

Henry William Hatchard

Henry William Hatchard is my great, great grandad and he fought in World War 1. He was born in 1878 and died in March 1948, aged only 69. Before he joined the army he was a market gardener and lived in 5 Orme Road, Worthing. A story has passed through my family; Henry was drunk one night just after some time at the pub, he was walking past Worthing train station and saw a propaganda enlistment poster, so he drunkenly said "I'll take the big guns to Berlin" and signed up, aged 36, days later he was suddenly whisked away, yet to discover what a big mistake he had made.

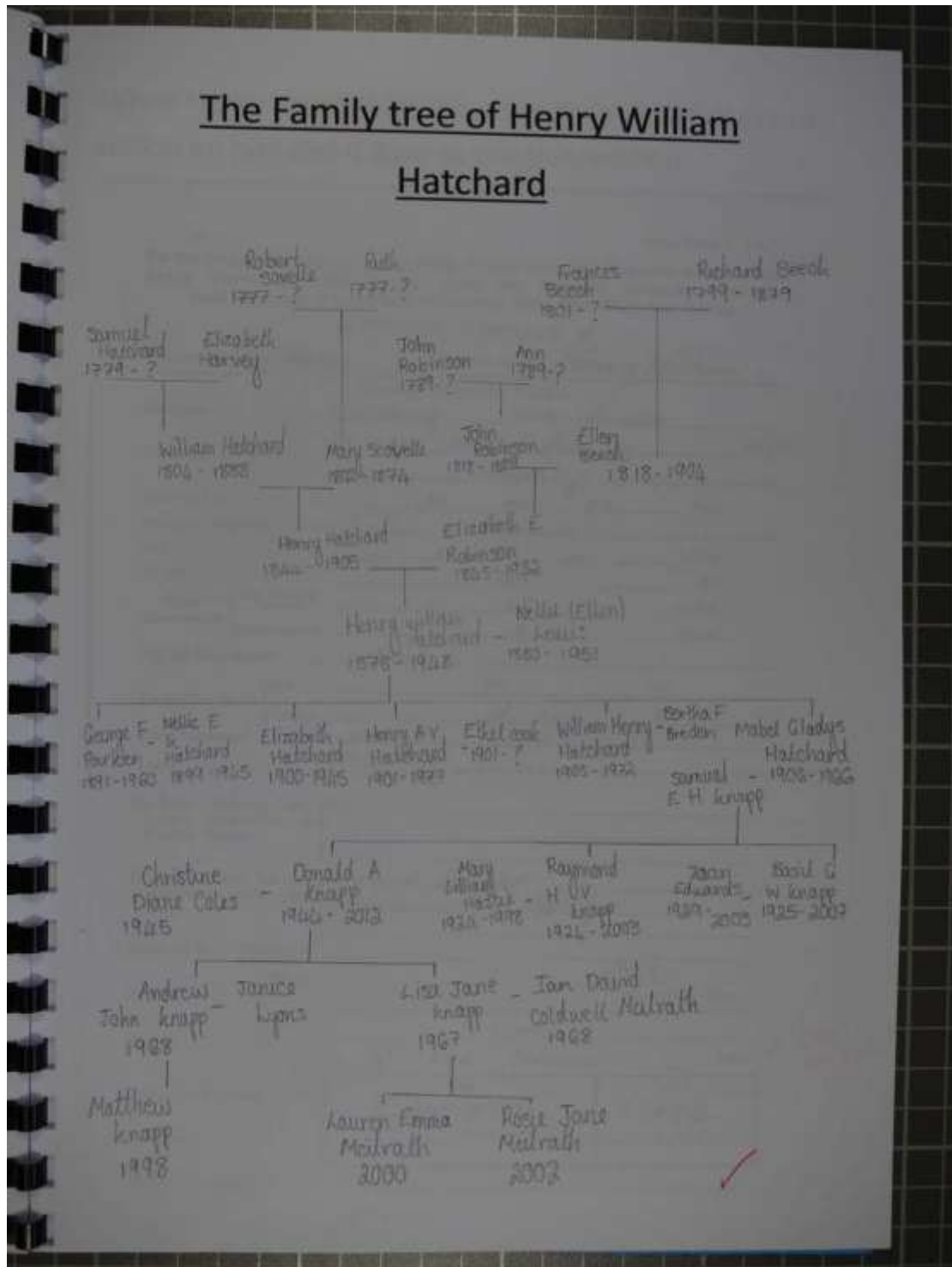
7. What is the name and address of your last neighbour before joining the Army?
 MR AUSTIN,
 MARKET GARDEN,
 SUNNYSIDE, WEST TARRING,
 SURREY

He worked as a market gardener at Sunnyside, West Tarring, Worthing

This is the house he would have lived in before joining the army.

