FREDERICK ROBERT GRABHAM, Private 2016 4th Devons

Frederick was born on March 12 1891, the second surviving son of Abraham and Mary Grabham; Abraham was serving in the Marine Light Infantry, Plymouth Division, so his older children were born in East Stonehouse, Plymouth. Frederick, Edward, William and Frank were all to serve in the Army during the War.

After Abraham left the Marines the family returned to the Blackdown Hills, living in Buckland St Mary. Frederick left Buckland school in September 1896; in 1911, aged 19, he was working as a general labourer.

Frederick's Army Service records survive, so we know something of his Army career. He signed up for 4 years service in the Territorial Force with the 4th Devonshire Regiment before the war, on November 7 1913. At the time, aged 24, he was working as a chauffeur for a Mr Dawkins, and living in Axminster. He had a medical in Axminster on November 8, and was assessed as fit for army service. He was 5ft 8 1/2ins, with good vision and good physical development.



The Major who signs many of his papers has a name more widely known.

On August 5 1914, at the outbreak of war, he was mobilized. On November 15 1915 he was 'released for working at Munitions of War'. His 4 years service being up in November 1917 he was discharged, but was 'Liable for further service under the provisions of the Military Service Act 1916'. He had been

working on the Home Front. In his discharge papers, still in Axminster, he's assessed as of Very Good character, and being 'industrious and reliable'. By now he was living in Yeovil at 62 Hendford, and was working as Mechanic and Chauffeur.

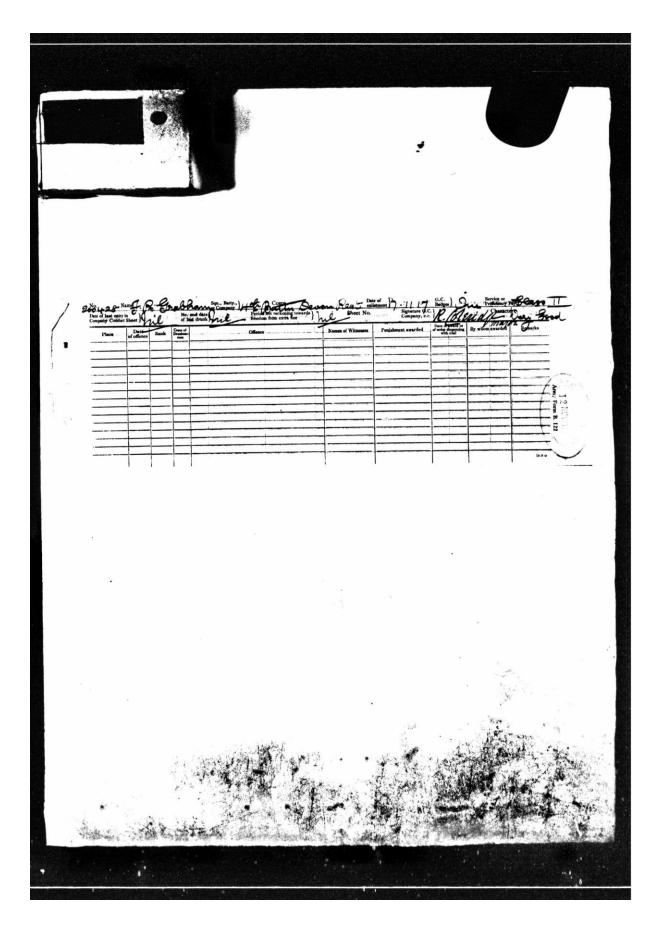
Frederick was married in 1915 to Mabel Alice Copp; they had five children. In the 1939 Register of England & Wales the family are living in Furnham Road, Chard; Frederick was working as a Transport contractor. He died in November 1974, leaving £17,184

