



**Joseph Dummer** was born in the early Autumn of 1875 and christened in All Hallows' Church on 26th September of that year. At the age of fifteen years, like his three brothers he became an agricultural labourer. Farming however was not the life for Joseph and soon after his seventeenth birthday he volunteered for the 3rd Battalion Royal Sussex Militia at Chichester Barracks, with the aim to become a regular soldier. Accordingly on April 5th 1893 he enlisted in the 12th Royal Lancers. It is not clear whether he joined as a 'Shoeing Smith' (farrier) or became one following training within the Regiment, but several documents refer to him as Shoeing Smith J Dummer 3666. (*Napoleon once said "an army moves on its stomach, but the cavalry moves on its hooves"*.)

**Following the outbreak** of the Boer War in South Africa the 12th Lancers sailed from Victoria Docks in two ships on October 23rd 1899, arriving at the Cape around November 16th.

LONDON TIMES October 23rd 1899: 'Among the troops embarked in the City Of Vienna were the 12th Lancers, consisting of 15 officers, one warrant officer and 310 men, 295 horses, 1 gun and 3 vehicles. The troops for the Mohawk comprised 11 officers, 248 men, and 206 horses of the 12th Lancers.'

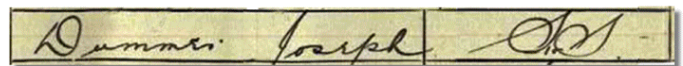


The original Attestation (enlistment) Certificate for the XII Royal Lancers signed by Joseph Dummer on the 5th April 1893

**During the 1900 campaign** Joseph took part in the Relief of Kimberley and the battles of Paardeberg, Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and Wittebergen. His Queen's South Africa medal has clasps denoting his service in these battles. At the end of the war in 1902 the Lancers were posted to India for a period of nine years, returning to Potschefstroom, South Africa, in 1911. We know that Joseph returned to South Africa with his Regiment because he is listed in the 1911 census 'Overseas Military' for Potschefstroom. In 1913 the 12th Royal Lancers returned to England and after 21 years with this Regiment, SS Joseph Dummer was discharged in April 1914, shortly before the outbreak of WW1.

SS = Shoeing Smith

**He lived close** to Leicester for a short while, but on June 15th 1915 he enlisted with the 176th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and on July 11th he was promoted to Corporal Dummer 32216. The Brigade arrived in Le Havre on January 9th 1916 when the Brigade was re-organised into the 8th London Brigade RFA, in the 47th Division. The Division was held in reserve undertaking training in the St Omer area but by March 1916 they had moved to Vimy.



NAME	REGIMENT	COMPANY	POST	DATE	REMARKS
1. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
2. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
3. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
4. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
5. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
6. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
7. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
8. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
9. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
10. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
11. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
12. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
13. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
14. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
15. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
16. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
17. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
18. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
19. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		
20. Dummer, Joseph	RFA	47th Div	32216		

From 1911 census 'Overseas Military' for Potschefstroom



The Queen's South Africa Medal with battle clasps  
The King's South Africa Medal 1901 & 1902 clasps  
British War Medal  
Victory Medal

Medal Card showing medal entitlement

**On March 11th 1916** Joseph was admitted to the 5th London Field Ambulance in France suffering arthritis in his wrist. From there he was moved to a hospital at Rouen and on April 14th, having served 98 days in France, he returned to England and the 2nd London General Hospital. He was later discharged and left the army on October 5th 1916.

Although there is no mention in his army medical records we know that soon after leaving the army Joseph contracted acute pulmonary tuberculosis and within three months he died at the home of his sister Anne in Upperton at the age of 41 years.

Joseph never married and he is buried in Tillington cemetery beneath a Commonwealth War Graves headstone.



But Death replied: 'I choose him.' So he went,  
And there was silence in the summer night;

The Death-Bed - Siegfried Sassoon