

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



592 PRIVATE

J. EVANS

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

23RD AUGUST, 1916 Age 22

He Gave His Life

James EVANS

James Evans was born at Wodonga, Victoria in 1892 to parents Joel and Ann Evans (nee Abeckett).

James Evans was apprenticed to E. Good, Dairy Farmer at Kangaroo Valley for 5 years.

James Evans was a 22 year old, single, Labourer from Olive Street, Albury, NSW when he enlisted in Sydney, NSW on 31st August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 592 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs J. Evans, of Olive Street, Albury, NSW.

James Evans was posted to 3rd Battalion on 31st August, 1914 as Private for recruit training

Private James Evans embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 20th October, 1914 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion "C" Company.

Private James Evans was admitted to 15th General Hospital at Abbassia on 5th April, 1915 & discharged to duty on 9th April, 1915.

Private James Evans was taken on strength of 3rd Battalion at Gallipoli on 7th May, 1915.

Private James Evans was sent to Hospital at Anzac on 17th August, 1915. He was admitted to Casualty Clearing Station on 19th August, 1915 with Pyrexia (fever of unknown origin). Pte Evans was transferred to Hospital Ship *Caledonia* on 20th August, 1915 with gunshot wounds to chest.

Private James Evans was admitted to City of London Military Hospital at Clapton, England on 1st September, 1915.

Mrs J. Evans, Olive Street, Albury, NSW, was advised on 4th October, 1915 that her son, Private J. Evans, was wounded, not reported seriously. Another notice advised Mrs Evans that her son, Private J. Evans, had been admitted to Hospital in London sick.

Private James Evans formed part of the 15th Draft from England on 7th January, 1916.

Private James Evans disembarked at Alexandria from Devonport, England off Troopship *Oriana* on 13th January, 1916.

Mrs J. Evans, Olive Street, Albury, NSW, was advised on 14th January, 1916 that her son Private J. Evans had returned to duty in Egypt.

Private James Evans forfeited 2 days' pay & was awarded 3 days F. P. (Field Punishment) No. 2 while at Tel-el-Kebir for breaking Camp & remaining absent without leave from Reveille on 2nd February, 1916 to Tattoo on 3rd February, 1916.

Private James Evans was awarded 7 days F. P. (Field Punishment) No. 2 for misconduct in the ranks on 21st February, 1916 & Insubordination.

Private James Evans embarked for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 2nd March, 1916 on H. T. *Grampian* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private James Evans was absent from Billets at 19.00hrs Roll Call on 1st April, 1916 while in France. He forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private James Evans was absent from Roll Call at 19.00hrs on 23rd April, 1916 to 19.15 hrs on 23rd April, 1916. He was awarded 7 days F.P. No. 2.

Private James Evans was wounded in action in France on 28th June, 1916. He was admitted to No. 2 Canadian Stationary Hospital at Outreau, France on 30th June, 1916 with gunshot wounds to leg. Pte Evans was transferred to Boulogne on 2nd July, 1916 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St Denis*.

3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves and served there until the evacuation in December. In August, the battalion took part in the attack on Lone Pine. For his valorous action in defending Sasse's Sap at Lone Pine on 9 August, Private John Hamilton was awarded the Victoria Cross.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 3rd Battalion

Fleurbaix 28th June, 1916:

Usual rebuilding work to 21.00

All ranks assumed Gas alert to continue till further orders.

Our guns fired heavily on enemy trenches & wire opposite our front.

2400 – Heavy artillery fire.

2nd Lieut. E. B. Watson died of wounds at 1st A.C.C.S. & buried at SAILLY CEMETERY.

To wounded 6 o/R To Hospital NIL

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James Evans was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England on 2nd July, 1916.



Mrs J. Evans, Olive Street, Albury, NSW, was advised on 12th July, 1916 that her son, Private J. Evans, had been reported wounded second occasion & further information would be advised. Mrs Evans was advised on 18th July, 1916 that her son, Private J. Evans, was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital on 2nd July, 1916 suffering from gunshot wounds to leg – mild.

Private James Evans died on 23rd August, 1916 at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from wounds received in action in France & Recurrent Tetanus, Broncho Pneumonia & heart failure.

A death for James Evans, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Norwich, Norfolk, England.

Private James Evans was buried in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Section 24 Grave no. 109.

A letter was sent on 20th April, 1920 from Base Records to Mrs J. Evans, Olive Street, Albury, NSW, mother of the late Private J. Evans, No. 592, 3rd Battalion, advising that *“now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from the former site, and re-interred in Grave No. 671 Section 54, Norwich Cemetery, Norwich. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”*

Private James Evans has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Ann Evans, of Albury, mother of the late Private James Evans, in the sum of 32/- per fortnight from 26th October, 1917.

Base Records contacted Mrs J. Evans, Olive Street, Albury, NSW in September, 1920 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & in particular if Pte J. Evans' father was still alive due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs Ann Evans replied on 29th September, 1920 stating that Joel Evans, father of the late Private James Evans, was alive & his address was Post Office, Wodonga.

Private James Evans was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Evans' father – Mr J. Evans, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Evans – service number 592, aged 22, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joel and Ann Evans, of Wodonga, Victoria, Australia.

Private J. Evans is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 36.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(55 pages of Private James Evans' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

OUR HONOR ROLL

SEND IN THE NAMES OF YOUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE ENLISTED

The editor of the "Border Morning Mail" has compiled an Honor Roll comprised of all the brave lads who have left this district to take part in the war....

EVANS, James, Albury

(The Border Morning Mail and Riverina Times, Albury, NSW – 22 January, 1916)

186th CASUALTY LIST

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Among the names are the following:-

Pte J. Evans, Albury, wounded (2nd occasion)

(The Border Morning Mail and Riverina Times, Albury, NSW – 21 July, 1916)

ALBURY SOLDIER KILLED

Mrs Evans, of Western Hill, Albury, received a cable message on Saturday stating her son, Private James Evans, had died of wounds on August 23. The cable message was sent by deceased's sister, who is a Red Cross nurse on active service. In a letter to his mother from England, on July 5,- Private Evans wrote:—"I have been wounded again, and pretty severely this time, too. I am a lucky man I have got my leg on, although I may lose it yet. It would have been better to have had it knocked off, instead of half-knocked off. I got shot just below the knee, and the bone was badly shattered. I will be on my back for months. I was operant on in France before I came over here."

(Albury Banner and Wodonga Express, NSW – 1 September, 1916)

MORE GAPS IN RANKS

The 211th casualty list, issued today....

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte J. EVANS, Albury (previously reported wounded)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 14 September, 1916)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private J. Evans does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Gave His Life

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

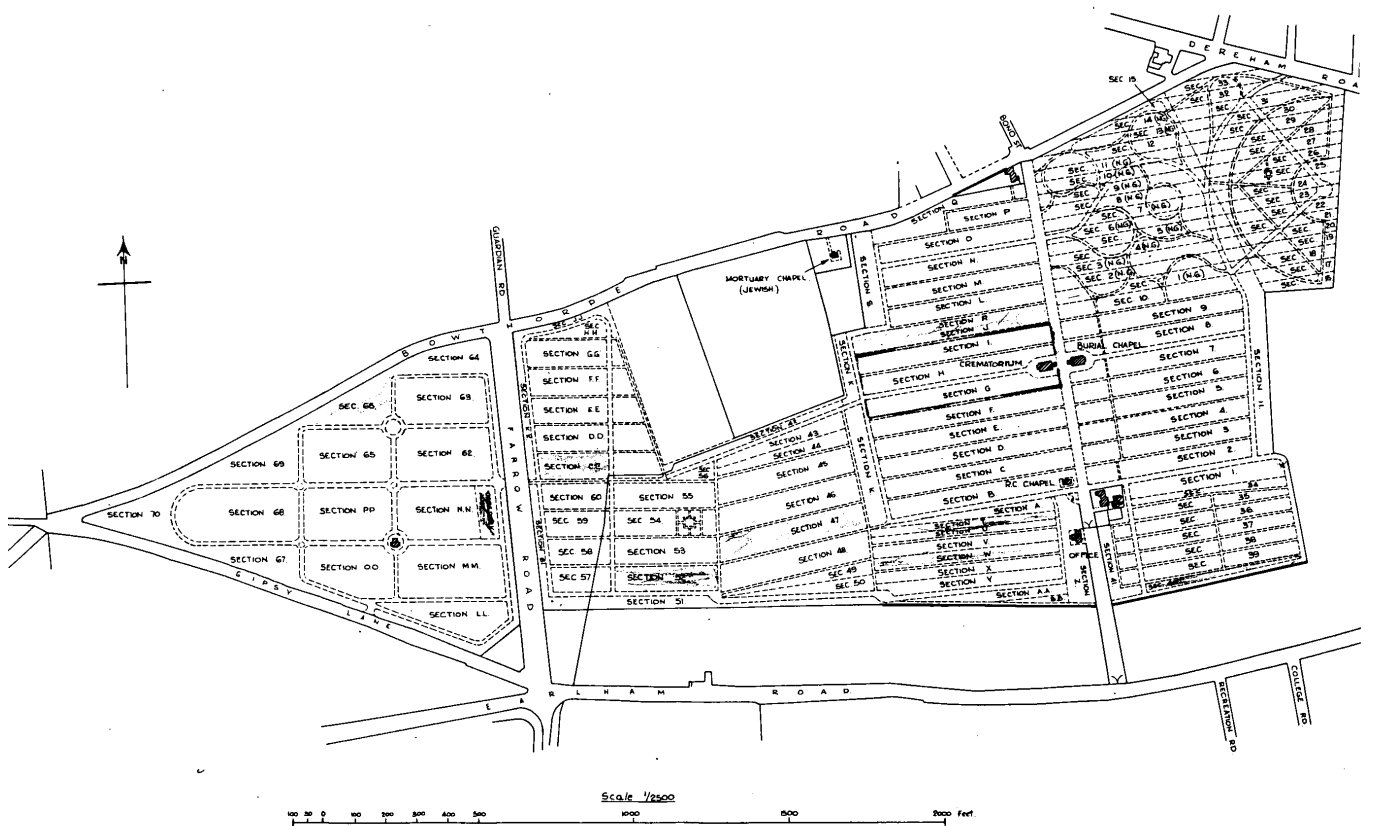
(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private J. Evans' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

