**John Howard Spink**

John Howard Spink, born in 1881 in Acton, was the son of John Howard Spink and his wife Mary Ann. His father was a railway station inspector and John was one of nine children, four of whom died during childhood. The family home where John grew up was 75 Railway Cottages, Acton. By 1901, when John was twenty, he was employed as a railway clerk and was living at home with his parents and his brother, Bertram, who was a railway porter.

In 1907 John married Catherine and they settled at 337 Chapter Road, Willesden Green, Cricklewood, London. Their son, John Howard Spink, named after his father and grandfather, was born that year. Meanwhile, his parents had moved to Oxhey in Hertfordfordshire. His father, who fought in the Crimean War, was now a retired army and railway pensioner and he and his wife lived with another family at 37 Villiers Road, Oxhey.

John enlisted in Holborn as Private 25278 in the East Surrey Regiment. He served in France and Flanders and was killed in action on 28 February 1917, aged 37. He is remembered with honour at Dickebusch New Military Cemetery in Belgium. He is not commemorated on a Bushey memorial.

A few months after John’s death, his wife, Catherine, married Edward A Barber and they made their home on Australia.

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