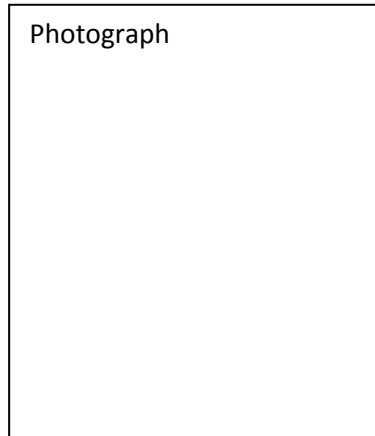


<i>Name</i>	James Joseph BOWERS
<i>Birth Place</i>	Kettering
<i>Occupation 1911</i>	Wood worker in the building trade



<i>Date of Birth</i>	Second quarter of 1891
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<i>Date Enlisted</i>	May 1916 alleged
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<i>Parents</i>	James BOWERS and Rhoda BOWERS (née PELL)
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<i>Married</i>	Winifred Rose Maud PERKIN in the third quarter of 1920
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Information from National Roll of the Great War

BOWERS, J. J., Sergeant, M.G.C. (Motor Section)

He joined in May 1916, and later the same year embarked for India. He was afterwards sent to Mesopotamia, where he was employed driving armoured cars near Kut, Baghdad and on other fronts. He was severely wounded when his car was hit by a shell, being the only member of the crew to escape alive. Demobilised on returning home in December 1919, he holds the General Service and Victory Medals.

Wards Lodge, Bugbrooke, Northants.

Additional Information

James BOWERS was the only son among four surviving children of James BOWERS, a 'clicker' in the shoe and boot trade, and his wife Rhoda.

An official record to match his National Roll entry, above, has not been found. However, there is a Medal Index Card for a Joseph J. BOWERS who served in the Army Service Corps, number DM2/171237, where the 'DM' prefix denotes employment as a 'Motor Driver Mechanical Transport'.

This private soldier transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, as number 163427, serving as a 'Gunner'. He appears to have served on the Western Front, qualifying for the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, and was discharged on 16 January 1920 (perhaps after terminal leave which started in December), still a private soldier.

James does appear in some records as Joseph and perhaps this is how he was known in the family, as his father was also James. He may have carried this practice into his army service and later life.

He married in 1920 and died on 15 February 1963, when he was living at 44 High Street, Bugbrooke. The relevant Probate entry notes that he was 'otherwise known as Joseph'. His widow, Winifred died in May 1991, aged 93.