

# **Compton Chamberlayne Men That Served Their Country & Returned Home**



**World War I**

**George William PENRUDDOCKE**



## George William PENRUDDOCKE

George William Penruddocke & his twin sister Sybil Frances Penruddocke were born on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1894 at Bratton, Wincanton, Somerset, to parents Charles and Annie Elizabeth Dickinson Carew Bamford Penruddocke (nee Speke). George & Sybil were the third & fourth born of six children in the family. George was the second of three sons born.

The 1901 Census recorded Charles Penruddocke, aged 42, living on own means & Annie Penruddocke, aged 33 at Compton Park, Compton Chamberlayne. Their children were – Flora, aged 10, Charles, aged 8, George W., aged 6, Letitia, aged 5 & Thomas, aged 3. Also recorded were in the household were a Governess, Butler, Cook, Upper housemaid, Under housemaid & Kitchen maid. (Sybil Penruddocke – twin to George was not listed).

[Mrs Annie E. Penruddocke, of Compton Chamberlayne, Wiltshire, was fined £50 yesterday at the Old Bailey for having ill-treated and caused unnecessary suffering to her daughter, Letitia Constance, aged 6 years. The jury severely censured Mr Penruddocke, the husband, who is a magistrate.]

George William Penruddocke enlisted with the Wiltshire Regiment.

From The London Gazette 11 September, 1914:

*Infantry – The undermentioned Cadets and ex-Cadets of the Officers Training Corps, to be Second Lieutenants (on probation). Dated 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1914*

*George William Penruddocke, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Wilts Regiment.*

From his Medal Index Card, Lieutenant George William Penruddocke entered a Theatre of War on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1914 – France.

1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment – War Diaries 1916-05-03

Location – France, La Targette

Entry: *In the trenches. The enemy was very quiet but at 8p.m. sprung two mines, one to the right of Common CT, the other to the North of Birkin CT. The former did no damage to the trenches, the latter blew up a bombing post of the left company and three men were missing. The near lips of both craters were consolidated and rifle fire from the Common Crater accounted for several of the enemy. They retaliated with bombs and later with rifle grenades, only. Neither side opened artillery fire. The casualties were as follows:- Killed CSM Cool, B coy and Pte Bridswell of the regimental bomber missing believed killed. L/Cpl McIntyre, Ptes Singlehurst and Tucker D Coy wounded. Sgt Kent, Cpl Allen, Cpl Hiscock, L/Cpl Bourton, Ptes Baggs W, Collett N, Hurn A and North W J. The*

*flanking Lewis rifles were commanded by 2nd Lieuts Taylor and Petter, while the consolidating of the Birkin crater was under the direction of Capt Austin and 2nd Lieut Sainsbury that of the Common Crater under Lieuts Knubley, Brown, G E Penruddocke and 2nd Lieuts Snelgar and Cordon the bombing officer.*

1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment – War Diaries 1916-07-06

Location – France , Leipzig Salient

*Entry: (morning) On the extreme right of the captured trench communication was now opened via an old CT with a Company who were holding the line behind. C & D Coys were relieved about 5a.m. and went back to Tobermory Street reaching there at 7.30a.m. Two Coys of the 3rd Worcestershire Regt took their place in the captured trench and carried on the work of consolidation. In this attack the casualties were roughly as follows:- Killed Colonel W S Brown and Capt A H Hales Missing 2nd Lieut Starkey Wounded Lieut Holman, 2nd Lieut Stockbridge, 2nd Lieut J R Tayler Lieut Penruddocke and 2nd Lieut Troughton. Throughout the day the enemy carried on with intermittent bombing, trench mortars and rifle grenades. Shelling was continuous the whole day, but was not of the same intensive nature as during the attack. In the evening C & D Coys were again brought up into the Leipzig Salient, C Coy taking over from the line they had capture on the night of 5th July. A Coy were placed in the Quarries to relieve the other Coy of 3rd Worcs Regt., D Coy taking the place of A Coy in support. The 2nd Coy of the 3rd Worcs Regt relieved and returned to reserve in the 2nd line of old British trenches.*

From the *Western Times* 19 July, 1916:

*Roll of Honour*

*West-Country Casualties in the latest Lists*

*Lieut. George William Penruddocke, Wiltshire Regt., wounded, is the second son of Mr Charles Penruddocke of Compton Park, Fyfield and Baverstock, Wilts, and Bratton St. Maur, Somerset.*

Lieutenant George William Penruddocke of the Wiltshire Regiment was awarded the Military Cross in 1916. The Military Cross (MC) was awarded to officers of the British Armed Forces in recognition of “an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy”.

