

## THOMAS HARRIS, Pioneer 120096 370 For.Coy., Royal Engineers

Thomas's name is listed in the Buckland St Mary School Register; he was born on September 19 1880, the son of William Harris, a Labourer of Whitestaunton. He came to the school on September 11 1891, having previously been at Whitestaunton School.

We can't find his name on any Census returns, so the next mention is on his Medal Roll Index Card, from which it appears that he must have enlisted in the Army early in 1915 – he was in France by September 24 that year.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
HARRIS.	R. E.	Pnr.	120096.
T.			
Thomas			
Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY RE/101 <sup>B</sup> 107 22792		cl. Z. 18/4/19.	
BRITISH do do			
15 STAR R.E/6B4 3384			
Theatre of War first served in (1) France.			
Date of entry therein 24/9/15.			

The Absent Voters listing, however, is much more informative. Thomas was in the 370 For[est] Company, R.E. From a study of their War Diaries it appears they were set up by October 1917, formed from the 10<sup>th</sup> Labour Battalion of the

R.E.. They were based at Rétonval, “a small village of forestry and farming in the Pays de Bray, SE of Dieppe”. They carried out forest work, felling, charcoal burning, sending the timber off by train. Their days sound dull, but at least not too dangerous. Day after day they “Work in forest as usual”, with Sundays spent cleaning up the Sawmills.

Perhaps the boredom became too much. On March 18 1918 “No 120096 Pnr Harris, T., awarded 14 days F.P.No 1 for being unfit for duty owing to drunkenness when paraded for charcoal burning at 9pm 16/3/18.” Field Punishment No 1 meant “you were attached standing full-length to a fixed object (either a post or a gun wheel) for up to 2 hours a day for a maximum of 21 days”.

He's on the Absent Voters Roll of 1918/19, when he was living at Beehive Farm. From 1920 to 1922 the Electoral Register shows he's at Coal Furze, evidently lodging with the Knight family; from 1924-25 he's with Thomas and Alice Spiller at Brokenway (off Hare Lane). After that, nothing.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *Combe St Nicholas*  
in the County of *Somerset* in the Year 1880

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1880. July 18 <sup>th</sup> No. 1489.	Alfred James	Edmond Emma	Pacey	Wadeford	Carpenter	Hans F. Hamilton Vicar
July 18 <sup>th</sup> No. 1490.	Frederic Robert	John Matilda	Nooth	Bells Lane (Chilworth)	Labourer	Hans F. Hamilton Vicar
September 10 <sup>th</sup> No. 1491.	Thomas William	Edward Emma	Hart	Olvers Wid	Labourer	Hans F. Hamilton Vicar
October 17 <sup>th</sup> No. 1492.	Thomas	William Marion	Harris	Sticklepath	Labourer	Hans F. Hamilton Vicar
October 17 <sup>th</sup> No. 1493.	John Harry	John Jane	Perez	Sticklepath	Carter	Hans F. Hamilton Vicar
October 17 <sup>th</sup> No. 1494.	William Thomas	Albert Jane	Buck	Combe Street	Blacksmith	Hans F. Hamilton Vicar
October 17 <sup>th</sup> No. 1495.	Alice Daisy	William Marion	Partridge	Combe Street	Carpenter	Hans F. Hamilton Vicar
October 17 <sup>th</sup> No. 1496.	Lily	William Marion	Partridge	Combe Street	Carpenter	Hans F. Hamilton Vicar



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K 1380.

MRIC

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs. Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. This page will be prepared in manuscript.

OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
(Erase heading not required.)

