

**Sapper James Green**  
**Regimental number: 95622**  
**175<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers**

**born: about 1877 - died: 29 April 1916**

Sapper James Green was born about 1877 in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, the son of James and Margaret Green.<sup>1</sup> This father, James, was born in about 1851 in Louth, Lincolnshire and his mother, the former Margaret Higgins, was born about the same year in Nottingham.<sup>2</sup> James and Margaret were married on 1 May 1870 at St Barnabas Roman Catholic Church in Nottingham.<sup>3</sup> Just after they were married, James and Margaret were boarders in the home of John and Ann Ward at 3 Province Court, Nottingham.<sup>4</sup> James was a bricklayer's labourer and Margaret was hose stretcher.

James and Margaret had ten children, eight of whom survived to 1911.<sup>5</sup> There were seven sons – Henry (born 7 November 1872),<sup>6</sup> James, John (born 6 April 1879<sup>7</sup> but probably died in 1886<sup>8</sup>) and John Albert (born in 27 January 1889),<sup>9</sup> Albert (born in about 1891),<sup>10</sup> Herbert Edgar (born 2 June 1891)<sup>11</sup> and Alfred (born in about 1895)<sup>12</sup> – and four daughters – Catherine (also known as Kate) (born 15 December 1870),<sup>13</sup> Margaret (born 15 November 1874),<sup>14</sup> and Anne Gertrude (born 7 June 1881).<sup>15</sup>

After they were married, Margaret continued to work, probably at home. In 1891 and 1901, she was a lace clipper or lace hand and James was still a bricklayer.<sup>16</sup> James probably boarder with William and Matilda Hayes in Stainsby, Derbyshire. He was working as a blacksmith in a colliery.

At the time of the 1901 census, the family was living at 20 West Street, Nottingham, although James was not shown with the family. In 1911, they were at the same address and James, who was then a bricklayer, was listed with the family.

James enlisted as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers in Doncaster, Yorkshire<sup>17</sup> and joined the British Expeditionary Force in France on 30 October 1915.<sup>18</sup> He served with a Tunnelling Company.<sup>19</sup> The Tunnelling Companies, part of the Royal Engineers, were made up of men drawn from the ranks and men specially recruited for this work.<sup>20</sup> They were created quickly in 1915 to respond to aggressive German action to mine British lines. "... men who were working underground as civilians in the UK on ... February 17th were underground at Givenchy only four days later."<sup>21</sup> The work of the Tunnelling companies included "...digging of subways, cable trenches, saps, chambers (for such things as signals and medical services), as well as offensive or defensive mining."

James was serving with the 175<sup>th</sup> Field Company (Tunnelling)<sup>22</sup> when he died of his wounds on 29 April 1916 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.<sup>23</sup> On the day he died, four patients were reported to have died at the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS<sup>24</sup> – perhaps one was James. A total of 45 patients died at the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS in April 1916.

He was a Roman Catholic.<sup>25</sup> He was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II. Row D, Grave 133).<sup>26</sup> Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several Casualty Clearing Stations, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.<sup>27</sup>

A letter was sent to his father, who was still living at 20 West Street, Nottingham, notifying him of James' death. The monies owing to him from the army after this death were sent to his mother.<sup>28</sup>

James was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>29</sup>

James' brother, Herbert, also lost his life in the Great War.<sup>30</sup> He was a Private in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry when he was killed in action in France on 30 April 1916 – just one day after James. It is not clear if any of his other brothers served in the Great War.

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<sup>1</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 August 2015), entry for James Green, Registration district: Nottingham, Sub-registration district: Exchange, ED, institution, or vessel: 6, Piece: 3361, Folio: 103, Page Number: 29

<sup>2</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 August 2015), entry for James Green, Registration district: Nottingham, ED, institution, or vessel: 34, Piece: 2705, Folio: 58, Page Number: 29; "Nottinghamshire marriages, 1528-1929," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 5 August 2015), entry for James Green

<sup>3</sup> "Nottinghamshire marriages, 1528-1929," entry for James Green

<sup>4</sup> "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 August 2015), entry for James Green, Registration district: Nottingham, Sub-registration district: St. Ann, ED, institution, or vessel: 14, Household schedule number: 80, Piece: 3515, Folio: 67, Page Number: 20

<sup>5</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 8 August 2015), entry for James Green, Registration district: Nottingham, Registration District Number: 430, Sub-registration district: Nottingham North East, ED, institution, or vessel: 1, Piece: 20541. The 1901 census indicates a daughter, Maud, born in about 1875. However, this would be an eleventh child, so it is presumably the same child as Margaret, born in 1874.

<sup>6</sup> "Nottinghamshire baptisms, 1528-1929," entry for Henry Green

<sup>7</sup> "Nottinghamshire baptisms, 1528-1929," entry for John Green

<sup>8</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 August 2015), entry for John Green, Registration district: Nottingham, Inferred County: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 191

<sup>9</sup> "Nottinghamshire baptisms, 1528-1929," entry for John Albert Green

<sup>10</sup> "1911 England Census," entry for James Green

<sup>11</sup> "Nottinghamshire baptisms, 1528-1929," entry for Herbert Edgar Green

<sup>12</sup> "1911 England Census," entry for James Green

<sup>13</sup> "Nottinghamshire baptisms, 1528-1929," entry for Catherine Green

<sup>14</sup> "Nottinghamshire baptisms, 1528-1929," entry for Margaret Green

<sup>15</sup> "Nottinghamshire baptisms, 1528-1929," entry for Anne Gertrude Green

<sup>16</sup> "1891 England Census," entry for James Green; "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 August 2015), entry for James Green, Registration district: Nottingham, Sub-registration district: Nottingham North East, ED, institution, or vessel: 57, Piece: 3179, Folio: 43, Page Number: 25, Household schedule number: 169

<sup>17</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 August 2015), entry for James Green

<sup>18</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 August 2015), entry for James Green

<sup>19</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 29 July 2015), entry for Green, J., Service No: 95622

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- <sup>20</sup> "The Tunnelling Companies RE," *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/tunnelcoyre.htm>; accessed 14 August 2015)
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," entry for Green, J., Service No: 95622
- <sup>23</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 63
- <sup>24</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G); accessed 17 June 2015)
- <sup>25</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 63
- <sup>26</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," entry for Green, J., Service No: 95622
- <sup>27</sup> "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery.%20Nord>; accessed 5 August 2015)
- <sup>28</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 5 August 2015), entry for James Green
- <sup>29</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 26 November 2015), entry for James Green
- <sup>30</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 5 August 2015), entry for Herbert Green; "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 5 August 2015), entry for Herbert Green