

JIM WHENT



This 1946 photograph captures Jim with his family, joyfully reunited after the war.

Before the war, Jim worked as a chauffeur and resided in a tied cottage in Ayot St Lawrence while working for the Tuke family. His wife, Barbara, who was the daughter of Olive Collins (Hardware Shop, Wheathampstead High Street), undertook various roles for the Tukes.

When war broke out, Jim enlisted in the RAF, which prompted Mrs. Tuke to advise all women to find alternative accommodation. As a result, Barbara packed their belongings and with her young son moved in with her mother, into her house - already crowded with occupants - at 12 High Street, Wheathampstead. This residence (where the current dentist's office is situated), was home to Olive, her three daughters, one grandson, and Jim during his leave. It was a lively household filled with joy. Despite many difficulties - Olive had been widowed twice by 1936 - she had to care for her children while managing the shop.

Jim served in the Parachute Brigade, working on aircraft. Upon his return, he secured a job with Hawker Siddeley in Hatfield. After the war, the family made their home on East Lane.

[source : information compiled by Anne Atton and Lizzie Holland, March 2025]