James Calder Marquardt was born 14 September 1891 in Chicago to William C. Marquardt and Jennie B. Murray. His father, William, was born in Germany, and his mother was born in Pennsylvania. William was a hotel keeper in Chicago.

Marquardt’s connection to Dakota County is through his employment with Swift & Co. as an “assistant credit man.” After working here for two years, he was transferred to Cleveland, Ohio, where he enlisted in the Army. Marquardt registered for the draft on 1 June 1917 while residing in Chicago and already an officer candidate at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. There he graduated from the first officers’ camp and was transferred to the U.S. Army Aviation Service, 27th Aero Squadron. He received his pilot training in New York. His rank was that of 1st Lieutenant. Marquardt’s brother Fred M. was also a WWI veteran, attending school for the training of “aeroplane” mechanics at the University of Chicago.

Lieutenant Marquardt was sent to France with his squadron in March 1918. He was killed in an air accident on 20 April 1918 when his Nieuport XXVII aircraft crashed on takeoff at Issoudun Air Base. He is buried in Oakwoods Cemetery in his hometown of Chicago, and his name is engraved on a monument near Paudy, France, commemorating the Third Aviation Instruction Center, the largest base in the world at that time.