

Sergeant James Henry Jackson[©]

Regimental number: 10226

7th (Service) Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment

born: 20 July 1898–died: 3 October 1918

Sergeant James Henry Jackson was born on 20 July 1898 in West Ham, Essex, one of 11 children born to James Jackson and his wife Elizabeth Mary Cook. He was baptized on 14 August 1898.¹ James Sr. was born in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, in about 1869 and his wife in Poplar, Middlesex, in about 1878.² James Sr.'s parents had both died by the time he was 12 years old—first his mother in 1879³ and then his father in 1880⁴—so he and his younger sister Catherine went into the Union Workhouse on Lynn Road in Wisbech.⁵

Perhaps James Sr. came to London in search of work sometime in the 1880s. In 1891, he was boarding with Kate Henson at 5 & 7 Philip Street in Canning Town, Essex. He, like the other 30 lodgers, was a dock labourer⁶—likely working at the Royal Victoria Dock, one of three docks in the Royal Docks, east of London. It was built on an uninhabited area of the Plaistow Marshes and opened in 1855 to accommodate large steamships coming to London.⁷

James Sr. probably met his future wife Elizabeth in London and they married on 19 September 1897 in St. Luke's Church at Victoria Docks.⁸ James Henry, who was their first child, was followed by:

- William George (probably born on 10 January 1900, baptized on 25 January)⁹
- Sidney (born on 12 June 1901, baptized on 20 June)¹⁰
- Frederick Robert (born on 18 February 1903, baptized on 4 March)¹¹
- Peter (born in 1904)¹²
- Alfred Ernest (born in 1906,¹³ baptized on 16 March 1906)¹⁴
- Albert Edward (born on 22 April 1907, baptized on 10 May)¹⁵
- Elizabeth Sophia (born on 6 September 1908, baptized on 18 September)¹⁶
- Charles Herbert (born on 20 November 1909, baptized on 10 December)¹⁷
- Frank (born on 8 July 1912, baptized on 24 July)¹⁸
- Rosalind (born in 1916)¹⁹

Most of James' siblings were baptized at St. Luke's Church in Victoria Docks, where their parents had married. No record was found of the baptism of Peter or Rosalind.

The family moved around quite a bit, but always in the West Ham area. In 1901, the family was living at 32 Janet Road, West Ham.²⁰ By 1903, it had moved to 100 Ford Park Road,²¹ by 1906 to 10 Chadwin Road,²² by 1907 to 35 Rendal Road²³ and finally to 43 Hartington Rd by 1908.²⁴ James, and later his brothers, would remain at 43 Hartington Road for many years.

James had enlisted in the army before the birth of his youngest sibling. He enlisted in Stratford, Essex,²⁵ probably in about September 1914.²⁶ He joined the South Regiment and served first in the Balkan campaign. He left for the Balkans with the 7th Battalion on 21 July 1915, landing in Suvla Bay in Gallipoli on 7 August 1915.²⁷ At the end of June 1916, the battalion prepared to sail to Europe.²⁸ The port of Marseilles was congested and the ship could not leave Egypt until 2 July, arriving in Marseilles shortly after noon on 7 July. The troops left by train the same day and, by 22 July, were on the Western Front. The battalion took part in key battles on the Western Front—the

Battle of Thiepval Ridge, the Battle of Messines, the Battle of Polygon Wood and the Battle of the Scarpe.²⁹ It was just after the Battle of the Canal du Nord that James lost his life.

The battalion was stationed near Cagnicourt, about 20 kilometres northwest of Cambrai in northern France. The troops had a quiet training day on 1 October and then moved near to Saucicourt on the side of the Canal du Nord. By 2:30 a.m. on 2 October, they had settled into sections of trenches. The battalion's war diary records that "During the hostile shelling of battery positions in [. . .] a/Sgt Jackson was severely wounded and eventually died before he got to the CCS."³⁰

The journal maintained by the chaplain at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station tells a slightly different story. It suggests the James was admitted on 2 October, but only died the next day of gunshot wounds that penetrated his abdomen, right knee, and chest, and fractured his thigh.³¹ A casualty clearing station was a military medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who did not die or could not be adequately treated in the CCS were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital.³² They received many wounded soldiers each day and it is likely the records were not always correct.

James was buried the next day in the Duisans British Military Cemetery (Plot 8, Row A, Grave 94) with the Canadian chaplain W. Fisher presiding. Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Étrun, near Arras, France. The first burials in the cemetery took place in March 1917.³³ No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September 1918 and was stationed near Duisans for two months.³⁴

A letter was sent to James' family at 43 Hartington Road to notify it of his death.³⁵ His father received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.³⁶

James was awarded posthumously 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).³⁷

James' youngest sibling was not yet 2 years old when her brother died. Little was found about his siblings after the war, but a few of his brothers took after their father and were working at the docks:

- In 1939, Sidney was living with his brother Charles and his wife in the family home at 43 Hartington Road. Both Sidney and his brother were stevedores.³⁸
- Frederick probably married Sarah H. Downham in West Ham in 1928³⁹ and, a decade later, they were living at 27 Varley Road in West Ham, where Frederick was a stevedore's labourer.⁴⁰ At some point, Frederick may have had an association with the Lord Raglan public house at 9 High Street in Plaistow. After his death on 29 September 1965, his probate record described him as "JACKSON Frederick Robert otherwise Frederick of Lord Raglan, 9 High Street, London."⁴¹ The pub was permanently close in 1997 and demolished two years later.⁴²
- Charles married Edith M. Brown in West Ham just months before the 1939 register was completed.⁴³ In September 1939, he and Edith were living with Charles' brother Sidney at 43 Hartington Road.⁴⁴
- In 1939, Frank was living at 51 Ripley Road, West Ham, where Frank was a cable drum maker.⁴⁵ It is not clear whether he was married. He died in 1978 in Epping Forest, Essex.⁴⁶

