

John James Ovenden



John James was born in 1885 in Acton and baptised on May 24th 1885 at All Saints Parish Church, South Acton. His parents, George Daniel, born in Ramsgate, Kent in 1859, and Fanny Taylor, nee Westbrook, born in 1861 in the Brentford area, were residing at 105 Bollo Bridge Road, Acton at the time of John's baptism. They had married in February 1883 at St Peter's Church, Hammersmith; both were of 'full age'. George Daniel was a labourer by trade, and for some years a carman at the laundry. Fanny was also employed there in a variety of roles as ironer and packer. John James was living with his parents and siblings at 49 Bollo Bridge Road Acton by 1891; by 1901, they had moved to 12 Petersfield Road. Altogether, John had 7 siblings: five sisters and two brothers. On December 25th 1905 at All Saints Church, South Acton, John, aged 21 and with the occupation of carman, married Rosina Emma Swift, aged 21, of 50 Park Road North. By 1911, they resided at 42,

Montgomery Road, Acton. John was still a carman and their surviving daughter, Violet Helena, was born on December 14th 1911 and baptised on January 14th 1912.

John enlisted at Chiswick and served (8791) with the Royal Fusiliers from October 1914 to September 1917, and he then transferred to the Army Service Corps (T/364697) and to the 1047th Horse Transport Company, formed in November 1917, specifically for Italy, and responsible for the miscellaneous transport services. An army cannot fight without equipment, food and ammunition, nor move without vehicles or horses, and John was one of their drivers. Commonwealth forces were at the Italian front between November 1917 and November 1918. John's service records are not available, but we do know that he 'died' on 24th October 1918, aged 34. Rosina Emma was his beneficiary, and his CWGC record shows their residing at 204 Linkfield Road in Isleworth at this time. *See above for a 2018 photo of that property.* John was buried at the Staglieno Cemetery in Genoa, and remembered on the memorial in St John's Church in Isleworth- *see right for a photo of the church, very close to Linkfield Road.* Rosina Emma (1884-1969) lived to be 85 and resided in the Cranford area, and is recorded on the 1939 Register at Crane View 212 Bath Road Cranford Bridge. John's mother died in 1931. His siblings remained in the West London area largely. George Henry (1881-1963) was a carman; Edith Rose (1883- 1912), Ellen (Nellie) Sarah (1888-1959), Ada Florence, born in 1895 and Rose Ethel, born in 1891 worked in the laundry with their mother. Florence May, born in 1901, was a wireless worker, and the youngest brother, Walter (1903-1980) was a gas fitter in 1939.

