

JAMES MATTINSON



James Webb Mattinson was born at Prahan in Victoria in December of 1892. His parents, at the time of his enlistment, were both deceased and James gave his aunt, Mary Wall of 70 Albert Street Windsor, Victoria, as his next of kin. On reading his records, a letter from Mary Wall states that James had been raised by her from the age of just 22 months.

James had an older brother, Joseph Loraine Mattinson who also, on the 2nd of September 1914, joined the AIF.

James left Victoria for Western Australia circa 1913. At the time of his enlistment, James was working as a Store Assistant at the Barrabup Mill. His record states that he was 22 years and 5 months old, 5 feet 10¹/₂ inches tall, weighed 10 stone 6 pounds with fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair,

James was assigned the regimental number of 2239 and was initially posted to 7th reinforcements, 11th Battalion AIF but later posted to 6th reinforcements 16th battalion AIF.

The 16th Battalion was formed just six weeks after the outbreak of the first world war. Three quarters of the battalion were recruited in Western Australia and the rest in South Australia. With the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.

After training in Victoria, the Battalion embarked for overseas on Boxing Day 1915. After a brief stop in Albany, the Battalion proceeded to Egypt arriving in early February. The Battalion landed on the beach at Gallipoli late in the afternoon of the 25th of April. A week after landing the 16th was thrown into the attack on "Bloody Angle" suffering many casualties.

After training at Blackboy Hill Camp, James Embarked at Fremantle H.M.A.T. A62 "Wandilla" 25th of June 1915 bound for Suez and taken on strength Gallipoli 30th of July 1915.

On the 4th of August 1915, the 16th Battalion, as part of the 4th Brigade, attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost, it is likely that during this engagement, on the 7th of August 1915 that James Mattinson was to be Killed in Action.