

JAMES CLEMENTS

Signature *James Clements*
REGIMENTAL NUMBER 202327

James Clements was born in Ickham, Kent in 1897. In 1901 he was living with his mother Ellen, his sister Ellen and his brother George at The Duke William pub in Ickham Street, Ickham. His widowed mother was the licensed victualler.

In 1911 he was living in Partney with his brother George, also to serve in the First World War, and his mother and stepfather. The family had moved to Partney after his mother had married John Fox in 1902. John Fox, a farm bailiff, had been a neighbour in Ickham and was now working as a night watchman at a sewerage works.

James enlisted in the army on 15th June 1916. He was 18 years and 156 days of age, at the time living in Chapel Lane, Partney with his mother, Ellen Clements, and his stepfather, John Fox and working as a baker's apprentice.

He was 5' 5³/₄" tall with a 35" chest. He expressed a preference in joining the 4th Lincolnshire Regiment. His regimental number was 202327.

After his initial training, James was posted to France on 7th February 1917. He spent 96 days there before returning home on 14th May 1917. He then returned to France on 9th September 1917 where he spent Christmas 1917, returning home on 31st January 1918. A further period away from the front ended on 8th September 1918 when he once again returned to France, this time for just over 6 weeks before returning home on 23rd October 1918.

On 4th March 1919 James was discharged from the army as medically unfit for War Service and awarded a weekly pension of 5/6 per week in view of a 20% disability caused by a gunshot wound to his left hand.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In addition he was awarded the Silver War Badge in view of his injuries. It is a circular badge with the legend "For King and Empire - Services Rendered" surrounding the King George V cypher. The badge had a pin so it could be worn as a brooch.

The badge was awarded to all of those military personnel who had served at home or overseas during the war, and who had been discharged from the army under King's Regulations. Expiry of a normal term of engagement did not count and the most commonly seen KR is 392(xvi), meaning the soldier had been released on account of being permanently physically unfit.