the three friends to survive the war, and he was able to describe the period quite graphically. What follows has been gleaned from some of those fascinating conversations.



**Farndon School Group B c.1903.  
Richard left, John right.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Line was split up in Northumberland - B Squadron was stationed in Morpeth with the Headquarters troop; A Squadron was billeted in Plessey Farm near Stanington; and C Squadron were in the farm buildings of Longhirst Hall, also near Morpeth (now a prestigious golf club). John was with A Squadron at Plessey. They were part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Mounted Brigade, 63rd (2nd) Northumberland Division. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lines responsibilities were for a sector of the coastal defence along with the 1<sup>st</sup> Line of the Northern Cyclists who were later added to the force in December 1915. Bob Tilston reflected many years later that the horses they had were from Canada and semi wild, and it took many hours of training to break them into cavalry mounts, so it must have grieved him and the Yeomanry greatly when they were dismounted and turned into a cyclist unit as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Cyclist Brigade in May 1916.

In the meantime, they were engaged on training and patrolling the area. Bob was close friends with Charlie Williamson, they even looked similar physically, and the rest of the squadron called them 'the twins', as they were always "chasing the girls and getting into trouble". (Bobs words not mine!). Sergeant Major Roberts had taken a dislike to both of them - which was reciprocated. Bob recounted one escapade which still amused him many years later; the food given to the troops was very poor quality, however, the senior NCO's had ensconced themselves in an outbuilding of Plessey Farm and were, generally speaking, unstinting in serving themselves generous portions when it came to 'grub'. One day Bob said to Charlie and John "do you fancy a good feed?" - naturally the answer was a resounding "yes", so that evening they went around the back of the building and Bob climbed on Charlie's back, and got in through a broken window, pinched the food just prepared for the senior NCO's, they had their 'good feed' then broke up the plates and buried the pieces in the midden! Well, said Bob, the wrath that fell upon the troops can be imagined, the sergeant major had them on parade and grilled every one individually. Meanwhile, the 'twins' adopted an angelic countenance and professed to having been writing letters home at the time of the said offence. Several more parades followed, along with dire threats, but the culprits were never discovered. It was only the day before Bob was posted to France some time later that he approached Sgt Major Roberts and told

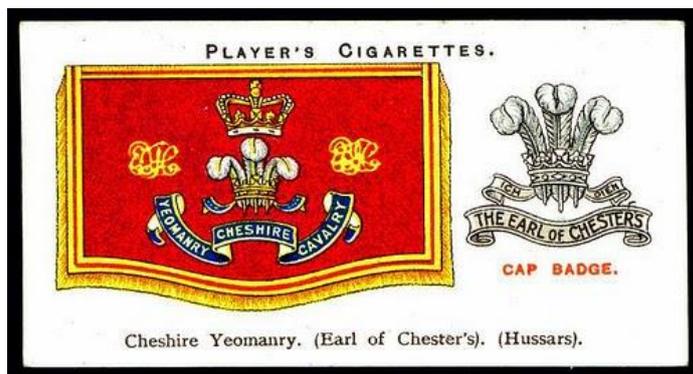
him who had done the deed. 'It was too late for him to do anything by then, but the look on his face was priceless', Bob chortled all those years later.

Before the move to France, the patrolling and training continued. I asked Bob of his specific memories of my great-uncle John. He recalled that he was tall and quiet but that when holding the reins of his horse when it was cold, his hands went very blue! That will be the inherent Gauterin circulation problem then!

One incident stood out for Bob during this time; Zeppelins had been conducting random bombing raids over the north east (and elsewhere) at this time and on the evening of 14 April 1915, at around 8.30pm, one was heard overhead. It is thought that this was Zeppelin L9, under the command of Kapitanleutnant Heinrich Mathy, which had taken off from Emden (on its first mission) to bomb Newcastle, but had meandered over Wallsend, before progressing north over Dudley, Cramlington and Bedlington, and finally heading back over the North Sea via Blyth. As it progressed, dropping random bombs to no great effect along the way, one of these bombs landed near Plessey, the blast causing damage to windows. Troops on the ground had attempted to bring it down by rifle fire without effect, but there was a nearby flight of fighter aircraft kept on readiness for such an incursion. However, when one of the fighters took off it was too low and clipped telegraph wires in its path, flipping it into a barn where it exploded into flames. The Yeomanry were called to clear the area, but there was obviously nothing that could be done for the pilot. The farmer and his family had miraculously managed to escape, but no approach could be made until the ruins had cooled down. The following day, Bob was detailed to accompany the medical officer to retrieve the pilot's body. He was burnt to a cinder, and Bob had to hold a lantern whilst the doctor examined the body. The doctor retrieved a locket from around the pilot's neck which had survived the flames, and inside was a picture of a wife or girlfriend. Bob was beginning to pale by now but the doctor said to him as they removed the pilot, 'You know young man, this fellow never felt a thing'. 'That's a lark', Bob gulped, surveying the charred body. 'No, look, his neck was broken by the impact, he died instantly'. Sure enough the broken vertebrae was clear through the burnt flesh.

Kapitanleutnant Mathy and his Zeppelin L31 were eventually shot down by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant W. Tempest over Potters Bar near London, on 1 October 1916, and he was killed along with his crew. He had jumped rather than burn, and was found 'embedded' in the corner of a field. Zeppelin L9 caught fire and was destroyed in its shed in Fuhlbuttel on 19 September 1916.

As May 1916 arrived, the Yeomanry lost their horses as they went through the process of dismounting the regiment - what a traumatic affair that must have been; cavalrymen being dismounted! Bob said goodbye to his horse Joe, never to see him again, and bicycles were issued. That might not have been too bad, but half of the boys had never ridden a bike and had to be taught - chaos! Even more so, as there was an inspection by the Duke of Connaught of the Tyne Garrison troops, and the Yeomanry were chosen to represent the Cyclist Units and as no ceremonial drill had been drawn up for bicycles they had to make it up and hope for the best!







*Above:* 'A' Squadron 2/1<sup>st</sup> Cheshire Yeomanry at Plessey Farm 1915. Bob Tilston is very recognisable, being in the middle row, eleven from the left, Charlie Williamson just behind him. John Gauterin is also in the photograph, but Bob Tilston could not pick him out.

*Below:* Troop posing in front of the farm building where the windows were blown out by the Zeppelin bomb. Bob Tilston is 8<sup>th</sup> from the left, with Charlie Williamson to his right.





Close up of previous photograph of the Troop posing in front of the farm building where the windows were blown out by the Zeppelin bomb. Charlie Williamson is on the left and Bob Tilston on the right.

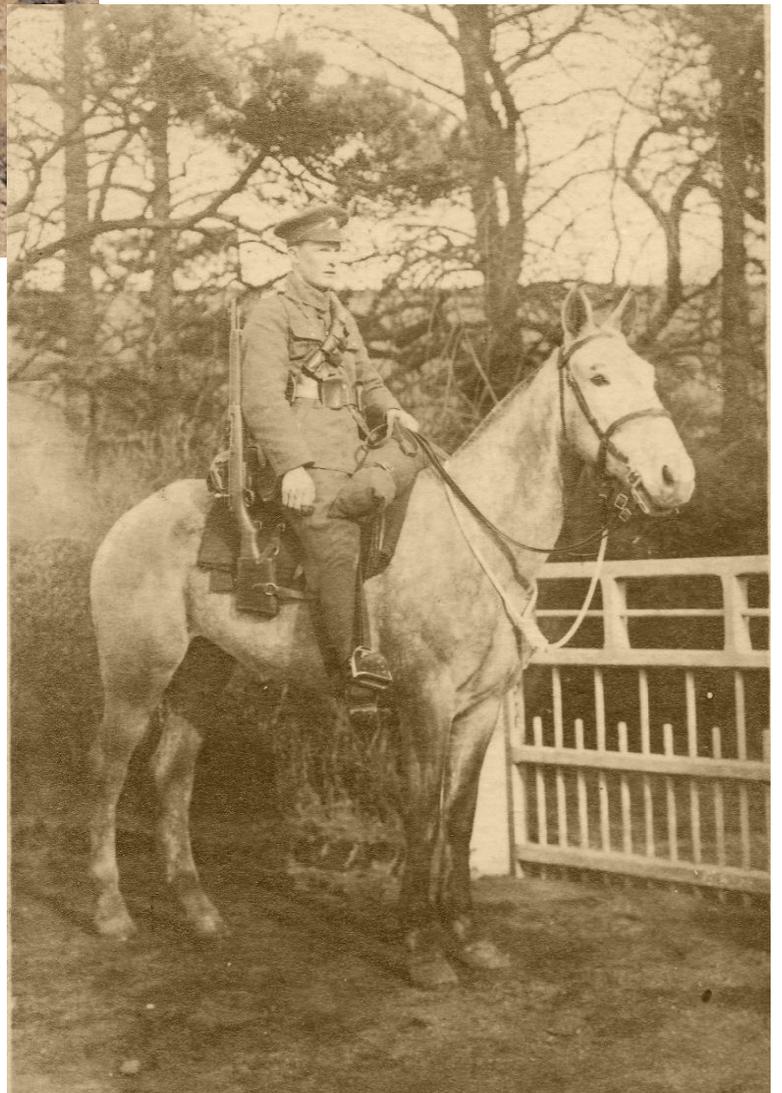


*Left to right:* Bob Tilston, John Gauterin (sitting), Charlie Williamson



**Above: Charlie Williamson**

**Right: Bob Tilston**





**Left:** Bob Tilston later in the war. He served with the South Lancs in the Battle of Messines in June 1917, and was wounded in the stomach in the vicinity of Ploegsteert Wood.

After his wounds had healed he was transferred to the Labour Corps, presumably due to the debilitating effects of his wound. His wound stripe is visible on his left sleeve (together with a good conduct stripe).

**Below:** Army cyclists on the Somme



## France and the Somme

Although the conflict on the Somme began in July 1916, it would be some weeks before John would be in France. Meanwhile, the Battle of the Somme commenced with a seven day bombardment of the German lines, followed by a massed infantry assault on 1 July 1916. This was the greatest disaster in British Army history, with almost 60,000 men becoming casualties on that first day, of which 20,000 were fatalities.

When the Cheshire Yeomanry (including John and his two pals) arrived in Rouen, France, on 21 September 1916, they were posted to the military base at Etaples. There they underwent a short period of intense training, and within days they were transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion South Lancashire Regiment. This was a regular battalion that had been part of the original 1914 BEF, and had suffered grievously since then. They were destined to suffer a lot more in the subsequent weeks and months of the Somme battle; on 3 July they lost 14 officers and 300 men, on 12 July a further 4 officers and 75 men, and on 15 July another 4 officers and 100 men were casualties. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion had suffered similarly. So much so, that the gaps in the ranks could not be bolstered with available reinforcements, rendering it ineffective as a fighting force. Consequently, the battalion was pulled out of the line to the Auchonvillers area, to refit and rest before relieving the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 5 August. Further action took place in the Aveluy Wood area, during which a further 40 men were lost, mainly to shellfire. On 3 September, a further attack on the Thiepval spur cost another 7 officers and 123 men.

After moving back to Bouzincourt and Amplier, they were then moved back into the trenches in the vicinity of Mouquet Farm (the battle for which had already been savage and costly for the Australians, Canadians and British), where they suffered heavy shelling.

By this time, the military hierarchy had decided that the likelihood of a German invasion of the north east coast of Britain had receded, and to keep trained soldiers in that area when reinforcements were desperately needed in France was foolish. Consequently, three officers and 200 men from the 2/1<sup>st</sup> Cheshire Yeomanry were detailed for the infantry, and they embarked for France at Southampton on 20 September 1916. After their training and transfer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion South Lancashires, 110 men were despatched to join the main battalion at the Front on 30 September.

