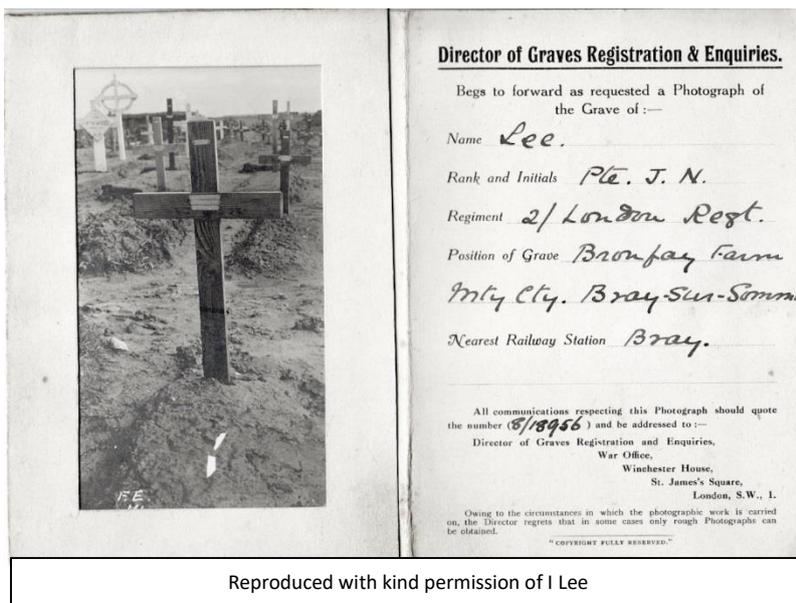


James Norman Lee

Before the war, James Lee, born in 1890, was a 'compositor' working in a company correcting type and assembling text and illustrations for printing, a very skilled job. He lived his short life at the Grand Junction Wharf in Brentford with his many brothers and sisters. In earlier years his father, James, is recorded as a groom, but by 1911 he father was a 'Stableman and Foreman'. The family were clearly hard workers. His sisters, Edith and Alice were dress-makers. Benjamin, his older brother was a barge builder and his younger brothers were a 'weaver of iron wire' and an errand boy. His mother was Sarah Jane, nee Blocksidge



James enlisted in the army at Brentford. He originally joined the 21st London Regiment, but later joined the 2nd (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers). When war broke out in August 1914 his Battalion was in Calcutta. They departed for England as soon as they could, arriving back in December. In March 1915, the Battalion then embarked for Gallipoli where



they were involved in heavy fighting until they were evacuated to Egypt in January 1916. In March, these war weary men were then moved to Marseilles in France and travelled by train and on foot to engage in the various actions at the Battles of the Somme. As James's enlistment date is not

recorded, it is not known when he joined his regiment. In March 1916 the Military Service Act was passed imposing conscription on most single men between 18 – 41yrs. James may or may not have served abroad, but he was certainly in France on 15th September 1916 where he is recorded as having 'died from wounds'. James is buried at Bronfay Farm, Military Cemetery, Bray-sur-Somme (Grave Ref 1.A.19.). In 1916 the farm became a casualty clearing station, located a few miles behind the front line. It is likely that James was wounded in one of the Battles of the Somme - after his Battalion went into action in July, and he was possibly brought back for there for medical attention. James was also remembered at All Saints Church, Church Street in Isleworth

