



John (Jack) Hodgson

1893 - 1918



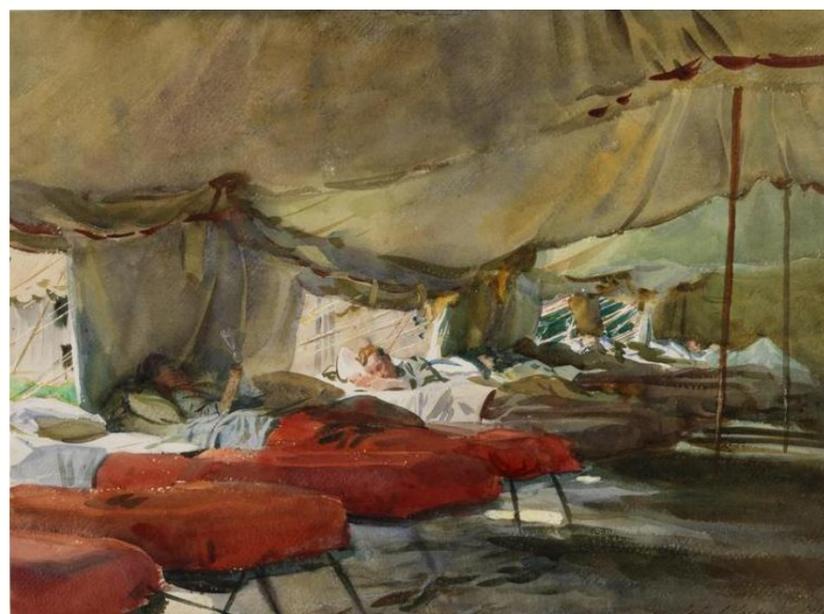
45 White Street

At the outbreak of World War One, John was single, almost 21, and working as a clerk/short-hand typist with the Midland Railway in Derby.

John was born on 15 August 1893, when his mother Flora (nee Bosworth) was only 19. His father, Thomas Hodgson, who was also a railway clerk, died (aged 28) when John was only two and a half. Flora, widowed at 22, became a Housekeeper for her brother Arthur Bosworth (another railway clerk!) and their unmarried sister Ann Bosworth (a Seamstress of Elastic Surgical Bandages). In about 1905 they moved to White Street – possibly the first inhabitants of the new house.

John volunteered to join the army in 1915, signing his attestation papers at his workplace on 11 October. He was recruited to the Royal Engineers, Railway Troops, Inland Water Transport section. His full service record exists, recording his progress from Sapper to Second Lieutenant. He was posted to France on 28 October 1915, and served for the full length of the war, but died of sickness on 16 November 1918, just five days after the Armistice, and aged only twenty five.

John was buried in a Commonwealth War Grave at Longuenesse (St Omer) Cemetery in France. St Omer was a large hospital centre in the war, and the *Derby Daily*



The interior of a hospital tent with camp beds lining the side, by John Singer Sargent. The painter spent a week in hospital alongside the war wounded after he contracted influenza in France in 1918 © IWM (Art.IWM ART 1611)

Telegraph Roll of Honour tells us that he died in the Canadian Hospital, one of many victims of the Influenza epidemic amongst both troops and civilians. His name can be seen on the Midland Railway Roll of Honour panels, behind the war memorial on Midland Road, Derby and he is listed on the war memorial in St Alkmund's Church.

His mother Flora placed a notice in the local paper on 25 November, wishing "to thank all friends for their kind expressions of sympathy in her sad bereavement".

Flora died seven years later in 1925, aged just 52. She had lost her own father before her marriage in 1893, was a widow at 22, and lost her only child in her mid-forties.