Their thoughts could be summed up by Private 1035 Reg Lloyd of the Cheshire Yeomanry attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion :

'We went up to relieve the Canadians, we'd never seen anything like it going up through this area it was just as if an earthquake had occurred it was all mud and I was frightened to death. Eventually we came to a noticeboard in amongst the rubble and it just said 'Pozieres' - that's all there was, just a noticeboard that said 'Pozieres' to tell us where we were'

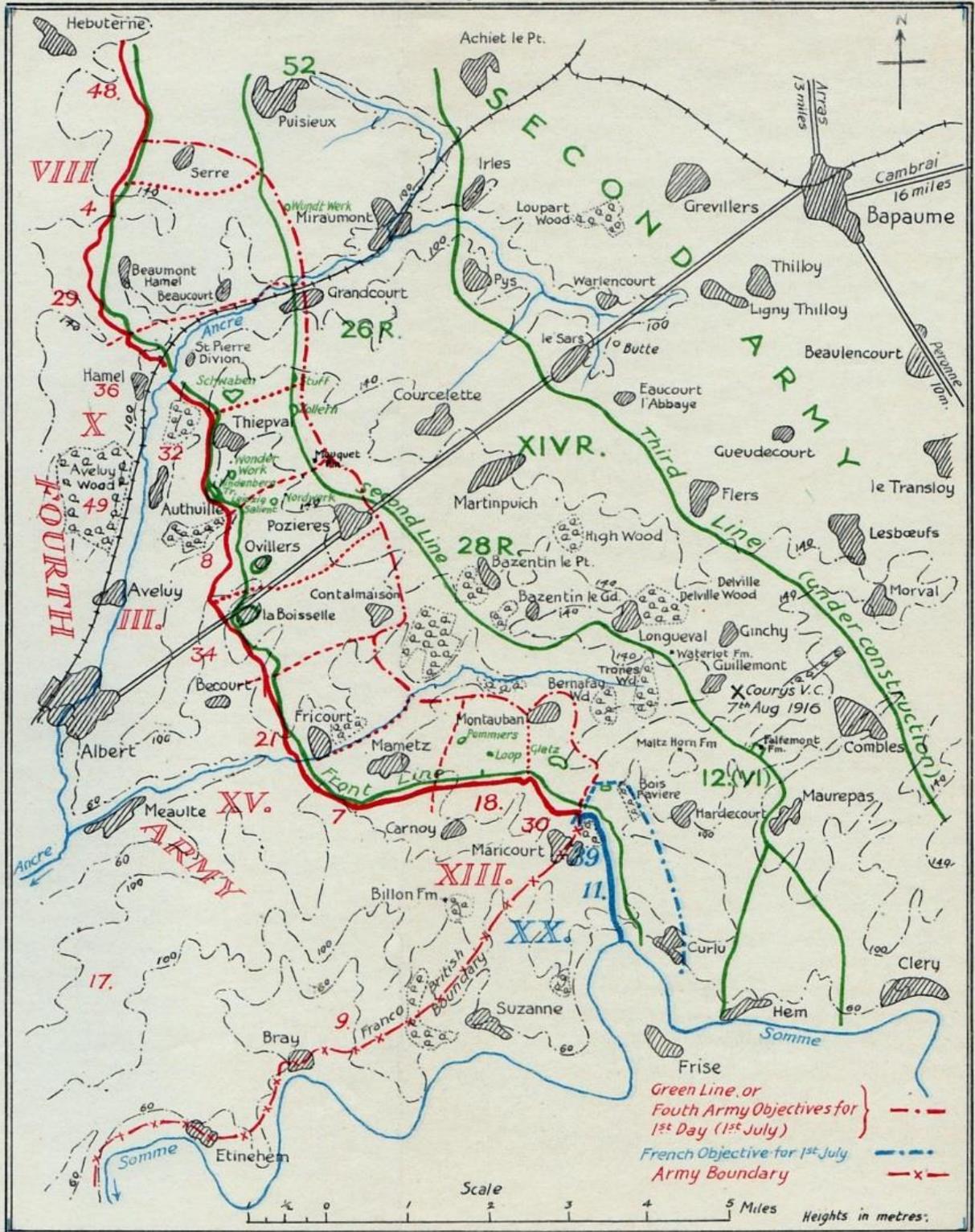
**from Lynn MacDonald, *Somme* (1983)**

The war diaries at this time stated that it was taking 24 hours to get rations to the front line due to the shelling and state of the landscape. It was into this hell that came three country boys from Farndon, Holt and Churton!

Stuff Redoubt (*Feste Staufen*) was a strong point in the German Somme fortifications, sitting due east from the massive Schwaben Redoubt, which formed the German front line on 1 July 1916. It was an artillery observation post on that first day of the battle, but was a clear objective for the troops attacking in that sector. This was attacked mainly by the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division - those amazing men had overrun the German positions, suffering severe casualties in doing so. So many officers had

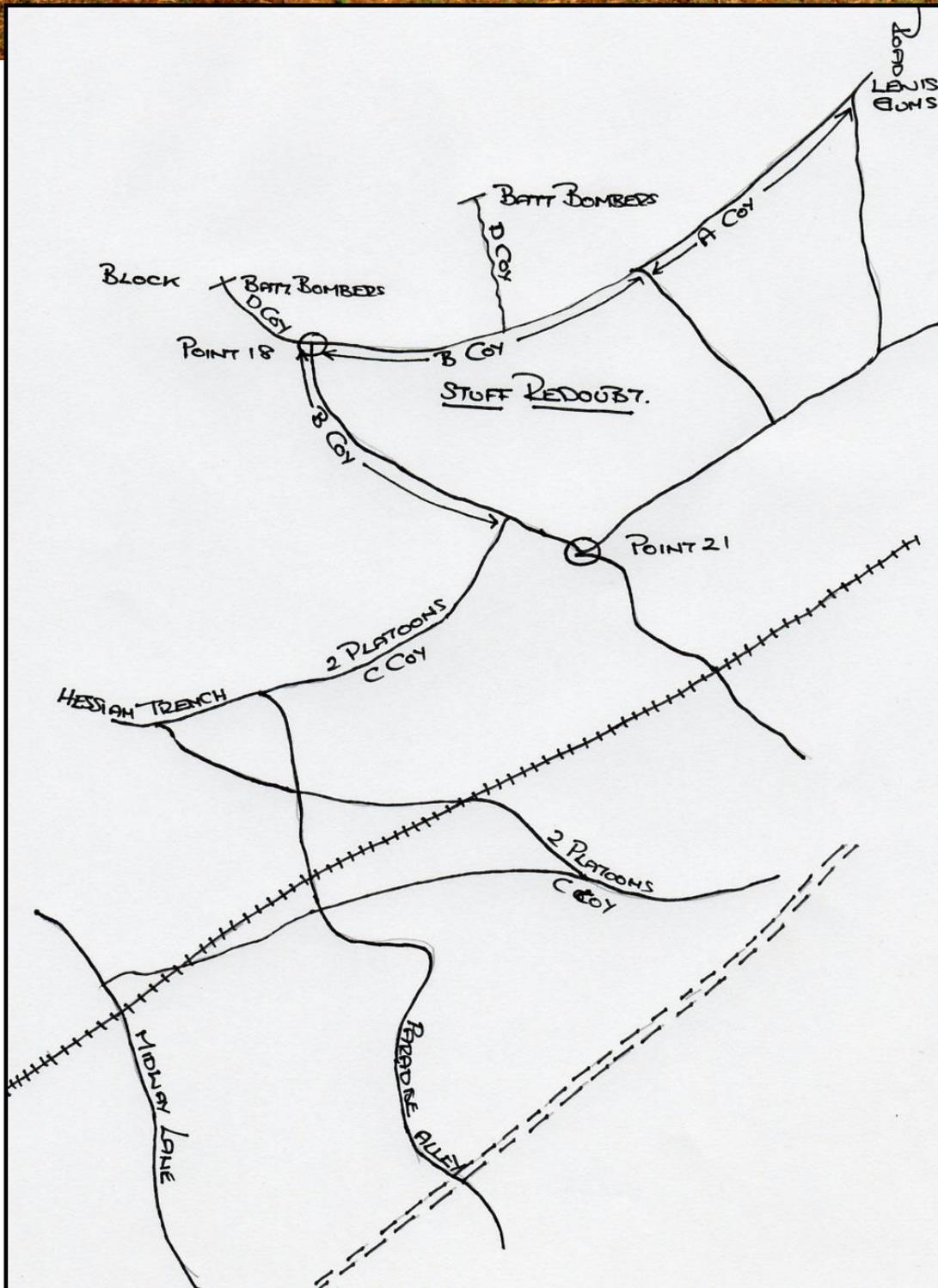
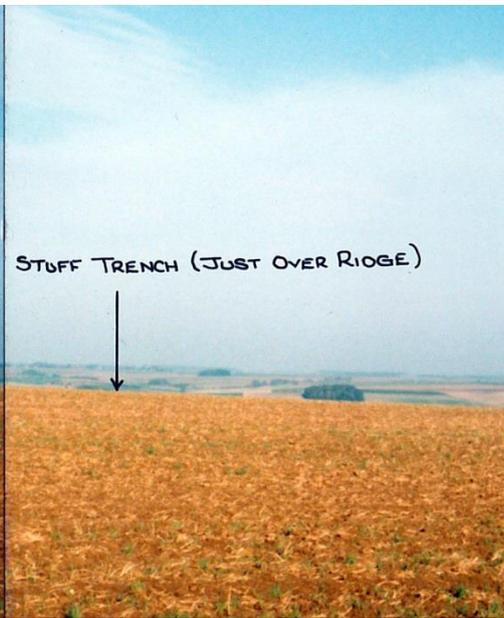
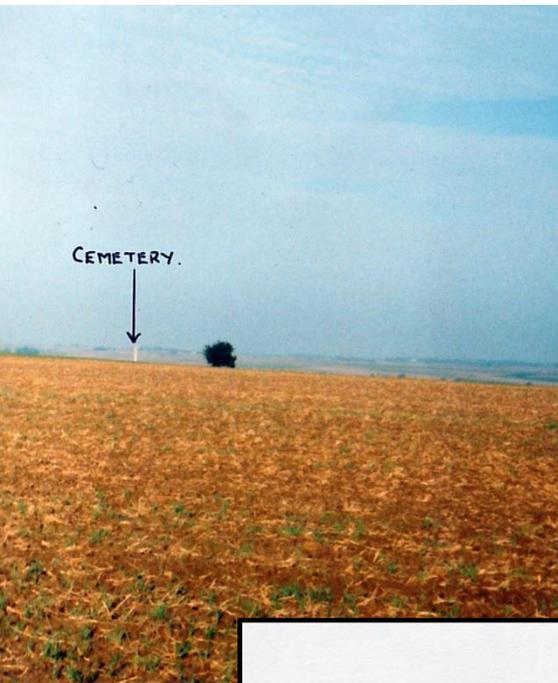
# THE SOMME, 1916.

The Battle of Albert 1<sup>st</sup> July The Fourth Army Objectives.



P.W.V. History.

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been lost that the command structure was seriously weakened. An opportunity to flank the German defences in Thiepval was lost, but that would have required an alteration to the rehearsed attack on the German second line. It would be another three months before Thiepval eventually fell, however, the gallant Ulstermen pressed on as ordered, with so very few left standing. The Germans in Stuff Redoubt were amazed when they realised that the Tommies were to the front of their position - just a handful of artillerymen and few, if any, German troops for half a kilometre in either direction. One problem faced them; the wire had not been cut. The Ulstermen had reached the objective before the artillery bombardment had cut it. The handful of men did their best, but could not find a way through, and they now came under heavy shell and machine gun fire, plus the Germans were gathering for a counter attack. They had no choice but to retire. It was the high water mark of that first days' attack on the Somme.

As the weeks and months passed on that dreadful Somme slog, the direction of the British attack shifted; Pozieres fell in mid-August; Thiepval in late September; and it was possible to now start attacking northwards, to take out the strong points of Mouquet Farm, Zollern and Stuff Redoubts - not an easy task, as all were part of an interconnected defensive system.

Stuff Redoubt had, at last, been captured on 9 October after weeks of fighting, and following on from the taking of Mouquet Farm and Zollern Redoubt, the South Lancs had moved into position for the next attack, which would be on Regina Trench (a strong deep construction running from Stuff trench towards Le Sars). It was an important German switch-trench, allowing troops and material to be moved around the Front in some shelter (especially as the Canadians were a close threat on their right flank). The trenches were smashed with dead British and German troops lying everywhere, the mud stank of gas, and detritus lay everywhere. However, the attack was postponed on 6 October, and the battalion was relieved by the 13<sup>th</sup> Cheshires and moved back to Bouzincourt to rest. On 15 October, the battalion moved back up to the front line to what remained of Stuff Redoubt. 'A' Company left camp at 6am, followed by D, B, C and HQ, at intervals of 400 yards between platoons, and moved to the right sub sector of the position soon to be occupied by 75 Infantry Brigade, relieving the 8<sup>th</sup> Loyal North Lancs, and being directed into position by company guides.

The companies were taking over positions 'recce'd' by their company commanders the previous day. The situation was reported quiet with no gas, while the units on their right were the 11<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Border Regiment, with the 8<sup>th</sup> South Lancs in support. The 11<sup>th</sup> Cheshire Regiment were in reserve, further right were the Canadians, who would take on the formidable Regina Trench, and to their left were the 39th Division, which including the poet Edmund Blunden among the ranks of the 11<sup>th</sup> Royal Sussex. The whole frontage for the attack covered 5000 metres.

The battalion transport was in the rear, along with the cadre who would form the basis of a new battalion (should the situation demand it), under the command of Major W.J.Hasketh Smith, aided by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants H.W.Mirehouse, S.W.Boast, H.E.House, L.G.Mathews and C.L Lomas, plus one senior NCO from each company plus 10% of Ordinary Ranks.

