

Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)



Lest We Forget

World War 1



151 PRIVATE

T. J. HALL

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH OCTOBER, 1915 Age 31

Thomas James HALL

Thomas James Hall was born at Glenlyon, Victoria on 8th June, 1884 to parents George Israel (Isaacs) and Naomi Hall (formerly McArthur, nee Rowling).

Naomi Hall, mother of Thomas James Hall, died on 25th May, 1887 at Hawkers Creek, Victoria. Buried Glenlyon Cemetery

Thomas James Hall was a 30 year old, single, Sleeper Hewer from Greenbushes, Western Australia when he enlisted at Perth, Western Australia on 9th September, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 151 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr S. Hall, Milton, South Coast, Sydney, NSW.

Private Thomas James Hall embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 22nd December, 1914 with the 16th Infantry Battalion "B" Company.

Private Thomas James Hall proceeded from Alexandria on 12th April, 1915 to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli Peninsula.

Private Thomas James Hall was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance at Gallipoli Peninsula on 13th May, 1915 with Deafness. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Osmanieh* on 13th May, 1915.

(Note: There is no record in the Service Record file of where Private Hall was treated for his deafness & no record of when he returned to his Battalion at Gallipoli Peninsula).

Private Thomas James Hall was wounded in action on 27th August, 1915. He was admitted to 16th Casualty Clearing Station on 28th August, 1915 with Shrapnel wounds to neck then transferred & admitted to 4th Field Ambulance at Anzac the same day. (as per Statement of Service form & Casualty Form – Active Service). He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Devenha* to England on 29th August, 1915 from Malta.

16th Battalion

The 16th Battalion AIF was raised from 16 September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited in Western Australia, and the rest in South Australia. With the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The South Australian and Western Australian recruits were united when the battalion trained together in Victoria. They embarked for overseas on Boxing Day. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an AIF division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

A week after the landing the 16th was thrown into the attack on Bloody Angle suffering many casualties. From May to August the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead, and in August the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost, although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Mr G. Hall, Milton, South Coast, Sydney, NSW, father of Private Thomas James Hall, was advised by Secretary Defence on 21st September, 1915 that his son Private T. J. Hall had been wounded on 27th August "*not reported seriously no other particulars available will immediately advise anything further received.*"

Mr G. Hall, Milton, South Coast, Sydney, NSW, father of Private Thomas James Hall, was advised by Base Records on 4th October, 1915 that his son was dangerously ill with gunshot wound to neck & was in Third London General Hospital.

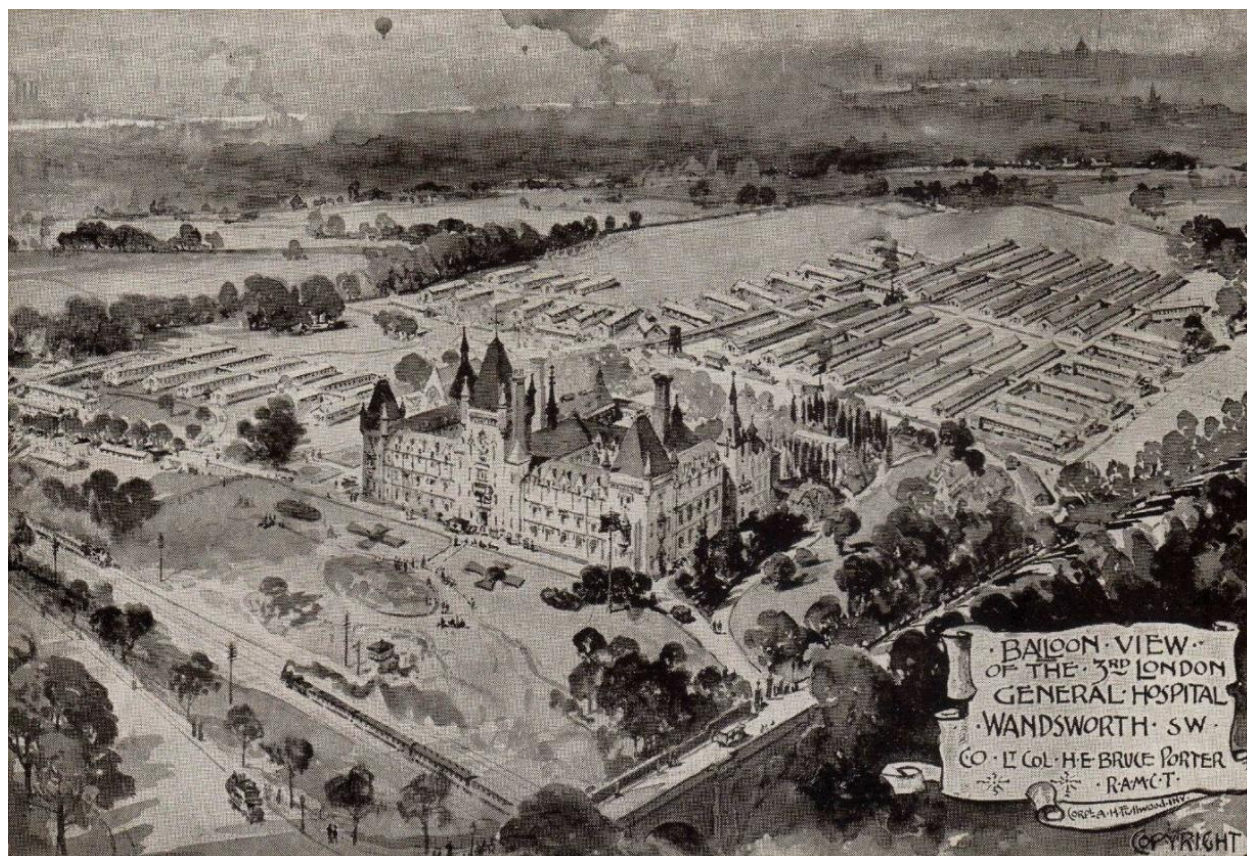
Private Thomas James Hall was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 12th September, 1915 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Neck.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A01040