370<sup>th</sup> Infantry Coy R.E.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Retamal	1914			
	10/5		Working first as usual.	
	11/5		Sunday. Work on sawmills cleaning up.	
	12/5		Working first as usual.	
	13/5		Had a break as usual. Also sent Sgt Charles C. Connelton Inf. with 370 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Coy R.E. proceeded to house for a course of machine gun training.	
	14/5		Deafline: No 549952 2/Cpl Goggin 41. severely injured and is being sent from the hospital with from 9 a.m. 14/5 to 11.5 a.m. 12/5 (about 2 hours).	
	15/5		Working first as usual.	
	16/5		Working first as usual.	
	17/5		Finished working in Hummidge mill (closed).	
	18/5		Commenced dismantling Hummidge mill.	
	19/5		Sunday. Work cleaning up on sawmills.	
	20/5		Working first as usual.	
	21/5		Deafline: No 120096 Pte James J. awarded 14 days F.R. to 1. for being unfit for duty owing to diarrhoea when landed for charcoal burning at 6.30 a.m. 16/3/14.	
	22/5		Working first as usual. Deafline: No 120096 Pte White 41. awarded 5 days F.R. for being unfit for duty owing to diarrhoea when landed for charcoal burning at 6.30 a.m. 14/3/14. (about 3 days).	

(Anglo. No. 120096) 25/10/15 D. & L. Ltd. Press Cardiff

Field Punishment No 1 for Pioneer T Harris

# ABSENT VOTERS' LIST. YEOVIL DIVISION.

5

1	2	3	4	5
No.	Names in Full (Surname first).	Qualifying Premises.	Description of Service, Ship, Regiment, Number, Rank, Rating, etc., or recorded address.	No.
PARISH OF KINGWESTON.				
177	Dickinson, William Francis	Kingweston House	Capt., 1st Garr. Batt., Hants. Regt.	177
178	Charlton, Cuthbert Henry	Lower Street	41337 Pte., 1st Batt., D.C.L.I.	178
179	Charlton, William John	North Park	Stoker 41228 R.N., H.M.S. "Lupen"	179
180	Dabinett, Harold Edwin	Post Office	49583 Co.Q.M.S., M.G.C., 2nd Div. Bgd., 91, York St., Westminster	180
181	Merriott, Colin	Lower Street	27619 Sig., 10th Bn., K. Shrops. L.I.	181
182	Sawtell, Ellis John	Middle Farm	Sec.-Lt., King's Royal Rifles	182
183	Stenson, Sidney	High Street	47043 Pte., 15th Bn., E. Lancs. Regt.	183
184	Tapnell, Thomas William	The Lodge, Kingweston	208176 Pte., 25th Middx. Regt.	184
185	Willcox, Ralph	Lower Street	13545 Pte. 10th Devons	185

## BUCKLAND ST. MARY Polling District (C).

### PARISH OF BUCKLAND ST. MARY.

186	Every, Tom	Meanwood	26862 Pte., 4th S.W.B.	186
187	Hooper, James	Cross	527939 Pte., 652 Agri. Coy., Lab. Cps.	187
188	Pook, William	Blackwater	Dorset Rgt.	188
189	Spiller, Thomas John	Bugg's Moor	47372 7th W. Riding Rgt., E.C., No. 2 R.F.	189
190	Walter, Richard John Kenneth	Grange House	A.S.C.	190
191	Berry, William Devonport	Pinneys	4454 Tpr., Gds. M.G.C.	191
192	Collins, Wilfred Edgar	Little Forest	500078 Pte., 652 Agri. Coy., Lab. Cps.	192
193	Durman, Frederick Edwin	Redric Hill	620296 Gnr., 18th Bde. R.H.A.	193
194	Durman, William John	Redric Hill	108305, R.F.C.	194
195	Fayter, John	Coomsbury	27698, D.C.L.I.	195
196	Fayter, William Henry	Coomsbury Farm	72503 Pte., 31st Middx. Rgt.	196
197	Goodland, Ernest	Newtown	205262 Pte., 3rd Bn., Bedford	197
198	Greenslade, Cecil	Moorsick	95702 Gnr., Tank Cps., Alexandria	198
199	Greenslade Richard Samuel	Moorsick	Lieut., R.F.C.	199
200	Hardwell, James	Trott's Castle	R/3577, A.B. Drake Bn., R.N.D.	200
201	Harris, Thomas	Beehive Farm	120096 Pnr., 370 For. Coy., R.E.	201
202	Hoare, Gilbert	Lower Blindmoor	1994 Pte., 1st Royal Marines, R.N.D.	202
203	Hooper, Sydney Arthur	Castle Comfort	26759 Pte., 3rd S.L.I.	203
204	Hooper, Walter Robert	Castle Comfort	K/9742 Str., R.N., H.M.S. "Marlborough"	204
205	Knight, Arthur	Coal Furze	94224 Pte., 221 Coy., M.G.C.	205
206	Knight, Samuel	Meanwood	13835 Pte., S.L.I.	206
207	Lang, Albert Charles	Laurel Cottage	61134 Pte., 187th Coy., M.G.C.	207
208	Lang, William Henry	Laurel Cottage	230447 S.Q.M.S., 1/1st Dorset Yeo.	208
209	Love, Ernest	Little Hill	34000 Pte., 57 Agr. Coy., Lab. Cps.	209
210	Manning, James Henry	Eagle Tavern	266175, Devon Rgt.	210
211	Manning, William John	Eagle Tavern	266297, Devon Rgt.	211
212	Millman, Cecil Richard	Castle Farm	226190, R.F.A.	212
213	Millman, Horace John	Castle Farm	17238 Pte., 457th Agri. Coy., Lab. Cps.	213
214	Shire, Alfred Edward	Swaddle's Green	22450, 1st S.L.I.	214
215	Wyatt, Charlie	Keat's Mill	202170 Pte., 2/4th Bn., S.L.I.	215
216	Wyatt, Harry	Keat's Mill	(Discharged)	216



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## BUCKLAND ST. MARY Polling District (C).

### PARISH OF BUCKLAND ST. MARY.

186	Every, Tom	Meanwood	26862 Pte., 4th S.W.B.	186
191	Berry, William	Devonport Pinneys		191
192	Collins, Wilfred Edgar	Little Forest	500078 Pte., 652 Agri. Coy., Lab. Cps.	192
193	Durman, Frederick Edwin	Redric Hill	620296 Gnr., 18th Bde. R.H.A.	193
194	Durman, William John	Redric Hill	108305, R.F.C.	194
196	Fayter, William Henry	Coomsbury Farm	72503 Pte., 31st Middx. Rgt.	196
197	Goodland, Ernest	Newtown	205262 Pte., 3rd Bn., Bedford	197
199	Greenslade Richard Samuel	Moorsick	Lieut., R.F.C.	199
201	Harris, Thomas	Beehive Farm	120096 Pnr., 370 For. Coy., R.E.	201
203	Hooper, Sydney Arthur	Castle Comfort	26759 Pte., 3rd S.L.I.	203
204	Hooper, Walter Robert	Castle Comfort	K/9742 Str., R.N., H.M.S. " Marlborough "	204
206	Knight, Samuel	Meanwood		206
207	Lang, Albert Charles	Laurel Cottage	61134 Pte., 187th Coy., M.G.C.	207
208	Lang, William Henry	Laurel Cottage	230447 S.Q.M.S., 1/1st Dorset Yeo.	208
209	Love, Ernest	Little Hill	34000 Pte., 57 Agr. Coy., Lab. Cps.	209
210	Manning, James Henry	Eagle Tavern	266175 Cpl., 1/6th Devon Rgt., No. 2 Wireless Sqdn., L. of C., Mesop.	210
211	Manning, William John	Eagle Tavern	266297, Devon Rgt.	211
212	Millman, Cecil Richard	Castle Farm	226190, R.F.A., 4th Training Depot, India	212
213	Millman, Horace John	Castle Farm	17238 Pte., 457th Agri. Coy., Lab. Cps.	213
214	Shire, Alfred Edward	Swaddle's Green	22450, 1st S.L.I.	214
215	Wyatt, Charlie	Keat's Mill	202170 Pte., 2/4th Bn., S.L.I.	215
216	Wyatt, Harry	Keat's Mill		216



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References for War Diaries for 370 Forestry Company, Royal Engineers