On the night of 15 October, as the battalion huddled in the remains of Stuff Redoubt in the rain, an artillery barrage was endured from 8-11pm. It was particularly heavy from 9-10pm, and an SOS signal was sent up. The Allied artillery answered, and put up a heavy barrage in no man's land in front of Stuff Redoubt. The signal which was sent up; 1 Red, 1 Gold and Silver Rain, 1 Red, appeared to have been put up by the enemy, as subsequent enquiries failed to discover who had signalled or where from!



**Thiepval Memorial to the Missing**







Casualty Form—Active Service.

31515 Regiment or Corps *7th Div. 2nd Bn. SOMERSET* *South Hampshire Regt*  
 Regimental No. *4250* Rank *Private* Name *Gauterin John*  
 Enlisted (a) *15.70.14* Terms of Service (a) *Period of war* Service reckons from (a) *15.70.14*  
 Date of promotion to } Date of appointment } Numerical position on }  
 present rank } to lance rank } roll of N.C.Os. }  
 Extended \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Report Date	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 212, Army Form A. 30, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 212, Army Form A. 30, or other official documents.
-------------	--------------------	--	-------	------	--

Embarked Southampton. 20-9-16.  
 Disembarked Rouen. 21-9-16.  
 Joined No.1. Terr. Base Dep. Rouen. 21-9-16.  
 Trans. to 6 Inf. Base Dep. Rouen. 20-9-16.  
 Compulsorily trans. to 4th T.P. Res. South Lancs. and Posted to 2nd South Lancs. under A.O.204 & A.O.I.1499, of 1916. from 20-9-16. New No. *31518*

*3.10.16* *of 2 Bn* *Joined 2nd Lan R.* *Officer i/c Terr. Infty. Southern Section.*  
*- do -* *Died from wtd. rec. in action* *21.10.16* *Roll* *list of 25.10.16*  
*Officer to regular duty Section No 3*  
*16.1.17*

Above: Page extract from John Gauterin's War Record, showing postings and note on his death on 21.10.16 (which was actually on 16 October).  
 Below: John Gauterin's Medal Card

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
GAUTERIN	S. LAN. R.	Pte.	31518
John.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	J/1/103 B8	1572	
BARRAGE	-do -do -		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

9679

PERSONAL EFFECTS.

Name *John Gaüterin*

No. *31518*

Rank *Plt.*

Regiment *South Lancs.*

Article	Where stored	Notified by
<i>Cards. Photographs. Letters. Army Prayer Book. Wallet.</i>		
Final Disposal		
<i>Mr Charles Gaüterin, The Lodge, Farnham, Hants.</i>		

Remarks:— In accordance with War Office instructions, I forward you herewith the personal effects as above set forth. Please acknowledge receipt of same, and return this paper to me at your earliest convenience.

Belle Vue,  
Shrewsbury

*C. Arnold* Major, for  
Colonel i/c Records No.4. District

.....1917.

Received the above

Signature... *Charles Gaüterin*

Date... *July 6/1917*

Above: Page extract from John Gaüterin's War Record, showing the return of his personal effects to his father.

Unfortunately, several of the British shells were pitching short about 100 yards behind Point 18. It is likely this was being fired from a gun with a worn out barrel after excessive use in the previous weeks and months. Consequently, frantic efforts were made to try and get HQ to communicate with the batteries involved and get them to 'lift' - all to no avail, and a shell pitched into the trench occupied by B Company, killing three men and wounding nine. One of those killed was my great-uncle, **John Gauterin**.

Bob recalled that they got to him quickly, but that he had suffered a severe shrapnel wound which had blown half his face off. They comforted him as best they could, he tried to say something but slipped away. He was wrapped in a blanket and given a quick burial behind the trench. The grave was marked, with a view to interring him more fittingly when they could, but with the amount of dead British and German soldiers lying about, the state of the trenches and surrounding landscape, together with the constant shelling, it was always going to be a forlorn hope. The grave was lost, and today John is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme battlefields, along with 72,194 others who similarly have no known grave. The distressing circumstances regarding John's death and burial go some way to explain why so many names are on the memorial and why remains are still being uncovered today by those who work the land.



In Memory of

Private

# John Gauterin

31518, 2nd Bn., South Lancashire Regiment who died on 21 October 1916 Age 23

Son of Charles and Jane Gauterin, of The Lodge, Farndon, Chester.

Remembered with Honour

**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

After midnight, the Front quietened and patrols were sent out to recce the state of the barbed wire facing the Stuff and Regina Trenches. All companies were employed repairing and improving the trenches. Bob recalled there were many dead Germans lying about wearing gas masks.

It was decided to postpone the attack, and the battalion was relieved by the 8th Border Regiment, while temporarily withdrawing to the old support line. On 19 October, they once more occupied the front line in attack readiness - this time there would be no postponement. Rain was forecast, onto a landscape that was already a quagmire.

Saturday, 21 October dawned, a fine day with a cold wind. By this time the British Army had learned harsh lessons regarding the assault of enemy positions. Too many battalion commanders and senior officers had died leading from the front, too many men had died walking in straight lines towards the enemy machine guns, and this after a preliminary bombardment had warned the enemy of the attack. The standard timing of attacks had been at dawn, just when the enemy was deemed to be at its lowest ebb, the trouble was, both sides now 'stood -to' at dawn just because of this thinking. The timing of attacks were now becoming more varied, and bombardments were being refined - which now provided a creeping barrage for the infantry to follow. Rank and file were increasingly being led by lieutenants and second lieutenants, due to the mortality rate of captains and majors. It was not perfect, but it was getting better.

Later that October day at 12.06pm, the artillery opened up on the German lines with the enemy replying six minutes later. The battalion went over the top following the British barrage in the following order:

A Company on the right under 2nd Lieutenant McMahon

B Company in support under 2nd Lieutenant Neville

D Company on the left under 2nd Lieutenant Snowden

C Company in support under 2nd Lieutenant Harrison

According to Bob Tilston, just before they went 'over the bags', Charlie (still only twenty-one) was very nervous. He reassured his friend as best he could, "just stick with me and you'll be fine", said Bob. The units moved forward in waves of half companies, the frontage of A and B being Stump Road on the right to Cable Trench. D and C covered from Cable Trench to the communication trench running north west from point 38. The whole frontage covered a distance of about 400 yards.

The battalion war diary relates that when the line moved forward the spirit of all ranks was 'wonderful', although I'm sure Charlie didn't feel too wonderful at the time. The men went over the parapet in fine style, arriving in the enemy trench at about 12.15pm. The objective was easily gained, although some trouble was caused by the enemy bombing parties. Casualties during the actual advance were slight, although some men were caught by the British barrage, having got under it in their haste. On entering the German trenches, few Germans were found still in occupation. Many emerged from dugouts, and some put up a fight - these were easily dealt with, with about 50 killed. The remainder were driven to communication trenches on the flanks, where they surrendered.

Bob Tilston still reserved feelings of absolute contempt for one of his own comrades, a man who was actually from his own village. Refusing to name him, he recalled how when the Germans were surrendering and being shepherded towards the rear, his comrade shot a very young soldier in the back as he went past with his hands in the air.

Meanwhile, the company bombers and Lewis gunners had carried out brave work along Cable Trench in the centre, Stump Road on the right, and a communication trench on the left. A machine gun had been captured and several others destroyed.

At this point the Germans in Grandcourt, recognising that the position was lost, opened fire with shellfire, machine guns and sniper fire. The British officer commanding the section under fire (most likely Second Lieutenant Neville) gave young Charlie Williamson a message to take to the other flank, but as he started off Charlie was hit by bullet in the chest and killed instantly .

About 400 Germans had surrendered to the battalion, including a number of officers, but their trenches were in a poor condition in consequence of the British artillery barrage and work was at once commenced consolidating the position. A considerable number of casualties were incurred by the South Lancs by the aforementioned German fire which continued throughout the remainder of the day and all night. The under mentioned officers were killed by enemy shellfire in the early morning prior to the attack:

- 2nd Lieutenant Richard Jones
- Lieutenant William Charles Connor
- Lieutenant Winchester

During the day the following further casualties were incurred:

*Killed:*

- Second Lieutenant Norman
- Second Lieutenant Claud
- Second Lieutenant Haigh
- 27 Ordinary Ranks

*Wounded:*

- Second Lieutenant McMahon
- Second Lieutenant C.L. Castle
- 131 Ordinary Ranks

*Missing:*

- Second Lieutenant C.M. Scoton
- 24 Ordinary Ranks

**Total** : 6 Officers and 182 Ordinary Ranks

In connection with the forward movement of the battalion, the units on its flanks also moved forward and gained their objectives. During the night, it was fairly quiet in the new frontline, but Stuff Redoubt came under intense German shelling and practically obliterated (it was this bombardment which must have destroyed John Gauterin's grave). About 50 additional Germans also surrendered in a night which was clear and very cold with a frost.

On 22 October the battalion was relieved by the 8<sup>th</sup> North Staffs and went in reserve, leaving behind their dead. When the battlefield was cleared, a cemetery was laid out roughly on the line of Stuff Trench. This is now Grandcourt Road CWGC Cemetery with 283 British dead within, including 108 unidentified. Charles Williamson was laid in this cemetery. On the other side of the sunken road another cemetery was laid out (now Stump Road CWGC Cemetery) and there are 213 graves there.

**[Grandcourt Road cemetery is in a rather isolated position lying amongst ploughed fields on the Somme. It may be remote, but the grave of Charles Williamson has been visited by Farndon villagers on three recent occasions, including author of this article Peter Gauterin; parish councillors Ken Wakefield, and Neil Jones of Kings Marsh Farm, with Colin Capewell; and historian and web author Mike Royden. See the separate individual biography on Charles Williamson by Mike Royden, plus the 'Return to the Battlefields' article by Ken Wakefield, both on this website].**



**Grandcourt Road Cemetery, Somme.**





**Above: Private Charles N. Williamson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment.**

**Right: Grandcourt Road Cemetery, Somme.**



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion received orders to move north but not before they received an inspection and congratulations from none other than Sir Douglas Haig while behind the lines at Gezaincourt near Doullens on 26 October. Following this they were posted to Belgium to a quieter area near Ploegsteert in Belgium after being withdrawn from the Somme. They stayed there for the remainder of 1916.

Several weeks later Bob was granted leave and cycled over to the Red Lion in Churton to visit Charlie's parents. As he went under the stone arch into the back yard, Charlie's mother was walking across the cobbles with a bucket of water, she looked up, screamed and fainted. Much later when she had recovered, she explained that because Bob and Charlie were so similar ('the twins') she thought it was Charlie returning from the grave.

Bob returned to the Front to serve with the South Lancs in the Battle of Messines in June 1917 before being wounded in the stomach in the vicinity of Ploegsteert Wood (he distinctly remembered the dead German snipers in what was left of the trees, strapped in place by their belts). After his wounds had healed, he was transferred to the Labour Corps, presumably due to the debilitating effects of his wound. He was discharged in 1919.

*Several anecdotes he told me deserve to be recounted in this epistle:*

Early in the war he was approached by a lady who came up to him as he and some chums were laughing and joking in the street, fumbling in her purse, she gave Bob a brass medallion on which was inscribed the 23rd Psalm ('*The Lord is my Shepherd I will not want*', including the verse '*Yea though I walk through the valley of death I will fear no evil*'). It had belonged to her husband, she tearfully told him, who had been in the cavalry but killed in France. Bob kept it throughout the war, and lost count of the number of men, including officers, who asked to read it before an attack. Bob was not religious having found it too hard to reconcile the slaughter with faith, but that medallion did give him comfort, of that I am sure.

His most frightening experience was when on a trench raid, a flare went up and the Germans opened up with a machine gun. He dived into a shell hole and was stuck there for 12 hours, completely disorientated and not knowing which direction the British trenches lay. Eventually, by observing the direction in which aeroplanes were flying, he made an educated guess and made it back to safety of the British lines. Meantime, the remainder of the raiding party had thought him dead!

On one occasion, they were pulled out of the line after a particularly hard time, and were on their way to billets in the rear, when they stopped for a rest in a derelict French village. Some enterprising French civilians had rigged up tarpaulins and were selling 'what looked like coloured water'. Prostitutes were also plying their trade, and one plonked herself on Bob's knee. "Ee lass I need nourishment, not punishment", was his response!

Another time they had pulled out of the line and were resting at the side of the road ('what were left of us', said Bob), when down the road came these big fellows with shiny buttons and bands playing. They were Americans. "Where are all these goddamn Huns then?", they shouted as they passed. "Down the road - you'll find them!" They did no doubt! Douglas Haig with his escort of lancers also stopped for a chat and wished them luck.



Bob Tilston (wearing his silver war badge)



Bob lived to the ripe old age of 94 passing away in September 1990. I only met him a few times but it was a privilege to spend time in his company and to have been able to talk to him about his experiences. RIP my friend.

