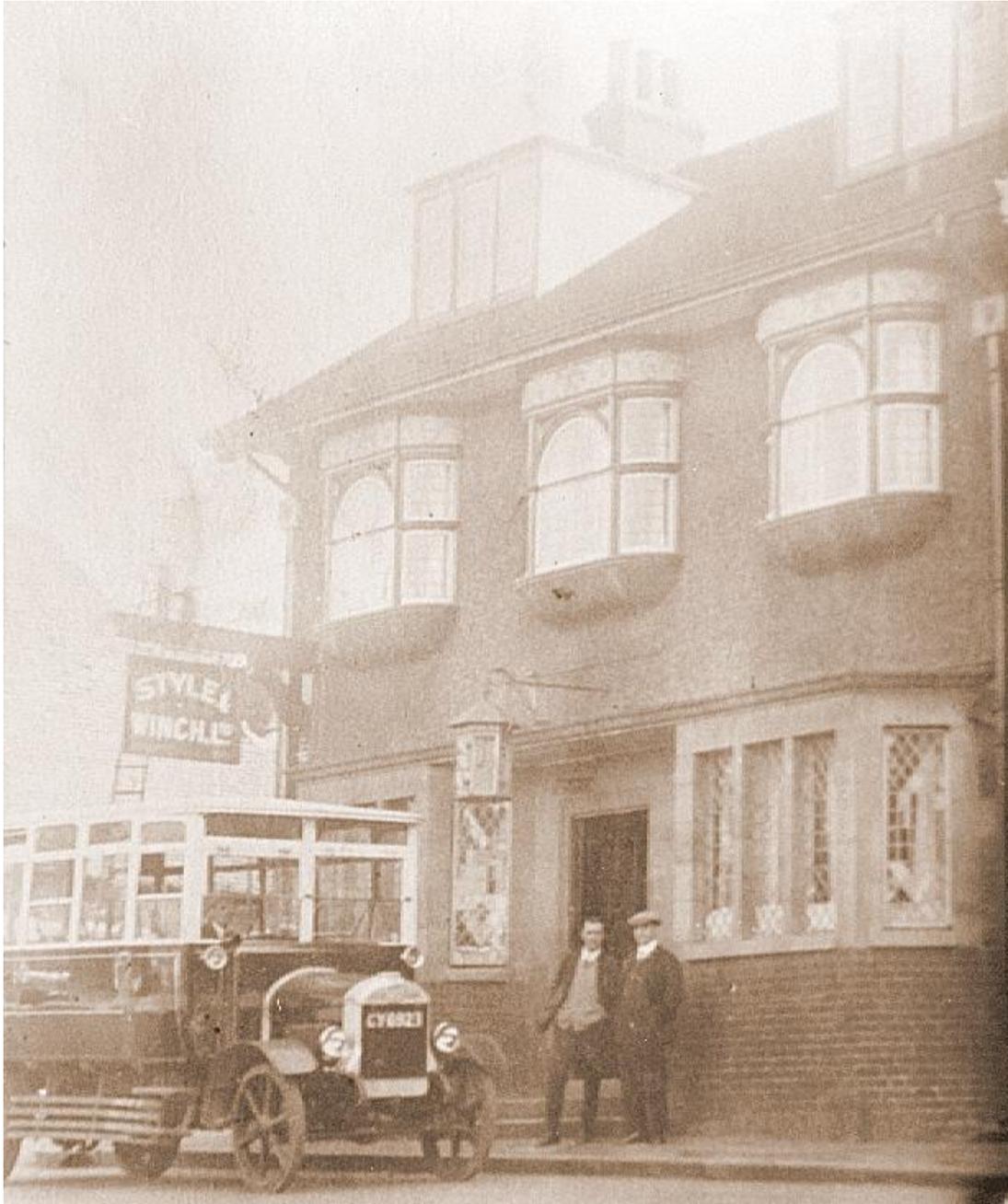


TROOPS IN TRANSIT



6 July 1915 – A detachment of the Glamorgan Royal Garrison Artillery signed the Guest Book of the Castle Hotel, Eynsford.

The Castle Hotel, 1927, with 20-seater bus (CY 6923) purchased for Darenth Bus Hire by Monty Hever (standing right)

TROOPS IN TRANSIT

Being on a main road to the coast, Swanley and Farningham must have seen many troop movements, which went unrecorded locally. Transit by train would also have been common – the cheery or resigned faces out, and the tired, war-weary, wounded back. Some evidence has survived about visiting troops.

