



Archibald Woodward

14 Wheeldon Avenue

Archibald Frank Woodward was born on 5 April 1898. He lived in Wheeldon Avenue from about 1906 with his parents, two brothers and two sisters. His father was a writing clerk for the County Court.

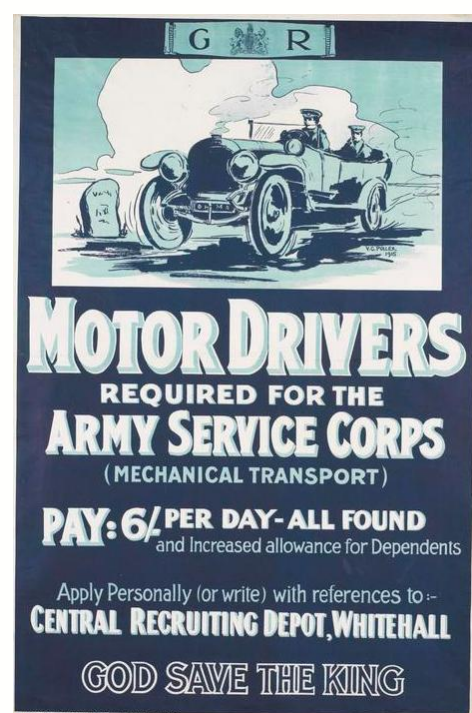
In May 1916, aged 18 years, Archibald enlisted for military service, when his occupation was listed as “Artist’s Designer”. Conscription for single men aged between 18 and 41 had started two months earlier.

Initially he was assigned to the Army Reserve, but early in 1917 he was mobilised to the Army Service Corps – Mechanical Transport. His medical record states he wore glasses for Myopia Astigmatism, had “deafness in left ear”, and was of “poor physique” which probably explains why he was not assigned to a front line regiment.

The ASC transported the food, equipment and ammunition for the front line troops. Most of these supplies came direct from Britain. Using horse and motorised transport, railways and waterways the ASC was essential in making the army run efficiently. At the peak of the war the Corps numbered 315,334 men, led by 10,547 officers. In addition there were tens of thousands of Indian, Chinese and other men from British colonies serving as labourers, carriers and stores men with the ASC.

From October 1917 to November 1918 Archibald was moved around to different military bases in England, including Grove

Park, a large railway marshalling yard in London, which the army took over for the duration of the war.



Recruiting poster for the ASC (MT). ©IWM (Art.IWM PST 13484)

In October 1918 he passed his test as a lorry driver. On 4 November 1918, seven days before the end of the war, he was posted to France, where he continued to serve until he fell ill with influenza in February 1919. From his military record we know that he was sent to Casualty Clearing Station 32 which was based at Valenciennes in Northern France between December 1918 and February 1919. He was invalided home on 4 February 1919, and discharged from active service in May 1919.

In 1924 he married Muriel Hughes and they had a son, Bryan, born in 1925. Archibald continued to live in Derby, until his death in 1969 aged 71.