

# Who is Charles William Dovener?

The starting point of the investigation are the following artefacts:

A photograph, known to the family to be of James Thomas Gawthorpe. This shows him beside a spitfire in the Second World War.

A photograph, known to the family to be of James Gawthorpe, father of the above-mentioned James Thomas Gawthorpe. It shows him smoking.

A photograph of a man in seaman's clothing. This has his seaman's number, 120926, on it. The following item also has this number on it and so allows the man in the photograph to be identified as Charles William Dovener.

A certificate issued by the Board of Trade giving authority to wear war medals for the Mercantile Marine to Charles William Dovener. The medals are British War Medal ribbon, Mercantile Marine Medal ribbon, British War Medal (and clasp), Mercantile Marine Medal. A letter informing Mr. J. A. Gawthorpe that his claim for the Defence Medal had been approved.

The National Archives, Kew, has records of medals awarded to the Mercantile Marine. There is a record National Archives' reference BT 351/1/37605, which relates to Charles William Dovener. It is in the records of the Registrar General of Shipping 1872-1992. It indicates that Charles William Dovener worked in the Coastal Trade, that his Place of birth was Newcastle, his Year of birth was 1864 and that the medals were to be sent to 23 Stone St, Newcastle on Tyne.

The 1923 Register of Electors for Newcastle on Tyne is in Tyne and Wear Archives and was viewed on [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk). This shows the following electors at 23 Stone Street:

Dovener, Charles William

Dovener, Elizabeth Ann

Gawthorpe, James Alfred

This indicates some connection between Charles William Dovener and James Alfred Gawthorpe. It could be that they were related or it could be that James Alfred Gawthorpe was a lodger.

The Registers of Electors for 1921 and 1925 have been examined and show Charles William Dovener and Elizabeth Ann Dovener at 23 Stone Street, but not James Alfred Gawthorpe.

The 1911 Census records the following at 23 Stone Street, Newcastle on Tyne:

Elizabeth Dovener, Married, Age 48, born Newcastle.

Mary J Gawthorpe, Daughter of Elizabeth Dovener, Married. Age 29, born Newcastle.

Thomas Dovener, Son of Elizabeth Dovener, Single, Age 23, Joiner, born Newcastle.

Allan D Gawthorpe, Age 1, born Hartlepool.

The record states that the number of children that Elizabeth Dovener has had was 2 and that both are still alive. Her children are therefore Mary J and Thomas D, which as seen above are at 23 Stone Street.

So there is a family connection between Dovener and Gawthorpe.

The General Register Office Birth Certificate Index has the following entry:  
Gawthorpe, Allan Dovener Mother's Maiden Surname: Dovener. June Quarter 1909.  
Registration District Hartlepool. It is noted that the second forename of Allan is Dovener.  
This is clearly the Allan D Gawthorpe as found in the 1911 Census – see above.

The General Register Office Marriage Certificate Index, viewed on findmypast.co.uk, has an entry for Mary Jane Dovener in March Quarter 1909 in Tynemouth Registration District. There is also an entry for James Alfred Gawthorpe with the same reference details. This means that Mary Jane Dovener married James Alfred Gawthorpe.

A search of the 1911 Census produced the following result:

Address: 10 Park avenue, Bedminster, Bristol.

There is only one person in the household and that is James Alfred Gawthorpe, Married, Age 31, Goods Despatch Agent, born Newcastle on Tyne.

The General Register Office Birth Certificate Index, as seen on find.mypast.co.uk has the following entry:

Gawthorpe, James T. Mother's Maiden Surname: Dovenar. March Quarter 1921. Registration District Newcastle on Tyne. The variation in the spelling of the maiden surname is noted. This must be the James Thomas Gawthorpe who is alongside the spitfire in one of the photographs. His father is James Alfred Gawthorpe who is seen smoking in one of the Photographs. The letter about the Defence Medal is to Mr. J. A. Gawthorpe who must be this James Alfred Gawthorpe. Note that the Defence Medal is a medal of the Second World War.

So it has been established that James Alfred Gawthorpe is the father of James Thomas Gawthorpe and that Charles William Dovener is one of the grandfathers of James T Gawthorpe and father in law of James Alfred Gawthorpe.

A search of the 1901 Census for James Alfred Gawthorpe found him at 10 Hindhaugh Street, Newcastle on Tyne. The members of the household are:

Margaret Gawthorpe, Head of household, Widow, Age 47, born Biggs Main, Northumberland.

James A Gawthorpe, Son, Single, Age 21, Packer (Cerebos Salt), born Newcastle on Tyne.

Allan Gawthorpe, Son, Single, Age 12, born Newcastle on Tyne.

Clara Gawthorpe, Daughter, Single, Age 19, born Newcastle on Tyne.

Lottie Gawthorpe, Daughter, Single, Age 15, born Newcastle on Tyne.

Maggie J Gawthorpe, Daughter, Single, Age 7, born Newcastle on Tyne.

Mary E Taylor, Daughter, Widow, Age 23, Charwoman, Y M C A, born Newcastle on Tyne.