John Gauterin's body was never found, although he may just lie in one of the unidentified graves - we will never know. I acquired Charles Gauterin's bible some time ago, and found a piece of paper in Psalms with 'John Gauterin 103' written on it. Psalm 103 includes the words

*'As for man his days are as grass  
as a flower of the field so he flourished,  
For as the wind passeth over it and it is gone  
and the place thereof shall know it no more'*

I think that sums the tragedy up perfectly.

And what of the other Gauterins at home in Farndon during WW1?

### **Ernest Gauterin**

Ernest, who had been working as a telegraph boy after leaving school, and was now working as a driver for his father while still at home, decided to volunteer in late 1915. Aged just nineteen, he travelled to Chester and attested into the Kings Liverpool Regiment on 8 December. Initially sent home on reserve, he was mobilised on 2 February 1916 for Home Service, into the 22<sup>nd</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers. Within weeks while in Morecombe, he was docked 4 days pay for overstaying his leave from midnight to 6pm on 22 April 1916. On 27 May 1916, he was transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> King's Liverpool Regiment, then into 7<sup>th</sup> Works Company on 1 July 1916, and on to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Works Battalion, King's

Liverpool Regiment on 29 July 1916. On 18 January 1917, he was posted to 242 H.T. Company, Royal Army Medical Corps, as Driver T/294450, where he was assigned to the Horse Transport section.

Ernest did not serve abroad, but this shows there was essential work for the soldier to do at home; in the transport of essential supplies, soldiers and equipment, and the returning wounded to hospitals. He was finally discharged, several weeks after the war ended on 1 February 1919, and returned home to Farndon where he married in 1923. He died in Cardiff on 7 Aug 1963.

136528

IF FOUND, please drop this Certificate in a Post Office letter box. Army Form Z. 11.  
**NOTICE.** "This document is Government property. It is no security whatever for debt, and any Person being in possession of it, either as a pledge or security for debt, or without lawful authority or excuse, is liable under Section 158 (9) of the Army Act to a fine of twenty pounds (£20) or imprisonment for six months, or to both fine and imprisonment."

2.A.

**PROTECTION CERTIFICATE AND CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY**  
 (SOLDIER NOT REMAINING WITH THE COLOURS).

Dispersal Unit Stamp and date of dispersal.

Surname GAUTERIN  
 (Block letters)

Christian Names Ernest

Regtl. No. 294450 Rank Driver Record Office Woodwich  
 Unit 242 H.T. Coy Regt. or R.A.S.C. Pay Office  
22 Corps Lancashire

I have received an advance of £2. † Address for Pay The Lodge Farndon, Chester

(Signature of Soldier) [Signature]

The above-named soldier is granted 28 days' furlough from the date stamped hereon pending \_\_\_\_\_ (as far as can be ascertained) which will date from the last day of furlough after which date uniform will not be worn except upon occasions authorized by Army Orders.

\* If for Final Demobilization insert 1.  
 Disembodied insert 2.  
 Transfer to Reserve insert 3.

† As this is the address to which pay and discharge documents will be sent unless further notification is received, any change of address must be reported at once to the Record Office and the Pay Office as noted above, otherwise delay in settlement will occur.

Theatre of War or Command Scottish  
 Born in the Year 1895.  
 Medical Category Bji  
 Place of rejoining in case of emergency Caswestry  
 Specialist Military Qualification H.T. Driver

R. W. Wade

This Certificate must be produced when applying for an Unemployed Sailor's and Soldier's Donation Policy or, if demanded, whenever applying for Unemployment benefit.

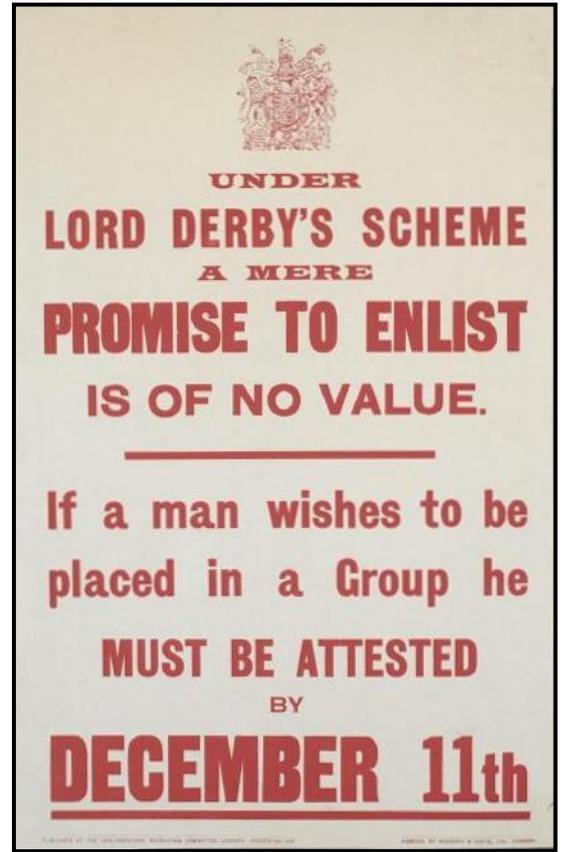
Date 3/2/19 Office of Issue Freebank Policy issued No. A 73 079233  
transferred to class 2. (3)

**Frederick Gauterin**

Frederick, still living in Priory Place, had married Ellen Ball on 15 April 1912 at St. Paul's in Crewe. Frederick had met her through his sister Elizabeth. Ellen was working as a housemaid at the house in Liverpool Road, Chester where Elizabeth was a cook. He attested the day after his brother Ernest on 9 December 1915, and he was also put in reserve for Home Service.

It is possible that both brothers, Ernest and Frederick, were attesting under the 'Derby Scheme'. By spring 1915 the flow of volunteer recruits, which had averaged 100,000 men per month, had started to dwindle. To boost numbers, the upper age limit had been raised from 38 to 40 in May 1915, this would have only a limited effect. The government were still holding back from introducing compulsory military service, but it was clear that voluntary recruitment was becoming exhausted, so instead attempted a compromise.

On 15 July 1915, the National Registration Act was passed with the aim of discovering how many men between the ages of 15 and 65 were engaged in each trade, by way of stimulating recruitment. It showed there were almost 5 million males of military age who were not in the forces, of which 1.6m were in the "starred" (protected, high or scarce skill) jobs. This was followed by the so-called Derby Scheme on 11 October 1915. Lord Derby had been appointed Director-General of Recruiting, and swiftly introduced the officially titled Group Scheme to increase numbers. Men aged 18 to 40 were informed that under the scheme they could continue to enlist voluntarily or attest with an obligation to come if called up later on. The War Office notified the public that voluntary enlistment would soon cease and that the last day of registration would be 15 December 1915. Men who attested, and were accepted for service, and chose to defer it, were classified as being in "Class A". Those who agreed to immediate service were "Class B". The Class A men were paid a day's army pay for the day they



(2079.) Wt. 12930-4147. 11/15. LONDON. J. T. & S., Ltd. Army Form B. 2512.

**SHORT SERVICE.**  
(For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve.)

**ATTESTATION OF** *General. Oliver*

Name *Frederick William Gauterin* Corps *...*

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ...	<i>Frederick William Gauterin</i>
2. What is your full Address? ...	<i>9 Irving Road, Chester</i>
3. Are you a British Subject? ...	<i>Yes</i>
4. What is your Age? ...	<i>39</i> Years <i>4</i> Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ...	<i>Wool Sorter</i>
6. Are you Married? ...	<i>No</i>
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? ...	<i>No</i>
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ...	<i>Yes</i>
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ...	<i>Yes</i>
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ...	<i>Name: ... Corps: ...</i>
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long requiring your services? For the Duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct., 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, Depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.	<i>Yes</i>

*Frederick William Gauterin* do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

*F. W. Gauterin* SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
*Walter G. Drington* Signature of Witness.

attested; were given a grey armband with a red crown as a sign that they had so volunteered; were officially transferred into Section B Army Reserve; and were sent back to their homes and jobs until they were called up. Single men's groups would be called before married men with 14 days' advance notice. Married men were promised that their groups would not be called if too few single men attested, unless conscription was introduced.

The system recruited 318,553 medically fit single men. However, 38 per cent of single men and 54 per cent of married men had publicly refused to enlist. This left the government short and conscription was introduced in early 1916.

On 29 May 1917, Frederick was posted to 229985 B Company 2/1 Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment, then transferred to the 547 Company, Agricultural Company, Labour Corps on 21 May 1917, as Driver 555866 Frederick Gauterin, but not actually called up until April 1918. Like Ernest, he did not serve abroad. He was discharged at Prees Heath on 8 February 1919, and returned to his wife Ellen who had moved to Low Cross Hill, Tilston, Malpas. Later he returned to Church Lane in Farndon, where he died on 2 September 1952.

### **Charles and Richard Gauterin**

Charles junior, eldest of the brothers, continued to work as a driver and may have attested under the Derby Scheme, but records no longer survive. He did not serve abroad. He died in 1922, a year before his father.

Richard continued to help in the family business before marrying in 1919 and going on to raise a family in The Hollows, a smallholding down Townfield Lane, long before any houses were built in that area. He was also the 'Lengthsman' responsible for the inspection and upkeep of the road from Farndon to Shocklach. Like Charles, records do not exist for him either, he may have attested, but did not serve abroad. He died in 1964.

## German Gauterins

And what of the German Gauterins - Charles senior's relatives (my cousins), who stayed in Friedrichsdorf? In fact, they were facing their own cousins on the opposite side. At least five served in the German Army; Artur, Emil, Karl, Ferdinand and Robert Gauterin. All were wounded, Robert seriously.

### Artur Gauterin

Born on 27 March 1893, Artur Gauterin was listed (*left*) as lightly wounded in Verluste-Liste 1479 dated 2 June 1917, but no further details are known.

### Emil Gauterin

Emil Gauterin served in the 11<sup>th</sup> Company of Reserve Infanterie Regiment 80 and was an unteroffizier (Corporal). He was listed as lightly wounded in the Verluste-Liste 0353 dated 4 February 1915. He later lost his life, but nothing is yet known regarding the circumstances. His Regiment was on mobilisation as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Reserve Division (45 Reserve Infanterie Brigade, 18<sup>th</sup> Reserve Corps) and took part in the initial 1914 offensive in the Champagne area.

In July they were involved in the battle of Verdun, then back to the Champagne area in September 1916, before being posted back to Verdun between December 1916 to January 1917. In the Spring of 1917 they fought in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Aisne and later that year in Cambrai in November 1917, fighting in the Brouillon Wood area. In March 1918, they were part of the Spring Offensive and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Somme. By 1918, the division was degraded it was deemed 'second class' by Allied Intelligence.

		Schwer verwundet.
Gatjen, Johann	— 16. 7. 97	Arsten, Bremen — vermisst.
Gatryszak, Johann	— 3. 6. 96	Gav, Strelno — gefallen.
Gattwinkel, Karl, Gefr.	— 26. 7. 85	Berlin — bisher vermisst, in Gefgsh. 10. 10. 16. (A. N.)
Gatz, Emil, Uffz.	— 7. 6. 89	Stolz — leicht verwundet.
Gademeyer, Georg	— 12. 8. 94	Hannover — bisher vermisst, in Gefgsh. 10. 10. 16. (A. N.)
Gatke, Rudolph	— 12. 4. 95	Gnieniewice — bisher vermisst, in Gefgsh. 5. 9. 16.
Gau, Herbert	— 13. 5. 92	Krienke, Neustrelitz — vermisst.
Gauf, Konrad	— 5. 3. 82	Stahora, Gösch — leicht verwundet.
Gauselmann [nicht Ganselmann], Karl	— 18. 1. 92	Laer — bisher vermisst 13. 11. 16, in Gefgsh.
Gauterin, Artur	— 27. 3. 93	Welbert, Meitmann — leicht v.
Gauthier, Karl	— 5. 7. 89	Düsseldorf — vermisst.
Gaweljit, Emanuel, Gefr.	— 11. 12. 87	Dybnit — leicht verw.
Gawrisch, Wilhelm	— 8. 11. 97	Niederhof — bisher verw., †.
Gayko, Adam	— 24. 12. 87	Colinowen, Syd — verwundet.
Gburek, Josef	— 21. 3. 93	Grudichütz, Dypeln — abermals und zwar schwer verwundet.
Gebauer, Johann	— 4. 3. 94	Kupferberg — bisher vermisst, † 28. 9. 15.
Gebauer, Karl	— 17. 10. 86	Senkowo, Samter — leicht verw.
Gebauer, Max, Gefr.	— 15. 6. 97	Wiskowig, Breslau — l. v.
Gebauer II, Rudolf	— 10. 7. 84	Neutöln — † an l. Wunden.
Gebel, Ignaz	31. 7. 89	Doremba, Gr. Wartenberg, schwer verw.
Gebert, Paul	— 29. 12. 96	Lamburg — leicht verwundet.
Gebhard, Anton, Gefr.	— 10. 6. 79	Markdorf, Heberlingen —

Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 80.	
— Gefechte vom 11. bis 21. I. 15. —	
	Ref. Philipp Thomas (1. Komp.), Dörscheid, St. Goarshausen, gefallen.
	Wehrm. Martin Proff (1. Komp.), Wellisch, St. Goarshausen, schw. v.
	Gefr. d. L. Karl Lehr (1. Komp.) — Schiessstein, Wiesbaden — schw. v.
	Grf. Ref. Johann Braß (1. Komp.) — Ellar, Limburg, L. — l. v.
	Grf. Ref. Sch. Hartmann (1. Komp.), Offenbach a. M., l. v., b. d. L.
	Ref. Wilhelm Hansen (2. Komp.), Fröcht, St. Goarshausen, schw. v.
	Wehrm. Reinhold Daxel (3. Komp.), Oberwies, Unterlabn, l. verw.
	Wehrm. Johann Lampe (4. Komp.), Gau Nidelbeim, Alzen, l. verw.
	Wehrm. Benedikt Kirich (4. Komp.) — Kiedrich, Rheinaau — l. v.
	Wehrm. Anton Pflüger (9. Komp.), Königstein, Obertaunus, gefallen.
	B.-feldw. d. L. Moriz Ludwig (10. Komp.), Frankfurt a. M., l. v.
15.	Uffz. d. L. Erwin Müller (10. Komp.), Homburg v. d. H., l. verw.
	Grf. Ref. Heinr. Weiswinkel (10. Komp.) — Eibersfeld — l. verw.
	Wehrm. Christian Schmidt (10. Komp.), Kransberg, Ufingen, l. v.
	Ref. Ferd. Geis (10. Komp.) — Kransberg, Ufingen — leicht verw.
	Grf. Ref. Ludwig Böckel (10. Komp.) — Alzen, Worms — l. v.
15.	Wehrm. Ludwig Dwyer (10. Komp.) — Altenbuckel, Mieschen — l. v.
	Uffz. d. L. Philipp Riegemann (11. Komp.) — Münter i. L., Höchst a. M. — schwer verwundet.
	Uffz. d. R. Emil Gauterin (11. Komp.) — Friedrichsdorf, Obertaunus — leicht verwundet.
ber.	Gefr. d. L. Karl Rückert (11. Komp.) — Untersteinbach, Dehringen — gefallen.
st.	Wehrm. Karl Horne (11. Komp.), Ober Walluf, Abdingau, l. verw.
per.	Grf. Ref. Jakob Nolte (11. Komp.), Pettendorf, Frankenberg, l. v.
bet.	

[Much more detail is contained in The History of Reserve Infanterie Regiment 80 by Theodore Szymanski (1935), but copies are very hard to come by].

Emil either died of wounds, or was killed later in the war. His name is recorded on the Roll of Honour for the Friedrichsdorf sports and gymnastics club TSG. As with British war records, many German Army documents were destroyed when Potsdam was severely bombed during the Second World War, so little detail has survived.

### Karl Gauterin

Karl Gauterin served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Company of Reserve, Infanterie Regiment 222, and was listed as lightly wounded in the Verlust-Liste (Loss List) 1197 dated 9 October 1916. He was born on 30 May 1897, and appears to have been posted to his regiment on 29 September 1916. The regiment was raised in the Grand Duchy of Hesse (Giessen) and was part of the 48<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division (24 Reserve Corps), in action initially between the Meuse and Moselle rivers. His regiment then moved to Flanders (Lille/YPres), then to the Eastern Front between October 1916 and April 1917, and was attached to the Austro-Hungarian 3<sup>rd</sup> Army (then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army).

leicht verwundet.		8. Kompanie.	
- I. v., b. d. Tr.	Uffz. Georg Müller — Regelheim i. Bay. — leicht verwundet.		Wogte, Jan
ndet, b. d. Tr.	Uffz. Josef Munsch — Mollkirch, Molsheim i. G. — vermisst.		Debus, Pe
st verwundet.	Gefr. Theodor Müller — Bruchhausen, Ettlingen — leicht verw.		Ripperger
— gefallen.	Gefr. Johann Enders — Lügelsbach Wiebelsbach, Erbach — I. v.		Krebs, Kaf
erwundet.	Weimar, Thomas — Schwalheim, Friedberg — leicht verwundet.		Schmiela
burg — abermals	Bläser, Karl — Badenob, Melsfeld — leicht verwundet.		Rehr, Fran
— gefallen.	Glaser, Jakob — Osthofen, Worms — leicht verwundet.		Günther,
— gefallen.	Rittge, Franz — Frankfurt a. M. — gefallen.		Pogge, Pe
erwundet.	Zacker, Josef — Windhausen, Olpe — leicht verwundet.		Bernhard
u.	Kreuzer, Venadus — Sommerberg, Gerstfeld — leicht verwundet.		Auer, Adar
Hotten — Schw. v.	Gauterin, Karl — Friedrichsdorf, Obertaunus — leicht verw.		Unverzag
leicht verwundet.	Wlecher, Wilhelm Fr. — Oberroßbach, Friedberg — leicht verw.		Dries, Au
Rainz — vermisst.	Heberschlag, Josef — Hirsbach, Wi. Lothr. — leicht verwundet.		Fsenburg
erwundet.	Schüßler, Heinrich — Naustadt, Bidingen — leicht verwundet.		Füller, S
erwundet.	Fung, August — Lohnweiler, Kusel — leicht verwundet.		Meyer II,
erwundet.	Bickel, Paul — Reichenschwand, Mittelfr. — leicht verwundet.		Stellics,
erwundet.	Herrlett, Hugo — Dortmund — leicht verwundet.		Wrage, W
erwundet.	Wenddorf, Eduard Fr. — Schmerin — leicht verwundet.		Malende,
erwundet.	Schlötter, Hartmut — Worms — leicht verwundet.		Roth, Ada
erwundet.	Kröbling, Josef — Wattenheid, Gelnhausen — leicht verw.		Bellinge
erwundet.	Bauer, Johann — Bischofsheim, Groß Oerau — leicht verwundet.		Hess, Wilhe
erwundet.	Brack, Karl Johann — Friedberg i. H. — gefallen.		Mieland,
erwundet.		9. Kompanie.	Schneider
erwundet.		Uffz. Johann Josef Hecker — Höchst a. M. — vermisst.	Marchal,
erwundet.			Bausen, S
erwundet.			Beyer, W
erwundet.			Wenner I

In May 1917, they returned to the Western Front, and fought at Verdun near Mort Home/Hill 304, facing the French offensive. They were moved to trenches in Lorraine from September to December 1917, then to upper Alsace until February 1918. The unit then went into reserve until April, before returning to the Western Front until the Armistice, by which time it had been so degraded by losses it was categorised as 'second class' by Allied Intelligence.

### Ferdinand Gauterin

Ferdinand Gauterin served in 4th Batterie Feldartillerie Regiment No. 205, and was a Gefreiter (Lance Corporal). He was listed as slightly wounded in the Verlust-Liste 0818 dated 3 December 1915.

This unit was formed in May 1915, as part of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Infanterie Division, and served on the Eastern Front in Greece and Macedonia

Iben — war	Uffz. Otto Gliese (2. Patr.) — Wahrensdorf — bisher schwer verwundet, † Feldlaz. 6 des IX. A. K.	
ft.		
t.		
ist.	<b>Feldartillerie-Regiment Nr. 205.</b>	
	4. Batterie.	
u, Sagenow	Uffz. Albert Engelhardt — Ober Eichjau, Gubtau — I. v.	
	Uffz. Max Nunge — Gissa i. P. — † an seinen Wunden Krsg. Laz.	
	Abt. 3 des I. Paver. Ref. K.	
	Gefr. Ferdinand Gauterin — Friedrichsdorf, Taunus — I. verw.	
	Gefr. Wilhelm Traeger — Neu Stenburg, Offenbach — I. verw.	
	Eisenheimer, Friedrich — Massenheim, Wiesbaden — † an seinen Wunden.	
leicht verw.	Schmidt, Friedrich Wilhelm — Darmstadt — leicht verwundet.	
	Gehrt, Ludwig — Webern, Dieburg — leicht verw., b. d. Tr.	
	Smorowski, Erich — Jnin — leicht verwundet, b. d. Tr.	
	5. Batterie.	
sch. (A. N.)	Uffz. Heinrich Theis — Lüttersheim, Kr. d. Twiste — I. v., b. d. Tr.	
sch. (A. N.)	Zur, Peter — Darnowo, Kosten — tödlich verunglückt.	
	6. Batterie.	
sch. (A. N.)	Uffz. Willi Frerichs — Cassel — schwer verwundet.	
sch. (A. N.)	Siller, Heinrich — Wablfatt, Kegnitz — leicht verw., b. d. Tr.	
sch. (A. N.)	Wagner, Heinrich — Grebenstein, Hofgeismar — leicht verwundet.	
sch. (A. N.)	<b>Landwehr-Feldartillerie-Abteilung des IX. Armeekorps.</b>	
sch. (A. N.)	Gefr. Alwin Schierjott (E. Mun. Kol.) — Wettin, Saale — † infolge Krankheit Krsg. Laz. 1.	
sch. (A. N.)	<b>Schützengraben-Kanonen-Abteilung Nr. 6.</b>	
sch. (A. N.)		

until April 1916. This was followed by action in the Battle of the Somme during October and November 1916, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Aisne in 1917, the German Spring Offensive and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Somme in 1918, followed by a posting to the Meuse Argonne area. It was classified 'good' in 1917 by Allied Intelligence, but '3rd class' in 1918.

### Robert Gauterin

Robert Gauterin was born on 25 May 1894. No information regarding his unit or rank is known, but he was listed as seriously wounded in the Verluste Liste 1343, dated 19 January 1917. By this time it seems the lists were so extensive, that they were not categorised under regiments or units but just tabulated alphabetically.

