

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3047 PRIVATE**

**L. J. HAIR**

**3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS**

**27TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 26**

*Loved By All Who Knew Him*

## Leslie James HAIR

Leslie James Hair was born at Yarram, near South Devon, Victoria in 1892 to parents James and Alice Hair (nee Wood).

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Swan, subdivision of Wellington, Western Australia lists Leslie James Hair, Blacksmith of Waroona.

The 1917 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Perth, subdivision of North Perth, Western Australia lists Leslie James Hair, Blacksmith, of 58 Norfolk Street.

Leslie James Hair was a 24 year old, single, Motor Driver (Occupation as per Embarkation Roll, however information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour, states Leslie Hair was a Blacksmith) from Perth Hostel, William Street, Western Australia when he enlisted on 26th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3047 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr James Hair, of Waroona, Western Australia. Leslie Hair stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected from serving in His Majesty's Forces due to being under weight.

Leslie James Hair was posted to 90 Depot as Private on 26th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 19th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 16th November, 1916 then transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 3rd Pioneers.

Private Leslie James Hair embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Persic* (A34) on 29th December, 1916 with the 3rd Pioneer Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 3rd March, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Leslie James Hair was marched in from Australia to Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 5th March, 1917.

Private Leslie James Hair was temporarily attached to Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham on 4th August, 1917. He was detached from attached duty with Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham on 9th January, 1918 & marched out to Pioneer Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Private Leslie James Hair proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 30th January, 1918 from Pioneer Training Battalion at Sutton Veny.

Private Leslie James Hair was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 31st January, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit from A.I.B.D. on 3rd February, 1918 & was taken on strength of 3rd Pioneer Battalion in the field from 6th Reinforcements on 7th February, 1918.

Private Leslie James Hair was reported to be with his Unit – 3rd Pioneer Battalion in France on 3rd July, 1918.

### 3rd Pioneer Battalion

The 3rd Pioneer Battalion was formed in Victoria in March, 1916 & undertook further training in the United Kingdom before arriving in France in late 1916. Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

*(Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)*

Private Leslie James Hair was sent to Hospital sick – he was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 12th July, 1918 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was transferred to 47th Casualty Clearing Station the same day then transferred to 10th Ambulance Train on 19th July, 1918. Pte Hair was admitted to 1st General Hospital on 20th July, 1918 – cause N.Y.D. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship on 29th July, 1918 – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin).

Private Leslie James Hair was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, England on 30th July, 1918 with Trench Fever.



Private Leslie James Hair died at 8 am on 27th August, 1918 at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from Shell gas poisoning & Cardiac Failure.

A death for Leslie J. Hair, aged 26, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Blofield, Norfolk, England.

Private Leslie James Hair was buried on 30th August, 1918 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Plot number 54. 709 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Leslie James Hair - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was mounted on a Gun Carriage draped with the "Union Jack, and surmounted by an artificial wreath sent by comrades in Hospital. A large number of patients from the War Hospital, Norwich, attended the funeral. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Leslie James Hair contains a letter from The Matron which reads: *"Re the illness and death of the late Pte Leslie Hair. I beg to say that he was admitted suffering from Shell gas poisoning. He often complained of severe headache and pains at the back of his eyes, but was able to be up and about most days, and attended a Gymkhana in the Hpl. grounds on 22nd Aug. He did not seem very well after this (it was a hot day), and the Doctor thought he had better rest in bed for a while. About 7.30 am on 27th August, he suddenly collapsed. The Doctor saw him at once but efforts to restore him were unavailing. His death was due to shell gas poisoning and cardiac failure. A day or so after his death, he received a letter from home in which apparently some illusion was made to a Car getting rusty, and he remarked that when he got home, he would soon alter that. He was buried in Norwich Cemetery on 30th August (Section 54, Grave 709), and the funeral rites were performed by the Rev. A. Bromley, Epworth House, Aylsham Road, Norwich. About 50 of his fellow patients,*



*Australians, attended to pay their sad tribute to their young colleague. We were very fond of him, and had hoped to nurse him back to health and restore him to his home people, to whom, please convey my deep sympathy, in their bereavement.”*

Private Leslie James Hair requested in his Will, dated 11th January, 1917, that all his money & personal effects be bequeathed to his mother, Alice Hair, of Waroona & his mother was also appointed as Executor of the Will.

Private Leslie James Hair was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Hair's father – Mr J. Hair, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie James Hair – service number 3047, aged 26, of 3rd Australian Pioneers. He was the son of James and Alice Hair, of Waroona, Western Australia.

L. J. Hair is remembered on the Waroona War Memorial, located on South Western Highway & Parnell Street, Waroona, Western Australia.



