

James was born in Glebe, NSW in 1881, the son of Edward and Elizabeth James. On his attestation form he stated he was a driver, single and gave as his next of kin Miss A Porter, 27 Caroline St, Redfern.

He previously served in the 2nd NSW Mounted Rifles (service number 556) in South Africa during the Boer war.

He enlisted in the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 assigned to A Company. He was discharged as medically unfit on 9th November 1914. It would appear that his unfitness arose from an accident that occurred at Rabaul on 7th October 1914. A report of the accident is contained in the first Government Gazette issued by the Australian Administrator of German New Guinea, Col W Holmes as follows:

“ On the 7th inst. an unfortunate accident happened near the Garrison Barracks, caused by some men foolishly handling some signal rockets which exploded, causing serious injury to Private G. James, who was some distance away at the time, and Private W. Guard, both of “A” Coy. The men were at once attended to by Dr. Wicks, on the spot, and were immediately afterwards, removed to the Hospital at Namanula, where they were operated on by Captain Maguire, A.M.C., and are progressing as well as can be expected, although the former is not considered to be yet out of danger.”

James Gilbert James died in 1936.