

**CATALOGUE OF
THE IVOR GURNEY ARCHIVE**

Gloucestershire Archives, Gloucester

D10500/3

PART ONE:
**/1-3: IVOR GURNEY'S ARMY RECORD
& CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO
HIS POST-WAR HOSPITAL TREATMENT**

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National Manuscripts Conservation Trust

Section Gloucestershire Archives D10500/3

Army and Medical Records and Correspondence

1915-1937

Records, correspondence and other papers relating to Gurney's army career, his post-war hospital treatment, and his incarceration from September 1922 at Barnwood House, Gloucester and Stone House, Dartford.

PART 1: Army Records & Correspondence.

Series D10500/3/1

Ivor Gurney's Army Record

1915-1918

Description: Photocopy of Gurney's official Army Record.

15pp. Notes: The edges of the pages are seen in the photocopies to have been burned, the records being copied from the 'burnt records' of First World War soldiers, many of which were destroyed or damaged in September 1940, during the German bombings of London.

Item D10500/3/1/1

(68.1)

Attestation

February 9 1915

Description: The 'Territorial Force' Attestation document, completed on enlistment with the army, giving the recruit's basic details, noting Gurney's religion (Church of England), answers to four questions concerning willingness and ability to join up, the oath of allegiance to the King, and the certification of the attesting officer.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink, including one instance of Gurney's signature.

Item D10500/3/1/2

(68.2)

Medical Inspection Report

February 9 1915

Description: The Medical Inspection Report from the examination undertaken on Gurney's enlistment, certifying him fit for service. The document gives Gurney's 'apparent age' (24yrs 6 months), height (5ft 8 1/4), chest measurement (36 1/2 inches, fully expanded), and details of his vision.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink.

Item D10500/3/1/3

(68.3; 68.4)

Service Agreement and Conditions of Service

February 9 1915

Description: The territorial force service agreement, signed by Gurney, and a printed page detailing the conditions of service.

2pp. Notes: Photocopy of printed document, one side completed in ink.

Item D10500/3/1/4

(68.11)

Military History Sheet [1]

February 9 1915

Description: A first Military History Sheet, solely containing the details of Gurney's next of kin and his location from 9 February as 'Home' [viz. not in service abroad].

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink.

Item D10500/3/1/5
(68.5) Statement of Services [1] February 1915

Description: A 'Statement of Services', listing Gurney's 'Attestation and Embodiment' on 9 February and his transfer from 5th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment Depot on 22 February, on which date he was posted to Northampton to begin his training.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink.

Item D10500/3/1/6
(68.7) Military History Sheet [2] 1915-[1918]

Description: A second, complete Military History Sheet, which details Gurney's postings in basic manner ('home' and 'France'), dates and details of the two occasions upon which Gurney was wounded ('G.S.W. R. arm' [gun shot wound, right arm] and 'Shell gas', on 7 April and 10 September 1917, respectively), details of the medals Gurney received, and his next of kin. From this document we see that Gurney served 1 year and 123 days in France, from 24 May 1915 to 23 September 1917.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink. Gurney's medals are held in the Soldiers of Gloucester Museum.

Item D10500/3/1/7
(68.10) Statement of Services [2] 1915-1918

Description: A second, complete 'Statement of Services', detailing Gurney's initial attestation and his postings on his return to England in 1917. It lists Gurney's final discharge from the army and notes that Gurney is 'Entitled to wear 2 gold wound strips, and two blue chevrons'. Gurney's total length of service is recorded (3 years 238 days), and his character is noted as being 'V.Good'.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink.

Item D10500/3/1/8
(68.14) A note from the Edinburgh War Hospital to the Infantry October 2 1917
Records Office requesting Gurney's medical history sheet

Description: A formal note from the Edinburgh War Hospital requesting Gurney's Medical History Sheets from the No.1 Infantry Record Office, following Gurney's admission to that hospital on 23 September 1917. The note has been appended by the Records Office, attaching the history sheet, which has been stamped as having been received by the hospital on 4 October 1917.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of typed document.

Item D10500/3/1/9
68.13 Notification to the Records Office of Gurney's imminent September 23 1918
presentation to the Invaliding Board, proposing discharge from the army

Description: A form completed by the Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, notifying the Records Office of Gurney's proposed discharge.
1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink by the hospital registrar.

Item D10500/3/1/10

(68.12) Notification from Hospital to Army Records Officer of the approval of Gurney's discharge October 4 1918

Description: A form completed by the Officer in charge at the hospital at Napsbury, at which Gurney was latterly being treated, to the Infantry Records Office giving notification of the approval of Gurney's discharge, completed by that office on 5 October confirming of the date of Gurney's discharge as 4 October 1918.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink by the respective offices.

Item D10500/3/1/11

(68.13A) Postcard completed by Gurney confirming his address October 5 1918
for the receipt of discharge and pension documents

Description: Postcard, completed by Gurney on 5 October, confirming 19 Barton Street as his address 'In order that your discharge documents, any balance of pay that may be due to you, and your pension, if you are awarded one, may be sent to the correct address'.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink, partly by Gurney.

Item D10500/3/1/12

(68.6) War pension notification October 18 1918

Description: Notification from the Ministry of Pensions of Gurney's pension, payable on discharge from the army, amounting to 8/3 per week from 5 October 1918.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink by the pensions office.

Item D10500/3/1/13

(68.9) War Badge and Certificate Receipt October 22 1918

Description: Issuing notice and receipt for the War Badge and Certificate in respect of Gurney's service with the Gloucestershire Regiment, issued 22 October 1918, signed and returned by Gurney on 23 October, received at Infantry Record Office and processed 25 and 30 October.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink, partly by Gurney.

Item D10500/3/1/14

(68.8) Discharge Certificate Receipt October 25 1918

Description: Issuing notice and receipt for the King's Certificate, issued on discharge from the army. Dated variously on despatch (25 October), signed and dated by Gurney on receipt (27 Oct), and on receipt at the Infantry Record Office and processing, 28 and 30 October.

1p. Notes: Photocopy of printed document completed in ink, partly by Gurney.

Series **D10500/3/2****Correspondence regarding Gurney's post-war hospitalisation****June–August 1918**

Description: Correspondence with Marion Scott relating to Gurney's post-war hospitalisation and his attempted suicide in June 1918.

9 letters Notes: Gurney return from France on 23 September 1917 and proceeded through a number of hospitals, interspersed with a period of training. This correspondence is associated with his time in Warrington and St. Albans.

Item D10500/3/2/1

(4.1) Copy of Gurney's suicide note to Hubert Parry

[June 1918]

Description: A copy by Marion Scott of the suicide note she received from Gurney for her to pass on to Hubert Parry: 'Dear Sir Hubert, I am committing suicide partly because I am afraid of madness and punishment and partly because my friends would rather know me dead than mad.' Other suicide notes were sent, including an extant letter to Scott (at D10500/1/C/1/5). Gurney's sister Dorothy wrote to Scott on 23 June that the suicide notes they had received had been destroyed (Blevins, p.150).

1p. Notes: Manuscript (MMS); ink.

Item D10500/3/2/2

(4.120) Telegram from the [Lord Derby War Hospital] Warrington to Marion Scott

June 21 1918

Description: A telegram sent to Scott in response, presumably, to an urgent enquiry from Scott on hearing of Parry's receipt of a suicide note from Gurney: 'Matter in hand[.] Writing further[.] Soldiers Home'.

1p. Notes: Telegram; pencil. Handed in 10.50am; received 11.38am.

Item D10500/3/2/3

(4.122) Telegram from [Lord Derby War Hospital] Warrington to Marion Scott

June 21 1918

Description: A telegram sent to Scott advising: 'Pte Gurney quite safe and under special supervision[.] Matron'.

1p. Notes: Telegram; pencil. Handed in 11.25am; received 12.37pm.

Item D10500/3/2/4

(4.172) Letter from Ernest Parson to Marion Scott

June 21 1918

Description: A letter from Ernest Parson, Assistant Minister at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Warrington, regarding Gurney's attempted suicide.

2pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink.

Item D10500/3/2/5

(4.132) Letter from Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington to David Gurney

June 22 1918

Description: A letter to Gurney's father, David, reporting that during an interview between Gurney and his Medical Officer he expressed a desire to be sent to an asylum on account of his hearing 'imaginary voices' that 'urge him to commit suicide.'

1p. Notes: Typescript; signed (ink), with date stamp.

