

<i>Name</i>	John Thomas HIGGINBOTTOM
<i>Birth Place</i>	Bugbrooke
<i>Occupation 1911</i>	Lastmaker
<i>Date of Birth</i>	7 March 1894
<i>Date Enlisted</i>	January 1915

<i>Parents</i>	William John & (Mary Ann) Matilda HIGGINBOTTOM (née GILKES).
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<i>Married</i>	Catherine WOODWARD Third quarter of 1921
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Private 'Jack' Higginbottom – a family picture

From family and official sources

John, always known as 'Jack', was working as a lastmaker (for his father, apparently) before enlisting in January 1915 in the newly-formed 7th (Service) Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment, raised by the efforts of celebrated rugby player Edgar MOBBS and known as "Mobbs' Own". As Private number 17140, he was posted to 'B' Company of the battalion.

He landed with the 7th Battalion in France on 1 September 1915 and remained with them until his discharge back in England on 23 March 1919. For some of the time he kept a personal pocket diary, which has been transcribed by the family. He received the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

On demobilisation, Jack found local work almost immediately in the stores at the Army Ordnance Depot at Weedon, initially with uniforms and later (after late 1921) with the finishing ('blueing') of rifles.

In the third quarter of 1921 he married Catherine WOODWARD, with whom he had five children (three sons and two daughters). Their youngest son died aged 24, Both his other sons served in the RAF, but the younger of them did his National Service immediately after WW2

Catherine's brother George WOODWARD had died in hospital at Boulogne on 23 July 1917, of wounds received serving with the Bedfordshire Regiment as Private 13016.

After 40 years at Weedon, Jack retired on 28 April 1959, when he was presented with the Imperial Service Medal (ISM) on behalf of the Queen by the Depot Commander (Lieutenant-Colonel M.J.W. WOODS, RAOC).

Jack was a prize-winning skittles player and a keen gardener (he kept an allotment for many years). He died in November 1985, aged 91.



Badge of 7th (Service) Battalion, the Northamptonshire Regiment

Jack's four medals, including the ISM, mounted for wear

