



James William Peary

Rank: Gunner

Service No.: 929657

Regiment: Royal Artillery

Residence: Bereforstal Farm, Elham

Before Service:

James was born on 11/3/1919 in Barnsley, Yorkshire. His father was Mr J.T. Peary who on the 14/12/1939 was shown as living at 15, Belmont Ave, Darfield Rd, Cudworth, Yorkshire.

James was a Haulage Hand when he enlisted.

During Service:

His Pay Book shows he enlisted at Barnsley on 22/10/1939, this is then amended to Larkhill on 15/11/1939. He trained with the 21st Medium & Heavy Training Regiment at Larkhill. On the 4/4/1940 James completed the "4 months Recruit Syllabus: 60 Pdr 6" Gun Drill". He was posted to the 3rd Super Heavy Weight Battery. This resulted in him being sent to Elham, attached to the railway mounted Howitzer guns. Here he met and married Margaret Ada "Peggy" Ellender 10/6/1942 and was given leave from 9/6/1942 to 16/6/1942. He was again given leave from 14/9/1942 to 23/9/1942.

James became unwell in November 1942 and was "Taken Off Strength" on the 28/11/1942, being registered as "Permanently Unfit For Any Form Of Military Service Para 390(XVI) 40".

His military conduct is recorded as "Exemplary".

Total Service: 3 years 14 Days.

James sadly died of TB on the 2/1/1943 aged 23, his Death Certificate records him as living at Bereforstal Farm, Elham.

James is buried in Elham Cemetery 16/1/1943.

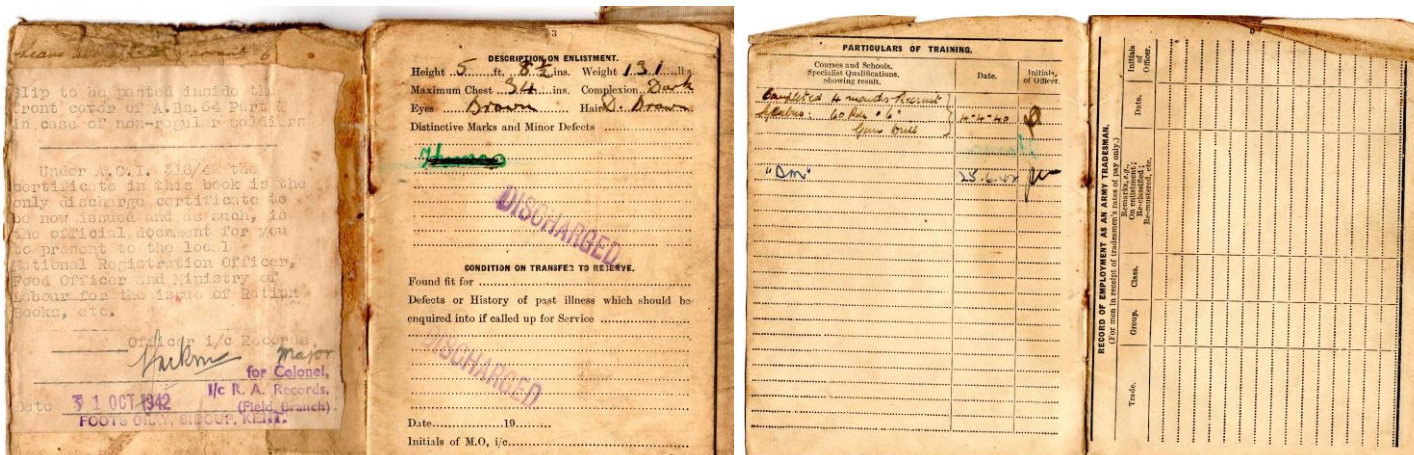
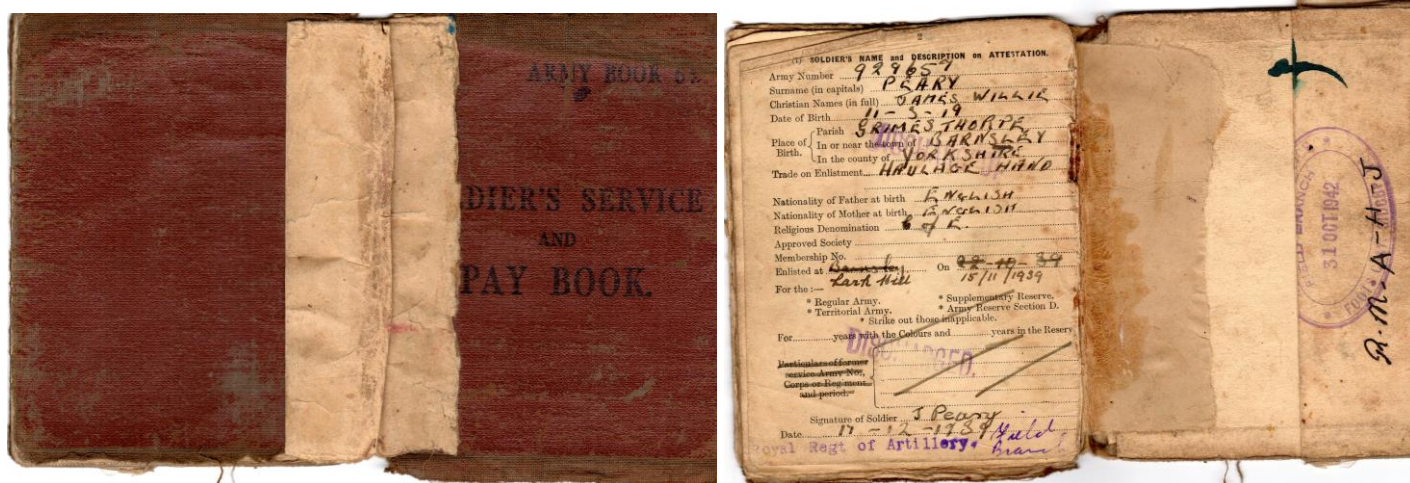
Photographs from James W. Peary Collection



The first two men appear to be Corporals, James' rank was "Gunner" could this be him far right?



A railway mounted Howitzer – Could this be Elham?



This image from Google Earth, dated 1940, shows where the Nissen Huts were positioned on what is now Hog Green.



This image from the internet shows a similar group of Howitzer guns

