

On his enlistment into E Company, AN&MEF, James stated that he was 32years 7 months old, was born in Dundee, Scotland, was a painter and single, giving a Miss Mable Clarke c/- the Wentworth Hotel, Sydney as his next of kin. He also stated that he served two years in South Africa as part of the Cape Mounted Rifles. How much of this information is true is unclear. He had married Mabel Keirnan in Katoomba in 1911, so the Mabel he mentions would be his wife. Also, in a medical he has done on 2nd May 1918, his recorded age is 44, which means he would have been around 41 on enlistment not 32 as stated. I have been unable to confirm his service in South Africa.

James was discharged from the 1st AN&MEF unit on 4th March 1915 having completed his period of engagement. However, he was transferred to the 3rd Battalion, AN&MEF on discharge as he had contracted malaria whilst at Madang and was not finally discharged from the AN&MEF until 23rd August 1915.

On 10th November 1916 he joined the AIF as part of the 22nd Reinforcements for the 7th Battalion, regimental number 6846 and sailed from Sydney on the PORT NAPIER on 17th November, arriving in Devonport, England on 29th Jan 1917. He did not leave England and was finally determined to be Medically unfit for general service on 22nd May 1918 due to Arterio-Sclerosis.

On 26th Jan 1919 James went AWOL from No3 Camp, Parkhurst and was not seen again. On 19th Feb he was declared an Illegal Absentee and on 1st April 1920 he was discharged 'as a consequence of his illegal absence.'

He was originally denied access to his medals but this decision was eventually overturned and they were issued to him on 12th June 1923.

Little further is known of him other than whilst in Cowra in 1921 he was charged with a Russell Holmes, of stealing a box of positive picture films.