**John Charles Harrison Ladyman**

John Charles Harrison Ladyman, born in King’s Lynn, Norfolk in 1877, was the son of George Harrison Ladyman and Mary Helena Ladyman. His father was a tea dealer, who by 1891 was ‘living on his own means’ in Walthamstow, Essex. John was the second of five children and when he left school he was employed as a commercial clerk. In 1901 John and his eldest sister were living at home with their parents at 78 Erskin Road, Walthamstow with one servant. By 1911 he was living with his sister at 49 Cleveland Park Avenue, Walthamstow. John was involved in church work there.

John then moved to Bushey and lived for a short time at ‘Doune Lodge’, 12 Belmont Road. When the age for recruitment was raised to 40 in May 1915, he enlisted in London as Private 16700 in the Norfolk Regiment. He served for just a few months. His death on 13 October 1915 in France was recorded in the St James’ Parish Magazine:

John Ladyman**,** late of ‘Doune Lodge’, Belmont Road, Private in the Norfolks, gave up his business in order to do lay work in Walthamstow. Early in 1914, feeling he had a call to Holy Orders, he came to Bushey to read for the ministry. He was a Server at the Parish Church. When the age limit was raised to 40, he enlisted. His was a noble and heroic life and death, and an inspiration to all who knew him. He was one of the first into the Hohenzollern Redoubt and was ‘never seen again’.

The Hohenzollern Redoubt was an intricate trench system extending out from the German front line. At the battle of Loos in September 1915 it was taken by the British during the opening stages of the engagement but regained by the Germans two days later. The final British assault on 13 October failed and resulted in 3,643 casualties, mostly in the first few minutes. John Ladyman is remembered with honour at the Loos Memorial in France, panel 30 & 31, and he is commemorated on the Bushey Memorial, at St James’ Parish Church and at St Paul’s, Bushey

