

## **WILLIAM JOHN MANNING, PRIVATE 3017 AND 266297, DEVON REGIMENT**

**10 AUGUST 1893- 1985**

William was born on the 10 August 1893 in South Molton, the oldest child of William and Emma Manning. There seems some doubt about his date of birth – it's entered as 1891 on his Army Pension form and in the 1939 Register but as 1893 elsewhere. His father seems to have had a number of jobs (as did William himself); he was an Insurance Agent in 1901, a farmer at Oakford in Devon in 1911 and then the landlord of the Eagle Tavern from sometime during the war years, when his school age daughters Gladys and Ena enrolled at BSM School. Unfortunately this last job went very wrong, as was reported in the *Western Times* of October 31 1919:

### **"CHARD MILK THEFTS LATEST NEWS How an Innkeeper Was Smartly Caught in the Act**

William Manning, licensee of the Eagle Tavern Inn, Buckland St. Mary, near Chard, and his wife, Emma Manning, have been fined £5 each and Court costs at Chard for stealing milk from churns of which they were entrusted bailees. Several farmers in the district have been in the habit of leaving their churns outside the inn to be fetched by a motor lorry from a dairy company.

Complaints as regards the purity of the milk having been communicated to farmers, suspicion was directed towards the innkeeper, who kept several calves and retailed much milk, although he only kept a cow or so. The police were informed, with the result that Inspector Edwards, of Chard, and the local constable, P.C. Gomer, Combe St. Nicholas, instituted a watch, and the male defendant was seen to fetch a pail water from the pump, to the churns with an empty pail, and when this was filled, his wife handed him the pail of water to refill the churn and remove any possible suspicion. Their little daughter was sent out look at the fourcross roads to see that all was clear. Of course, he loses his license, and the case has been widely commented upon."

Not unexpectedly, as reported in the *Western Times* of 14 November 1919, he lost the tenancy.


This must have been a nasty jolt for the family: both his sons, William and James, were leaving the Army at this time, William on 9 May 1919. Both had been ill; William had had influenza (very likely the pandemic Spanish flu) and had been discharged on a pension suffering from 'Disordered Action of the Heart'. We know of their existence through the Absent Voters Register of 1918.

We have no information on which Battalion of the Devons William served with, so it's not been possible to trace his war service, but his surviving pension records are detailed. An interesting point is that his Army number is close to that of his brother James: his was 266297, and James's 266175; James enlisted early, on 6 October 1914. William's pension began on 10 May 1919, when his home address was still given as the Eagle Tavern. It was 'declared final' on 10 February 1923, by which time he'd moved to Wales, to Bonvilston near Cardiff.

There was a more positive side to life. He was married on 30 October 1919 to Catherine Maud Nayland in Fulham and they moved to Bonvilston. They had two children, Sylvia in 1921 and John in 1923. In April 1925 they sailed from Southampton to Halifax, Nova Scotia on Red Star liner SS Pittsburg with the stated intention of settling in Canada. Evidently things did not ultimately work out for them, as in February 1933 they left St Johns, New Brunswick via Halifax, sailing on Canadian Pacific liner SS Montclare for Liverpool, their intended destination in England being Membury in Devon. All this time, from his marriage onwards, William was describing himself as a farmer.

By the time of the 1939 Register William had had a change of direction; the family were living in Brighton in Wentworth Street, and he was a Publican. His brother James (qv) and family were

also living in Brighton, James too describing himself as a Licensee. After this we lose sight of him till his death in the Sedgmoor area in early 1985 at the age of 91.



**CHARD MILK THEFTS**

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**How an Innkeeper Was Smartly Caught in the Act**

William Manning, licensee of the **Star** Tavern Inn, Buckland St. Mary, near Chard, and his wife, Emma Manning, have been fined £5 each and Court costs at Chard for stealing milk from churns of which they were entrusted as bailees. Several farmers in the district have been in the habit of leaving their churns outside the inn to be fetched by a motor lorry from a dairy company. Complaints as regards the purity of the milk having been communicated to the farmers, suspicion was directed towards the innkeeper, who kept several calves and retailed much milk, although he only kept a cow or so. The police were informed, with the result that Inspector Edwards, of Chard, and the local constable, P.C. Gomer, of Combe St. Nicholas, instituted a watch, and the male defendant was seen to fetch a pail of water from the pump, go to the churns with an empty pail, and when this was filled, his wife handed him the pail of water to refill the churn and remove any possible suspicion. Their little daughter was sent out to look at the four-cross roads to see that all was clear. Of course, he loses his license, and the case has been widely commented upon.

