

Arthur Houseman was aged 21 years when he was attested for entry to the Military service on the 9 December 1915.

A medical examination took place that recorded him as standing 5 feet 4.5 inches tall and having a chest measurement of 32 inches. He was found fit for service.

Arthur was employed as a labourer at the time of his enlistment. His address is given as Stump Lane Bottom, Darley.

He was married, and gave as his next of kin his Wife Hilda Hart of Stump Lane Bottom, Darley. It is recorded that he was married at Christ Church, Darley, Yorkshire on the 26 June 1916 and he had a daughter Hilda May born on the 8 July 1916 at Pateley Bridge, Yorkshire.

He signed the declaration on the attestation form, swore an oath and received the "King's shilling". Arthur was then accepted into the army as a Private and was allocated number 24373. He was instructed to return home and to continue civilian life while he was formally on the Army Reserve, awaiting call up. He duly received notice and was mobilised on 25 Jan 1916.

Arthur was posted to the 3rd West Yorkshire Regiment on the 26 Jan 1916 for training. On the 8 June 1916 he was transferred to the 3rd/8th Btn of the West Yorkshire Regiment and became Private 5328.

On the 25 July 1916 Arthur was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps as Private 44178.

On the 23 July 1917 Arthur was discharged as being 'no longer physically fit for war service'. A letter from the War Office regarding employment by the Post Office indicates that he was discharged from Belton park Military Hospital in Grantham on account of valvular disease of the heart. Other letters indicate that he was 'kicked by a mule'.

As he was discharged from the service he was only eligible for the Silver War Badge which he received in 1921.