

Anthony Thomas Gammon – Army Service Records

List of Army Records

In September 1940 during a German bombing raid on London, the War Office, where 6.5 million service records of soldiers were held, was hit and severe damage done. Roughly 60 per cent of the records were destroyed by fire and those that survived became known as the “*Burnt Documents*” but many of those suffered water damage from the attempts to put out the fire.

The following is a list of the Army Records of Anthony Thomas Gammon that survived the bombing.

Army Form B103 – Casualty - Active Service
Army Form B178 – Medical History
Army Form B2513 – Enrolment Papers (Attestation Form)
Army Form B120 - Regimental Conduct Sheet
Army Form B104-53 - Inside sheet for original Attestation Form (B2513 - ATG-03)
Army Form W3456 – Instruction to Reservist
Letter from the Military to A.T. Gammon
Letter from the Courts to the Military asking for payment of fine.

The records don't tell us much about Private Gammon because some of the forms are blank and, on those where there is writing, a lot of the words are too faint and difficult to read with any certainty of being correct. The result is that only ten records give us any information.

Service Record 01

Army Form B 103

Front of form: -

Casualty Form – Active Service
Non-combatant Corps No. 8 EASTERN COMPANY N.C.C.

Rank	Private	Surname	Gammon	Christian Name	A. T.
Enlisted	23-8-16	Terms of Service	Duration of war	Service reckons from	23-8-16

Report Date	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, et cetera during active service as reported on army form B213, army form a 36 or in other official documents
22-8-16	General services called up for service
22-8-16	Posted 8th Eastern company NCC
28-8-16	In guard detention room awaiting trial
11-9-16	Tried by DCM at Chichester. Sentenced to 6 months Impt with HL for, when on active service, disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer
20-9-16	Joined

Notes: – DCM = Divisional Court Martial Impt. = Imprisonment H.L. = Hard Labour

Back of Form: -

This is very difficult to read but the following can be made out:-

?-11-17 *Occupational Index Cards sent to Lieut.*
6-3-18 *Transferred to Class W Army Reserve with effect from 11-10-18*
 Discharged on demobilization
 para xxviii
 Address: - 164 High Street Cottages

Anthony Thomas Gammon

Notes

- 1 Class W Reserve (and the Territorial Force Class W(T) were introduced, in June 1916, by Army Order 203/16 and were created to cater for “all those soldiers whose services are deemed to be more valuable to the country in civil rather than military employment”.

Men in these classes would not receive Army pay and were not to wear uniform. Until such time as they were recalled, which could be at any time, they would not be subject to military discipline.

- 2 “para xxviii” is, just, the “code”, under the Army’s “Causes of Discharge - Paragraph 392 of King's Regulations 1912”, for being discharged on mobilization” though this code included a rider to the effect that it only applied to soldiers serving on a duration of war engagement, discharged from Class Z of the Army Reserve on its cessation or discharged on demobilization after the cessation of Class z.
- 3 His address was not completed for some reason.

Service Record 02

Army Form B 120 – Regimental Conduct Sheet

Note. The following is hand-written on the document, in columns, but, for ease and clarity, is reproduced here in paragraphs.

Place: *Bexhill*
Date of Offence: *22-8-16*
Rank *Private*
OFFENCE: *Being a man belonging to the Army Reserve under the provisions of the Military Service Act 1916 unlawfully did commit an offence against section 15 of the Reserve Forces Act 1882 that is to say for that he did fail to appear when called out.*
WITNESS:- *Civil Police*
PUNISHMENT awarded: *Fined £2 to be deducted from his pay. Defendant handed over to the Military Authorities.*
By Whom *Court of Summary Jurisdiction*

This punishment was followed, six days later, by a second, as the same form says:

Place: *Chichester*
Date of Offence: *28-8-16*
Rank *Private*
OFFENCE: *When on Active Service disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer.*
WITNESS:- *Sgt Niederauer, CSM Funnell, Sgt Chainey, Major N. A. Layton*
PUNISHMENT awarded: *To be imprisoned with Hard Labour for six (6) months.*
By Whom *DCM*

Service Record 03

Army Form B178 – Medical History

The notes at the bottom, on the front sheet of this form, are too faint to make out but refer to Paragraph 392 of the “King's Regulations 1912”, concerning discharge on mobilization”.

The reverse side, of this form, is blank but there are traces of ink from the document, which either lay on top or underneath but these marks have nothing to do with Form B178.

Anthony Thomas Gammon

Service Record 04

Army Form – Inside Sheet of Attestation Papers

The information, on this form, was hand-written and almost a scribble, which made it very difficult to understand – to make it worse, words were shortened, which someone with knowledge of the subject might be able to work out but without that knowledge, the transcribing was made even more difficult.

What has been transcribed is given below.

Letter from Deputy clerk to the Justice Petty Sessional Division of Hastings, 44 a, Robertson Street, Hastings of 12 – 12 – 17, re-Gammon being fined £2 under mil(itary) Ser(vices) Act 1916 as an absentee at Bexhill 26-8-16. Fine still outstanding and also Registration Office 35 ½ R. D. Town Hall, Brighton, if can ??? non-receiving

27-12-17

The rest is too difficult to make out, because of the bad hand-writing.