5 February 1915 – the local newspaper reported that in late January 400 men of the Royal Garrison Artillery were billeted overnight in Swanley and Farningham.

It was only with difficulty that accommodation was found and some men had to make the best of uncomfortable quarters. Horses and guns were provided for at neighbouring farms and inns.

18 November 1915 - Farningham Church School was occupied by soldiers overnight, and it was with difficulty got ready for morning school.

8 August 1916 – The Parish Councils of Eynsford and Farningham received an authorisation for the use of land for training the 67th Home Counties Division. Compensation would be given for any actual damage the troops caused.

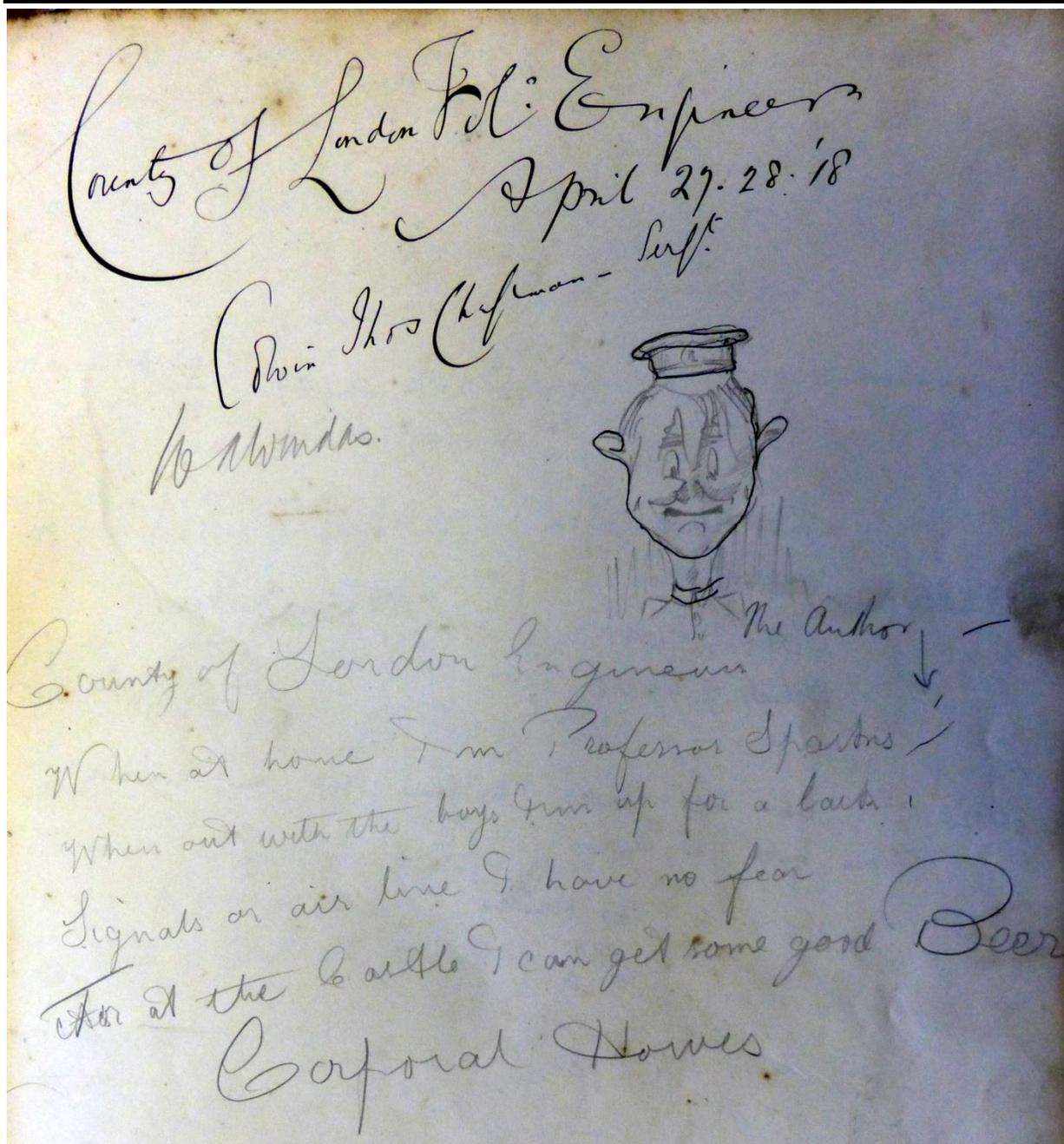


TROOPS IN TRANSIT



Castle Hotel, 1993, much as when troops visited in the Great War

TROOPS IN TRANSIT - CASTLE HOTEL, EYNSFORD, GUEST BOOK



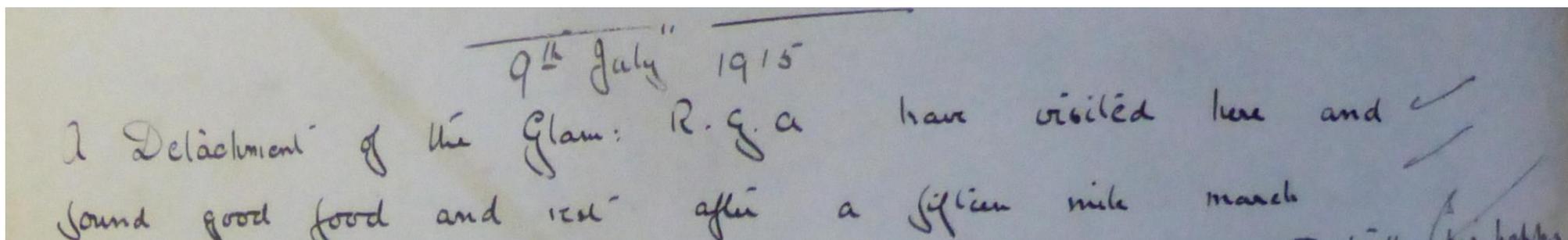
24 November 1917 & 27/28
April 1918 – Members of the
County of London Volunteer
Engineers signed the Castle
Hotel Guest Book.

County of London Engineers

When at home I'm Professor
Sparks,
When out with the boys I'm up
for a lark.
Signals or air line I have no
fear
For at the Castle I can get
some good Beer
Corporal Howes

GLAMORGAN DETACHMENT OF ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY – 6 July 1915

A full page of the Castle Hotel Guest Book in Eynsford was filled by this group. From the entry it was an anti-aircraft detachment, which had not yet seen much action, but was eager to do so.



9th July 1915
A Detachment of the Glam. R.G.A. have visited here and
found good food and rest after a fifteen mile march

A detachment of the Glam. R.G.A. have visited here and found good food and rest after a fifteen mile march. We are Anti-Airers. To-day is Count Zeppeline's birthday and we hope to straffe his Zepps.

This was signed by A. Gunning Carr/Cass, Captain Glamorgan RGA

