

## Henry James Arscott



Henry James was born in 1884, the son of Frederick George Arscott (a market gardener's carman in 1901 and a school caretaker in 1911), born in Okehampton Devonshire, died 1933 and Eleanor, nee Tappern, born in Goring, Oxfordshire and died in 1934. The family lived in Brentford and later around Linkfield Road in Isleworth. James Henry was baptised at St John's Church, Isleworth on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1884, had four brothers and sisters: William Isaac, born in 1873 and died in 1916, George David, born in 1877, married Edith Phyllis Biggs in 1905 and died in 1942, Alice Elizabeth born in 1880, married William Thomas Coleman in 1905, and died in 1948 and Esther Elizabeth born in 1882 and died in 1908. Henry James was a baker's carman in 1901 and a florist when he married Ethel Mary Spencer, a baker, on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1904 at Holy Trinity Church, Hounslow and they had four children: Ada Winifred, born in 1907, Clara Eleanor Spencer born in 1910, Ethel Irene, born in 1913 and Walter Henry Spencer born in 1915. They lived in Hounslow, Teddington and Isleworth and were residing in 49, Argyle Road, Teddington in 1911 (where Henry James was a barman) and 6 Newton Road Isleworth in 1913 onwards.



*6 Newton Road,  
Isleworth in 2016*

Henry James enlisted at Woolwich on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1915. He was 5'4" inches in height, with grey eyes and dark brown hair and joined the Army Veterinary Corps. He later transferred to the Royal Field Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Reserve Brigade (92009) and after a period at Aldershot was sent to France on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1915. He became ill in 1916, and reported being admitted to hospital in

Abbeville, suffering from shortness of breath, cough and pains between the shoulder blades and returned to England on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He was discharged from service on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1917, at Brighton, as a result of 'total incapacity' from infection by TB during his active service. His record refers to his trade as a veterinary dresser, and he was discharged as a driver, with his military character as 'Good' and character awarded in accordance with King's Regulations, as 'Steady and sober'. The Board allowed 25 shillings a week as pension, and each of the four children- the allowance of 2 shillings and 6 pence per week.

Henry's health deteriorated rapidly and he died on June 5<sup>th</sup> 1917 at home, 6 Newton Road, Isleworth 'after much suffering' and was buried at Isleworth Cemetery. The coffin, palled with a Union Jack, was conveyed on a gun carriage to the cemetery. , where after the interment, a firing party from the Royal Fusiliers discharged three volleys over the grave. His obituary in the Middlesex Chronicle on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1917, gave an account of the funeral and the mourners who attended. He is also remembered on the memorial at St John the Baptist Church in Isleworth.