**Waroona War Memorial** (Photo from Monument Australia – Bryan Hardy)

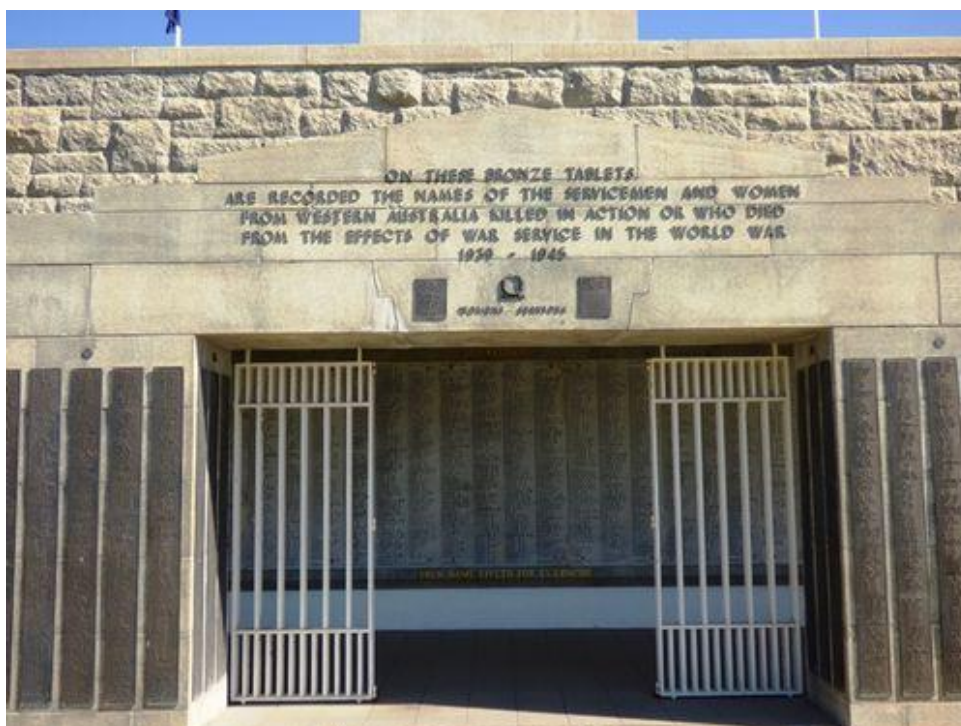
The Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)  
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

*(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)*





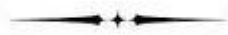
Private L. J. Hair is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(51 pages of Private Leslie James Hair's 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **KILLED IN ACTION**

HAIR – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Leslie James (Doodie) Hair, who died on active service, August 27, 1918; aged 25 years.

Loved by all who knew him;  
One of the noblest and best.  
Now in a soldier's grave he is sleeping,  
Safely with Jesus at rest.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, brothers, Stan, Albert (returned), Andy, sisters Gladys, Nellie, and sisetre-in-law Emma, and little nephew and nieces, Gordon, Nellie and Nancy, of Waroona.

HAIR – A tribute to the memory of our dear friend, Private Leslie James (Doodie) Hair, who died on active service August 27, 1918.

His duty nobly done.

Inserted by his sincere friends, Mr and Mrs Merritt and family, of Waroona.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 5 September, 1918) & (Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 13 September, 1918)*

## AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

### W. A. ROLL OF HONOUR

The 432nd list of casualties reported to have occurred among West Australian members of the A.I.F.....

#### DIED OF WOUNDS

Leslie James Hair, Waroona, gas, previously reported ill.

*(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 9 October, 1918)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Anzac Heroes

HAIR – In proud and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Leslie James Hair (Doodie), died on active service August 27, 1918.

Silently the shades of evening,  
Gather round our lonely door;  
Silently they bring before us  
A face we shall see here no more.  
Sleep on, dear Leslie, sleep ad take thy rest,  
Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast.  
We loved thee well, but Jesus loved thee best.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, sisters and brother Gladys, Nellie and Andy.

HAIR – In proud and loving memory of our dear brother, Private Leslie James Hair (Doodie), died on active service, August 27. 1918. Safe in the arms of Jesus.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law Albert & Bess.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 August, 1919)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Anzac Heroes

HAIR – In loving memory of our dear brother, Leslie James (Doodie), late 6/3 Pioneers, who died of gas poisoning in France on August 27, 1918.

In our hearts you memory lingers,  
Tender, fond, ands true,  
And as the days go by, dear brother,  
We will always think of you.

Inserted by his loving brother, sister-in-law, and little niece, Albert, Bess and Joy.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 28 August, 1920)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Anzac Heroes**

HAIR – In proud and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Leslie James Hair, who died on active service August 27, 1918.

You are not forgotten, Leslie dear,  
Fond memories ever cling.  
In lonely hours of thinking  
Thoughts of you are dear,  
And often bring a silent tear.  
We shall remember when others forget.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, sisters Glad., Nell, and brothers Stanley, Albert and Andy.

HAIR – In proud and loving memory of dear Les., who died for his country, August 27, 1918.

God be with you till we meet again.

Inserted by his loving brother Stanley, sister-in-law Em, and Gordon, Nell and Nancy.