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- ¹ "Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for James Henry Jackson
- ² "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 June 2020), entry for James Henry Jackson, Registration district: West Ham, Registration district number: 188, Enumeration district: 15, District number: 15, Sub-district: Canning Town Sub-district number: 4, Census reference: RG14PN9485 RG78PN508 RD188 SD4 ED15 SN155, Piece: 9485
- ³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for Sarah Jackson, Registration district: Wisbech, Inferred county: Cambridgeshire, Volume: 3b, Page: 445
- ⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for James Jackson, Registration district: Wisbech, Inferred county: Cambridgeshire, Volume: 3b, Page: 399
- ⁵ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2020), entry for James Jackson, Registration district: Wisbech, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: Union Workhouse, Piece: 1696, Folio: 105, Page: 2
- ⁶ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2020), entry for James Jackson, Registration district: West Ham, Sub-registration district: West Ham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 1318, Folio: 71
- ⁷ "Royal Victoria Dock," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Victoria_Dock: accessed 17 June 2020)
- ⁸ "Essex, England, Church of England Marriages, 1754–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 June 2020), entry for James Jackson
- ⁹ "Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for William George Jackson. This record indicates that George was baptized on 25 Jan 1900 but was born on 10 January 1901. It is assumed that the birthdate should be 10 January 1900.
- ¹⁰ "Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for Sidney Jackson
- ¹¹ "Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for Frederick Robert Jackson
- ¹² "GRO online index (birth)," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2020), entry for Jackson, Peter, Registration district: West Ham, Volume 04A, Page 179. One of James and Elizabeth's children died before 1911 ("1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," entry for James Henry Jackson). This may have been Peter. No record of his death was found, but he was also not in the 1911 Census, with this family or any other.
- ¹³ "GRO online index (birth)," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2020) entry for Jackson, Alfred Ernest, Registration district: West Ham, Volume 04A, Page 128
- ¹⁴ "Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for Alfred Ernest Jackson
- ¹⁵ "Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for Albert Edward Jackson
- ¹⁶ "Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for Elizabeth Sophia Jackson
- ¹⁷ "Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for Charles Herbert Jackson
- ¹⁸ "Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for Frank Jackson
- ¹⁹ "GRO online index (birth)," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2020) entry for Jackson, Rosalind, Registration district: West Ham, Volume 04A, Page 387

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- ²⁰ “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 June 2020), entry for James Jackson, Registration district: West Ham, Sub-registration district: Canning Town, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 20, Piece: 1581, Folio: 29, Page: 6, Household schedule number: 37
- ²¹ “Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918,” entry for Frederick Robert Jackson
- ²² “Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918,” entry for Alfred Ernest Jackson
- ²³ “Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918,” entry for Albert Edward Jackson
- ²⁴ “Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918,” entry for Elizabeth Sophia Jackson
- ²⁵ “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 June 2020), entry for James Henry Jackson
- ²⁶ Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratiuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratiuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 June 2020), entry for James Henry Jackson
- ²⁷ “Unit History: South Staffordshire Regiment,” *Forces War Records* (<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/321/south-staffordshire-regiment/>: accessed 17 June 2020)
- ²⁸ “7 Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment,” *The National Archives* (<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for 1915–1917, Item number: 2551089, Catalogue reference: WO 95/1816/1, and entry for 1918–1919, Item number: 2551157, Catalogue reference: WO 95/1816/4. Unless otherwise specified, all information about the 7th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment comes from these sources.
- ²⁹ “Unit History: South Staffordshire Regiment” *Forces War Records* (<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/321/south-staffordshire-regiment/>: accessed 18 June 2020)
- ³⁰ “7 Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment,” *The National Archives*, entry for 1918–1919
- ³¹ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 16 June 2020), entry for Jackson, J.
- ³² “Casualty Clearing Station,” *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station: accessed 2 May 2020)
- ³³ “Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 7 October 2015)
- ³⁴ “War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31,” *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>: accessed 17 June 2015)
- ³⁵ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa*, entry for Jackson, J.
- ³⁶ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry*, entry for James Henry Jackson
- ³⁷ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 June 2020), entry for James H. Jackson
- ³⁸ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 June 2020), entry for Charles H. Jackson, Reference: RG101/1046J/008/24, Letter code: CBWP
- ³⁹ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 June 2020), entry for Frederick R. Jackson, Registration district: West Ham, Inferred county: Essex, Volume: 4a, Page: 297
- ⁴⁰ “1939 England and Wales Register,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 June 2020), entry for Frederick R. Jackson, Schedule number: 10, Sub-schedule Number: 1, Enumeration district: CBWS, Registration district: 188-4
- ⁴¹ “England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 June 2020), entry for Frederick Robert Jackson
- ⁴² “Lord Raglan,” *WhatPub* (<https://www.whatpub.com/pubs/ELC/13978/lord-raglan-plaistow>: accessed 21 June 2020)
- ⁴³ “England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for Charles H. Jackson, District: West Ham, County: Essex, Volume: 4A, Page: 23
- ⁴⁴ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast*, entry for Charles H. Jackson

⁴⁵ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 June 2020), entry for Frank Jackson, Reference: RG101/1049H/020/34, Letter code: CBXO

⁴⁶ "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 23 June 2020), entry for Frank Jackson, District: Epping Forest, County: Essex, Volume: 9, Page: 2165