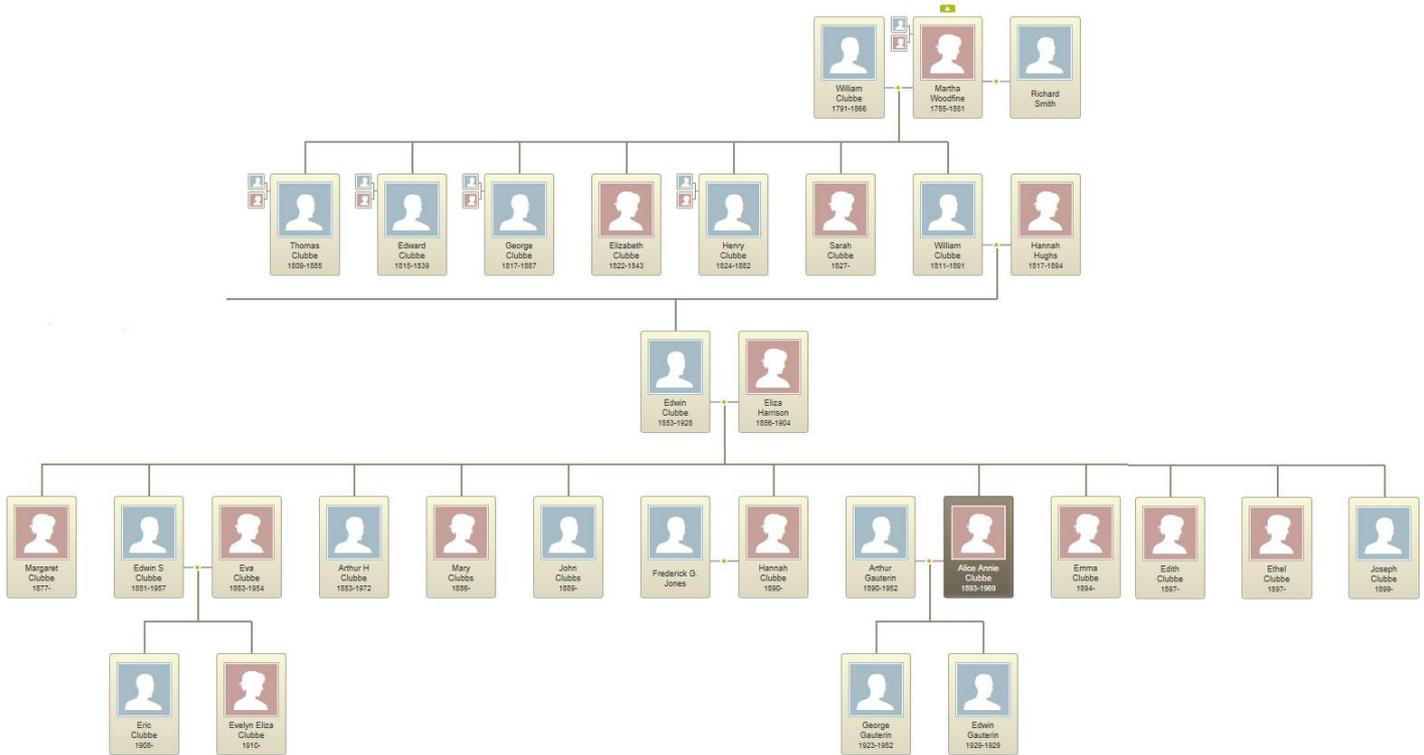
Galle, Wilhelm	— 10. 2. 90	Stranwald	—	10. 1. 1.	vermisst.
Gallhoff, Gerhard	— 27. 2. 85	Duisburg-Heiderich	—		vermisst.
Gauer, Hermann	— 31. 1. 88	Stassfurt, Karlsruhe	—		vermisst.
Gausle, Paul	— 30. 8. 82	Eudenberg, Sandberg 2. B.	—		durch Unfall verlegt 10. 1. 16.
Gautenberg, Otto	— 20. 2. 86	Rehliges, Mettmann	—		vermisst.
Gautert, Alois	— 23. 1. 80	Heidlingen, Wolfshut	—		gefallen.
Garbade, Dietrich	— 25. 10. 94	Sobernheim, Stiel, Mierholz	—		gefallen.
Gartner, Otto, Gebr.	— 14. 5. 98	Schönwald, Pühl	—		gefallen.
Gärtner, Gustav	— 8. 3. 87	Kunensich, Gölitz	—		leicht verwundet, b. d. F.
Gärtner, Josef	— 3. 1. 85	Konweiler	—		bissh. schwer verw. f.
Gärtner, Werner	— 13. 7. 86	Heiler, Wapen	—		schwer verw.
Gäse gen. Vorpahl, Otto	— 20. 4. 83	Rehborn, Greifshagen	—		verwundet 2. 3. 10.
Gäsel, Wilhelm	— 19. 10. 97	Perne	—		vermisst.
Gassen, Franz	— 12. 11. 97	Kainz, Zell	—		vermisst.
Gastler, Friedrich	— 13. 11. 93	Ober Wöden, Friedberg	—		vermisst.
Gäß, Johann	— 24. 2. 91	Etternich	—		bissh. verwundet, in Gefsch. 8. 9. 14.
Gathmann, Gerhard	— 11. 11. 92	Raasfeld, Borken	—		vermisst.
Gau, Wilhelm	— 29. 5. 97	Bensheim	—		gefallen.
Gauterin, Robert, Ein. d. R.	— 25. 5. 94	Friedrichsdorf, Oberhammerweis	—		schwer verwundet.
Gaumar, Oskar	— 4. 7. 77	Gensdorf, Eisenberg	—		gefallen.
Gebauer, Josef, Witz.	— 25. 2. 90	Eudorf, Pfeschen	—		vermisst.
Gebauer, Wilhelm	— 8. 12. 78	Reichsdorf	—		bissh. vermisst gemeldet, gefallen 10. 11. 14.
Gebert, Friedrich	— 18. 9. 90	Angerburg	—		vermisst.
Gebhardt, Alfob	— 9. 8. 87	Stensdorf, Dabelschwerdt	—		bissh. schwer verwundet, vermisst.
Gebhardt, Fritz, Ein. d. R.	— 10. 1. 91	Eisenberg	—		vermisst.
Gebhardt, Karl, Witz.	— 25. 2. 91	Sünderhof, Ditzowler	—		vermisst.
Gees, Wilhelm, Witz.	— 24. 1. 90	Stufenrod, Paderborn	—		1. 8.
Gehle, Heinrich	— 31. 8. 93	Kol. Burg, Gollhus	—		gefallen.
Gehle, Oskar, Witz.	— 27. 5. 86	Quindenburg	—		bissh. vermisst, verwundet und in Gefsch.
Gehle, Otto	— 27. 5. 86	Quindenburg	—		vermisst.



German Reserve Infanterie Regiment 80 c.1914

# Churton-by-Farndon: The Gauterins and the Clubbes

The Gauterins also married into the Clubbe family of Churton, near Farndon, one of the largest and well established families in the village, with their ties there going back many centuries - records existing to at least the sixteenth century.



Extract from a very extensive Clubbe family of Churton, highlighting the children of Edwin Clubbe, and the marriage of Arthur Gauterin, featured in this article (use the zoom feature to enlarge the tree).  
 Below: The census of 1901 showing Clubbes of The Old Farm, Churton

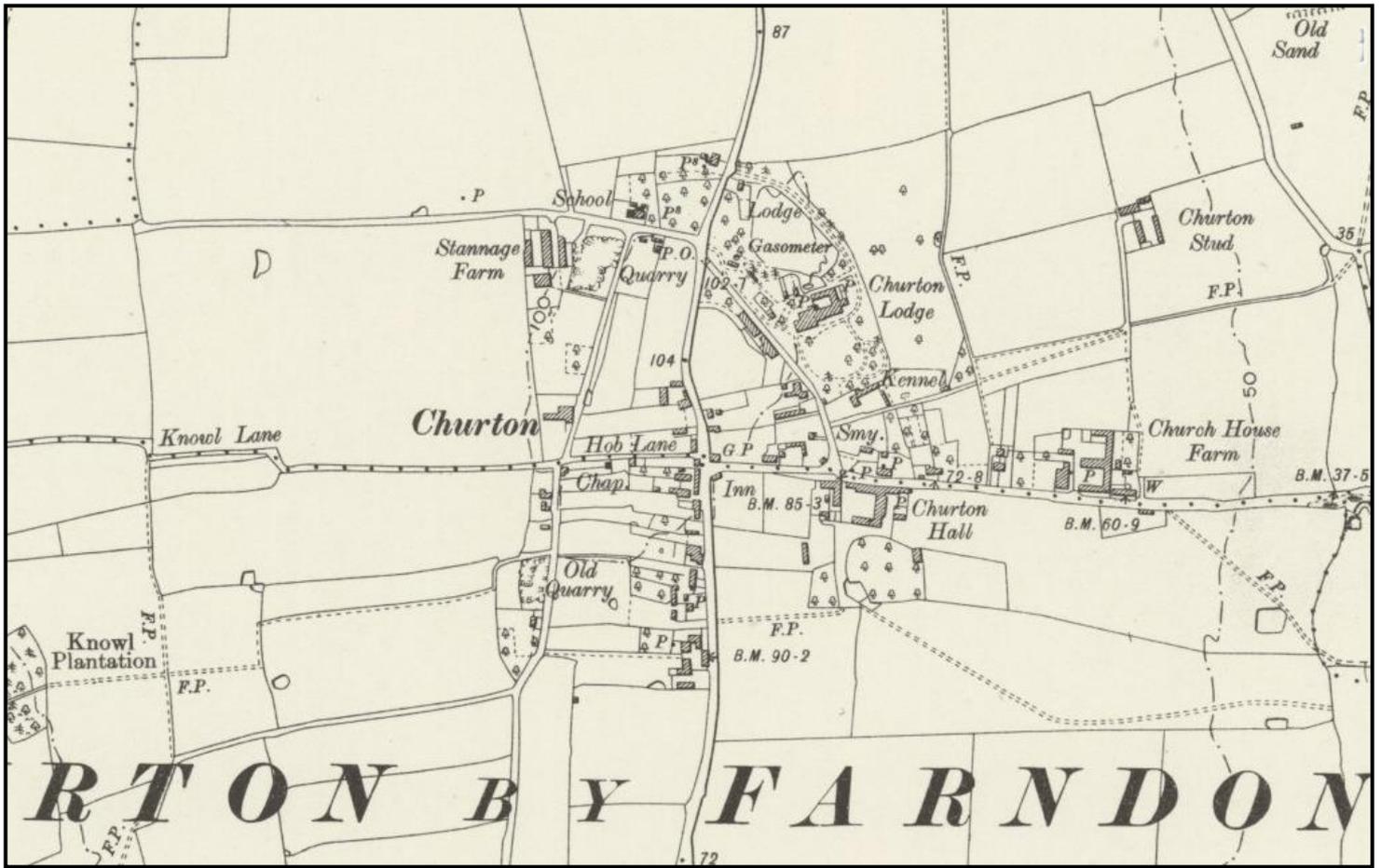
Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 20	
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet	
of Churton-by-Alford		of Alford or Alford		of		of		of		of		of Churton-by-Alford	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Is inhabited	Uninhabited	Is a Shop or other place used as a Dwelling	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Dead and Dumb	(2) Blind
												(3) Lame	(4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
116				Arthur Rowlands	Head	M	60	Painter / House	Worker		Cheshire - Farndon		
				Sarah A. Do	Wife	F	62				Salop - North		
				Elizabeth Do	Daughter	F	41				Cheshire - Farndon		
				Mollie Do	Daughter	F	11				Do Do		
				Harold Do	Son	M	7				Do Do		
				Mary Do	Daughter	F	2				Do Churton		
117				William Bethell	Head	M	27	General Labourer	Worker		Do Do		
				Ellen Do	Wife	F	26				Do North		
				Emma Do	Daughter	F	5				Do Do		
				William Do	Son	M	2				Do Churton		
118				Edwin Clubbe	Head	M	48	Bricklayer	Worker		Do Do		
				Elysa Do	Wife	F	45				Salop - North		
				Margaret Do	Daughter	F	22				Cheshire - Churton		
				Edwin Do	Son	M	20	Bricklayer	Worker		Cheshire - Churton		
				Arthur A. Do	Son	M	17	Bricklayer	Worker		Do Do		
				Mary Do	Daughter	F	14				Do Do		
				John Do	Son	M	12				Do Do		
				Henriet Do	Daughter	F	10				Do Do		
				Alice Anne Do	Daughter	F	8				Do Do		
				Emma Do	Daughter	F	7				Do Do		
				Ethel Do	Daughter	F	4				Do Do		
				Edith Do	Daughter	F	4				Do Do		
				Joseph Do	Son	M	2				Do Do		
119	White Row			James Parker	Head	M	44	Clubber	Amateur		Do Coddington		
				Martha Do	Wife	F	39				Do Churton		
				James Do	Son	M	18	Painter / Carp	Worker		Do Churton		
				John Do	Son	M	16	Bricklayer	Worker		Do Churton		
				Elizabeth Do	Daughter	F	14				Do Do		
				Thomas Do	Son	M	12				Do Do		
				Fanny Do	Daughter	F	10				Do Do		
				William Do	Son	M	8				Do Do		
14	Total of Schedule of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms	43			Total of Males and of Females		144	173					

NOTE—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.



The wedding photograph shows a mixture of Gauterins and Clubbes. In WW1, Arthur (second row third from the right) joined the Royal Engineers; Joseph the ASC (back row second from right); John the RAMC (not on photo); Edwin (middle row second from left) the South Lancashire Regiment.





Churton c1898. The Old Farm is immediately to the right of the letter 'n' in Churton in the centre. The Post Office cottage is opposite the school.



Edgar Clubbe standing at the door of the original White Horse Inn

## Churton Gauterins – The Clubbes

Arthur Gauterin, my grandfather, married Alice Annie Clubbe on 10 February 1920. She had lived in the Old Farm in Churton with her widowed father and brothers Arthur and Joseph, the farm having been in the family for many generations. Her other siblings had left home by then; Margaret, Edwin, Mary, John, Hannah, Emma, Edith and Ethel.

Four of my great-uncles, my grandmother Clubbe's brothers, served in the war;

### Edwin Clubbe

Born in 1881 in Churton, Edwin married Eva in 1906 and moved to Chester to work as a bricklayer. During the war, Edwin was first with the South Lancashire Regiment as Private 265182, at the Infantry Base Depot, then the Cheshire Regiment as Private 51748 – initially the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, then the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. In the Cheshires he was posted to the 12<sup>th</sup> Entrenching Battalion then to the Infantry Base Depot.