HAIR – In proud and loving memory of our dear brother,, Private Leslie James Hair, died on active service, August 27, 1918.

“We miss you most, who loved you best.”

Inserted by his loving brother, sister and niece, Albert, Bess and Joy.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 August, 1921)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

HAIR – In fond and loving memory of Leslie, who gave his life for his country.

God Be With You Till We Meet Again.

Inserted by his ever loving brother and sister-in-law, Stan and Em, and Gordon, Nell and Nancy.

*(Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 24 September, 1922)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Anzac Heroes**

HAIR – In fond and loving memory of Private Leslie James Hair, 3rd Pioneer Battalion, A.I.F., died of gas poisoning received in France, August 27, 1918.

The years may wipe out many things,  
But this they wipe out never-  
The memory of your smiling face  
Will live in our hearts for ever.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, brothers, sisters and little nephews and nieces.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 August, 1923)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

HAIR – In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte. Leslie James Hair, 3rd Pioneer Batt., A.I.F., died of gas poisoning, August 27, 1918.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, sisters and brothers.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 August, 1924)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

HAIR – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Leslie, of 3rd Pioneers, who was gas poisoned on August 27, 1918.

Dearly loved and never forgotten.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, and brothers, and sisters, Waroona.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 August, 1925)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

HAIR – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Leslie James Hair, of 3rd Pioneer Battalion, who died of gas poisoning, in Norwick War Hospital, on August 27, 1918.

Among the brave and loyal,  
How many loved ones fall,  
When friends bereft have only left  
A picture on the wall.

Inserted by his loving father, mother and brothers and sisters, Waroona.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 August, 1926)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

HAIR – In proud and loving memory of our dear brother, Private Leslie James Hair, died on active service, August 27, 1918.

Ever remembered.

Inserted by Albert, Bess and Joy.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 August, 1927)*

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## 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 14th July, 1921, to Mr J. Hair, Waroona, Western Australia, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Pte L. J. Hair, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private L. J. Hair does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Loved By All Who Knew Him*

## **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 L. J. Hair's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.

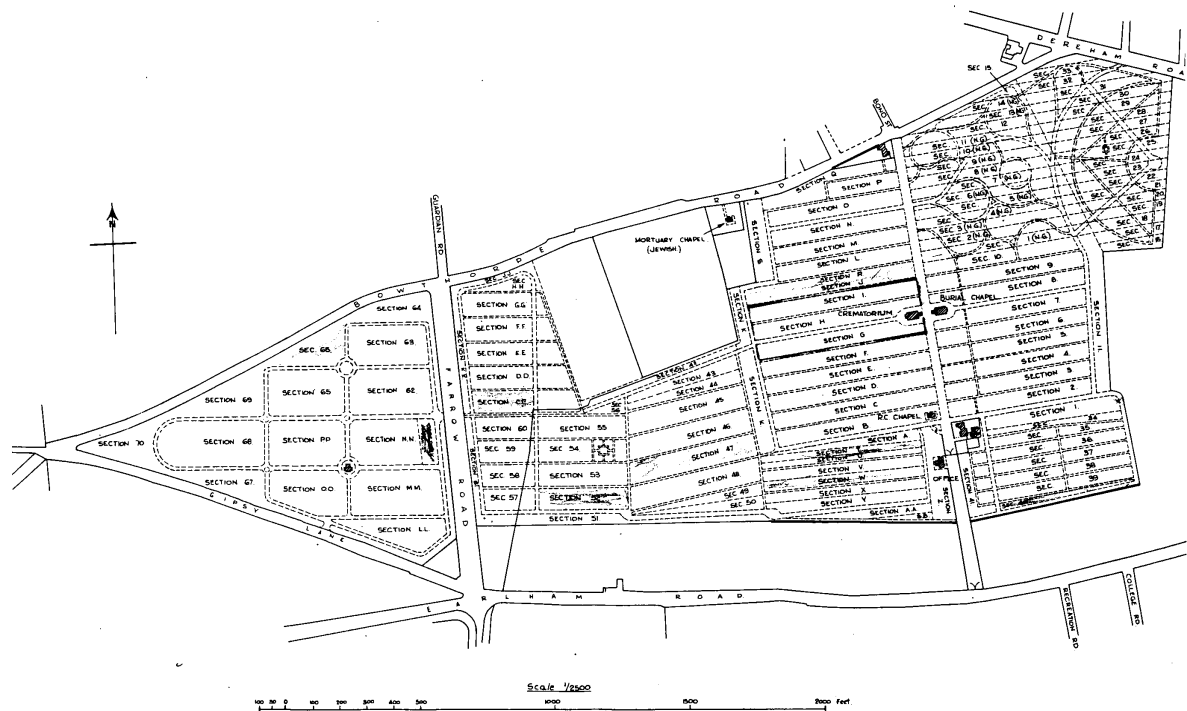


*(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)*









Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