41009... of Mingham
 1100... 15 Orme Road,
 Worthing Sussex





When Henry enlisted for the army, they did a full examination on him and it gave us this information:

Army Form B. 17B

To be used for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army only.
 Army Form B. 17B^A to be used for Special Reserve recruits
 and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

MEDICAL HISTORY of

Surname Hutchard Christian Name Henry William

TABLE I.—GENERAL TABLE

Birthplace .. Parish Northring County Sussex

Examined on 15 day of February 1915
 at Northring

Declared Age 36 years 90 days

Trade or Occupation .. Business

Height 5 feet, 11 inches

Weight 120 lbs.

Chest Measurement { Girth when fully expanded 35 inches
 Range of Expansion 2 inches

Physical Development .. Good

Vaccination Marks { Arm Right Left
 Number 0 3

When Vaccinated infant

Vision { R.E.—V = 08
 L.E.—V = 08

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease (a)

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection (b) Right flat foot
Varicose vein left leg

Approved by .. (Signature) [Signature]
 (Rank) Medical Officer

Enlisted at Northring
 on 16^A day of February 1915

Joined on Enlistment .. <u>14 Depot P.O.</u>	Regt No. <u>69899</u>
Transferred to	21/07/15

Become non-effective by

Great Endence

He embarked for Le Havre in France on the 4th April 1915 and was serving there as a private in the RFA (Royal Field Artillery).



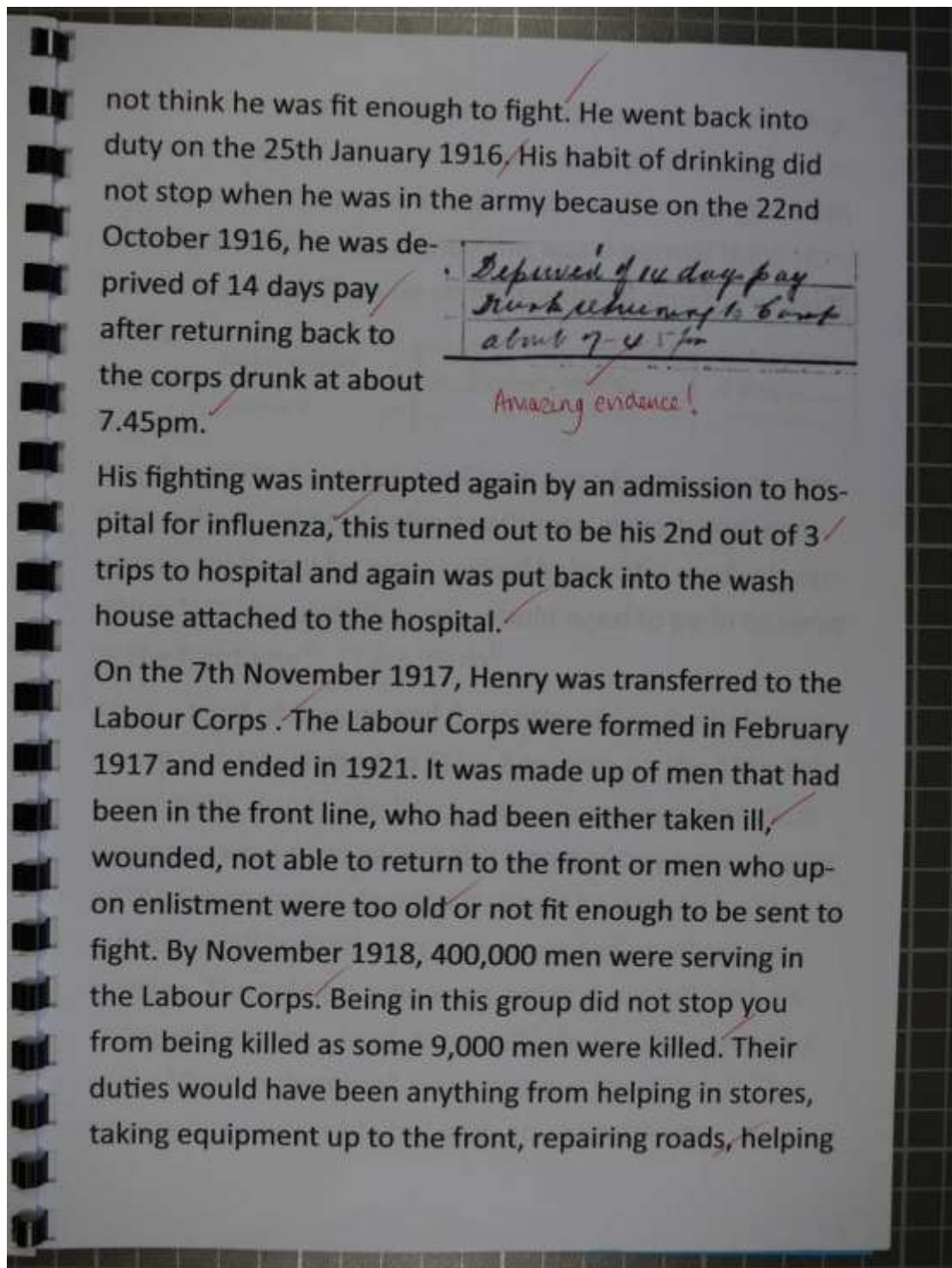
Henry was trained at the No 4 Depot in Woolwich and his regiment number was 69599. The RFA was the biggest section of the Royal Artillery, they were responsible for the horse-drawn medium calibre guns and howitzers. The RFA fought close to the front line, they were reasonably mobile and were organised into brigades.