- Item D10500/3/2/6
(4.133) Letter from Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington to Marion Scott July 3 1918
Description: A short letter advising Scott that arrangements are being made to transfer Gurney to the war hospital at St. Albans.
1p. Notes: Typescript; signed (ink), with date stamp.
- Item D10500/3/2/7
(4.117) Letter from Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington to Marion Scott July 4 1918
Description: A personal letter, perhaps from a nurse whom Scott had met on her recent visit to Gurney in Warrington [Amy Kraggs?], responding to Scott's letter and thanking her for the 'enclosed book of poems (presumably a copy of 'Severn & Somme')'. The writer tells Scott that they went to visit Gurney again two days previously, when he 'was playing Beethoven to a keenly interested audience'. She writes that Gurney told her 'farming would be the thing for him'.
1p. Notes: Manuscript; ink, with ink-stamped header.
- Item D10500/3/2/8
(4.134) Letter from Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington to Marion Scott July 14 1918
Description: A letter from the Lord Derby Hospital responding to Scott's letter of 10 July, regarding Gurney's possible transfer to the Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury. The question was then in the hands of the Western Command, and 'It is unlikely that the transfer will be effected during the next few days.'
1p. Notes: Typescript carbon copy, signed.
- Item D10500/3/2/9
(4.135) Letter from Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, to Marion Scott August 8 1918
Description: A letter from The County of Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, St. Albans, replying to Scott's letter of 3 August, notifying her that Gurney has been transferred to that hospital and that he is progressing well. Gurney was moved to Napsbury by train on 24 July 1918.
1p. Notes: Typescript, signed.

Series D10500/3/3

Correspondence regarding a possible period of convalescence at King's Weston House July-October 1918

Description: Correspondence from Montague Muir Mackenzie to Marion Scott charting his investigations into the possibility of Gurney spending a period of convalescence at King's Weston House, near Bristol, the home of the squire of Bristol and amateur musician/composer, Philip Napier Miles. In /1 Mackenzie tells Scott that Napier Miles is his wife's cousin. Mackenzie, Honorary Secretary of the Royal College of Music and one of the 'chief pillars of the institution' [Colles/Cruft 'The [RCM]: A Centenary Record, 1883-1983' (RCM, 1982), p.44] during the latter period of Hubert Parry's directorship, had been told of the situation, shortly after Gurney's attempted suicide, by Parry. As seen in the letters, the proposal never came to fruition.

5 letters Notes: Napier Miles turned his house over to a hospital for convalescing soldiers during the war. The letter of October 1918, at which time the idea of Gurney spending time there appears to have been revisited, states that it was not possible owing to the fact that Gurney had by this time been formally discharged from the army.

Item D10500/3/3/1

(4.137) Letter from Muir Mackenzie to Marion Scott July 11 1918

Description: Letter expressing concern for Gurney's situation, and that he is sorry 'he is not in a nice hospital'. Suggests his being moved to King's Weston House, 'a beautiful house on the Severn', offering to follow this up. He tells Scott that Miles, with his musical interests, 'would be most sympathetic' to Gurney, and that the house and grounds would 'be an ideal place for him as he could work on his beloved Severn every day'.

3pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink, on blue notepaper.

Item D10500/3/3/2

(4.139) Letter from Muir Mackenzie to Marion Scott July 15 1918

Description: Letter telling Scott that Mackenzie has had a letter from Mrs Napier Miles (a copy was enclosed but is not extant) who has expressed concern about Gurney's being a mental case, for which they do not cater at King's Weston House. Mackenzie expresses hope that 'it is not strictly that', and that he may be admissible as an ordinary wounded case.

2pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink, on Royal College of Music headed notepaper.

Item D10500/3/3/3

(4.138) Letter from Muir Mackenzie to Marion Scott July 17 1918

Description: Writing in response to a letter from Scott, Mackenzie tells her that the Miles's would welcome Gurney to King's Weston, but if Gurney's is a 'purely mental case', the best course of action would be to send him to St. Albans - as had already have been mooted - and, once sufficiently recovered, thence to King's Weston. Mackenzie tells Scott that Parry believes this to be the best course of action.

3pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink, on blue notepaper with the traditional black border of mourning.

Item D10500/3/3/4

(4.136) Letter from Muir Mackenzie to Marion Scott

July 20 1918

Description: Mackenzie recounts an urgent letter from Mrs Miles, just received, in which she asks whether Gurney might come 'at once' to King's Weston, noting that they could 'give him all sorts of things we know he could not get in a real hospital; & we should be so proud & glad to do it.' She notes that Gurney would never be allowed two transfers, and so it is best done at once.

2pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink.

Item D10500/3/3/5

(4.140) Letter from Muir Mackenzie to Marion Scott

October 21 1918

Description: The notion of Gurney spending time at King's Weston House must once again have been mooted, for Mackenzie writes telling how Mrs Napier Miles is very sorry that it won't be possible. Gurney no longer being in the army precludes his being a patient in the hospital, and Mr Napier Miles being ill and having to go away discounts him being there as (presumably) a personal guest.

1p. Notes: Manuscript; ink.