

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



692 PRIVATE

E. J. JAMES

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH MAY, 1915

Ernest John JAMES

Ernest John James was born at West Perth, Western Australia to parents William Richard & Mary Agnes James (nee O'Connell). His birth was registered in 1897. The birth date listed on Ernest's Attestation Papers was 24th July, 1895.

Ernest John James stated he was a 19 year old, single, Mechanic when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 20th October, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 692 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. R. James, of 54 Pier Street, Perth, Western Australia. Ernest James stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 2 years with the 13th Field Engineers (WA). As Ernest James was under the age of 21, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. W. James & Mrs M. James, of 54 Pier St., Perth both signed their consent.

Private Ernest John James embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 22nd December, 1914 with the 16th Infantry Battalion "D" Company.

Private Ernest John James was wounded in action on 3rd May, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Dongola* from Gallipoli Peninsula with gunshot wounds to lower extremities.

A cablegram from the High Commissioner's Office, dated 21st May, 1915 reads "*Please inform next of kin 692 Private E. J. James seriously ill gunshot wound right thigh and fractured pelvis.*"

16th Battalion

The 16th Battalion AIF was raised from 16 September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited in Western Australia, and the rest in South Australia. With the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The South Australian and Western Australian recruits were united when the battalion trained together in Victoria. They embarked for overseas on Boxing Day. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an AIF division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

A week after the landing the 16th was thrown into the attack on Bloody Angle suffering many casualties. From May to August the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead, and in August the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost, although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Ernest John James was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 20th May, 1915 with gunshot wounds to upper extremities.

Private Ernest John James died on 28th May, 1915 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action at Gallipoli – gunshot wound to right thigh.

A death for Ernest J. James, aged 18, was registered in the June quarter, 1915 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Private Ernest John James was buried in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number R.C. 846 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Ernest John James was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte James' father - Mr W. R. James, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private E. J. James – service number 692, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private E. J. James is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 79.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

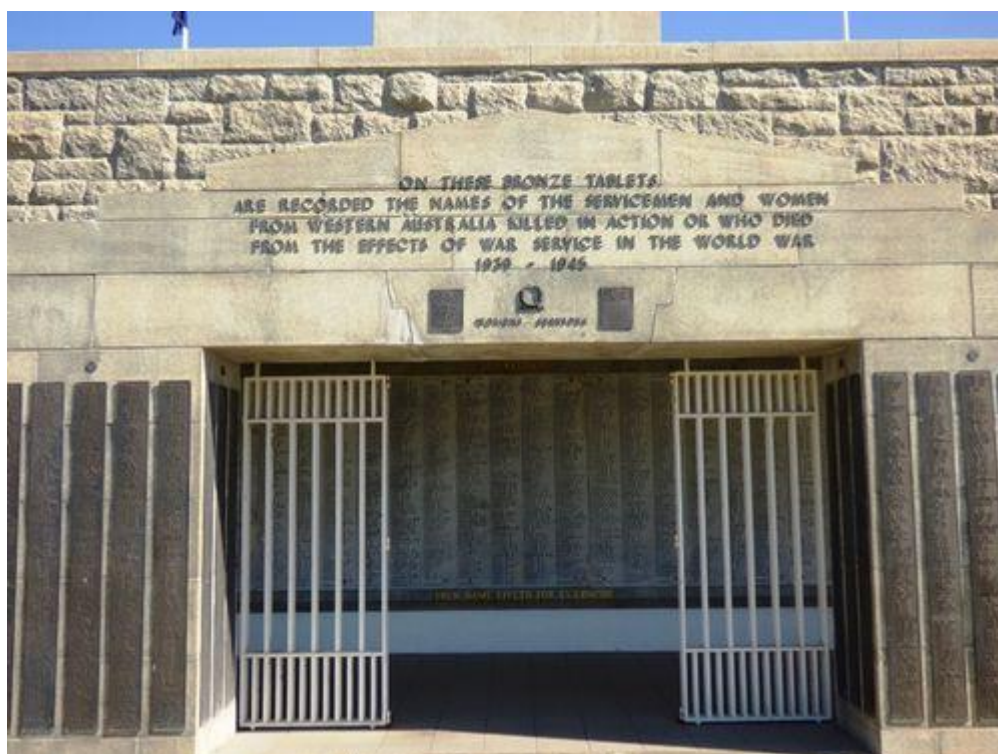
The Western Australian State War Memorial is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



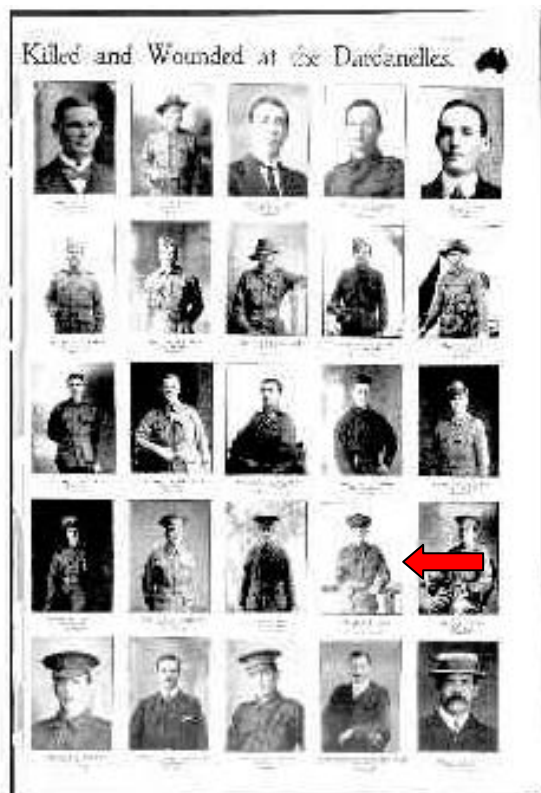
(30 pages of Private Ernest John James' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

Killed and Wounded at the Dardanelles



PRIVATE E. J. JAMES

16th Battalion

(Seriously wounded)

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 11 June. 1915)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ROLL OF HONOUR

123rd CASUALTY LIST

DEATHS

E. J. James, 16th Battalion, of Perth, died of wound, previously reported wounded and seriously ill.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 16 December. 1915)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private Ernest John James does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Private E. J. James's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.





Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire



Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery