

John Edward Hambleton



John Edward was born in June 1885 in Richmond. By 1891 John's family were living in at 1 Market Road, Mortlake. John's father, also called John, was a general labourer from Burfield in Berkshire and John's mother, Mary (nee Williams) was from Mortlake. They had 2 sons - John Edward aged 6 and Albert George aged 4. They shared the house with another young couple and their new baby.

By 1895 John's family had moved to Isleworth, first to 3 Manor Villas in Haliburton Road and then by 1901 to 51 Haliburton Road (*see left for a photo taken in 2017*). By this time John, aged 16, was working as a milk carrier and Albert was an errand boy for a boot shop. They had a younger sister, Violet aged 7 and a brother Ernest Victor, aged 5. According to the 1911 census, John senior was working as a scaffolder and was now an employer. John

Edward, aged 26 was a general labourer and his brother Albert was a barman. Violet was working as a domestic servant and Ernest as a grocer's assistant. John married Mary J Gardner in January 1912 and they had 2 children: Nellie Dorothy born April 1912 and John Albert born August 1913. By 1914 the family were living at 8a Chilton Road, Richmond.



At the outbreak of war, John enlisted in Richmond into the Suffolk Regiment as Private 28227. He later joined the Northamptonshire Regiment 1st/4th Battalions as Private 225276. He sailed from Liverpool in July 1915 and landed in Suvla Bay as part of the 162nd Brigade in the 54th East Anglian Division on 15th August, 1915. They were evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915 to Alexandria then to Egypt and onto Palestine. John saw active service in 1917 in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battles of Gaza. During the 3rd Battle of Gaza which commenced on 31st October, 1917 under General Edmund

Allenby, the allied forces launched a ferocious attack at Beersheba against a weakened Turkish army. A week before, 200 guns had bombarded the Turks to trick them into believing a full frontal attack would follow. This was the heaviest artillery attack of WW1 outside of Europe. At dawn on 31st October, 40,000 allied troops launched a surprise attack against the damaged Turkish lines and captured Beersheba and the important water supply. Allenby's troops finally entered Jerusalem on 9th December, 1917. However, John was killed in action on 2nd November and was buried in the Gaza War Cemetery grave ref. XV.B.1. He was awarded the Victory medal. He is also remembered on the memorial at All Souls Church, Northcote Road, Isleworth and his death was reported in the January 1918 edition of the parish magazine.

John's sister, Violet, married Frank Tyler in December 1918 and by 1939 they all worked in their greengrocer's shop with their daughter Vera and lived at 81 Midhurst Road, Ealing. His brother, Albert was living at 27 Nightingale Road, Wood Green and working as a cellar man in 1939. John's daughter, Nellie married Martin Bolland in June 1930 and was living in Richmond Road, Liverpool in 1939; she died in 1962. His son, John, married Augusta Brown in June 1938 and was living at 4 Queen's Terrace, Railshead, Isleworth, with his mother, Mary, who died in 1937, then at 13 Napoleon Road, Twickenham where he was a bread confectionery salesman. By 1965 they were living at 40 Meadlands Drive, Petersham; he died in 1982 in Kingston.