

James Stokoe

1893 - 1915

Born in County Down, Ireland

**Educated at Manchester Grammar School and Corpus Christi College
Oxford**

Died at Gallipoli, aged 22, on 11 December 1915

Family and Education

James Clarke Stokoe was born in Newry, Ireland, between January and March 1893. His father was also called James Clarke Stokoe and was a surgeon dentist. He had married James's mother, Margaret Mary Hoskinson, at Prestwich between April and June 1892. His father seems to have died on 6 June 1896, so that at the 1901 census James junior was living with his mother and his two brothers in Newry. The Irish census requested that people record their religion, and this shows them to be Methodist.

In 1911 James was living in Cheetham Hill with his grandmother, and studying at Manchester Grammar School, which he had attended from 1906. He then went to Corpus Christ College, Oxford, in 1912, and in the exams at the end of his first year he achieved First Class in Classics. At some point he joined the University Officers' Training Corps.

War service: 6th (Service) Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

James began his war service on 25 March 1915, without completing his degree. He initially joined the 14th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. But after his training he sailed for Gallipoli, arriving on 14 November to join the 6th Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, in which John Tasker Kewley, at Brasenose from 1910 and also on the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church war memorial, was already serving. By this point James would have been a Second Lieutenant. The unit came under the command of the 38th Brigade in 13th (Western) Division. It had landed at Anzac Cove on 4 August as reinforcements, for a renewed but disastrous offensive that left the Allies trapped under constant artillery and sniper fire from Ottoman troops on higher ground. Conditions were appalling, and the Allies suffered heavy casualties not only in the combat but also due to disease and severe heat. By the time James arrived, plans were being made for withdrawal, but this did not happen until after his death in action on 11 December at Chocolate Hill (named due to its colour). He was aged 22 and is buried in Green Hill Cemetery, Suvla. He is also commemorated in Irish records of World War I.

from a variety of family history and military sources. In particular, Chris Baker's site, 'The Long, Long Trail' has provided valuable details of the men's experience of battle: <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/>