

World Wars 1 & 2

- **Atherton letters**

By courtesy of Gillian Blackmore

- **Dockerill demob papers**

By courtesy of Peggy Notley

- **'Horseheath decoy airfield'**

Extract 'Decoy Sites - Wartime Deception in Norfolk and Suffolk'

by Huby Fairhead, 1996

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When replying please quote reference C/28743.

R.A.S.C. Record Office,
Ore Place,
HASTINGS.

24 August, 1943.

Dear Sir,

In confirmation of the letter which you have recently received from the War Office, I very much regret to inform you that your son, T/10697778 Dvr Atherton, E.L. who was previously reported to you as Missing at sea, is now recorded as having been "Presumed killed in action at sea, on 7th January 1943."

Official notification to this effect is enclosed herewith, and if there is anything I can do to assist you in any way, will you kindly let me know.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Capt.,

for Colonel i/c R.A.S.C. Records.

To: Sgt G.C. Atherton, R.A.F.
1 Signals Depot, (RAF),
West Drayton, Middlesex. ✓

GC.

Encl.



ROYAL MARINE BARRACKS,
CHATHAM, KENT.

2nd. November, 1944.

In reply please quote :-

Ref. No. S. 1633/44.C..

Dear Sir,

It is with regret that I have to inform you that your son, Ch.X. 113427 Marine Charles Atherton was wounded while on War Service on the 9th. October, 1944. He sustained Multiple Shrapnel wounds.

A further report on your son's condition and whereabouts will be forwarded to you in due course.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Colonel
Commanding Chatham Division, R.M.

G. Atherton, 32061,
R.A.F. Station,
West Drayton,
Middlesex..

27923

Army Form Z. 21.

CERTIFICATE of*

Discharge
Transfer to Reserve
Disembodiment
Demobilization

on Demobilization.

Regtl. No. 241056 Rank Private
 Names in full Dockerill, Thomas
 Unit and Regiment or Corps Suffolk Regt
 from which 23rd May 1915
 *Discharged 23rd May 1915
 Transferred to Reserve
 Enlisted on the Suffolk Regt
 For (Here state Regiment or Corps to which first appointed)
 Also served in 1915
 Only Regiments or Corps in which the Soldier served since August 4th, 1914, are to be stated.
 If inapplicable, this space is to be ruled through in ink and initialled.
 †Medals and Decorations awarded during present engagement None yet issued
 *Has not served Overseas on Active Service.
 Place of Rejoining in case of emergency Thetford Medical Category R
 Specialist Military qualifications Nil Year of birth 1895
 He is * Discharged Transferred to Army Reserve Disembodied Demobilized on 23rd May 1915
 in consequence of Demobilization.
S. S. Sharpe Signature and Rank.
 Officer i/c. OFFICER i/c INFANTRY RECORDS NO. 1 (Place).
 *Strike out whichever is inapplicable. †The word "Nil" to be inserted when necessary.
 (20996). Wt. W 8211-PP. 2329. 8,000m. 1/15 D & S. (E 1256).

WARNING—If this Certificate is lost a duplicate cannot be issued. You should therefore on no account part with it or forward it by post when applying for a situation.



About 1915 – Tom Dockerill. He married Maggie Atherton in 1928 and worked at Park Farm.

No 241056 Rank Private Name Dockerill T. Unit 1/5th. Suffolk Regt. T.F.

Before your departure from the Egyptian Expeditionary Force and your re-entry into civil life, I wish to thank you for the valuable services you have rendered to the Army and the Nation.

Place:— CAIRO, EGYPT.

Date:— 14-3-19.

A. S. Mearns Brigadier-General.
 Commanding 163rd Infantry Brigade,
 54th Division.

CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYMENT DURING THE WAR.

(To be completed for, and handed to, each soldier).

A soldier is advised to send a copy rather than the original when corresponding with a prospective employer.

It is particularly important that an apprentice whose apprenticeship has been interrupted by Military Service should have recorded on this form any employment in a trade similar to his own on which he has been engaged during such Military Service.

Regt. No. 241056 Rank PTESurname DOCKERILL
(block letters)Christian Names in full THOMAS.Regt. 1/5TH BN SUFFOLK Unit REGT.**1. Regimental Employment.**

Nature of.

Period.

(a) Rifleman From May 1915 To Dec 1916(b) Lewis Gunner Dec 1916 " Jan 1917

(c) " " "

(d) " " "

2. Trade or calling before Enlistment (as shown in A. B. 64).Group I Agri Labourer. Code 213.**3. Courses of Instruction and Courses in Active Service Army Schools, and certificates, if any.**

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

4. Military qualifications as shown in A. B. 64.**5. Special Remarks as to qualifications, work done, or skill acquired during service with the Colours. This is required as a help in finding civil employment.***Is sober, intelligent & hard working and has displayed mechanical aptitude as a Lewis Gunner**He has borne an excellent character throughout*
*H. B. Wolton Capt 1/5th Suffolk Regt*Soldier's Signature
(For identification purposes)Signed Dockerill T. (Rank)T. DockerillCommanding 1/5th Bn. The Suffolk Regt
Commanding _____ (Unit)**NOTES.**—The object of this certificate is to assist the soldier in obtaining employment on his return to civil life. The form will be completed as soon as possible in accordance with Demobilization Regulations.

As soon as signed and completed it will be given to the soldier concerned and will remain his property. He should receive it as early as is compatible with making the necessary references in order that he can either send it home or keep it in his possession.

One form will be issued to each man, and no duplicate can ever be issued.

DECOY SITES / Wartime Deception in Norfolk and Suffolk

Horseheath decoy airfield on the Suffolk / Cambridge border recalled by Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. KQ.39

"Horseheath, near Linton, Cambridgeshire was a "KQ" decoy site for RAF Duxford that laid approximately eight miles to the west. Two hundred acres of land, between Heath Farm and the Roman Road, were taken in April 1940 and laid down with grass and white Clover.

The dummy Hawker Hurricane aircraft, built to AM Specification 23/38, were built by Green Brothers, at Hailsham in Surrey, at £50 a copy. The Hurricanes were deployed around the site for daytime use (K site), especially close to Borley Wood and their position frequently changed by the fifteen, or so, airmen that manned the site. To start with, the men lived in tents and, later, in prefabricated buildings.

A dummy flarepath (Q site) was set up for night use; an underground bunker for the crew and generator was constructed. One night a Blenheim landed by mistake.

A German bomber dropped hundreds of SD2 ant-personnel mines, "Butterfly Bombs", on the site from 12,000 feet at 22.55 hrs. on 31st August 1941. The local Home Guard had the job of searching the corn fields all around for them; one farm worker was killed by picking one up. Incendiaries and a stick of heavy explosive bombs were also dropped on the decoy site".