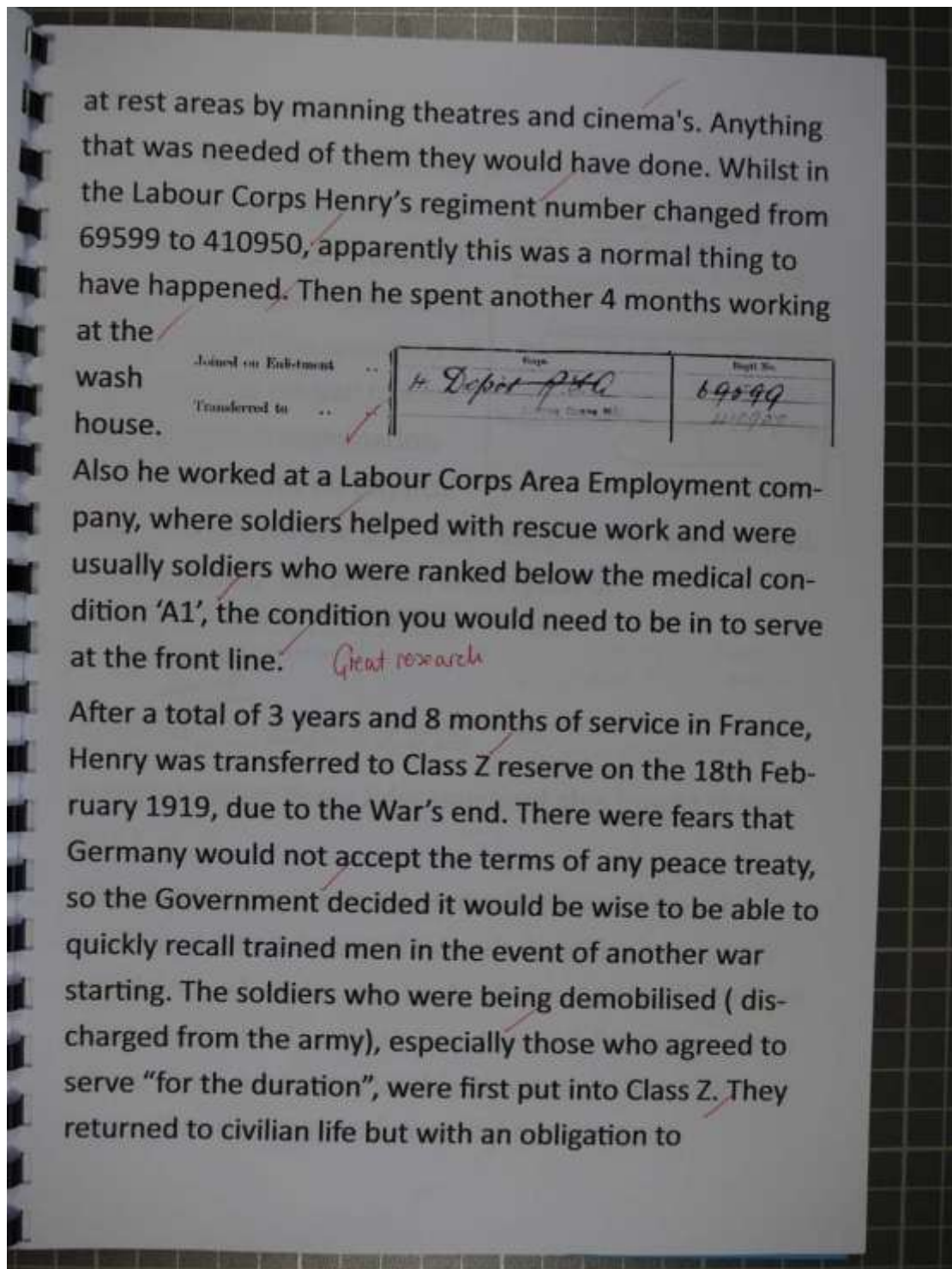
Henry was moved around a lot to different brigades during his time fighting.