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**SOUTH MOLTON HEROES**

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
MANNING	Devon R	Lie	3017.
Wm John	do		266297
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	C/2/03 B/14	1057	
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
S w B. List C/1833.			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

Correspondence.

Address.

E 1995. (1246) Wt. W 2584—R.P. 6267 1,000m. 17/12/20. E 6989.





Form No. S.B 36.

REGION. \_\_\_\_\_

Surname MANNING (in block letters) Christian Names William John

Unit and Regiment or Corps Devons Regt. No. 266294 Rank Private

NEW REGIONAL No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge 9-5-19 Year of Birth 1891 Marital Status { S. = Single  
W. = Widower  
M. = Married } 5

OTHER ACTION.

Address Edge Hotel Buckland St Mary Date of commencement of Pension 10-5-19  
Edward Somerset

Disabilities:— State whether attributable to or aggravated by Service or non-attributable:—

1. DDT & Influenza 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Particulars of Awards for previous Service (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

WT 17685/1787 3570 bks 8/10 J. H. & S. E5222 GS7612 SB36

P.T.O.

AWARDS OF PENSION, GRATUITY OR WEEKLY ALLOWANCE.

[illegible]





3

Name of Ship Pittobulgh Date of Departure April 2 1925 Where bound HALIFAX NEW YORK

Port of Departure SOUTHAMPTON Steamship Line Red Star

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF SOUTHAMPTON

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)													
Contract Ticket Number.	NAMES OF PASSENGERS.	LAST ADDRESS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.	Adults.	Children.	Infants.	CLASS (Whichever is correct)	Port at which Passengers have continued to land.	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passengers.	AGES OF PASSENGERS.						Country of Last Permanent Residence.†					Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence.†	
									Adults of 12 years and upwards						Children between 1 and 12.						
									Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.		Female.
20182	✓ Hayes Mary	22 Magnolia St. London E.W.	1			NEW YORK		Book	44	15	8	2	1	30	BNA.	4	Canada				
29899	✓ Hedges Reginald	7 Dymham Rd Hampstead, London N.W.	1					Scholar			15										
318489	✓ Henry William	7 Dymham Rd Hampstead, London N.W.	1					Domestic			22										
3139 563	✓ Glenwood Agnes	Poulton Poulton	1					✓			25										
	✓ Masten	Widow's St. Bristol	1					Wife			23										
23902	✓ Jackson Charles	Stellerville	1					Manufacturing Agent			39										
	✓ Mabel	Golden Broom	1					Wife			39										
	✓ Jessie	Widow's St.	1					Child					8								
	✓ Joan	Widow's St.	1										6								
	✓ Mollie		1										5								
	✓ Charles		1										2								
29441	✓ James John	Lynton Rd. Ashton Bridges, Bolton, Lancashire	1					Miner			24										
26212	✓ Joseph Fred	26 Richmond St.	1					Farmer			29										
	✓ Mary	Plymouth	1					Wife			29										
	✓ Frederick		1					Child					4								
	✓ Dorothy		1										3								
29897	✓ Glenister Eric	40 St. M. St. London E.W.	1					Scholar			16										
29415	✓ Lane Richard	4 Hawthorne St. Chichester Road	1					Domestic			35										
	✓ Lily	Southgate	1					Wife			24										
	✓ Frank	London N.W.	1					Child					5								
	✓ Kenneth		1										2								
20386	✓ Manning William	The Brigton Donkington	1					Farmer			31										
	✓ William	near Cardiff	1					Wife			31										
	✓ John		1					Child					3								
	✓ Sylvia		1					✓					1								
26211	✓ Maple Harold	The Crown 1500 Road	1					Farmer			25										
	✓ Emma	Challack	1					Wife			21										
	✓ Betty	Donkington	1					Child					2								
	✓ Lynd		1					Infant						10/12							
358976	✓ Matley Charles	68 Woodland Park Rd Hampstead, London N.W.	1					Domestic			32										
	✓ Nellie		1					Wife			38										
20185	✓ Mead Mollie	65 Salthouse St. N. Paddington W.2.	1					Domestic			34										
	✓ Kathleen		1								24										
			52	13	2	(31)			11	11	19	11	67	1	1	55	44	- 8			
															BNA 23 11 4						
															† By Permanent Residence is to be understood residence for a year or more.						

1914

Line of Ship  
Steamship Line

"RECREATION"

Port of Arrival. LIVERPOOL

Date of Arrival. 26th FEBRUARY 1914

CANADIAN PACIFIC

Whence Arrived. 10th Feb. 1914. 10.15

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF

BRITISH PASSENGERS.