However, the family history had led us believe he was actually in the Welsh Fusiliers, gassed and taken

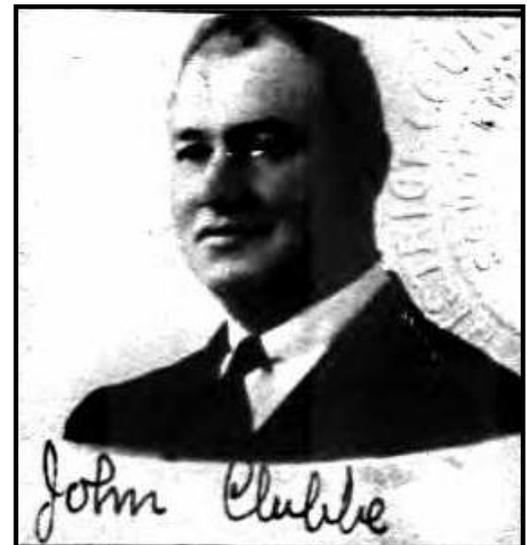
prisoner for two years. What is certain is that he was given the Silver War badge on his discharge on 6 January 1918 (noted on the bottom of his medal card, illustrated). He died in September 1957.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
CLUBBE	S Lan R Ches R.	Pte	265182 51748
Edwin			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	J/2/101 B-17	5559	
BRITISH	- 2		
STAR			
S.W.13 Dist J/11.06/2			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

### John Clubbe

Born in Churton on 5 October 1888, John Clubbe stands out from many of the young men from the area who tended to follow trades of their fathers or working on local farms, rarely moving away. The First World War was for them, like other young men across the country, the first opportunity they had to experience something other than a way of life that had been unchanged for decades. This life was not for John Clubbe, who left home as a teenager to work as a footman in London. He worked for Viscountess Hambledon (Emily Danvers Smith), living in the servants quarters in her home at 23 Belgrave Square. She was the widow of politician William Henry Smith, the founder of the famous newsagent business. However, she died in August 1913, and for a short period John was a butler in Blenheim Palace.





**John Clubbe's employer in London, Viscountess Hambledon (Emily Danvers Smith)**

When war broke out, he was an early volunteer, and joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as Private 36108, and served with an ambulance train in France throughout his service, being discharged on 19 April 1919. He was awarded all three service medals having been posted to France on 21 February 1915 (this qualified him for the 1915 Star). Throughout his time there, he sent home postcards to my grandmother, who collected them, mainly of old buildings! During the war, he married Kathleen Roberts in St Georges' Square, London in 1915. After the war they emigrated to the USA on the 5 June 1920, where he worked as a steward [incidentally travelling on the *Lapland* – the vessel which had brought the *Titanic* crew survivors back to England in 1912].



**Royal Army Medical Corps ambulance train  
John Clubbe in front of the right-hand door**

Their marriage did not last however, and they were divorced in 1934. The following year, John married again, to Gabrielle of Chamesol, France in New York on 23 August 1935. Fifteen years his junior, Gabrielle had emigrated to New York in September 1928. Three years later their son, John Louis Edwin, was born on 21 February 1938. In 1939, five days after war broke out in Europe, John applied for citizenship on 8 September. By this time he was working as a butler for a Mrs Charles Blount and they were living in the Upper East side of Manhattan in New York at 349 East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, before moving to an apartment off Park Avenue. Gabrielle Clubbe became a naturalised American citizen on 1 March 1943. Later they moved to spend their retirement in Clearwater in Tampa,

Florida, but made several returns on Cunard liners and Pan American flights to visit family both in Churton and France.

John died in March 1965 and Gabrielle in New York in October 1984.



John Clubbe qualified for all three service medals, including the 1915 Star after being posted to France on 21 February 1915

Name	Corps	Rank	Regtl. No.
CLUBBE John.	P.A.M.C.	PLC	36108
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	P.A.M.C. 10104	231	Retd. (1743KR) 8071/122
BRITISH	do	do	
15 STAR	P.A.M.C. 3A	242	
Theatre of War first served in	France		
Date of entry therein	21-2-15		
8071/Panc/1325 8071/Ret			

A 7 B 104-117. dt. 17-9-24. to W + U.M. Correspondence.

Address. 11 1/2 East 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York City  
U. S. A.

(25451-14a) W. W. 337-HP 6451 200m. 10/19 H. St. Est. 5450/1250

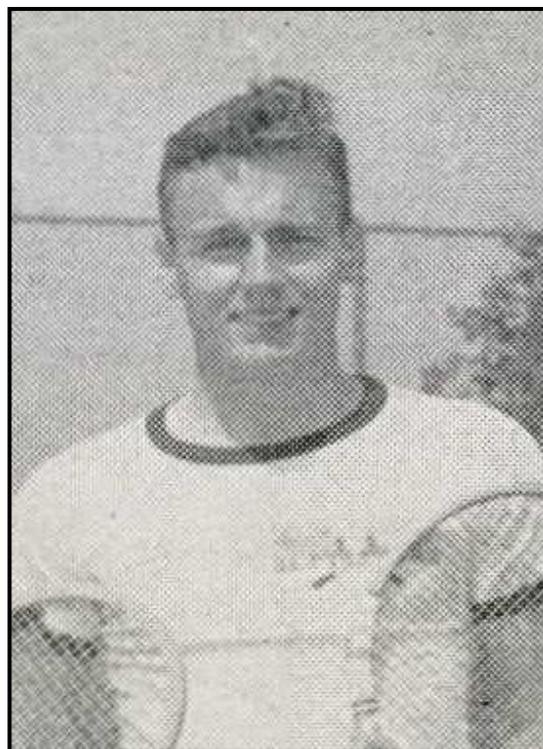
John Clubbe's naturalisation registration card

**REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)**

SERIAL NUMBER U 1470	1. NAME (Print) JOHN NONE CLUBBE <small>(First) (Middle) (Last)</small>	ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 349 EAST 72 ST NY NY <small>(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)</small>		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS SAME <small>[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]</small>		
4. TELEPHONE RH 4-0885 <small>(Exchange) (Number)</small>	5. AGE IN YEARS 53	6. PLACE OF BIRTH CHURTON <small>(Town or county)</small>
DATE OF BIRTH OCT 5 1888 <small>(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)</small>		ENGLAND <small>(State or country)</small>
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS MRS. GABRIELLE CLUBBE (WIFE) SAME NY		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS MRS CHARLES BOUNT 11 1/2 EAST 76 ST NY		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 11 1/2 EAST 76 ST NY NY NY <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42) (over)		16-21630-2 John Clubbe <small>(Registrant's signature)</small>

Their son John Louis Edwin Clubbe, now an emeritus professor of English, gained his doctorate at Columbia in 1965, and went on to have a distinguished teaching career at the Universities of Duke and Kentucky. He has written extensively, becoming a world authority on the life of Byron and English Romanticism, and has recently published a book on Beethoven.

John Louis Edwin Clubbe in his college days as a Tennis player, (Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, Yearbook 1958)



## T E N N I S

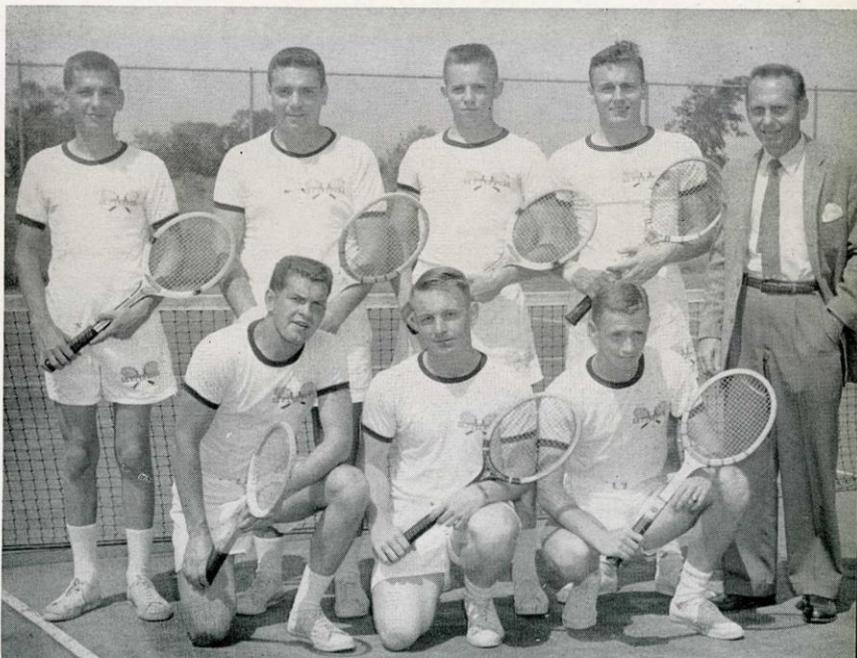
Bullet netters, who have had their share of misfortune for the past several seasons, continued their losing ways in 1957 by posting one win against 12 set-backs.

The Orange and Blue squad consisted of Charles Moyer, Chauncey Yingst, Neil Hickoff, John Clubbe, Bill Fischer, Howard Body, Wilbur Maclvor and Dave Wingfield.

Lycoming College proved the Bullets' lone victim, losing 5-4. Prior to the win, Coach Richard Schubart's netters had lost 11 straight. G-Burg opened the campaign losing to Johns Hopkins 7-1.

Other defeats were suffered at the hands of Dickinson twice by 8-1, Franklin and Marshall 8-1 and 9-0, Western Maryland 9-0 and 8-1, Elizabethtown 5-4, Georgetown 9-0, Lehigh, Temple and Albright.

First Row: Neil Hickoff, Bill Fischer, Dave Wingfield.  
Second Row: Charles Moyer, Chauncey Yingst, Wilbur Maclvor, John Clubbe, Coach Richard Schubart.



## Joseph Clubbe

Joseph Clubbe was only 15 on the outbreak of war but enlisted into the Reserve on 12 February 1917 in Chester. On his call up he was keen to join the transport section in the Army Service Corps to make the most of his skills and experience.

To improve his chances, he made sure his employer sent a reference to the Officer in charge of recruitment at Chester Castle to support his 'application'. He was then despatched to the Mechanical Transport Depot in Grove Park, London, where he underwent tests and training to ensure he was up to scratch.

Subsequently he served as a driver in East Africa and France. His services were retained for several months after the end of the war, no doubt involved in clean-up operations and the transport of equipment and troops. After a bout of malaria, he was eventually discharged with a temporary disability pension on 7 February 1920. After the war he was a driver for the Gauterin bus business. He died in December 1982.



1942

CUSTOMERS' CARS ARE ONLY DRIVEN BY OUR STAFF AT OWNERS' RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY.  
CARS SENT TO US FOR ANY PURPOSE ARE ONLY RECEIVED AT OWNERS' RISK AND WE ACCEPT NO  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO SAME ARISING FROM FIRE OR ANY OTHER CAUSE

**The Grosvenor Motor Co., Ltd.,** To *Capt Susterbaum*  
*9/2/17*  
*The Castle*  
*Chester.*

41, Eastgate Street,  
(Opposite the Grosvenor Hotel),  
Mechanics, Chester.  
Telephone Nos. 652 & 653. **CHESTER.**

*Dear Sir,*  
*The bearer Joseph Clubbe who is now called*  
*up, desires to join the A.S.C. and would I am sure*  
*prove of more than useful service to you in that*  
*branch.*  
*Should you be requiring men for the A.S.C. could*  
*you possibly see your way to have him put in, as we*  
*feel sure he would render an excellent account of*  
*himself, as we can recommend most strongly for his*  
*extreme usefulness mechanically and as an*  
*excellent driver.*  
*Thanking you yours faithfully,*  
**THE GROSVENOR MOTOR CO. LTD**  
*H.A. Walley* *Managing Director*

*R*

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE FIRM AND NOT TO INDIVIDUALS.

Joseph Clubbe's employer reference and despatch orders, plus his discharge papers (next page).

WAR OFFICE,  
LONDON, S.W.

27/A.S.C./2045 (A.G. 2B.)

10/2/17 1916

The Area Commander,

Chester

You are hereby authorized to despatch the bearer,

\*Mr. Joseph Clubbe  
The Old Farm Churton Chester

to join the Mechanical Transport Depot, Army Service Corps, Grove Park, Lee, London, S.E., provided he has not attained the age of 46 years, and is found medically fit for Service and classified in Category A, B, or C.

This recruit will be finally approved on joining his Corps.

This form is not valid unless countersigned by an Officer of the Army Service Corps and presented within 14 days of the above date, but it is not to be held to cancel any order the bearer may receive to present himself for Service with the Colours from the Army Reserve.

This form not to be used for the enlistment of Aliens.

A. CAMPBELL GEDDES, Brig.-Gen.,  
Director of Recruiting.

(Counter-Signature)

A.S. Corps.

\* Insert Full Name and Address

(6 2 31) GD7948 5000 6/16 HWV(P2136) A.16/749  
W7394-234 20,000 9/13

Room 7 Sect A

**FIRST AWARD—SOLDIER. A 17**

Name CLUBBE Joseph  
(Surname first)

Regiment or Corps Palmer Coy - 68888 Regt

Date of Discharge Jan 7-2-20 Regimental No. M 228490

Address The Old Farm Churton near Chester

Rank for Pension Class 5 Private Age on Discharge 21

Nature of Disability Code No. 22

Disability 1. Malania 1. attrib } Attrib.  
2. 2 } Aggrav. or  
3. 3 } Non-Attrib.

Degree of Disablement 30%

Warrant and Article under which granted Art 109M19

Weekly Rate 12.0 d. | 12.0 d.

Allowance for wife and children 8-2-20 d. | 8-2-20 d.

Date of Commencement 8-2-20

To be reviewed in 26 weeks.

