

Howard James



Service Number: 802031

Rank: Private

Branch: 135th Battalion

Years Served: 1915 - 1916

Summary: Howard James was born on May 13, 1895 to Philip James and Elizabeth Whimp. His father passed away when Howard was 5 years old, leaving behind himself, his older brother Thomas, two half-sisters Elizabeth and Katie and his mother. Shortly after his father died his mother reverted back to her maiden name. By 1901 Howard, Thomas and their mother were living at 8 Henry Street in Strathroy and by 1911 to support the family Elizabeth took in a number of lodgers.

Howard also known as Whitey attested in the 135th on November 23rd 1915 and listed himself as the sole supporter of his mother. By this time his brother Thomas had started a family of his own. On the May 7th 1916 while training in London he succumbed to septic pneumonia at the Military Hospital.

He was buried in the Strathroy Cemetery with full military honours. Two months after his death his mother Elizabeth died, there is no mention of her funeral in the newspaper but she is buried beside her son at the cemetery. It is noted on one of pages in his service record that his mother was to receive the memorial scroll and plaque in 1921 but does not mention that she had previously died.

Name: Howard James

Birth Date: May 13, 1895

Relatives: Father - Philip James. Mother - Elizabeth Whimp. Brother - Thomas James. Sisters - Elizabeth and Katie James

Address: 8 Henry St., Strathroy, ON

Attestation Date: November 23, 1915

Death Date: May 7, 1916

Burial Site: Strathroy Cemetery



Funeral for Howard James



Date	Particulars
23 Nov 1915	Attested in 135 th Btn at Strathroy ON, labourer born 13 May 1895, who had served in the 16 th Regt, Medical clear 5'4" tall 127 lbs, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, Baptist, medical history sheet clear
27 Nov 1915	Card - Howard James, 802031 135 th Btn, former Corps 26 th Regiment, Next of kin Mrs. Elizabeth James (mother) Henry Street Strathroy ON
7 May 1916	Died of in Military Hospital London ON of Septic Pneumonia after 6 mos service.
7 May 1916	Last pay certificate "sole support of mother", "died in military hospital"
17 Aug 1921	Medal Card; James, Pte Howard 802031, 135 th Btn Med and D to Mrs. Elizabeth James, Henry St, Strathroy ON P&S as above, Memorial Cross, Scroll and Plaque to mother. Canada Only

Attestation Paper:

Attestation Paper ORIGINAL No. 802031

ATTESTATION PAPER.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
(ANSWERS).

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS).

1. What is your name? *James Howard*
2. What are your Christian names? *Howard*
3. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Strathroy Ont. Henry St.*
4. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Elizabeth James*
5. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Henry St. Strathroy Ont.*
6. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Mother, only support.*
7. What is the date of your birth? *May 13th 1895*
8. What is your Trade or Calling? *Labourer*
9. Are you married? *no*
10. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? *yes*
11. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *yes 26th Regt.*
12. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *yes 26th Regt.*
13. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *yes*
14. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *yes*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Howard James*, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any unit of the service desired, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date *Nov 23rd 1915* *Howard James* (Signature of Recruit)
W. Campbell (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Howard James*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Deputy, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me, so help me God.

Date *Nov 23rd 1915* *Howard James* (Signature of Recruit)
W. Campbell (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was examined by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understood each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and that said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Strathroy* this *27* day of *Nov* 1915.

B. Brown H. G. C. (Signature of Justice)

By *Howard James* Description *Howard James* on Enlistment.

Apparent Age *20* years *6* months.

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Height *5 ft. 4 in.*

Birth when fully expanded *38 1/2 in.*

Range of expansion *45 in.*

Complexion *fair*

Eyes *blue*

Hair *fair*

Church of England

Presbyterian

Baptist

Roman Catholic

Jewish

Other Denominations

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and declares that he is not subject to fits or any description.

I consider him *fit* for the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force.

Date *Nov 23rd 1915* *W. Campbell* (Signature of Medical Officer)

Place *Strathroy* *26th Regt.*

*Insert here "fit" or "unfit".

Recruit, should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been accepted, and will briefly state below the cause of rejection.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

Howard James having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

B. Brown H. G. C. (Signature of Officer)

Date *4.12* 1915

Casualty Form:

[illegible]

Other Documentation:

Age Dispatch 11 May 1916

Largest Funeral in Strathroy in Years

Burial, with Full Military Honors, of Remains Pte. John Howard James --- comrades of "A" col, Middlesex Batt., With Officers and Band, Attend Impressive Services

The whole town did honor in solemn reverence Tuesday afternoon to one of our boys, who answered the "last call" while in training to go overseas with the Middlesex Battalion. We refer to the largest funeral ever witnessed in Strathroy, the burial with full military honors, of the remains of John Howard James, which left here only a week ago to undergo further training in London. Private James succumbed to septic pneumonia on Sunday at the military hospital at Carling Heights after a few days' illness. Deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip James, was born in Strathroy, was 21 years of age, and had always resided here. His father died some years ago, but his mother, Mrs. Whimp, lives on Henry Street. He leaves one brother Thomas James who lives with his mother. When the call came for recruits for the 135th Battalion he was among the first to enlist with "A" Company here. With the officers and men he was popular. His conduct was of the best. Always attentive to his duties and respectful to his officers, he was a general favourite and his comrades feel his death keenly.

The remains were taken to the Baptist church, where the service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. J. D. McLachlan, assisted by the Rev. Capt. Graham, the Battalion Chaplain. "A" Company, with the Battalion Band, Lt. Col. Robson, Senior Major T. Elliot and other officers, were present. Leaving the Armoury the soldiers headed by the band marched to the church where the remains had been conveyed some time previous. Marching up the aisles the officers and men passed the bier and viewed the remains of their late comrade.

"A person would not think" said Chaplain Graham, during his address, "that one from a large body of men would be missed, but from the tributes paid by the company and especially the platoon of which the late Private James was a member, it was not so in this case. Some people may think that he has not done his bit because he had not seen active service, but he deserved all the honors as he had done all in his power." The church service closed by singing "Rock of Ages".

After the service the remains were carried from the church by six of his comrades: Lance Corp. F. Fitzpatrick, Pte. C. Enright, Pte. J. Handcock, Pte. P. Dewar, Pte. R. Winters and Pte. V. Haggart and placed on a gun carriage drawn by four black horses, the casket being covered by a Union Jack, his cap and belt. The cortege headed by the firing squad, was followed by the Battalion band playing the "Dead March in Saul" and the members of "A" company with the officers marched to the cemetery where the remains were interred. The firing squad fired three volleys and the bugler sounded the last post. The service at the grave was conducted by the Chaplain Capt. Graham. Among the handsome floral tributes were a beautiful design surmounted with a Union Jack from the officers of the Battalion, a harp from the men of "A" company, and a bouquet of roses from the Mary Armstrong Chapter IOOE. As a mark of respect to the deceased all business places were closed from two till three o'clock.

<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/redirect?app=pffww&id=482894&lang=eng>