

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2885 PRIVATE

A. V. G. JAMES

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS.

27th January, 1917 Age 30

The Sower Must Pass

From His Labour

Remembered

By What He Has Done

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. V. G. James is located in
Grave Plot # 160 of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Albert Victor Gordon JAMES

Albert Victor Gordon James was born at Cobar, New South Wales to parents Thomas & Mary A. James (nee Miller). His birth was registered in 1885.

A marriage was registered in the district of Boulder, Western Australia in 1914 between Albert V. G. James & Mary A. Skett.

Albert James was a 31 year old, married Storeman from Brown Hill, Western Australia when he enlisted on 8th May, 1916 with the 5th Pioneer Battalion, 6th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2885 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Mary James of 52 Brown Street, Brown Hill, Western Australia.

Pte Albert Victor Gordon James embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 28th October, 1916 (another entry on Australian War Memorial – Embarkation Roll states the date as 30th October, 1916) & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Albert Victor Gordon James was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from his Training Battalion at Larkhill on 24th January, 1917.

Private Albert Victor Gordon James died at 11.40 p.m. on 27th January, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital from Broncho Pneumonia. Pte Albert Victor Gordon James was one of five men to die at Fargo Military Hospital in the space of 12 hours from Broncho-pneumonia / pneumonia. (Pte Hector Fraser, 6145, died 10.30 p.m. 27th January, 1917, buried Durrington Cemetery plot 161; Pte Herbert Chester Canham, 6177, died at 1.30 a.m. on 28th January, 1917, buried Durrington Cemetery plot 162; Pte Ernest Beddow, 2545, died 5.50 a.m. 28th January, 1917, buried Bilston Cemetery, Staffordshire – private grave and Pte George Alfred Adams died at 10 a.m. 28th January, 1917, buried Durrington Cemetery plot 163)

A death for Albert V. G. James, aged 31, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Albert Victor Gordon James was buried on 30th January, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 160 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private A. V. G. James is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 174.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte A. V. G. James was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte James's widow – Mrs Mary James (sent December, 1921 & August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Albert Victor Gordon James – service number 2885 as being 30 years old & served with Australian Pioneers – 5th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas Allen and Mary Ann James; husband of Mary James, of 14 Russell Street, West Leederville, Western Australia. Born at Cobar, New South Wales.

A War Pension was granted to Gordon Victor James, son of the late Pte Albert Victor Gordon James, in the sum of 15/- fortnightly & granted from 16th May, 1917.

(48 pages of Pte Albert Victor Gordon 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

oooOOOooo

[Connected to Pte Albert Victor Gordon James:](#)

** Pte Cecil Alford Clifton James, 1202, 28th Battalion AIF, - Younger Brother of Albert - died of wounds in France on 27th February 1917 – exactly 1 month after Albert. Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

THE ROLL OF HONOUR – 271st CASUALTY LIST

West Australia – Died of Illness

A. V. G. James, Brown Hill

(*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – Tuesday 13 February, 1917)

DEATH

JAMES – On 28th January, in England, from pneumonia, Private A. V. James, 5th Pioneers, beloved husband of Mary James, late of Brown Hill.

“One of the best”.

(*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – Tuesday 13 February, 1917)

NEWS AND NOTES

Probates – The following probates and letters of administration have been granted by the Supreme Court:- Probates – Albert Victor Gordon James, late of Brown Hill, to Mary Ann James, £653 5s. 4d.

(*The West Australian*, Perth – Friday 13 July, 1917)

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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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*)

Pte A. V. G. James does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Sower Must Pass From His Labour Remembered By What He Has Done

Photo of Pte A. V. G. James's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)