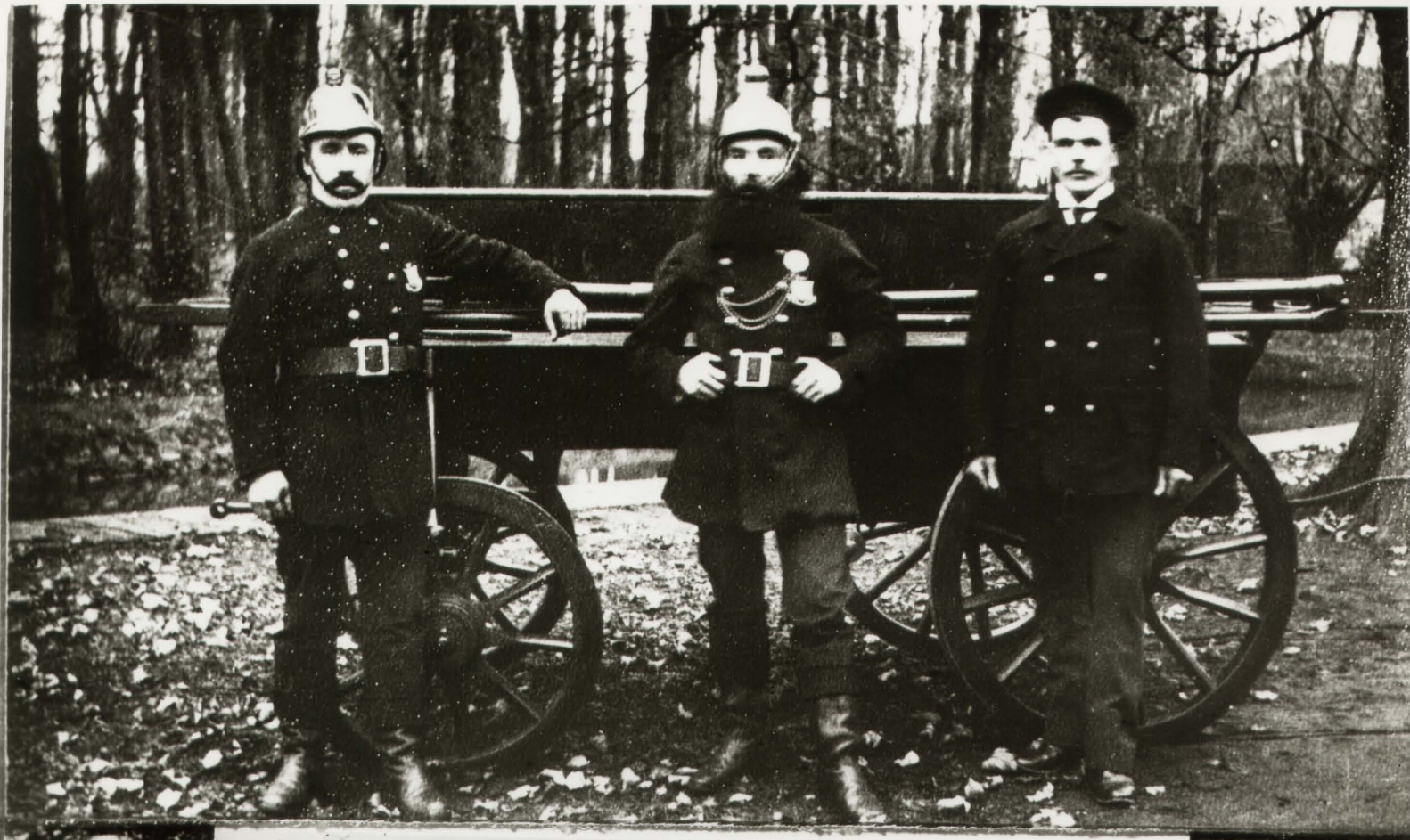


WASC 929

WASC 929
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Fi
about 1900
ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY FINE
ENGINE & TERN - FINISH BROWN
(SIMILAR TO 927/10) JOINT
MONTANA



Royal gunpowder Factory Fire
Engine and team.
Firemen Brown, Jackson & Marchant.