He also added a poem 'The Balloon Busters' bemoaning the lack of activity to date. The first Zeppelin raid on London was on 31 May 1915. If Glamorgan RGA were manning London defences it would soon have seen relentless action.

GLAMORGAN DETACHMENT OF ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY – 6 July 1915

The Balloon Busters

The Gunners are a noble corps —
They do their best in peace or war —
But of all the things I've ever been in —
Anti-aircraft is the thing.

We keep our watch by day or night
But n'er a target comes in sight
The Taube and Zeppeline
Avoid us like an awful sin.

At 2 am I hear a shout. D
Alarm again; the men turn out;
No blooming luck I heave a sigh
A harmless cloud goes floating by.

Day after day we do the same
This "active service" tries us sore
But wet or fine we play the game.
It's our duty — Nothing more.

Now if perchance the Teuton jowl
Should over us in Airship prowl
We'll pray the Lord for my hits
And blow the bally thing to bits g

And so the days they come and go
And things get just a wee bit slow.
One thing I know — We earn our pay V O
We Anti-Airers R. G. A. A

The Gunners are a noble corps
They do their best in peace or war
But of all the things I've ever been in
Anti-aircraft is the thing.

We keep our watch by day or night
But n'er a target comes in sight
The Taube and Zeppeline
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Alarm again; the men turn out.

No blooming luck I heave a sigh

A harmless cloud goes floating by.

Day after day we do the same
This "active service" tries us sore
But wet or fine we play the game.
It's our duty — Nothing more.

Now if perchance the Teuton jowl

Should over us in Airship prowl

We'll pray the Lord for any hits

And blow the bally thing to bits.

And so the days they come and go
And things get just a wee bit slow.

One thing I know — We earn our pay
We Anti-Airers R.G.A.