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Kent War Memorials Transcription Project

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WHITE G.J

Ministry of Pensions reference – 12970 E

Total War Service: 1 Year, 303 days

Private G/2322 George Joseph WHITE. 3rd Battalion (Dover), The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Formerly 6th Buffs (Cory's Own). Died 8 September 1917 at Maidstone? Born Swanscombe, Kent. Enlisted London (Volunteered) 9 September 1914. Husband of Mrs Emily Louisa White (nee Pullen), 13 College Road, Northfleet, Kent. Married 24 March 1913. Resided (1914) 134 Charlton Lane, Woolwich, London. His name appears on the Corys Roll of Honour Canterbury?

Before the outbreak of war George was working as a "Journeyman"?

Children

George Joseph WHITE 6 February 1914 (Woolwich)

Enlisted London (Volunteered) 9 September 1914. Posted 12 September 1914 to Canterbury (Buffs Depot) for basic training. Landed France (6th Buffs) 1 May 1915. Wounded in action (Gunshot wound Right Arm) 14 May 1915. Evacuated from the field (France) through the medical chain and recovered to UK 16 May 1915. Upon arriving home George was admitted into hospital at Dover for treatment of Gunshot Wound. After treatment George proceeded to the Citadel in Dover (3rd Buffs) where he became seriously mentally ill. His service papers clearly show his service character to have been – GOOD.

Admitted to hospital 14 March 1916 (Demented) – *He has become engulfed ? mentally. He is now dull, does not speak, he sits staring. Primary Dementia.* Became **Non-Effective** 7 July 1916 - *No longer fit for further war service* (not yet discharged from the army). Sent to Military Wing, Napsbury (County of Middlesex) War Hospital. Admitted as a serviceman suffering from a serious mental illness. Still in asylum March 1917 (being treated).

Letter from Napsbury to 3rd Buffs – 27 June 1916

Advising George's commanding officer that the service authorities intended to discharge George from the Military Wing of County of Middlesex War Hospital, St Albans, Hertfordshire to a civilian asylum and that clothes would be provided. The army appears to have finally lost its patience with poor George and **most shockingly** made arrangements to finally kick him out the army! (This is probably why he killed himself).

On 1st July 1916 George's wife received papers from the Army advising of her husbands intended final discharge.

DISCHARGED FROM ARMY: 7 July 1916

Sad letter from his wife to Army Pay Office

Personal letter from his wife to Army Pay Office advising that her husband "had lost his memory and cannot speak"! She goes on to request monies owed that were owed to her husband in his army pay.

Ministry of Pensions – George stated he had been wounded in France (GSW Right Arm) and that the experience had unsettled him badly. The Medical Officer wrote "Aggravated by his war service, Stress of Campaign and GSW Right Arm. permanent incapacity". Awarded a full war disability pension.

Letter to Wife 1 October 1917

On 1st October 1917 (after George's suicide) his wife was sent a letter from the Ministry of Pensions advising her that she was being awarded a full widows war pension of 18/9 per week for herself and 1 child.

Letter to Wife From Army 12 July 1918 (after George's death)

The Infantry Records Office at Hounslow wrote – "Primary Dementia was Probably **Aggravated by war service!** They awarded George's wife a full war pension based upon the fact.

On 19th February 1918 the Army (Infantry Record Office) at Hounslow sent his wife Army Form B.104 – 126 forwarding onwards George's personal effects. The form states "**of the LATE**" 2322 Private White etc... This proves he was still a serving soldier at the time he killed himself! There is also another note from the Ministry of Pensions dated 14 July 1917 advising of George's death.

On 20 July 1920 George's wife Mrs Emily White was sent a Kings Certificate which was awarded to all families who lost a man during the Great War. This in itself proves that poor George's suicide was attributable to his war service. The service authorities and Ministry of Pensions certainly thought this was the case.

Deaths September Quarter 1917

White George J, Age 30, Maidstone, 2a 889