

Compton Chamberlayne Men That Served Their Country & Returned Home



World War I

Walter MOREY

Walter Morey was born in Compton Chamberlayne to parents John & Sarah Morey. His birth was registered in the March quarter 1878.

The 1871 Census, before Walter was born, shows that the Morey Family were living at Compton Street, Compton Chamberlayne, Wiltshire. The parents – John Morey (aged 38, agricultural labourer) & Sarah (aged 36) had 6 children at this time – Jesse (aged 14), George (aged 12), Edward (aged 10), Thomas (aged 7), William (aged 3) & Charles (aged 1 yr).

The 1881 Census records Walter as a 3 year old, the youngest of 7 children, living in the parish of Fovant, Wiltshire. Walter's father – John Morey is recorded as being a 49 year old Engine driver (born Dorset) & Walter's mother – Sarah is recorded as being aged 46 (born Dorset). Also included in the house were siblings – George (aged 22, born Dorset), Thomas (aged 17, born Compton Chamberlayne), William H (aged 14, born Dorset), Charles (aged 12, born Ireland), Elizabeth (aged 8, born Compton Chamberlayne), John (aged 5, born Norton-Bavant, Wiltshire) then 3 year old Walter.

The 1891 Census records Walter Morey as 13 year old agricultural labourer, living with his parents – John Morey (aged 59, agricultural labourer), & Sarah (aged 55). Also included in the household at Chilbolton St, Chilbolton, Hampshire was Henry (aged 15, agricultural labourer), then Walter, & Elizabeth Thorne, married sister of Walter (aged 19) & Elizabeth's daughter Rose Thorne (aged 3).

Walter Morey married Louisa Annie Hayward, in the September quarter of 1899, in the district of Lewisham, which spans the counties of Greater London, Kent and London.

The 1901 Census records Walter Morey as a 24 year old married Private, living with his wife Louisa (aged 22) & their 1 month old son William (born Aldershot, Hampshire). The family of 3 were living at 23 Edward St, Aldershot, Hampshire.

The 1911 Census records Walter's wife – Louisa Morey (aged 32) & their 5 children – William Walter (aged 10), Rose Florence (aged 9), Frederick John (aged 2), Reginald George (aged 1) & Charles Henry (aged 1 month). From the Census it is recorded that Louisa & Walter had been married for 12 years & had 10 children in total, 5 still living. Louisa & her 5 children were recorded in the house of Charles Morey, one of Walter's older brothers. Charles is recorded as a 41 year old Carman for a Market Gardener, who is head of the house & his wife – Sarah, aged 56. Charles & Sarah had been married for 3 years with no children. The combined 2 families were recorded at Mary Cottage, Littleton, West Winchester, Hampshire, a 5 roomed dwelling.

Walter Morey's attestation papers showed that he was age 37 years & 199 days when he enlisted the General Service Corp of the British Army, on 31st August, 1914. His occupation was listed as a Groom & his religion was Church of England. Walter Morey stated on his Attestation papers that his previous military experience was with 3rd Hants Regiment & he had been discharged due to time served. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Mundy of Romsey.

Pte Walter Morey, service number 4714, had enlisted at Pewsey & was mobilized on 31st August, 1914. He was awarded 7 days field punishment on 12th December, 1914 by the C.O. for selling a pair of boots that were the property of a comrade & for deficiency of his kit.

Pte Walter Morey was discharged on 30th November, 1914 "*not likely to become an efficient soldier Para 392 (iii) (c) King's regulations*". Under this regulation, men with between three and six months' service who in the opinion of the deputy director of medical services, an assistant director of medical services, or a medical inspector of recruits, are unlikely to become efficient soldiers may be discharged. Pte Walter Morey had served a total of 92 days.

** Thomas Morey, one of Walter's older brothers had served with the 3rd Batt Wiltshire Regiment – Royal Artillery & had served in Egypt for 21 months between 1883 & 1885.