

James Horsewell TIPPETT



- Born:** 1869, Padstow, Cornwall
- Occupation:** Tailor & sailmaker, Church Lane, Padstow
- Enlisted:** Truro: 6th July 1918 (Conscripted)
- Unit:** Royal Army Medical Corps
- Rank/number:** Private: No.155553
- Death:** Died, 6th September 1919
- Detail:** James never fought in the Great War. Too old to enlist, it was only in the climatic last year of the conflict that Britain's dwindling manpower reserves meant he was finally called up. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and was in training when peace came. In February 1919 James was invalided out with cancer and six months later he died in Padstow.
- Age at death:** 49
- Military info:** When the war broke out James Tippett was 44, six years too old to enlist in Britain's volunteer army. Though there was an initial flood of recruits this dwindled in 1915. Efforts were made to boost recruitment, but when these failed conscription was inevitable. In January 1916 compulsory recruitment was introduced. The upper age limit was also increased to 41. Over the next two years the war raged on, but there seemed little chance James would be called up. But on 21st March 1918 the Germans launched their last-ditch offensive on the Western Front and troops were desperately needed. On 10th April the government increased the maximum age of recruitment to 50 and eight days later James was conscripted into the army. On 6th July he was called up and after attesting at Truro he was posted as a private to the 5th Training Battalion, Royal Army Medical Corps, based at Blackpool. He was one month short of his 49th birthday. James was still in training when the armistice was signed on 11th November 1918. But a peace treaty still had to be agreed before the war was officially over and realising this could take months the government discharged men as Class Z Reservists, which would allow them to be swiftly recalled should Germany resume the war. On 28th February 1919 James returned home. A few months later he was dead.
- Grave/memorial:** James is buried at Padstow Cemetery, and is commemorated at St Petroc's Church, Padstow and on the Padstow War Memorial.
- Family info:** Father: James Tippett, born Padstow, Cornwall in 1845. Ship's carpenter. Mother: Selina Elliott, born Padstow, Cornwall in 1844. Milk maid. The couple married in 1865. Wife: Laura Williams, born Padstow, Cornwall in 1872. The couple married on 28th April 1895 and had two children, Mary in 1896 and William in 1906. The couple lived in Church Lane, Padstow.



This information was researched by Peter Smith, who is currently writing a book about Padstow's part in the Great War. Anyone wishing to correct errors or supply additional information can write to him at 24 Mallard Drive, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5PW. Also phone 01825 762226 or email smithpeter24@gmail.com

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