From The London Gazette 25 August, 1916:

*His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to confer the Military Cross on the undermentioned Officers and Warrant Officers in recognition of their gallantry and devotion to duty in the field:-*

*Lt. George William Penruddocke, Wilts. R.*

*For conspicuous gallantry in action. He led an attack on a hostile trench with great dash, and single-handed killed six of the enemy. He has always set a fine example.*

From the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* 30 August, 1916:

*Lieutenant George William Penruddocke, Wilts Regiment, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in action. He led an attack on a hostile trench with great dash, and single-handed, killed six of the enemy. He has – says the official report- always set a fine example.*

*Lieut. Penruddocke, who left Clifton College in 1904, is the second son of Mr Charles Penruddocke, of Compton Park, Salisbury, who is himself an old Cliftonian. He is also a great-grandson of the late Mr George Speke, of Honeylands, Exeter, and a grandson of the late Rev. William Speke, of Sheldon Court, Honiton. Lieut. Penruddocke was wounded in the early part of the great offensive in July, as was his brother, Second-Lieut. T. Penruddocke, Wilts Regiment.*



**Military Cross**

From The London Gazette 23 February, 1917:

*Special Reserve of Officers*

*Reserve Units*

*Wilts. R. Lt. G. W. Penruddocke, M.C., is secd. For duty with Machine Gun Corps, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 1917.*

George William Penruddocke's younger brother – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Thomas Penruddocke (born 2 September, 1897) of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment was killed in action in the Battle of Lake Doiran, Salonika on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1917, aged 19 years.

From The London Gazette 14 December, 1917:

*Wilts. R. - The undermentioned Lts. to be Capts. 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 1917, but not to carry pay or allowances of that rank prior to 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1917, unless holding temp. or actg. Higher rank with pay and allowances:-*

*G. W. Penruddocke, M.C., and to remain secd.*

George William Penruddocke's older brother – Lieutenant Charles Penruddocke (born 16 January, 1893) of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment was killed in action at Gouy near Le Catelet in France on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1918, aged 25 years.

From The London Gazette 4 January, 1918:

*Wilts. R. –Capt. G. W. Penruddocke, M.C., is placed on the ret. List on account of ill-health caused by wounds. 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1918.*



**Lieut. George W. Penruddocke (left)**

*(Photo courtesy of The Trustees of the Rifles Wardrobe and Museum Trust)*

Captain George William Penruddocke of the Wiltshire Regiment was entitled to the Silver War badge (Badge no. 290690). The Silver War badge was issued to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness during World War 1. The sterling silver lapel badge was intended to be worn on civilian clothes & was forbidden to be worn on a military uniform.



**Silver War Badge**

Captain George William Penruddocke of the Wiltshire Regiment was entitled to 1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. From information on Capt. Penruddocke's Medal Index card - he applied for "1914 Star" on 7<sup>th</sup>

January, 1918. He again made an application on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1919 for the “1914-15 Star”. Capt. Penruddocke was apparently ineligible for the 1914 Star as the requirement was for officers and men who served in France or Belgium between 5 August and midnight 22/23 November, 1914. The former date is the day after Britain’s declaration of war against the Central Powers & the closing date marked the end of the First Battle of Ypres. The 1914-15 Star was also issued but no person could receive both awards. The Medal Index card shows that Capt. Penruddocke had disembarked on 22 November, 1914 but only entered a Theatre of War on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1914. He had served with 1st & 3rd Battalions of Wiltshire Regiment.