3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth



Private Thomas James Hall died at 12 am on 15th October, 1915 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England from wounds received in action at Gallipoli – G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Neck. The death certificate for Thomas James Hall recorded the cause of death as “*Cerebellar abscess (traumatic operation)*”.

A death for Thomas J. Hall, aged 31, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

Private Thomas James Hall was buried on 18th October, 1915 in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Grave no. 131 Section F.B. 18. From the burial report of Private Thomas James Hall – “*The coffin was enshrouded in a Union Jack and born on a gun-carriage from the Hospital to the Cemetery The funeral party was furnished by the Royal Army Medical Corps and accorded military honours at the grave-side. The Rites observed were those of the Church of England. The High Commissioner was represented at the funeral by Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. Lee.*”

This is now recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Screen Wall F.B. 18. 131. Private Hall does not have a headstone, (see section below under “Commonwealth War Grave Commission Headstones) however his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Communications sent to Mr G. Hall, Main Street, Milton, South Coast, NSW from Base Records in 1921 were returned marked “*unknown*”.

5th District Base, Commonwealth Military Forces, Perth, Western Australia advised Base Records on 5th October, 1921 that Mr G. I. Hall, father of the late Private Thomas James Hall, was now residing at 77 Church St. Wollongong, NSW.

Private Thomas James Hall was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Hall’s father – Mr G. I. Hall, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 but was returned & redespached October, 1921. Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas James Hall – service number 151, aged 31, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George Israel and Naomi Hall, of 77 Church St., Wollongong, New South Wales.

Private T. J. Hall is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 79.

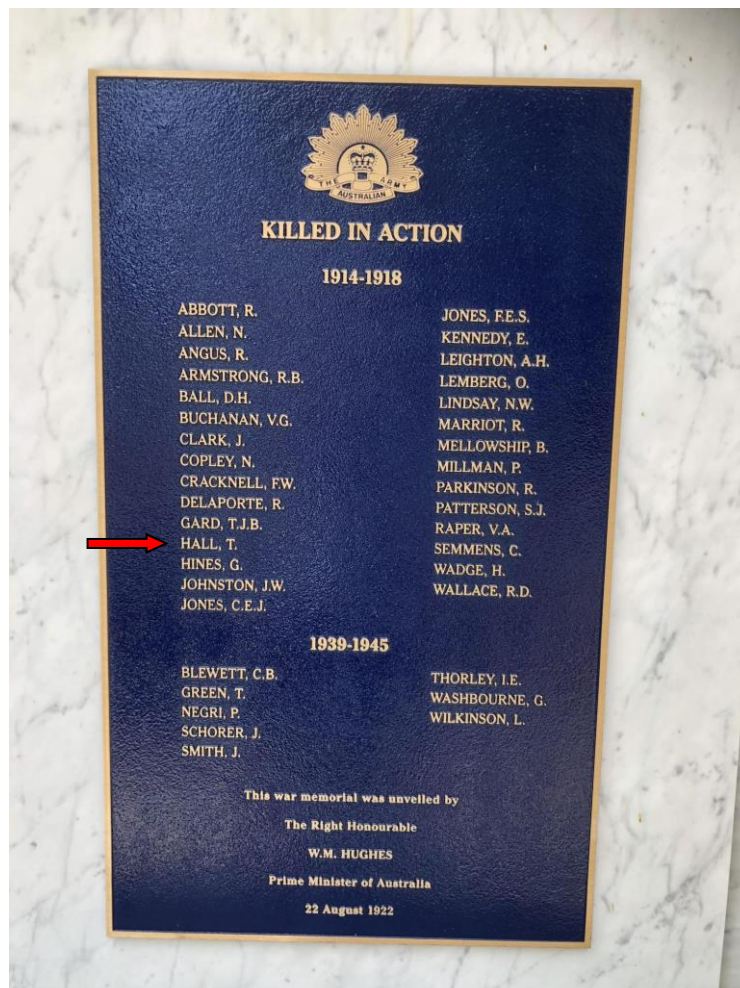


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. Hall is remembered on the Greenbushes War Memorial, located in Thompson Park, Blackwood Road, Greenbushes, Western Australia.



