

WAsc ^{Z101}
~~XXXXXX~~

Family
History

32 London Road, Buntingford
Hertfordshire SG9 9JW
Telephone: (01763) 271 398

WASC 2101

19th February 2009

Mr Richard Thomas
Royal Gunpowder Mills
Beaulieu Drive
WALTHAM ABBEY
Essex EN9 1JY;

20 FEB 2009

20 FEB 2009

Dear Richard

Many thanks for the photograph of my great uncle Peter Tracey from the Royal Gunpowder Mills archives. It is him!

I started taking an interest in family history about 15 years ago just after my children were married and about to start a new generation. I knew very little at the time. This was mainly due to premature deaths and family movements during the great depression in the 1920s. There are still a number of basic pieces of information that I will probably never resolve.

But by sheer coincidence I have come up with some strange items of information and documents. My paternal grandfather was a Scotsman and soldier killed in the Boer War. Since looking into his life I have seen his war medals in the RAMC Museum together with his name on the war memorial at Aldershot, obtained a copy of his war diary from the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine in London and a copy of a description of the battle in which he lost his life in books published at the time plus a number of other items.

Other recent 'finds' by correspondence and use of various websites is my father's war movements when he was a RA anti-aircraft gunner on various merchant ships and former luxury liners used as troopships between America and the Japanese war. He survived being torpedoed off Durban, South Africa. I have now found it was by German U-boat 178 and details of the crew and the other 12 ships they sank.

You revealing another piece of family history with Peter Tracey's photograph is quite strange. His wife was my grandmother's younger sister working as a nurse in the Female Hospital in Woolwich Garrison. She had taken over from my grandmother when she married and moved to Colchester Garrison. The matron was their aunt. I could find her but not him in the 1901 Census. I assumed he was a soldier or worked in the Royal Arsenal. My aunt and Peter Tracey [a plumber age 27] were married in Woolwich in 1902 and then moved to the Waltham Cross and Waltham Abbey area when he started working at the Royal Gunpowder Mills. We used to visit them a lot between 1940 and early 1950s when they moved away to the Billericay area. I have tried to find out without success where he was born as he had a strong accent which I always thought was Scots, but in looking into it further could have been Liverpool Irish.

Thank you for the photograph and please accept the enclosed cheque as a donation to the Royal Gunpowder Mills funds.

Yours sincerely



Colin F Gibbons



www.hsbc.co.uk

40-24-21

45 HIGH STREET
HODDESDON HERTS EN11 8TA
TEL 08457 404 404

DATE 19th February 2009 103361 00375195

www.communis.com 9508 03/05

PAY Walter Abbey Royal Commission M. H. G. Ltd

Ten Pounds only

£ 10

A/C PAYEE

To HSBC Bank plc

211108

Cheque No.

Sort Code

Account No.

MR C F GIBBONS &
MRS M M GIBBONS

⑈ 103361 ⑈ 40 24 21 ⑈ 00375195 ⑈