On the 14th August 1915, Henry was admitted to a general hospital in Le Havre for syncope, which is a temporary loss of consciousness. Syncope has a number of causes including heart conditions. The hospital was run by our allies, the Canadians, who also had a base at le Havre. After this, on the 31st of October 1915, he was employed in a wash house which was attached to the general hospital, as I assume they did

* From the records of any Hospital in which you have been treated for the above condition during this war

CANADIAN HOSPITAL
 VERSAILLES
 D. ...





return if called upon.

Henry tried to claim a pension when he was discharged by claiming that he had heart trouble, due to the strain and shock of the war. In addition to this, he stated the members of his family that he had to look after. But a full examination found there were no physical signs of heart trouble and that Henry's heart was normal. Unfortunately, the pension was rejected.

*Heart trouble
 July 1915
 strain & shock*

*Married 13.2.1899
 William 27.7.03
 Isabel Gladys 20.2.06*

Name, Service, or Study Address.	Number of Children, and Addresses Given.	(a) Full details stated or assumed.
<i>no disability Rejected</i>	<i>none stated</i>	<i>No physical signs of Heart trouble assumed</i>
Proposer's Signature and Date <i>Alfred C. King 22.2.15</i>		(b) The general condition found. <i>Heart Normal</i>

Henry's brother Percy John Hatchard also fought in War 1.

After finishing in the army, Henry lived apart from his family and we understand Henry's daughter (my great grandmother) spoke very lowly of him. My family believe he ended his life in a work house in East Preston, a place where those who were unable to support themselves, were offered accommodation and employment.

During his time in the army Henry won the allied victory medal, British war medal and the 1914-1915 Star medal.

The Allied Victory Medal

This medal was also known as 'Wilfred'. It was decided that each of the allies should each issue their own bronze victory medal with a similar design, similar equivalent wording and identical ribbon. It was designed by W. McMillan and the front shows a winged figure representing victory. The soldier's service number, rank, name and unit was impressed on the rim. About 5.7 million of these were issued.



The British War Medal

This medal was also known as 'Squeak' and was established on 26th July 1919. The silver or bronze medal was awarded to officers and men of the British and Imperial Forces who either fought in the war or entered service overseas between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918. This was later extended to services in



Russia, Siberia and some other areas in 1919 and 1920. Approximately 6.5 million British War medals were issued. 6.4 million of these were silver versions of this medal. Around 110,000 of a bronze version were issued mainly to Chinese, Maltese and Indian Labour Corps. The head on the front of the medal is the one of George V. The soldiers service number, rank, name and unit was impressed on the rim.

The 1914-15 Star

Also known as 'Pip' and was established in December 1918. This bronze medal was authorized in 1918 and it is very similar to the 1914 Star but it was issued to a much wider range of recipients. It was awarded to all who served in the war against Germany between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915, except those eligible for the 1914 Star.

Like the 1914 Star, the 1914-15 Star was not awarded alone. The recipient had to have received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The reverse is plain with the soldiers service number, rank, name and unit impressed on it. Its estimated 2.4 million of these medals were issued.



Conclusion

To find my soldier, I asked around my family if they knew of any relatives that may have fought in World War 1 and my Nanny told me of this story that has passed through the family but she had no knowledge of his name but she knew he was my Grandad's Grandad. I looked through some records and certificates that my Mum had managed to find. As I was looking through them, I saw the marriage certificate of Henry's daughter Mabel Gladys Hatchard, who was my Grandad's Mum so on the certificate I found the name of Mabel's father and it was Henry William Hatchard, so I knew that was my Grandad's Grandad.

I chose him because I thought it was be really interesting to research someone who is related to me and to find out about what he did in the war.

A lot of my information and evidence came from ancestry.com, this site was really useful because it showed you a lot of records that had been filled out about Henry during the war. Also, I used The Long Long Trail and Google. The Long Long Trail gave me lots of detailed information and Google was just helpful for looking up some old words people use to use and words that were used in the army. I got some information from my family but this wasn't very reliable as it could have been interpreted wrong or biased, but there must have been some truth in it. I also visit Worthing library where I found a lot of good evidence about what it was like to be in the trenches, from World War 1 newspapers and how the war effected Worthing from some history of Worthing books.

Ancestry.com is very useful as it had showed the real army records that were connected to Henry, during his time in the army. It's a very

