

ARTHUR JERRARD'S SERVICE IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR, 1915-16



GERALD JERRARD

months, and was in the horse artillery in France at the age of 16 1/2. He was in charge of two horses called Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum.



Arthur Jerrard with Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum. Tidworth Barracks early 1916

The gun crew consisted of five soldiers and four horses. During the shelling, four of his comrades were killed. He survived by lying between his two horses, which were also killed. He owed his life to those horses. He was awarded the Military Medal for Gallantry for bringing the two remaining horses and gun carriage back to his own line, although he said he didn't know whether he was running to his own side or towards the German line, such was the confusion - he was just lucky. At the age of 17 years he was home, having been gassed, and also having lost his trigger finger after it was trapped in some tack. He brought with him two hooves from Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum as souvenirs, which were in the stable at Crossways Farm for many years, but have long since been lost

He lived in Damerham at Mill End and Crossways Farm until 1977. Then in Croydon with his daughter Phyllis and son-in-law Jack Richards until 1992 when he died aged 93.



Arthur and Emily Jerrard and son Arthur (Arch) 1917

My father Arthur Jerrard was born in 1899, and was one of a family of 13 children - 6 sisters and 7 brothers. Six of the brothers served in France during the First World War. My father joined the Army at the age of 16 years and 3