

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4301A PRIVATE

J. C. JAMES

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND AUGUST, 1916

John Charles JAMES

John Charles James was born at Wavertree, Liverpool, Lancashire, England around 1872.

[There is insufficient information to locate John Charles James on the Census in England as his parent's details are unknown.]

John Charles James was a 42 year old, single, Miner from 33 Merriman Street, Miller's Point when he enlisted at Warwick Farm, Sydney, NSW on 14th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3353 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his Cousin – Delia McPartlin, of Lidcombe, Sydney, NSW.

Private John Charles James was posted to 11th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion on 5th October, 1915 for recruit training.

John Charles James was a 42 year old, single, Miner from 88 Fort Street, Sydney, NSW when he re-attested on 15th December, 1915 His service number was 4301 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his Cousin – Delia McPartlin, of 88 Fort Street, Sydney, NSW.

Private John Charles James was posted to 13th Reinforcements of 4th Battalion on 15th December, 1915 for recruit training.

Private John Charles James embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 20th December, 1915 with the 4th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements.

Private John Charles James was allotted & proceeded to join 2nd Battalion from Zeitoun on 14th February, 1916 from 1st Training Battalion. He joined 2nd Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 14th February, 1916.

Private John Charles James was allotted the letter "A" after his Regimental Number on 14th February, 1916 due to duplication of Regimental numbers 4301 to 4301A.

Private John Charles James embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916 on Troop Ship *Ivernia*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March. 1916.

Private John Charles James was wounded in action in France on 23rd July, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to mouth, arm & chest. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd July, 1916 then transferred to 25th Ambulance Train. Pte James was admitted to No. 5 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 24th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to head. He embarked for England from Havre, France on 26th July, 1916 on the Hospital Ship *Asturias*.

2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

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After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 2nd Battalion

Trenches 23rd July, 1916:

0010 – First line of C & D Coys moved out from Trenches into No Mans Land, preparatory to attacking the enemy's first line trenches X.4.C.+D.

0028 – Artillery opened with intense Bombardment on 1st Line enemy's trenches.

0030 – First Line rushed and taken and remaining 2 Platoons of each coy under Capt Vernon HG, & Major Rowlands DS, succeeded in gaining this line.

0100 – A & B Coys under Capt Herrod E.E. and Capt Gilder rushed and gained the second Line of trenches, killing a number of the enemy (about 100). These lines were immediately taken up and consolidated.

0600 – At this hour the lines taken were quite strongly held. Estimated casualties 3 Off wounded, Lt Host WJ, Lt Shorter CL, Lt Millar CK. 210 OR killed wounded & missing.

During the day we captured 3 Off 35OR besides a quantity of material including 6 machine guns, 28 boxes machine gun S.A.A., 2 wall telephones, 2 flare pistols, 2 rangr finders, 4 Binoculars, 14 pistols, 3 small tool cases, 1 spare M.G. Barrell and equipment, Rifles, Gas Respirators & S.A.A.

Throughout the day everything was fairly quiet in the front line. The enemy shelled our support line heavily all telephone communication being cut off.

1745 – On receiving instruction as per (D.O. 35 attached) A & D Coys with Scout Bombing platoons pushed forward to occupy Houses North side of BAPAUME ALBERT road.

1845 – Line taken up North side of MAIN ROAD. X4C.2-1 ½ to X.4C.53

1935 – BN Hd Qrs X.4.C5.2 in German Dug out

A Coy 4th Bn took up position on left of front line.

Bombing platoon under Lt Trott WA worked up trench from X4.C6 ½.4 bombing their way killing 1 Off 4 OR.

2300 – During the day the enemy shelled out line intermittently with shrapnel & HE

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Charles James was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 26th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to Face & left wrist - severe. The Hospital Admissions form states he had a gunshot wound o left forearm & Pneumonia. Pte James was reported as seriously ill with Pneumonia (no date).



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Private John Charles James died at 4 am on 2nd August, 1916 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to left wrist & face & Pneumonia.

A death for John C. James, aged 44, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Private John Charles James was buried on 3rd August, 1916 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number C.E.1829 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private John Charles James, "D" Company, 2nd Battalion, requested in his Will dated 6th April, 1916 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be left to his next of kin – Mrs Delia McPartlin, 88 Upper Fort Street, Sydney, NSW.

The personal effects of the late Private John Charles James were sent to his cousin - D. McPartlin in two separate packages. She signed for the items in December, 1916 & January, 1919.

Private John Charles James was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Pte James' next-of-kin, however they were sent to "Untraceables". (Scroll & Plaque sent to Untraceables in December, 1922). It is not shown if the medals were also sent to Untraceables.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. C James – service number 4301A, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

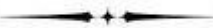
Private J. C James is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 33.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(47 pages of Private John Charles 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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

1602 CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte J. C. JAMES, Sydney (seriously)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 17 August, 1916)

LATEST CASUALTIES

196th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Wounds

Pte J. C. James (Sydney)

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 25 August, 1916)

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 J. C 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





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



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



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)



Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery