

193-195 HIGH STREET (BETWEEN THE WARS)

Before the First World War at 195 High Street (2 Market Cottages) we found the Engall family – led by George Gibbs Engall and his wife Mary Ann. I discovered that in 1911¹ they were living in Eve Road, Woking, with four of their five children listed at that time – Mary Ann (15), Violet Daisy (14), Percy Giles (12) and Albert Edward Frederick Christopher (9).

The fifth child was evidently George Henry Mitchell Engall, who, when he joined the Rifle Corp in August 1914², gave his address as 195 High Street – his occupation being a ‘groom’. He was apparently discharged in December that year, but in July 1916 enrolled again, this time for the Hussars.

A couple of years later his youngest brother also joined the forces – having apparently not just forgotten his first two names (he enlisted as just Frederick Christopher Engall), but also his date of birth. He was born on the 4th August 1902, but when he enrolled on the 6th May 1918³ he was apparently already 18 years and 4 days old!

Sadly his time in the army was short-lived as on the 15th June 1918 he was discharged from the Frensham Hill Military Hospital (pictured below) as ‘no longer physically fit for war service’ - although what exactly happened in those eleven days I have not been able to work out.



His brother, George Henry left the army on the 21st May 1919 and on the 26th July that year married Nellie Smith in St Nicholas Church, Guildford⁴, although sadly by then his father, had passed away (in January 1919) – he was only in his mid-fifties.

A few months after George Henry was married, so was his brother Percy Gibbs Engall - 195 High Street being given as both his address and his bride's, May Florence McBurton (25), the daughter of Robert William McBurton (deceased). The ceremony took place at St Peter's Church on the 11th December 1919⁵, with Percy's sister and brother-in-law Mary Ann and Arthur James Welch acting as witnesses.

Mary Ann, the mother, had been listed in the electoral register at 195 High Street in the spring of 1919⁶, but the following spring⁷ was the last time her name appeared here, Percy (and May Florence) evidently taking over the property by the autumn of that year⁸ (with May Florence appearing on the electoral registers in 1924⁹ alongside Percy until 1926¹⁰).

¹ TNA RG14/3031/321

² TNA WO363

³ TNA WO363

⁴ SHC 8977/1/7

⁵ SHC WOKP/3/6

⁶ SHC CC802/28/4

⁷ SHC CC802/30/4

⁸ SHC CC802/31/4

⁹ SHC CC802/39/4

¹⁰ SHC CC802/42/4

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After the Engall's, 195 High Street appears to have been split in two with Frank Sale and George Dench both being listed in the electoral register at the property from 1927¹¹ – both being joined by their wives Louisa Maud Sale, and Ivy Elizabeth Ann Dench in 1929¹².

George (born 22nd August 1892) was the son of James and Ellen Dench, who at the time of the 1911 census¹³ were living in one of Mrs Ogden Smith's Kingfield properties - '4 New Forest Cottages'. He was then an 'under carter'.

George was actually Frank Sale's uncle – Frank's father, Walter Sale, having married George's sister, Sarah Dench (see article on 203-207 High Street for the full run-down on the various Dench connections with the Market Cottages)

Coincidentally (or not as the case may be), Frank Sale (born in 1899) was also resident at 4 New Forest Cottages when he married Louisa Maud Caffyn (21), daughter of Alfred Caffyn (deceased) on the 21st May 1925¹⁴

The Sale's apparently moved out in 1932¹⁵, followed by the Dench's in 1936¹⁶.

For a couple of years, from 1933¹⁷ to 1935¹⁸, John Stanley Beswick (born 17th February 1906) and his wife Hilda Sarah Beswick, joined the Dench's at 195, but from 1937¹⁹ onwards the Brogden's – Richard and Mary – appear to have

been resident, with a William Abbott (or possibly Arnott) being the other occupant.

William Arnott (born 5th May 1893), a general labourer, is listed at 195 High Street in the National Register in 1939, along with Richard Brogden (a pipe bender), born on the 20th June 1895, but there is also a Mary Brereton (born 13th April 1898) – with what appears to be her sons, Kenneth (born 22^{ns} May 1924) and Wilfred (born 26th January 1929) - although so far I have not been able to discover any more about them.