Service Record 05

Army Form W3456 – Instruction to Reservist

This is a standard form advising the Soldier, who has been transferred to Class W, Army Reserve, that he must advise the Army of any change of address.

Name: Anthony Thomas Gammon Regtl No.: 2817 Rank: Pte Regiment: 8 Eastern Coy

INSTRUCTION TO RESERVIST

In the event of any change in your address you must at once write your new address on this card and post bit to the Officer in charge of Records

Date 14-3-1916

The address that Anthony/Thomas gives, on this form, is 104, High Street, Battersea, London, and SW11.

Service Record 06

Army Form B2513 – Enrolment Papers (Attestation Form)

In the case of conscientious objectors, “Enrolment Paper”, what were, previously known as “Attestation Forms”, were renamed by striking out, just, the word “Enrolment” and hand-writing the words “Record of Service”. Usually, in the case of soldiers who enrolled or attested, these records gave details such as age, trade, height, chest measurement, whether married, any children, and next of kin but in the case of Anthony/Thomas the only information given is his name, what he joined, and where and when he joined.

Anthony Thomas Gammon

Letter 01

On 28th August, 1916, the police asked, via a letter from their solicitors, Langham, Son, and Douglas, for the fine to be paid to them by the army. It was addressed to:-

*“Lieut-Col Whittle
Recruiting Officer, Hastings*

Sir,

re Anthony Thomas Gammon

In accordance with Army Command Instruction No. 968 of 1916, I beg to notify you of the conviction of the above named man on the 26th instant; further that he being a man belonging to the Army Reserve under the provisions of the Military Services Act 1916 did unlawfully commit an offence against Section 15 of the Reserve Forces Act 1882; that is to say that he did fail to appear when called out.

He was fined 40/-, which was ordered to be deducted from his pay and I accordingly have to request that you will notify the Paymaster of the Unit to which she is sent in order that the fine be remitted to me in due course.

*I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
A. Molesworth Edwards
Deputy Clerk to the Justices
Petty Sessional Division of Hastings”*

Letter 02

Letter from Infantry Records

This is a letter from the Military to Anthony/Thomas Gammon advising him that the dates for his transfer to Class W, Army Reserve will be changed to take into account his time awaiting trial by Court Martial.

It was sent on 19-3-1918 but, as the envelope shows, to the wrong address, 194 High Street, Battersea, instead of 104, and had to be redirected.

The letter reads, “War Office Letter 19/B/2789/MOB.5.B. dated 21-2-18, directed that certain men, N. C. Corps, be transferred to Class W., Army Reserve, from the last date they drew pay and allowances. As this would mean transferring them from dates during which they were awaiting trial by Court Martial, more suitable dates were fixed by the Officer i/c Records, Warwick

No. 2816 Rank Private Name A. T. Gammon was transferred from 11 -10-16

Correspondence filed under number seven district R/439.

Old Barracks, Warwick

(signed by) Lieut-Colonel ????
i/c Infantry Records No. 7 District

Anthony Thomas Gammon

Letter 03

This is a letter from the Langham, Son, and Douglas, solicitors, acting for the Courts, and asking the Military for payment of the fine imposed on Anthony Thomas Gammon for “failing to appear when called out” i.e. didn’t turn up to join the army, when told to.

Hastings 28th of August 1916

Sir,

re-Anthony Thomas Gammon

In accordance with army council instruction number 968 of 1916 I beg to notify you of the conviction of the above named man on the 26th instant for that he being a man belonging to the army reserve under the provisions of the military services act 1916 did unlawfully commit an offence against section 15 of the Reserve Forces Act 1882 that is to say that he did fail to appear when called out.

He was fined 40/- which was ordered to be deducted from his pay and I accordingly have to request that you will notify the Paymaster of the Unit to which he is sent in order that the fine may be remitted to me in due course.

I am, Sir,

*Your obedient servant, A. Molesworth Edwards
Deputy clerk to the Justices
Petty Sessional Division of
Hastings*

*[To] Lieutenant-Colonel Whittle,
Recruiting Officer, Hastings.*

Newspaper Report 01

This wasn’t the end of the story, for, in the “*Bexhill Chronicle*”, dated 9th September 1916, appears a report of his Court-Martial.

COURT-MARTIALLED BEXHILL “CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR” DISOBEDIENCE AT CHICHESTER

The case of Mr A. T. Gammon, of St Leonards Road, will be fresh in the recollection of our readers – a conscientious objector who first pleaded before the local tribunal at Bexhill, then before the East Sussex Appeal Tribunal at Hastings, and afterwards before the Bench at the Cantaloupe Road Police Station, when he was charged with failing to surrender for military service and was fined 10 shillings and handed over to the military authorities.

On Monday last, he appeared before a Court Martial, the charge against him being disobedience, he having refused to be medically examined at Chichester.

He was found guilty and it was announced at the end of the sitting of the court that the sentence would be promulgated in due course.