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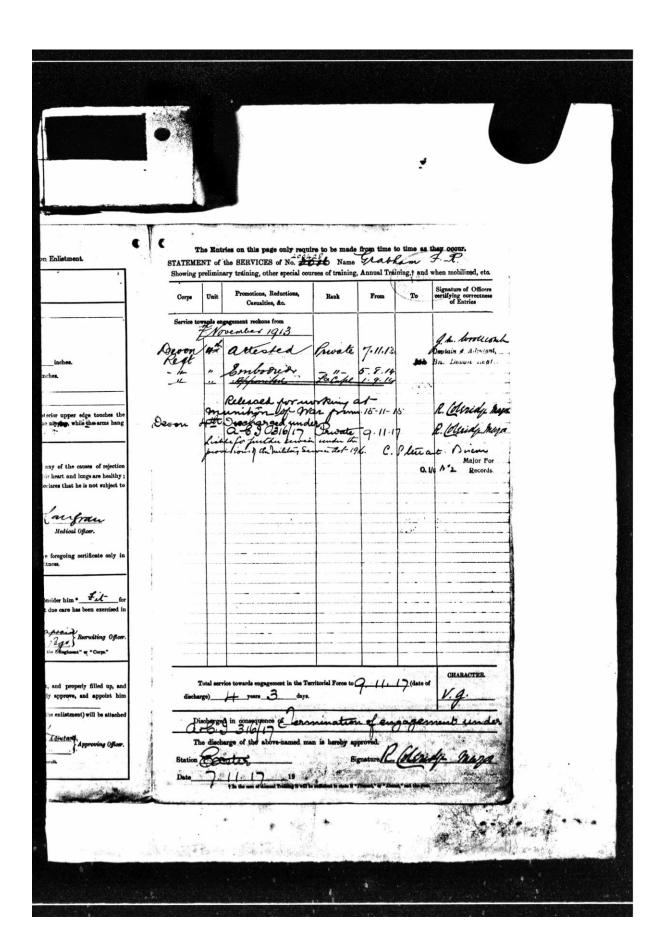


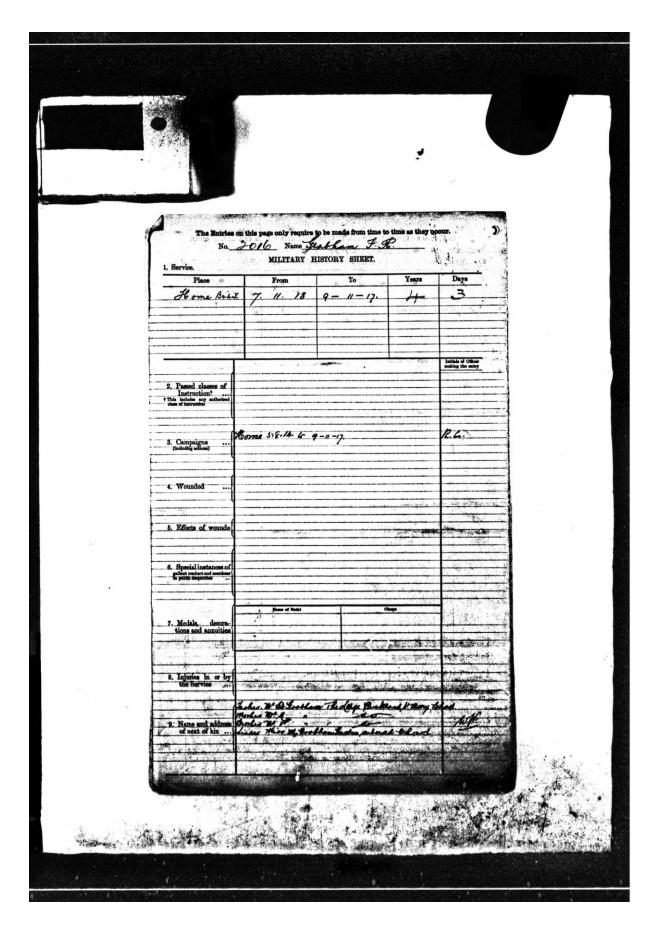
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