

**St. Mark's Churchyard,
Winshill, Staffordshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



P/8416 CORPORAL

G. R. JAMES

MILITARY POLICE CORPS

27TH SEPTEMBER, 1920 Age 25

George Reginald JAMES

George Reginald James was born at Winshill, Derbyshire/ Staffordshire in 1894 to parents Herbert & Elizabeth James (nee Jones). (Winshill was historically part of Derbyshire until it was transferred to Staffordshire in the late 19th century.)

The 1901 England Census recorded George James as a 6 year old, living with his family at Mount Pleasant, Winshill, Newton Solney, Derbyshire, England. His parents were listed as Herbert James (Brewery Engineman, aged 42, born Snenton, Nottinghamshire) & Elizabeth James (aged 37, born Burton on Trent Staffordshire). George was one of five children listed on this Census – Ethel James (Corset Makers Apprentice, aged 16, born Stapenhill, Derbyshire), Mabel James (aged 8, born Winshill, Derbyshire), then George, Herbert James (aged 4, born Winshill, Derbyshire) & Horace James (aged 1, born Winshill, Derbyshire).

The 1911 England Census recorded George James as a 16 year old Labourer, living with his family at Brook Cottage, Winshill, Newton Solney, Derbyshire. His parents were listed as Herbert James (engineman & Fireman-Brewery, aged 55) & Elizabeth James (aged 48). Herbert & Elizabeth James had been married for 29 years & had 7 children. Five children were listed in the Census living with their parents & all listed as being born at Burton, Staffs – Mabel James (Dressmaker, aged 18), then George, Herbert James (School, aged 14), Horace James (School, aged 11) & Cyril James (School, aged 8).

George Reginald James joined the Military Mounted Police Corps & was given a service number of P/8416. Based on that service number it is believed that he joined between late February & early March, 1917.

Military Mounted Police

The Royal Military Police (RMP) origins can be traced back to the 13th Century but it was not until 1877 that a regular corps of military police was formed, with the creation of the Military Mounted Police (MMP). This was followed by the Military Foot Police (MFP) in 1885. Although technically two independent corps, the two effectively functioned as a single organisation. In 1926, they were fully amalgamated to form the Corps of Military Police (CMP). (*The granting of the prefix 'Royal' with effect from the 28 November 1946 recognised the service of the Corps of Military Police in the Second World War, so the title became the Corps of Royal Military Police.)*

During the First World War the Military Police grew from 508 all ranks to over 25,000 all ranks by the end of the War. During the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915 the Military Police served the Army as a whole rather than just individual units.

The members of the corps were known by various nicknames, the most popular being 'The Redcaps' on account of the crimson top worn on the khaki service cap. Their duties were various, including enforcing military discipline and law within the British Army, investigating crimes committed by military personnel and against military establishments (such as theft and looting), guarding prisoners-of-war, traffic control, route marking and providing security at vulnerable points.



WW1 Military Mounted Police Shoulder Title



WW1 Military Mounted Police

The UK WW1 Service Medal and Award Rolls show that L/Cpl G. R. James entered a Theatre of War on 29th June, 1917 in France until 11th November, 1918.

The Medal Index Card for Lance Corporal G. R. James, P/8416, of MMP (Military Mounted Police Corps) shows that he was entitled to the Victory Medal & the British War Medal.

George Reginald James died on 27th September, 1920.

A death for George R. James, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1920 in the district of Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, England.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal G. R. James – service number P/8416, aged 25, of Military Police Corps. He was the son of Elizabeth and the late Herbert James, of Seaton Park, South Australia. The Graves Registration form recorded the following information about the existing Memorial: *“G e mound, weeds. Neglected.... Family gone to Australia.”*

George Reginald James was buried in St. Mark's Churchyard, Winshill, East Staffordshire, England – North of Chancel and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Probate Details:

James, George Reginald of Brook Cottage, Newton Solney, Derbyshire, Brewery hop presser died 27 September 1920. Administration Derby 24 March to Elizabeth James widow. Effects £141 6s. 9d.



St. Mark's Churchyard, Winhill, East Staffordshire, England

St. Mark's Churchyard, Winhill contains 9 Commonwealth War Graves – 7 from World War 1 & 2 from World War 2.



View from the eastern Gates of St. Mark's. Winhill (Photo above by *mikejamestaylor*; below *Facebook*)



Photo of Corporal G. R. James' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mark's Churchyard, Winshill, East Staffordshire, England.



(Photo by Alf)