

James was born on 22nd Jan 1894 at Redfern, the son of John Thomas and Alice Maria Buckland. On his enlistment into H Company, AN&MEF, he stated that he was an Iron Moulder by trade (at Anthony Hordens in Sydney), single and gave his mother, at "Arthursleigh", Mosley St, Kogarah, NSW, as his next of kin. He had been serving in the 38th Battalion (Militia) prior to enlistment.

James returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 18th Jan 1915, having completed 161 days service.

On 2nd March 1915, he enlisted in the 19th Battalion, regimental number 499, and was allocated to B Company.



Studio portrait from the Anthony Horden's Roll of Honour

James sailed with his battalion aboard the CERAMIC, departing Sydney on 25th June 1916. He arrived on the Gallipoli Peninsular on 16th August 1915. Shortly before the evacuation of Gallipoli, he was hospitalised with "debility", rejoining his battalion in Egypt on 12th Jan 1916. In France on 23rd Feb 1916 he was again hospitalised, this time with dysentery, not rejoining his unit until 29th May 1916.

James was killed in action at Le Barque (Somme) on 14th November 1916. In a statement made by his older brother, Charles Mason Buckland (#961), of the 4th battalion, on 8th October 1917, he recounted: -

"Last January I received a letter from Pte J.T. Buckland (John Thomas Buckland, # 4076, 19th battalion, James's younger brother) who was then wounded and in hospital (England). He stated that he was speaking to Pte J. F. Buckland in front line trench captured from the enemy on (14/11/1916). On enquiries being made later no one seemed to know what had become of him until about 3rd March 1917. A pocket wallet was taken from the body of a dead soldier, who the burial party could not identify for certain, but erected a cross bearing the name of the above mentioned soldier. On 16/3/17 this property was handed to me for identification which I could identify as that of No. 499 Buckland."

Tragically two days after this letter was written the brother John was killed at Polygon Wood.

James is buried at the Warlencourt British Cemetery, France and is remembered on panel 88 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra