

THOMAS ARTHUR BOWDITCH, Driver 87297 Royal Field Artillery

Thomas was born on April 24th 1897, and baptised on May 15 at Churchstanton, the oldest child of Arthur Albert Bowditch, a Carter at Burnworthy, and Fanny, née Ewings. By the time he was three, in 1901, the family were living at Washernway Cottage, Dunkeswell Abbey; his father was still working as a Carter, and his sisters Olive and Kathleen had joined the family. In 1911 they were living at Harcombe, Lyme Regis. Thomas was at school, but working part-time as a stable boy, and the family had expanded to 10. Fanny's 76 year old widowed mother Ann Ewings had joined them, and there were four more children: Linda, Reginald, Ethel and Agnes. Reginald was 5 years old, so too young for later call up. The 1911 census return was designed to be written by the resident, but a witness writes for Albert, who made his mark.

They were a family who were on the move a lot: Albert was born in Chardstock, and Fanny and her mother in Devon at Morchard Bishop and Witheridge respectively. They were at different locations for each Census (no doubt following the work available) and before or during WWI they came to live at Lower Colley, Buckland St Mary, possibly working for the farmer at Colley Farm. Thomas's parents were on the Electoral Register there in 1918 (the Register wasn't maintained during the War), and by 1920 he has joined them, though he isn't on the Absent Voters Register of 1918 or 1919. There's a little cluster of Bowditch children at Buckland St Mary School by this time.

Thomas joined up early in the War, before conscription, probably in early 1915 around the time of his 18th birthday. He was in France by August 28th 1915, so earned the 1915 Star, but as his Army Service Records have not survived we have no detail about which section of the RFA he served with, or exactly where. The only information is that he was a Driver, so riding the horses that drew the guns or other horse-drawn transport.

In 1923 he married Florence Knight, and they had one son, Albert, born in 1931. By 1939 he was a dairy farmer at Lionel Farm, Shute. Thomas died in January 1984 at the age of 86, his death registered in Honiton.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Administrative County of Devon The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of House	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in the same	Number of Houses in the same	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday	SEX	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Dead and Drumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot		
68	Sturges	1		Robert Phipps	Head	Married	28	M	Appl. Labourer	Devon, Haverhill					
				Elizabeth S.	Wife		28	F		Devon, Haverhill					
				40 Years						Devon, Haverhill					
69	Castle	1		James Phipps	Head	Married	28	M	Appl. Labourer	Devon, Haverhill					
				Elizabeth S.	Wife		28	F		Devon, Haverhill					
70	Castle	1		James Phipps	Head	Married	28	M	Appl. Labourer	Devon, Haverhill					
				Elizabeth S.	Wife		28	F		Devon, Haverhill					
71	Lower Muckridge	1		James Phipps	Head	Married	28	M	Appl. Labourer	Devon, Haverhill					
				Elizabeth S.	Wife		28	F		Devon, Haverhill					
72	"	1		James Phipps	Head	Married	28	M	Appl. Labourer	Devon, Haverhill					
				Elizabeth S.	Wife		28	F		Devon, Haverhill					
73	Longman	1		James Phipps	Head	Married	28	M	Appl. Labourer	Devon, Haverhill					
				Elizabeth S.	Wife		28	F		Devon, Haverhill					
74	Northme	1		James Phipps	Head	Married	28	M	Appl. Labourer	Devon, Haverhill					
				Elizabeth S.	Wife		28	F		Devon, Haverhill					
75	Southme	1		James Phipps	Head	Married	28	M	Appl. Labourer	Devon, Haverhill					
				Elizabeth S.	Wife		28	F		Devon, Haverhill					
76	"	1		James Phipps	Head	Married	28	M	Appl. Labourer	Devon, Haverhill					
				Elizabeth S.	Wife		28	F		Devon, Haverhill					
77	"	1		James Phipps	Head	Married	28	M	Appl. Labourer	Devon, Haverhill					
				Elizabeth S.	Wife		28	F		Devon, Haverhill					
	Total of Houses and of Townships with less than Five Houses ...	10	6	Total of Males and Females...				15	16						

NOTE.—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng.—Sheet B.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

Number of Schedule 60

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards	BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every person	INFLUENT
John Edward Bowditch	Head	39	Married	General Farm Labourer	Devon	English	
James Bowditch	Wife	40	Married		Devon	English	
John Bowditch	Son	15	Unmarried	School (Scholar)	Devon	English	
John Bowditch	Son	12	Unmarried	School (Scholar)	Devon	English	
Kathleen Bowditch	Daughter	11	Unmarried	School (Scholar)	Devon	English	
Linda Bowditch	Daughter	8	Unmarried	School (Scholar)	Devon	English	
Reginald Bowditch	Son	5	Unmarried		Devon	English	
Charles Bowditch	Daughter	2	Unmarried		Devon	English	
James Bowditch	Daughter	1	Unmarried		Devon	English	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count outhouses, lavatories, closets, cellars, or other subterranean offices, shops.

44

9. 7. 10.

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: John Bowditch

Post Office Address: Devon

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Church Stanton
in the County of Devon in the Year 1896

When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parents' Name		Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname			
1896 June 29 th	William John	John & Annie	Evans	Church Stanton	Labourer	R. Brown officiating Minister
No. 585						
1896 July 2 nd	Gertrude Alice	William & Emily	Smith	Blagdon Hill	Labourer	R. Brown
No. 586						
1896 Aug 30	Bertiam Victor	James & Rosa	Leukins	Easton	Farmer	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 587						
1896 Sep 20	Gertrude	Richard & Caroline	Manning	King's Arms Church, Stanton	Housekeeper	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 588						
1896 Oct 70	Frederick Harold	Frank & Eliza	Winnings	Accheins	Labourer	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 589						
1896 Dec 25	Lily Mary Jane	Francis & Elizabeth	Finnemore	Upton	Widow	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 590						
1897 Jan 31 st	Annelle	Eliza & Annie	Moore	Church Stanton	Blacksmith	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 591						
1897 Apr 18	Reginald Arthur	Arthur & Mary Jane	Poole	Church Stanton	Mason	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 592						

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Church Stanton
in the County of Somerset in the Year 1897

When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parents' Name		Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname			
1897 May 10	Thomas Arthur	Alfred & Fanny	Borwick	Barnworthy	Carter	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 593						
1897 June 6	Isaac Charles	John & Isabel	Page	Hydon	Labourer	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 594						
1897 June 10	Frances	Mark & Elizabeth	Manley	Fincham	Farmer	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 595						
1897 Aug 22	Margaret Lilian	John & Emily	Lee	Stapley	Labourer	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 596						
1897 Aug 29	Florence May	Charles & Louisa	Tancock	Church Stanton	Cashier	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 597						
1897 Aug 29	Olivia	William & Amelia	Lock	Church Stanton	Carpenter	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 598						
1897 Sep 12	Isidore James	John & Rosanna	Hooper	Church Stanton	Labourer	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 599						
1897 Sep 12	Nathan	John & Alice	Loft	Church Stanton	Labourer	A. B. Taylor Rector
No. 600						

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY.

Regiment or Corps when Decoration was Earned.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Decoration granted under Army Order 20 of 1900 No. 7945. (A & B) Supply.

To be left blank	On date of Despatch		NAME	Date of Despatch	REMARKS	Record of disposal of decoration	To be left blank for use in War Office
	Regt. No.	Rank					
					(a) If non-effective - Cause, etc. (b) If transferred - Present Regt. No., Rank and Unit (c) If forfeited - Cause.	(a) Prescribed (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	
	84078.	Driver.	LETHAM. Albert.	6-12-15.	(1) (a) Discharged.		✓
	84908.	Driver.	ADAMSON. James.	4-5-15.	(1)		✓
	85016.	Corpl.	FATTISON. Charles Henderson.	15-10-15.	(2A) (a) Discharged.		✓
	85082.	Gunner.	FLEMING. Thomas.	20-8-15.	(1) (a) Commissioned R.G.A. (SR)	14-10-17. Dead. 20-10-18.	✓
	85227.	Gunner.	WILLIS. James.	2-6-15.	(1)		✓
	85697.	Gunner.	PHILLIPS. John Henry.	5-7-15.	(3)		✓
	86254.	Sergt.	BULLOCK. William.	22-5-15.	(1) (a) Discharged		✓
	87297.	Driver.	BOWDITCH. Thomas Arthur.	28-8-15.	(1)		✓
	87480.	Driver.	GATES. Thomas.	25-9-15.	(1)		✓
	87821.	Gunner.	ELLIS. Wilfred Percy.	23-9-15.	(2A)		✓
	88466.	Driver.	LANG. Richard Ambrose.	26-7-15.	(1) (a) Discharged		✓
	89347.	Driver.	WHITE. William John.	19-5-15.	(1)		✓

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Decoration as detailed above.

Place
WOOLWICH.
Date 31st August, 1921.

Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

Captain J. L. R. A. RECORDS.
FOR

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

REGIMENT OR CORPS.

No. 50078 (Supply)

366. and 301. of 10-7

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders

Regt. No.	Rank	NAME	In sequence with and Corps personnel and Regt. No. shown in the highest rank, character substantive, acting or temporary, marked as being held for any period in a theatre of War, being shown against the name of the recipient of Corps which is to be marked on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasp awarded (to be left blank)	Reason of Request of Decorations			REMARKS
						(a) Presented	(b) Despatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
87687	Dvr.	BOVDITCH Thomas Arthur	R.F.A. 87687 Dvr.	X					
87480	L/Bdr.	GATES Thomas	R.F.A. 87480 Dvr.	X					
87560	Gnr.	JOHNSON Frederick	R.F.A. 87560 Gnr.	X					Transf. to REG. 14/12/17. as No. 118141. To be adm. by RFA
87600		WIMBURY W.	R.F.A. 87600 Cpl.	X					Commissioned RFA. 1/1/17 Transf. to REG. 14/12/17. as No. 118141. To be adm. by RFA
87821	Gnr.	ELLIS Wilfred Percy	R.F.A. 87821 Gnr.	X					Commissioned RFA. 1/1/17 Transf. to REG. 14/12/17. as No. 118141. To be adm. by RFA
87872		REDFORD Thomas Robert	R.F.A. 87872 Gnr.	X					Commissioned RFA. 1/1/17 Transf. to REG. 14/12/17. as No. 118141. To be adm. by RFA

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place _____
Date _____

WOOLWICH.

31st August, 1921.

Signature and rank of Officer certifying

Captain.
For
COLONEL
RECORDS

E.D. Letter Code **WHAR**

Borough, U.D. or R.D.

*Amman*Registration District
and Sub-district*269-3*

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	See INSTRUCTIONS.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.			
<i>Patches Cottage Shute</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Nesbitt Edith M</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>Unpaid Domestic Duties</i>	
<i>Patches Farm</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Burday Emma</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>S.</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Davy Francis E</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Farmer Seed Agent</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Davy Ethel R</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid domestic duties</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Davy Walter J</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>Farm Bailiff (retired)</i>	
<i>Chandlers Hall</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Burton Kathleen</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Builder Mason</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Burton Lillian</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>05</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid domestic duties</i>	

This record is officially closed.

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<i>"</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Wood Arthur E</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Agric Labourer</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Wood Emily L</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid domestic duties</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Wood Blanche</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>Locomotive</i>	

This record is officially closed.

<i>Lord's Cottage</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Melhuish George</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Railway length man</i>	<i>ARP Works</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Melhuish Emily M</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid domestic duties</i>	
<i>Park Cottage Shute</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>White Edie</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Gamekeeper</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Board Elizabeth</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Housekeeper</i>	
<i>North Down</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Pike Harry M</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Farmer (Retired)</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Pike Elsie</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid domestic duties</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Pike Catherine E</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>W</i>		
<i>Lionel Farm</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Bowditch Thomas</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Dairy Farmer</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Bowditch Florence</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid domestic duties</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Bowditch Albert</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>At school</i>	
<i>Sweetthayes</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Howell Samuel B</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>General Import Merchant</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Howell Vera E L</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid domestic duties</i>	

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<i>Dyehouse Green</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Bidwell Jean M</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private Means</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Rawlins Francis</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Cowman</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Rawlins Fred</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>06</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>Chet</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Rawlins Mary</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>08</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>Housekeeper</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Rawlins Jack</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>Butchers Assistant</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Rawlins David</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>S.</i>		
<i>"</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Piper Albert E</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Railway Length man</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Piper Lillian</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid domestic duties</i>	

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<i>Peckhorne Cottages</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Bolway William</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Carting Dealer</i>	
<i>Peckhorne Cottages</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Kelly Reginald E</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Dairy Farmer</i>	
<i>"</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Kelly Annie</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid domestic duties</i>	

This record is officially closed.