

James Dockerill

191/20737, Hunts Cyclist Battalion. 268478. 1st/7th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Died 27 August 1917, aged 20

James was born in Warboys in 1897, the eighth of eleven children of Joseph Dockerill, a farm labourer, and Emma (nee Conquest). The family lived in Popes Lane, Warboys and James became a farm labourer for Mr Mustill.

As soon as he was old enough on 21 October 1915 James enlisted at Huntingdon with the Hunts Cyclists 1/1st Battalion. His older brother **John Dockerill** had joined the previous year. After training he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 1/7th Battalion on 6th April 1916 and embarked for France that July. His service record describes him as 5'5" tall with a 35" chest.



James' regiment was part of the 143 Brigade, 48th Division which took part in the Battles of Albert, Bazentin Ridge, Pozieres Ridge and Ancre, all part of the 1916 Somme Campaign. In 1917 the Brigade was in Ypres and it was there that James lost his life.

He was killed in action 27 August 1917 age 20 in the aftermath of the Battle of Langemark, in what was described as a "minor operation". A temporary truce the following day allowed both sides to reclaim bodies, but James burial place is unknown. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium.



James' older brother **John Dockerill** was also killed 12 September 1916. Their father Joseph lived until 1936 and their mother Emma until 1950.

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