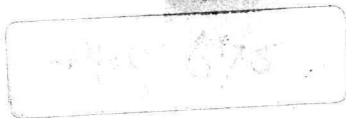
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927/10

The Factory Fire Brigade
about 1900



WMI-0200-10 WASC-927-10 (1)

GREENHILL CROWN, JACKSON,
& MARCHANT

Negative No:
HN 240.

WASC-0929

WAI-0202-01

c1900

Royal Gunpowder Factory.

Fire Brigade and Engine b/w staff photograph of Firemen Brown, Jackson and Marchant

From: metcher@bigpond.com [mailto:metcher@bigpond.com]
Sent: 21 June 2016 07:21
To: Richard Thomas <thrifthouse@ntlworld.com>
Subject: Re: Royal Gunpowder Mills - Chief Fireman

Dear Richard

Well, I am absolutely thrilled with the photo that you sent as it is my great grandfather and the only photo I have of him in his fireman's uniform. Thank you so much.

I have attached some newspaper reports that I found on the British Newspaper Archives website. They are not particularly good copies as I have plans to regather them when I am ready to write up Edward Jackson's life story for the family. If you would like me to source better copies for you and the papers they came from, I am more than happy to do so. The newspaper banners I have are not clear copies and so I have to rejig this at some time anyway.

I also have to research the Parliamentary Papers regarding the 1894 explosion as I believe there was a Government enquiry about that event.

Edward Jackson was born in Mile End Old Town in January 1855 and died in Edmonton in 1921.

He joined the London Fire Brigade in 1878 described as 5' 4 3/4" and a Boatswains Mate. Evidently the Fire Brigade preferred to recruit sailors as they could perhaps swim and as a lot of the fire brigade work was performed around the London Docks, the hope was that these recruits would be familiar with boat handling etc. He worked in many of the London Fire Engine Stations and on the floats on the Thames. He served at Ratcliffe, Hackney, Isle of Dogs (Poplar), Mile End, 'A' Floating Station, Bishopsgate, Westminster (to take charge of the Land Steam Fire Engines), and Fulham.

He resigned on 28 July 1877 to join the Royal Gunpowder Factory, and is stated in the 1891 census as being Foreman in the Fire Brigade there.

He was still employed there when the 1901 and 1911 censuses were taken, but when he died in 1921 aged 66 he was described as a factory gate keeper.

If you receive any enquiries from other descendants concerning Edward, I am more than happy for you to give them my email address.

I will source the photo as from The Royal Gunpowder Mills archives – if that is acceptable to you? My writing is for family consumption only, not a commercial venture.

I hope to be able to visit the Mills when I next visit the UK.

kind regards and thanks

Ann

From: Richard Thomas <mailto:thrifthouse@ntlworld.com>

Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 9:13 PM

To: metcher@bigpond.com

Subject: RE: Royal Gunpowder Mills - Chief Fireman

Dear Ann

Thank you for this email regarding your great-grandfather.

With regard to works records relating to Edward Jackson's employment at the Gunpowder Mills, I am sorry to tell you that, whilst we have detailed records all staff up to 1866, all records after that time were sent to the Ministry of Defence (or whichever was the ruling Ministry at the time) and disappeared. We have not been able to trace them.

However, we do have a photograph of the Fire Brigade (all three of them) in about 1900, with the names "Brown, Jackson and Marchant" scribbled lightly on the reverse. It is a pity that the central character couldn't keep still and is rather blurred! I have attached scans of both sides. I hope he is your great-grandfather.

I would be very interested to see copies of the documents which you have about Mr Jackson, if you would be kind enough to send them. It is frustrating not to be able to respond to enquiries about the former employees and we try to gather information wherever possible.

From: metcher@bigpond.com [mailto:metcher@bigpond.com]

Sent: 19 June 2016 01:29

To: thrifthouse@ntlworld.com
Subject: Royal Gunpowder Mills - Chief Fireman

Dear Richard

I have just purchased your book The Explosions at the Royal Gunpowder Mills - fascinating as my great grandfather, Edward Jackson, was the Chief Fireman there during the latter part of the 19th century.

I live in Australia and so visiting the Mills is not an easy option.

I have a newspaper extract where he is mentioned in the newspaper report of the Coroners Inquest into the 1894 explosion, as well as other extracts relating to his time at the Mills.

Are there any records held by the Gunpowder Mills that I could access that relate to Edward Jackson's employment there?

Prior to his employment in Waltham Abbey he was employed in the London Fire Brigade and I have all those records.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Ann Metcher





WALTHAM ABBEY.

AN UNFORTUNATE BUILDING.—On two occasions during the past twelve months attempts have been made to burn down the old Mill House. The building is the property of the War Office Authorities, and for some months was vacant until it was let to Mr. M. Pallett, jun. Mr. Pallett sub-let the house, which contains fifteen or sixteen rooms, to three different families, and when these persons were absent a fire broke out in an out of the way corner. On the alarm being raised Mr. Jackson, superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder Factory Fire Brigade, under Fireman Brown, was quickly on the spot, and with a plentiful supply of water from the East London Water Company hydrants, the fire was soon got under. The landing on the first floor and three rooms were entirely destroyed, and the other rooms were damaged by the water and smoke. How the fire originated is not known.

SWIMMING CLUB.—At the annual meeting of

WALTHAM ABBEY.

NARROW ESCAPES.—About half-past five on Friday evening Chief-fireman Jackson and a gang of men were proceeding in a boat along a small stream in the Royal Gunpowder Factory when they heard a gurgling sound. On looking round Mr. Jackson missed one of the crew, named Bond. Mr. Jackson landed, ran back some distance, and with the aid of a pole brought Bond to shore in an exhausted condition.—Shortly before eleven o'clock on Friday night Mr. Robert Allen heard terrible screams coming from the Navigation river, he being in Highbridge-street. He and two other men ran to the lock and saw a man in the water. He was ultimately dragged out. He stated that he missed his footing through the density of the fog.

The Standard.

No. 21,795.

LONDON, FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1904.

TEN PAGES, ONE PENNY.

THE WALTHAM EXPLOSION.

The inquest upon the victims of the Waltham explosion was opened yesterday afternoon by the Coroner, Mr. Lewis, in the Reading-room of the Factory Institute. The Jury were an hour viewing the remains of the deceased and the scene of the explosion. Only the hands, legs, and mutilated pieces of flesh were to be seen.

Evidence of identification having been given in respect to William Bennie, Ingrams, George Suckling, and George Frost,

Colonel M'Clintock, the superintendent, was called. He stated that there were four chemists employed in the cordite factory, of which the deceased man Bennie was one. Fifteen hundred pounds of nitro-glycerine were in the washing-house where the explosion originated, and about a hundred men were occupied at the time in adjacent buildings. The bodies of Bennie and Ingrams were found near the door of the washing-house. The amount of nitro-glycerine allowed in the washing-house at any one time by the Factory Acts was 2500lb., and in the store 5000lb.

William Player said that he witnessed the explosion and was knocked down by the force of it.

William Woodroffe stated that he was only about a hundred yards away from the deceased man Suckling, having just spoken to him when the explosion occurred.

George Colman said that he left the store at 3.55 on Monday afternoon, having previously locked the place up and seen that all was safe.

Chief Fireman Jackson stated that he found portions of the victims' bodies outside the exploded houses.

The Coroner, in summing up, said that, seeing there were so many men employed in the immediate locality of the explosion, it was a matter for sincere congratulation that more had not been killed and injured. A number of the men, however, had had a most miraculous escape. It was satisfactory to know that the manufacture of cordite was carried on under the superintendence of four qualified chemists, and that all possible precautions were taken to prevent accidents. He would like to add that the four deceased men were known to be among the steadiest and most reliable of those who were engaged at the factory (hear, hear).

The Jury returned the following verdict:—"We find that the four deceased men were killed by the explosion which occurred in the cordite branch of the Royal Gunpowder Factory on Monday last, but as to what caused the explosion there is no evidence to show." The Jury also expressed their sympathy with the relatives of the deceased, and with Colonel M'Clintock and Captain Nathan, the officers in charge of the factory.