In my article on the inhabitants of the Market Cottages before the First World War, I noted that James Mercer was the occupant of 1 Market Cottages (193 High Street), remaining here until his death in July 1934²⁰.

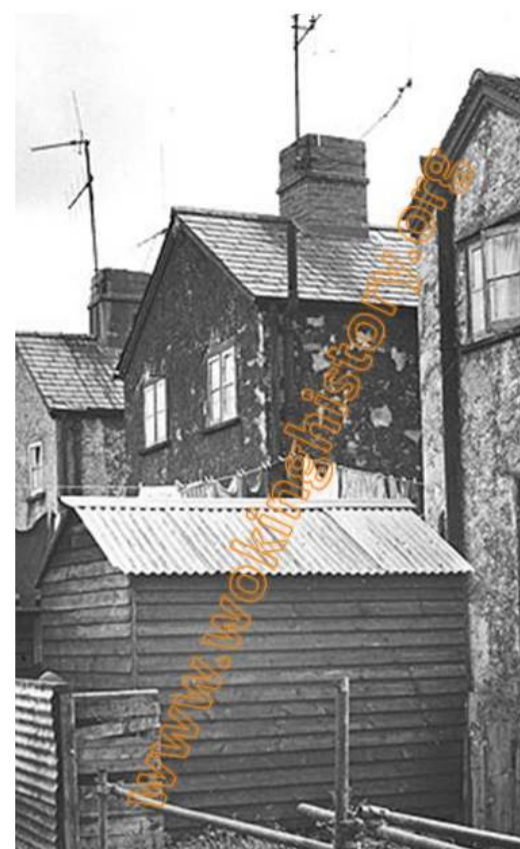
His wife, Florence, joined him in the electoral registers in 1918²¹, with their eldest son Albert from the spring of 1920²².

When Albert was married on the 23rd December 1922²³ both he and his bride-to-be, Rose Ethel Withers (24) were recorded as living at 193 High Street – her deceased father, James Withers, previously being a cabinet maker, whilst James is listed as a gardener, and Albert as a carter. Sadly the parish registers record just five years later that Albert Mercer died at the Victoria Hospital in Woking, being buried at St Peter's on the 3rd August 1927²⁴

His younger brother William James Mercer appeared on the electoral register for 193 High Street for a couple of years from the spring of 1921²⁵, with his sisters Lily, Kathleen, Elizabeth and Edith also joining their parents on the electoral register in 1929²⁶ – although Kathleen is only registered here for a couple of years and Elizabeth and Edith for three.

On the 20th June 1931, Edith Mercer married²⁷ Leonard James Balchin (25) of 4 Mary Road, Guildford – his occupation being listed as a 'fitter' (although what exactly he fitted I do not know) - whilst the following year on the 30th July 1932, Elizabeth Mercer married George Henry Watson (25) of Holly View, Maybury Hill, the parish register recording that he was an 'aircraft rigger' – presumably at Brooklands, as by then the Martinsyde's aircraft works at Maybury Hill (where the Lion Retail Park is today) had long since closed.

From 1932²⁸ another daughter, Dorothy Mercer, was eligible to vote, with an Arthur John joining the voting list in 1934²⁹ (along with an Emily Lawrence), but the family appear to have moved out in 1938³⁰ when, I believe, Florence passed away.



¹¹ SHC CC802/44/4

¹² SHC CC802/46/4

¹³ TNA RG14/3038/42

¹⁴ SHC 7692/1/4

¹⁵ SHC CC802/49/4

¹⁶ SHC CC802/53/4

¹⁷ SHC CC802/50/4

¹⁸ SHC CC802/52/4

¹⁹ SHC CC802/54/4

²⁰ SHC CC802/51/4

²¹ SHC CC802/27/4

²² SHC CC802/30/4

²³ SHC WOKP/3/6

²⁴ SHC WOKP/5/2 – his address then being 21 Granville Road, Westfield.

²⁵ SHC CC802/32/4

²⁶ SHC CC802/46/4

²⁷ SHC 7692/1/4

²⁸ SHC CC802/49/4

²⁹ SHC CC802/51/4

³⁰ SHC CC802/55/4