

FORGET ME NOT

HANS SUSSMANN AND JO BERNERT JOHN SIMON'S GRANDFATHERS



This is my paternal grandfather who volunteered and served for four years in the German cavalry mainly on the Russian front.

The first photo shows my grandfather mounted in his uniform. This picture was taken in October 1915. He had a miserable war. A horse was either shot from under him or fell on him, which resulted in multiple fractures of the leg. It was badly set and left him with a limp. He also contracted typhus due to appallingly unhygienic conditions. The second picture shows him (bottom left) on a hospital train and the third in hospital (third from the right). He returned from the war and took up the reins again of managing the family firm. He died in 1925 when my father was 4 years old. My father had no memory of him.



Hans Sussmann



I have been able to locate 3 relevant photographs of my maternal grandfather in uniform. He also served in the German cavalry.

The first is him standing holding his horse at what may be the (Western) Front. It is dated February 1916. The second also dated 1916 shows him on the far left with others at the Front. The third shows him seated in the centre and is dated 1915.

I do not know anything about this grandfather's war. He certainly did not talk of it save that he was a keen horseman. This is something he has passed on to our daughter. He came to this country with my grandmother and mother in 1933. He served in the Home Guard during the Second World War – see picture of Corporal Jones!



Jo Bernert

EMILY VIPAS KAREN ARDRON'S GRANDMOTHER

This is the story of Emily Vipas. Emily was born in 1896 in York, Yorkshire to Walter and Annie Vipas. Emily was the second youngest, one of seven she had four brothers and two sisters. Her father was an Inn Keeper and her mother a home maker. They all lived in Castle Howard at the Ox public house, Townend Street, York, Yorkshire.



In 1915 during the outbreak of the First World War Emily volunteered to care for the sick and wounded. Then after the war she went on to train as a nurse at The London Hospital, training dates 23rd October 1919 to 16th February 1924, she was part of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing service. At the end of training she was called a Staff Nurse.

In 1929 she married Albert Pearce who was the son of Frederick and Alice Pearce from Bishopstone Common Brinsop the District of Weobley, Hereford. Albert had been in the Royal Fusiliers 3rd London Battalion, his father had been a soldier, a sergeant in the South Wales Borders. In the later years of Albert's army career they were stationed in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) at the Imperial army camp in Diyatalawa in the hills near Colombo. They went on to have four children, Reginald, Jane and twins Nigel and Rose Marie, the latter being my mother, who was born in Ceylon. Their stay in Sri Lanka came to an abrupt end when Emily developed a terminal illness. They went back to Britain to stay with family, sadly Emily died in 1937 in Lancashire.

My mother Rose Marie, Emily's daughter, became a children's nurse, training at Myrtle Street Liverpool and the Northern Hospital Liverpool. I became a Staff Nurse in 1980, training at the Liverpool Infirmary which later became The Liverpool Royal. A history of nursing has continued my daughter became a nurse doing a Nursing degree at Coventry.

