

# Compton Chamberlayne Men That Served Their Country & Returned Home



## World War I

### Thomas MOREY

Thomas Morey was born in Compton Chamberlayne, around November, 1864, to parents John & Sarah Morey.

The 1871 Census shows Thomas Morey as a 7 year old, living with his family, at Compton Street, Compton Chamberlayne, Wiltshire. His parents – John Morey (aged 38, agricultural labourer) & Sarah (aged 36) had 6 children at this time – Jesse (aged 14), George (aged 12), Edward (aged 10), Thomas (aged 7), William (aged 3) & Charles (aged 1 yr).

The 1881 Census records Thomas Morey as a 17 year old, agricultural labourer, living in the parish of Fovant, Wiltshire with his family. Thomas's father – John B Morey is recorded as being a 49 year old Engine driver (born Dorset) & Thomas' mother – Sarah is recorded as being aged 46 (born Dorset). Also included in the house were siblings – George (aged 22, born Dorset), Thomas (aged 17), William H (aged 14, born Dorset), Charles (aged 12, born Ireland), Elizabeth (aged 8, born Compton Chamberlayne), John (aged 5, born Norton-Bavant, Wiltshire) & Walter (aged 3, born Compton Chamberlayne).

Thomas Morey enlisted on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1883 with the Royal Artillery (Military Transfer), with a Service number of 37153. He enlisted at Devizes at the age of 19 years & 4 months. Thomas listed his occupation as Labourer & had previously served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of Wiltshire Regiment.

His agreement was for Service for 12 years & Thomas Morey signed his Attestation Papers with an X (highly likely that he was unable to read & write).

Thomas Morey's Statement of Services form shows that he was ranked as a Driver from 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1883 to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1883 at Royal Artillery Depot, Southern Division. He was transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Royal Artillery from 1<sup>st</sup> May 1883 until 30 November, 1883 & continued as a Driver until 7<sup>th</sup> March 1886.

Thomas Morey's Military History sheet shows he served at home from 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1883 until 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1883. He was in Egypt from 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1883 to 11 September, 1885.

Thomas Morey was promoted to the rank of Gunner on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1886 until 30 June, 1889. He was discharged 21<sup>st</sup> March 1895 – 1<sup>st</sup> Class Army Reserve.

Thomas again served at home from 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1885 until 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1895, a period of 9 years.

Thomas Morey received the Egyptian Medal & Clasp for his involvement in the Suakin in 1885.

Thomas Morey married Elizabeth Udall on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 1889 at Wesley Chapel, Warwick & their marriage was registered in the June quarter of 1889 in the district of Coventry, Warwickshire.

The 1891 Census records Thomas Morey as a 28 year old Cab Driver, living with his wife Elizabeth, aged 24 & 1 year old daughter Elizabeth S. The family of 3 are recorded as living at New Buildings, Lot 1 Coventry, Warwickshire.

The 1901 Census records Thomas Morey as a 36 year old Steam engine driver, living with his wife Elizabeth, aged 36 & their 5 children – Elizabeth (aged 11), William (aged 9), Kate (aged 5), Harriet (aged 3) & Thomas (aged 1). The family were recorded at Gosford St, Coventry, Warwickshire & all the children had been born at Coventry.

The 1911 Census records Thomas Morey as a 48 year old Scavenger/Labourer, living with his wife Elizabeth, aged 46 & their 6 children – Kate (aged 16), May (aged 14), Tommy (aged 11), Liddia (aged 9), Walter (aged 7) & Horace (aged 5). The census records that Thomas & Elizabeth had 9 children in total, with only 6 still living. The family was recorded at 7H 8C Cox St, Coventry, Warwickshire.

Thomas Morey enlisted in the Army on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1915 at Coventry, aged 46. He was assigned to the Royal Engineers – Railway Troops Labour Section with a service number of 135818 & rank of sapper.

Thomas Morey was discharged from the Army on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 as medically unfit for a previous fracture of his right leg/ankle.

A death was registered for a Thomas Morey, aged 68 in the December quarter of 1930, in the district of Coventry, Warwickshire.