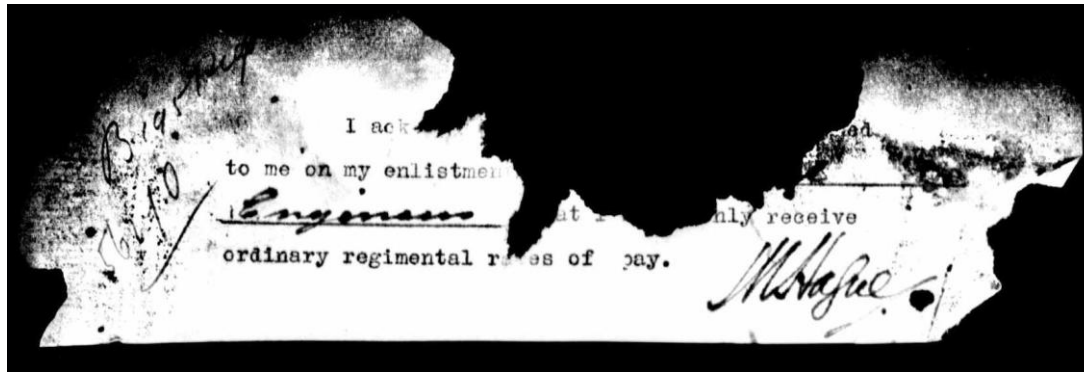




Horace Vincent Hague

17 White Street



Part of Horace’s military record which was damaged by fire during World War 2 – the so-called “burnt records”. Horace’s signature can be seen bottom right . His service number “56270” is just visible. © The National Archives

Horace signed up for three years military service in Buxton on 3 October 1914, aged 25. On his signing-up papers he described himself as a architect and surveyor and this made him a natural fit for the Royal Engineers who were responsible for maintaining roads, railways, canals, bridges and transport. His training started in mid October, but in May 1915 he was transferred to a signals company within the Royal Engineers – they had a more specialist communications role maintaining wireless and other signalling equipment at a time when telecommunications were becoming an important part of combat.

A month later in mid June 1915 his unit was deployed to France – we know this from his medal card and military record which is incomplete, faded and badly burnt in parts.

He was wounded in action in September 1917 but no details of the extent of his injury survive – he was listed on the War Office’s wounded in action list which entitled him to an extra medal bar award

to wear on his service medals. He returned to service and on 31 August 1918 he was given a temporary commission as 2nd Lieutenant.

The son of an architectural surveyor, his family lived in Buxton until they moved to Blackpool where his widowed mother ran a boarding house to keep herself and six children – Horace’s father died when he was eight.

He is listed as a lodger with James and Edith Wilson at 17 White Street in 1918 and 1919 when he was still on military service. Presumably his work had brought him to Derby at some point, probably just before the war. By late 1919 he was no longer living on White Street, and in 1921 he married Muriel Bailey, from Dairyhouse Road. They were still living in Derbyshire when their daughter Joscelyne was born in 1927. By the 1939 Register they were living in Exeter, when Horace’s job was recorded as “Devon County Architect”. The couple were to remain in Exeter; Muriel died in 1968, Horace in 1973.