



## James Horace Brett.



The 1891 Census records James's parents Henry James Brett, 39 and Minnie Adelaide Brett, 26, living in Shirley Grove, Battersea, London, with their children Henry W. 12, Adelaide F. C. 7, Albert E. G. 2 and stepson Walter H. N. 3. His father Henry was working as a Boiler Maker, he originated from Dover, Kent.

James was born in Battersea, London in 1894, the son of Henry James Brett (B1852) and Minnie Adelaide Brett (B1864 - D1897) (nee Talbott).

James was Baptised on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1894, in the Parish Church of Saint Bartholomew, Battersea, Surrey, London. At the time the family were living at 77 Wycliff Road, Battersea.

James's mother Minnie Adelaide died in December 1897 aged 33, she was buried in Morden, Surrey on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1897.

James's father Henry died around 1899.

1901 Census record for James were not found. (As he would have only been 7 years old, it is possible he was living with a relative or possibly in the workhouse as his parents had died).



1911 Census records James aged 16, and working as an Assistant to a Fishmonger, it also records him lodging with his employer Harold Frederick Furr and his family at Cooladine Street, Tilehouse Street, Hitchin, Herts.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1915 James Married Hetty Maylin (B1897-D1966) the daughter of Charles Thomas Maylin and Sarah Ann Maylin (nee Norgan), at St Mary's Church, Hitchin, Herts. They had one son Albert Charles Brett born on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1916, in Hitchin, Herts. Hetty remarried in 1920, to Henry Charles Mottram (B1894-D1978) from Royston, Herts. They had 6 daughters Gwendoline Winifred, Vera Doreen, Jean Alice, Doreen Verena, Mavis and Pearl. Henry Charles Mottram served in the Machine Gun Corps during WW1.

## James's Military Service.

James enlisted in Bedford in October 1916, his service record describes him aged 22 years and 3 months employed as a Fishmonger, married with one child and living at Hope Villa, 23 Kershaw's Hill, Hitchin, Herts. He was posted to the Huntingdonshire Cyclist battalion, with the service number 2723.



On completion of his training he was posted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Prince of Wales Own (West Yorkshire Regiment) with the service number 52418. He landed in France in August 1917. The following month James was initially reported missing in action, later confirmed as Killed in Action on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 1917. He is buried in the CWGC Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref; Plot 2. Row L. Grave 23.

The CWGC record James as: "*Son of the late Henry James Brett; Husband of Hetty Mottram (formerly Brett), of 98 Rushby Mead's, Letchworth, Herts*".

His Headstone has the following inscription: *"Resting, His Duty Done"*.

He is also commemorated on the "Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church, Hitchin, Herts. Panel "A".

Name	Rank	Regt	Serial No.
BRETT James H.	Pte	W York R.	57418.
Medal	Date	Place	Remarks
Victory	9/5/1914	325 2130 P.D.	
British	do	do	
WAR			
Class of War Medal in			
Year of entry class			

James's Medal card.

James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory medal.



British War Medal and Victory Medal.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Prince of Wales Own (West Yorkshire Regiment).**

11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Prince of Wales Own (West Yorkshire Regiment), was formed in York in October 1914, as part of K3 (Kitchener's Third Army) under orders of 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 23<sup>rd</sup> Division.

On completion of their training the Battalion moved to various locations in the UK, they were mobilised for war in August 1915. The Battalion landed at Le Havre, France, on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1915. Seeing action at various locations.

During 1917, the Battalion saw action at the following: Battle of Messines, Battle of the Menin Road, Battle of Polygon Wood, 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Passchendaele and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Passchendaele.

The Battalion moved to Italy on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 1917.

#### **Acknowledgments.**

Commonwealth War Grave Commission. (CWGC).

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