Gratuity Amount .....

Number of Children—Males..... }  
" " —Females..... } **REC'D RECORDS  
WOOLWICH DOCKYARD**

Year of Birth of Eldest Child..... 1 MAR 1920

Year of Birth of Youngest Child.....

Year of Birth of Wife.....

Nature of Award Conditional

Marital Status.....

Reference No. 27A.S.C./23652

NOTE.—Any correspondence on this subject should be addressed to the Secretary (Awards) and the above number quoted.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS,  
BURTON COURT,  
KING'S ROAD,  
LONDON, S.W. 3.

**27 FEB 1920**.....19.....

SIR,—I am directed by the Minister of Pensions to inform you of the above-mentioned decision in the case of a man whose discharge documents have been recently received with the view to having the claim to pension considered.

I am Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
**GEORGE CHRYSAL,**  
Secretary.

To the Officer Commanding  
..... Regiment.

Wt. 31437/3465. W.B.&L. Ltd. (Harrow.)

**ATTESTATION**  
DEPT. OF PENSIONS  
FUNERAL BK.  
A.F.S. 227

77

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
CLUBBE Joseph	a.s.c	Pt	N/288490
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	RASC/1018202	20725	
BRITISH	do.	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

Joseph and Arthur Clubbe's service medal cards

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
CLUBBE Arthur	R.E.	Spr	T.2471
	---		548463
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	RE/1018199	48133	
BRITISH	-do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

## Arthur Harrison Clubbe

Arthur Harrison Clubbe was the only uncle I knew well, he lived on in the Old Farm after my grandmother had to go in a care home and could no longer run the place on her own. He frequently cycled down the lane on his bike to The Old Post Office for his meals, where his sisters, Hannah and Emma, lived. He rarely, if ever, spoke about the war, but he clearly suffered as his wounds received in the Battle for Cambrai in 1917 caused him grief in later years. I remember the District Nurse coming to change his dressings - much to his disgust she also banned him from riding his bike and threatened to confiscate it!

Born on 2 May 1883 and a Carpenter by trade, he had enlisted in the Royal Engineers at their drill hall in Victoria Park Square in London on 26 May 1915 after attending an examination there to assess his skill. He was classed very highly as a 'superior carpenter' and was posted to the 3/1<sup>st</sup> London Division Field Company as Sapper 2471, leaving for the Middle East with them in August 1915. They returned to France in early March 1916, by which time Arthur was part of 210 Field Company as Sapper 548463.



The 3/1<sup>st</sup> Division suffered terribly in the Battle of the Somme, but it seems that Arthur was part of 1/2<sup>nd</sup> London Division Field Company by then, as revealed by post cards of Rouen received by my grandmother in July 1916. The unit was renamed as 510 Field Company and attached to the 29<sup>th</sup> Division on the Western Front.

The one and only time Arthur mentioned the war to me, was to describe the impressive sight of the Indian Cavalry trotting past in full fig turbans and lances. That night he had to go out into No-Man's Land to construct some barbed wire defences - and there lay the men and horses he had seen go past earlier, caught by the German machine guns. I assume this was on the Ypres Front, as the division fought at Langemarck, Broodseinde and Poelcapelle in 1917.

The Battle of Cambrai commenced on 20 November 1917, in which a few days later Arthur suffered a bullet wound to the leg and was evacuated through the casualty clearing system, being admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital in Whalley, Lancashire, on 7 December 1917. He spent a total of fifty-four days in hospital, before his discharge on 29 January 1918. Apart from being stationed at Christchurch in May 1918, his movements are unclear, as several postcards received from Thetford and Dorset are rather general in nature. He was finally discharged in June 1919 and returned home to Churton. After the war, Arthur resumed his work, maintaining his reputation as a 'superior carpenter' on the Duke of Westminster's estate. He died in February 1972.



**The Queen Mary's Military Hospital was formerly the Whalley Asylum. It was used as a military hospital until June 1920. There is also a military cemetery attached to the hospital.**

**Casualty Form Active Service.**

Regiment or Corps 1<sup>st</sup> London Trench Mortar Battalion  
 Regimental No. 2471 Rank Sapper Name Clubbe Arthur  
 Enlisted (a) 26/5/15 Terms of Service (a) 2 of War Service reckons from (a) 26/5/15  
 Date of promotion to present rank } Date of appointment to lance rank } Numerical position on roll of N.C.O.s }  
 Extended } Re-engaged } Qualification (b) Carpenter 1/8

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 35, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 35, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received			
2.4.16	G.C. Unit	To Hos. (Sick)	On Service	28.3.16 B213
8.4.16	Adj. 2 Terr Base Depot	Admitted 9 <sup>th</sup> 5 Terr Base Depot	"	8.4.16 921.158191
	70 <sup>th</sup> Div	Adm. 11 <sup>th</sup> 9 Gen Hosp Raven 2112	"	5.5.16 7048395-61113 HU
11.5.16	G.C. Unit	Admitted at 11 <sup>th</sup> 2 Terr Base Exp.	"	11.5.16 81087 (13) HU
16.2.17	G.C. Unit	Rejoined Unit.	"	13.2.17 KI 13213
26.5.17	O.C. 510 Coy	Wounded Remains at Duty.	"	26.5.17 B213 (23) HU
26.5.17	O.C. 510 Coy	Awarded 1st G.C. Badge.	"	26.5.17 B213 (25) HU
28/7/17	"	Granted 10 days leave to UK.	"	From 24-7-17 B213/34
12.11.17	"	Wounded	"	30.9.17 B213/1. W

210 Fla

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered. (b) e.g., Signaller, Shoening Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties. I.P.T.O.

Extract from Arthur Clubbe's Soldier's War Record  
 Casualty Form (above) and Discharge Certificate (below)

IF FOUND, please drop this Certificate in a Post Office letter box. Army Form Z 11

**NOTICE.**—This document is Government property. It is no security whatever for debt, and any person being in possession of it, either as a pledge or security for debt, or without lawful authority or excuse, is liable under Section 156 (a) of the Army Act to a fine of twenty pounds (£20) or imprisonment for six months, or to both fine and imprisonment.

**PROTECTION CERTIFICATE AND CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY**  
 (SOLDIER NOT REMAINING WITH THE COLOURS).

Surname CLUBBE. Disposal Unit Stamp and date of dispersal. No. 1 JUN 1919  
 Christian Names Arthur. NORTH COY. 1<sup>st</sup> LONDON TRENCH MORTAR BATTALION

Regtl. No. 561465 Rank Sapper Record Office Chatham  
 Unit 210<sup>th</sup> Coy Regt. or Corps 1<sup>st</sup> London Trench Mortar Battalion Pay Office

I have received an advance of £2. Address for Pay The Old Farm, Chatham, Mr. Chester.  
 (Signature of Soldier) A. Clubbe

The above-named soldier is granted 28 days' furlough from the date stamped hereon pending\* (as far as can be ascertained) which will date from the last day of furlough after which date uniform will not be worn except upon occasions authorized by Army Orders.

Theatre of War or Command North Sea  
 Born in the Year 1889  
 Medical Category 11  
 Place of rejoining in case of emergency Day enemy  
 Specialist Military Qualification

\* If for Final Demobilization insert 1. Discontinuation insert 2. Transfer to Reserve insert 3.

† As this is the address to which pay and discharge documents will be sent unless further notification is received, any change of address must be reported at once to the Record Office and the Pay Office as noted above, otherwise delay in settlement will occur.

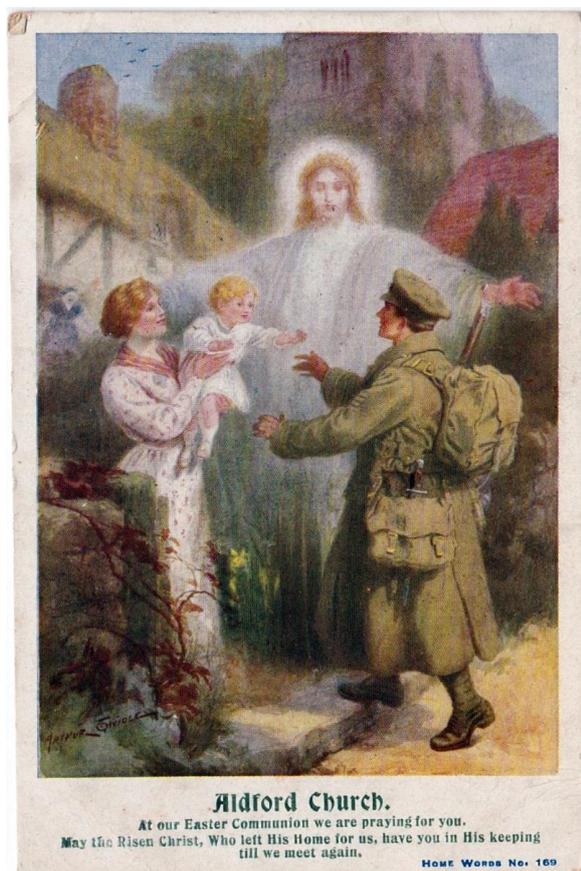
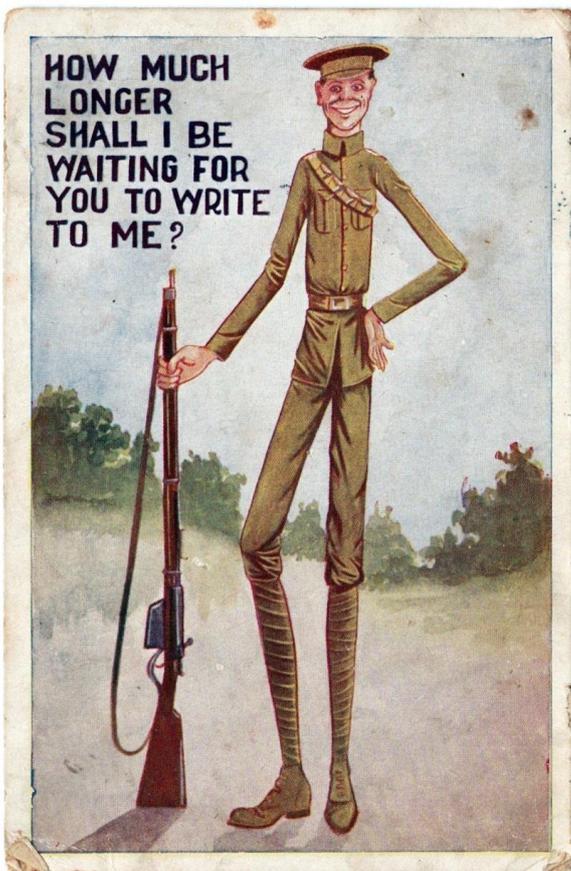
This Certificate must be produced when applying for an Unemployed Sailor's and Soldier's Donation Policy or, if demanded, whenever applying for Unemployment benefit.

Date 1 June 1919 Office of Issue Chatham Policy issued No. 2471.03295

(3)



Sapper Arthur Clubbe's unit in the Royal Engineers. He is pictured, back row, second from right.



Postcards exchanged between Arthur Clubbe and his sisters during the war

## CHURTON-by-FARNDON VILLAGE



The Old Post Office c.1900 and the present day





### **CHURTON F.C. 1910/11**

*Back (left to right): Harry Clubbe, Arthur Rowland, Laddie Salmon, J. Parker, Arthur Gauterin, Tom Salmon, Geo. Clubbe, Sam Vincent; Middle: Charles Gauterin, Dai Howard (Wrexham), Tom Parker, Tom Dutton, Jacky Thomas; Front: Charlie White, Tommy Rowland, Billy Parker.*

Churton F.C. 1910/11 featuring Arthur Gauterin, Charlie White (see separate article) and the Clubbe cousins



Post Office, Churton. No. 4.



**Modern view of The Old Farm, Churton**

### **Postscript**

Both The Lodge in Farndon, the home of the Gauterin family for so many years, and The Old Farm Churton, home of the Clubbes (some of them anyway it was quite an extended family!), have long since passed into new ownerships. However in the fifties and early sixties, I spent most of my (feral) childhood at the latter. It is now a beautifully renovated property, but then it was an adventure land of old sheds, pigstyes and other farmyard structures and artefacts. As my brother and I explored it gave up many old souvenirs of the Great War, a German soldiers belt, old bayonets, German officers field glasses and amazingly, a German camouflaged helmet complete with sniper protection on the front. Some we 'liberated' after long and difficult negotiations with the old folks, however, after some success we were told to stop pestering and by the time we felt able to start the process again the old shed with the helmet had been cleared and the contents dumped (in the old quarry/tip now filled in down the lane).

Ah well!

**Researched and written**

**by**

**Peter Gauterin**

**Additional material and editing**

**by**

**Mike Royden**

**[www.roydenhistory.co.uk](http://www.roydenhistory.co.uk)**