

JAMES HENRY McAlpine



James Henry McAlpine was born at Lyonville, Victoria around May 1884. It is unknown when he arrived in Western Australia.

At the time of his enlistment, James was working in the Nannup district, possibly in the forest near Barrabup or at the Barrabup Mill as he gave his occupation as that of a sleeper hewer.

The service record shows that James was married to Jessica and had two children, as son, Gordon James and a daughter Isobel. (Gordon was to see overseas service in WWI.) Their address at the time of enlistment was Barrabup Mill.

James was given the regimental number 6061 and assigned to 19th Reinforcements - 16th Battalion. His medical examination on enlistment show that he was 33Yrs and 10Months old, 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighed 154 pounds, chest measurement of 34 inches with a dark complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair.

On the 9th of August 1916, James embarked on the "MILTIADES" at Fremantle and arrived Plymouth on 25th of September. Proceeded overseas from Folkstone to France aboard the HMT "ARUNDEL" 12th December 1916 and admitted to the 4th Australian Division Base Depot, Etaples (France.) Marched out to unit, 16th Battalion AIF 18th of December, taken on strength in the field.

During April of 1917, the 16th battalion was heavily engaged with the enemy. The Australians were attempting to breach the Hindenburg Line and although some success was attained, casualties were heavy on both sides.

On the 11th of April 1917, James was reported as Missing in Action and later it was confirmed that he had in fact been Killed In Action.

His widow, Jessica was granted a pension of 40 shillings per fortnight and the children, Gordon and Isobel were respectively granted 20 shillings and 15 shillings per fortnight.