No.	Sex	Age	Name of Passenger (last first initial)	Proposed Address in the United Kingdom	Class of Ticket	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passenger	Date of Birth				Country of Last Residence	No. of Passenger's Certificate	No. of Certificate of Descent
							Year	Month	Day	Age			
1	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
2	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
3	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
4	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
5	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
6	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
7	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
8	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
9	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
10	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
11	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
12	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
13	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
14	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
15	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
16	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
17	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
18	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
19	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
20	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
21	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
22	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
23	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
24	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
25	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
26	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
27	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
28	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker	1867	12	25	46	England	1	1
29	M	46	Mr. J. H. H. H.	11, St. James's Place, London	First	Banker							



E.D. Letter Code <b>EGNA</b>		Borough, U.D. or R.D. <b>Brighton</b>		Registration District and Sub-district <b>192</b>						
ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. P. or L.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S. N. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	See INSTRUCTIONS.
	No.	Sub No.				Day.	Year.			
29 New Steine	182	8	Hagen Edward G	-	M	29 June	03	8	Secretary Accounting Office	
30 ditto	183	1	Smyth John B	-	M	25 June	95	5	Head Proprietor	
		2	John Bertha L	-	F	1 June	68	W	unpaid domestic duties	
This record is officially closed.										
30 ditto	184	1	Crashley Fred K.	-	M	4 Oct	87	M	Clerk at Admiralty Retired	
		2	Crashley Ellen M	-	M	7 June	88	M	unpaid domestic duties	
30 ditto	185	1	Power Mary E	-	F	18 May	74	M	unpaid domestic duties	
30 ditto	186	1	Morris Eliza G	-	F	19 June	78	W	Private Nurse	
		2	Leather Howard de M	-	M	4 Dec	14	S	Scholarship Article & Clerk	
31 ditto	187	1	Hill Leonard W	-	M	16 Feb	70	M	Hotel Proprietor & Manager	
		2	Hill Mary J	-	F	10 Jan	70	M	unpaid domestic duties	
		3	White Ellen W	-	F	21 Feb	64	W	unpaid domestic duties	
		4	Beatty Peter	-	F	28 Mar	00	S	Milliner	
2. Newtenth St	188	1	Manning William J	-	M	10 Aug	95	M	Reflexion	
		2	Manning Catherine M	-	F	25 Dec	93	M	unpaid domestic duties	
		3	Manning Sylvia K	-	F	13 Sep	21	S	domestic worker	
		4	Manning John B	-	M	5 Dec	23	J	at School	
3 ditto	189	1	Wright Joseph	-	M	15 June	79	M	Hotel Porter	
3 ditto	190	1	Lloyd F R	-	M	22 Dec	66	M	Nurse	
3 ditto	191	1	Goodland Harriet E	-	F	10 Aug	72	W	unpaid domestic duties	
3 ditto	192	1	Clayton Violet	-	F	26 Dec	61	W	unpaid domestic duties	
3 ditto	193	1	Bleth Mary	-	F	3 Jan	82	M	unpaid domestic duties	
This record is officially closed.										
4 ditto	194	1	Handell Ernest E	-	M	20 Feb	04	M	Plumber	
		2	Handell Helen E	-	F	28 Oct	07	M	unpaid domestic duties	
This record is officially closed.										
This record is officially closed.										
		5	Chandler Thomas W	-	M	8 Dec	99	W	Manager, Grocery & Provision	
		6	Doyle Mary	-	F	9 Nov	09	M	unpaid domestic duties	
This record is officially closed.										
This record is officially closed.										
		7	Whitaker Helen	-	F	16 Jan	14	M	unpaid domestic duties	
This record is officially closed.										
This record is officially closed.										
This record is officially closed.										
5 ditto	195	1	Smith Fred J	-	M	19 June	09	M	Painter	
		2	Smith Doris	-	F	31 Mar	14	M	unpaid domestic duties	
This record is officially closed.										
6 ditto	196	1	Simmons Arthur J	-	M	8 Oct	77	M	Boot-repairer - also painter	
		2	Simmons Annie	-	F	29 Dec	77	M	unpaid domestic duties	
		3	Simmons Doris J	-	F	21 Jan	14	S	Domestic servant	
This record is officially closed.										
7 ditto	197	1	Brace William H	-	M	23 July	08	M	Engineer & Surveyor (Marine)	
		2	Brace Margaret H	-	F	31 Dec	11	M	unpaid domestic duties	