

# John James Foreman

Born in Crockerton 21 December 1891

Killed in Action Battle of Jutland 31 May 1916

John James (known as James) signed on for 12 years service with the Royal Navy at Portsmouth on 24 May 1912, having previously been a farm labourer. Although 21 years old, he was only 5' 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" tall, and was described as of dark complexion, with dark brown hair and brown eyes. A year after signing on, he was a Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class, then joined the new battle cruiser Queen Mary when she was commissioned in September 1913. Steaming in advance of the Grand Fleet on 31 May 1916, HMS Queen Mary with other British battlecruisers, engaged German battlecruisers in the opening phase of the Battle of Jutland. Although HMS Queen Mary scored some hits, a German shell struck her, detonating one or both magazines and the resulting explosions broke her in two. She sank very quickly. Of a crew of 1,284, only 18 survived. John James would have had little chance of escape, working in the engine room. The wreck is a designated war grave. John James is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and the North Bradley Memorials.

See John James Foreman's entry on Lives of the First World War at:  
<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/6391143>

## **Father:** John James Foreman

Born in the Warminster district to a family that had been in the area (especially Longbridge Deverill) for generations, he had 4 sisters. A farm labourer, although said he was a carter in the 1901 Census. Died in Devizes area (45 years old) in October 1914, buried in North Bradley.

## **Mother:** Ellen Goodwin

Born in Bath, although her younger sister was born in Warminster the next year. Working in the silk factory at Crockerton soon after her marriage.

Married in 1890, John James junior was born about a year later in Crockerton. His oldest sister was born in Warminster but the family moved to North Bradley about 1895, as 6 more children were born, all in North Bradley. In 1901 and 1911 the family were living in Scotland, which is now in Southwick parish, but later records show the parents living in Woodmarsh. His mother was living in Church Lane at the time he died.

### **G/father**

Thomas Foreman  
b. Warminster  
Farm labourer

Raised a family of 5 in  
Warminster

### **G/mother**

Eleanor Cornish  
b. Warminster

### **G/father**

Not known

Raised 2 girls.

### **G/mother**

Charlotte Goodwin  
b. Corsley

John James had 5 aunts brought up in or near Warminster and 7 brothers and sisters. One sister married a Marshman. I do have more information about his family, which would help anyone interested in finding out more.