Elizabeth A Taylor, Grand Daughter, Single, Age 1, born Newcastle on Tyne.

The General Register Office Birth Certificate Index has the following entry:

Gawthorpe, Elizabeth Alice. Mother's Maiden Surname: Gawthorpe. March Quarter 1900.  
Registration District Newcastle on Tyne.

The General Register Office Marriage Certificate Index, viewed on findmypast.co.uk, has an entry for Mary Ellen Gawthorpe in September Quarter 1898 in Newcastle on Tyne

Registration District. There is also an entry for George Edward Taylor with the same reference details. This means that Mary Ellen Gawthorpe married George Edward Taylor.

The General Register Office Birth Certificate Index has the following entry:  
Gawthorp, James Alfred. Mother's Maiden Surname: Curtis. September Quarter 1879.  
Registration District Newcastle on Tyne. The spelling of the surname is noted.

A search of the 1891 Census for James Alfred Gawthorpe found him at Hindhaugh Street, Newcastle on Tyne. The members of the household are:

Thomas Gawthorpe, Head of household, Married, Age 41, born Yorks, Huddersfield.

Margaret Gawthorpe, Wife, Married, Age 37, born Northumberland, Walker.

Mary E Gawthorpe, Daughter, Age 13, Scholar, born Newcastle on Tyne.

James A Gawthorpe, Son, Age 11, Scholar, born Newcastle on Tyne.

Clara Gawthorpe, Daughter, Age 8, Scholar, born Newcastle on Tyne.

Lottie Gawthorpe, Daughter, Age 6, Scholar, born Newcastle on Tyne.

Allan Gawthorpe, Son, Age 2, born Newcastle on Tyne.

The General Register Office Marriage Certificate Index, viewed on findmypast.co.uk, has an entry for Thomas Gawthorp in December Quarter 1876 in Newcastle on Tyne Registration District. There is also an entry for Margaret Curtis that has the same reference details. This means that Thomas Gawthorp married Margaret Curtis. The spelling of the surname Gawthorp is noted.

The 1939 Register lists at 34 Percy Street, West Hartlepool the following:

James A Gawthorpe, date of birth 4 July 1879.

Mary J Gawthorpe, date of birth 1 December 1881.

The General Register Office Death Certificate Index has an entry for James Alfred Gawthorpe in December Quarter 1969 in Hartlepool Registration District. It gives the date of birth as 04/07/1879.

The Death Registration Index, available on scotlandspeople.gov.uk, has an entry for the death of Mary Jane Gawthorpe with Mother's Maiden Name Riley in 1977. The Registration District is Aberdeen and the Age at Death 95.

The General Register Office Marriage Certificate Index, viewed on findmypast.co.uk, has an entry for Charles William Dovener in December Quarter 1881 in Newcastle on Tyne Registration District. There is only one entry for someone with forenames Elizabeth Ann that has the same reference details and that is Elizabeth Ann Riley. This means that Charles William Dovener married Elizabeth Ann Riley.

The General Register Office Birth Certificate Index has the following entry:  
Dovener, Mary Jane. Mother's Maiden Surname: Ruley. March Quarter 1882. Newcastle on Tyne Registration District. Note the spelling of the Mother's Maiden Name.

The 1897 Register of Electors (at Tyne and Wear Archives) lists Charles William Dovenor (note variation of spelling of surname) at 12 Garden street, Newcastle on Tyne. There are no others listed at this address. Of course, women did not have the vote at that time so his wife would not be listed.

A search of the 1891 Census for Charles William Dovener has found the household of Charles W Dovenor (note spelling) at Garden Street, Newcastle on Tyne. The members of the household are as follows:

Charles W Dovenor, Head of household, Married, Age 30, Engine Fitter, born at Newcastle.

Elizabeth Ann Dovenor, Wife, Married, Age 28, born Newcastle.

Mary Jane Dovenor, Daughter, Single, Age 9, born Newcastle.

Thomas Dovenor, Son, Single, Age 3, born Newcastle.

Plus two lodgers.

The General Register Office Death Certificate Index has an entry for Charles William Dovener in June Quarter 1947 in West Hartlepool Registration District. His age is given as 86 which is consistent with him being born in 1861. There are no other entries for Charles William Dovener. A search of the Probate Index failed to find him.

The Probate Index shows that Elizabeth Ann Dovener, of 10 Carshalton Road, Blackpool, died on 2 January 1951.

What about the medals? It is known that Charles William Dovener was entitled to the British War Medal and the Mercantile Marine Medal (both medals are for the First World War). There these two medals in the medal collection so they are likely to be his. However, it is not known what service James Alfred Gawthorpe was undertaking during the First World War and what medals he might have been entitled to. There are two Defence Medals in the collection. These relate to the Second World War. We have a letter indicating that James Alfred Gawthorpe had successfully claimed the Defence Medal so one of these medals is no doubt his. The second one may belong to James Thomas Gawthorpe; Charles William Dovener would be rather old to be awarded it. The remaining medal is the War Medal 1939-1945, which was most likely awarded to John Thomas Gawthorpe.

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