



John Wilmore Hume James, Royal Artillery, 7 caps, cap number 179

John Wilmore Hume James was born on 13th September 1911 in India. He was the son of Edmund Henry Salt James, an Indian Army officer, and his wife Muriel (nee Fowler). He married Joanna May Glyn on 20th May 1939, they had one son Charles John James born 18th August 1940.

John was educated at Wellington and then Clare, Cambridge. He scored for colours in the final Cambridge trial in October 1931 and was a Eastern counties trialist in November 1931. John was selected for the East of England trial of January 1933 but called off.

John was selected for the Anglo Scot team in February 1935, alongside his fellow Royal Artillery officer and ex Wellingtonian C.P. Hamilton. He gained his first cap at inside left against Ireland on the 16th March 1935 at Dunmore Park, Belfast. Scotland ran out 3-2 winners. John was capped in all three of the 1935 games, scoring against Ireland. He was again ever present in the 1936 international season. His last cap was against England on the 6th March 1937. The match played at St Andrews was a 5-1 loss for Scotland but J W H James was noted as one of the few Scottish players to impress. He was selected for the game against Ireland but was unavailable.

When he left Cambridge, John trained as an officer in the Royal Artillery. In 1944 he was a Lieutenant Colonel commanding 99th (The Royal Bucks Yeomanry) Field Regiment RA in India. His unit was in support of the 2nd Norfolk's attack on Kohima on 4th May 1944 when the original Forward Observation Officer was killed by a Japanese sniper. Lt Col James took his place and was also sadly killed. He was originally buried near GPT ridge where he fell.

He was later re-interred in Kohima War Cemetery. His inscription on his headstone reads " IN LOVING MEMORY OF A GREAT-HEARTED TRUE AND KINDLY ENGLISH GENTLEMAN".

Sources:

British Newspaper Archive

Ancestry

Scottish Hockey Records

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Wellington School, Roll of Honour