**1914-15 Star, British War medal & Victory Medal**

George William Penruddocke sold Compton Park, Compton Chamberlayne in 1930 to George Cross. The University of Nottingham has 2 items in its archives relating to the Penruddocke family. One of the items – Reference number La H 48 (Manuscripts and Special Collections) is a picture postcard of Compton Park, from an unsigned writer from Cottrells, Dinton, Salisbury. The postcard describes Compton Park as “my old house where I was brought up” which has now been sold as “my nephew could not afford to keep it up his Trustees said” This was almost certainly written by Constance Penruddocke who lived at Cottrells, Dinton.

In 1932 Cruft’s Dog Show was held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February. George William Penruddocke was listed as showing English Springer Spaniels – “Lancer of Baytun”.

The 1935 Kelly’s Directory for Canford Magna, Dorset lists Capt. George William Penruddocke, M.C. residing at Arrowsmith. (From *The London Gazette* 15 March, 1960 – details of the death of George William Penruddocke’s sister – *Penruddocke, Flora Mary Elizabeth – Arrowsmith House, Arrowsmith Lane, Canford Magna, Dorset, Spinster. 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1960*) It can be assumed that the Penruddockes moved to Arrowsmith House in 1930.

In February, 1938 Mr G. W. Penruddocke of Arrowsmith, Canford, Wimborne, was listed in the Cruft's Dog Show programme for 2 spaniels – "Dawn of Baytun" & "Day of Baytun".

In February, 1939 Mr G. W. Penruddocke of Arrowsmith, Canford, Wimborne, was listed in the Cruft's Dog Show programme for 2 spaniels – "Jill of Baytun" & "Gypsy of Baytun".

George William Penruddocke was found dead on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1946, aged 52.

Information from the death certificate for George William Penruddocke :

Date of death – 20 October, 1946 at Arrowsmith, Canford Magna, aged 52 years, Occupation – of Independent means. Cause of death – "A Gunshot wound self inflicted through the mouth to the head while balance of mind temporarily disturbed." Inquest held 22nd October, 1946. Death registered 23rd October, 1946.

Coroners Inquest – newspaper report:

**CANFORD MAGNA:** *An inquest was held on Tuesday last week by the Poole Coroner (Mr J. W. Miller) to investigate the death of George William Penruddocke (52), of independent means, who was found shot outside his house, "Arrowsmith" Canford Magna on Sunday. Flora Elizabeth Mary Penruddocke said her brother had been in ill-health for some time and a bad sleeper, but refused to see a doctor. About 12.12 on Sunday Miss Penruddocke returned from church with her mother and saw her brother lying outside the house. At first she thought he had injured his head, but on seeing the gun realised what had happened. The coroner returned a verdict that deceased took his own life while the balance of his mind was temporarily disturbed owing to his physical condition and lack of sleep. (Poole and Dorset Herald – 31 October, 1946)*

George William Penruddocke was cremated on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1946 at Bournemouth Crematorium, Bournemouth, Hampshire, England. His remains were taken away (according to details supplied by Bournemouth Borough Council). According to "Select Dorset Parish Registers" at *Ancestry* a burial for George William Penruddocke occurred on 24 October, 1946 at Broadstone, Dorset.

From *The Times* – Thursday 24 October, 1946 –

*PENRUDDOCKE – On Oct. 20, 1946, George William, dearly loved second and last surviving son of the late Charles Penruddocke, Compton Park, Wilts. Service, Bournemouth Crematorium to-day (Thursday), private.*

From *The Times* – Saturday 9 November, 1946 –

*Mrs and Miss Penruddocke thank their friends for their many kind expressions of sympathy in their sad bereavement.*

A death for George W. Penruddocke, aged 52, was registered in December quarter, 1946 in the district of Poole, Dorset.

Probate was granted for George William Penruddocke on 28 January, 1947 at London to his mother –  
*Penruddocke, George William of Arrowsmith, Canford, Wimborne, Dorsetshire, died 20 October 1946.*  
*Administration London 28 January to Annie Elizabeth Dickinson Widow. Effects £6,110 8s. 11d.*

George William Penruddocke is remembered on the family Penruddocke Plaque located in St. Michael's Church, Compton Chamberlayne.



Penruddocke Memorial Tablet (Photo by Neil MacDougall)