Greenbushes War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride)



T. J. Hall is remembered on 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.

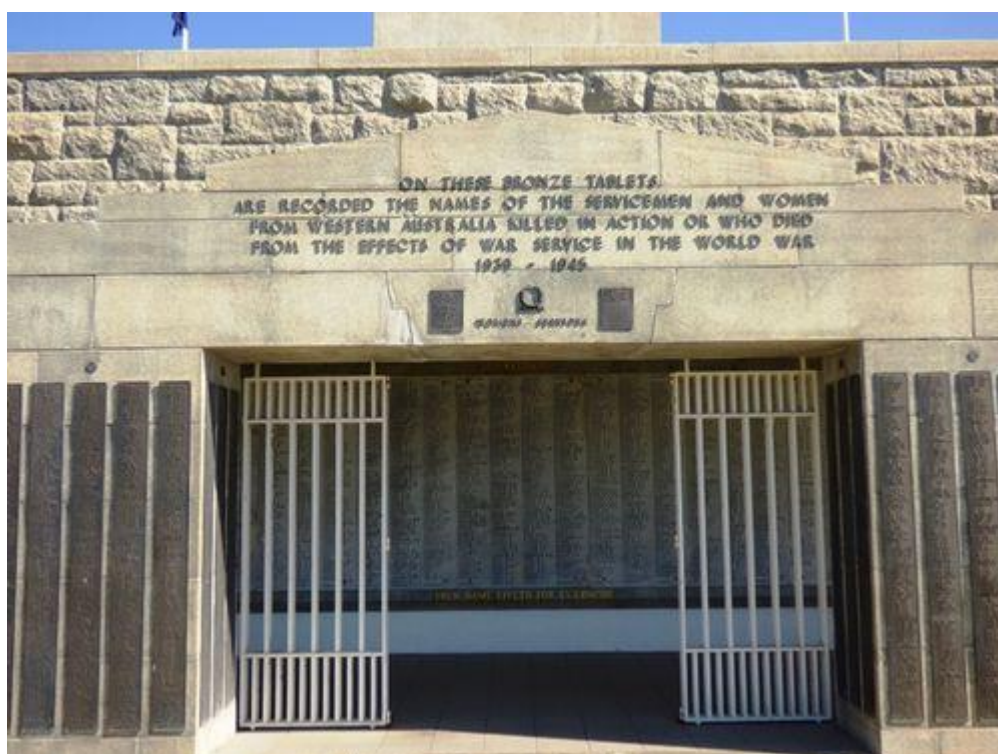
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a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

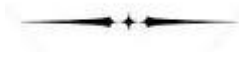




16th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(47 pages of Private Thomas James Hall'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

West Australian Casualties

At the Dardanelles

EIGHTY-SEVENTH AND EIGHT-EIGHTH LISTS

WOUNDED

16th Battalion

T. J. Hall (Milton, New South Wales)

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 7 October, 1915)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

NINETY-THIRD CASUALTY LIST

16th Battalion (ill in hospital, London) – T. J. Hall (Milton), previously reported wounded.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 16 October, 1915)

CASUALTIES

TWO MORE LISTS

The 95th and 96th lists of casualties sustained by the Australian troops in the Dardanelles were made available yesterday....

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ILL

Pte T. J. Hall (dangerously, Sydney)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 October, 1915)

THE AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

The 102nd and 103rd lists of casualties of Western Australian members of the Australian forces in the Dardanelles contain the following names of local interest....

Deaths

T. J. Hall, 16th Battalion, died of wounds, previously reported dangerously ill.

(The Albany Advertiser, Western Australia – 6 November, 1915)

MEN OF THE DARDANELLES

MEN OF THE DARDANELLES.



(1) Private S. H. Nair (Wollongong and Sydney), missing; (2) Corporal Alma May (Wyalong West), died of wounds; (3) Private T. J. Hall (Milton and W.A.), died of wounds; (4) Private T. Edmunds (Auburn), killed; (5) Private John Newberry (Duffry), killed; (6) Private H. T. Favey (Richmond, N.E.W.), killed; (7) Private T. Pimington (Geelong), N.S.W., right leg amputated, and dangerously ill.



(3) Private T. J. Hall (Milton and W.A., died of wounds)

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 6 November, 1915)

Greenbushes Notes

Church of England – A Memorial service for the late Private T. Hall will be held on Sunday evening next. Private Hall was one of the Australians who made history in Gallipoli, he was for a long time resident in Greenbushes where his step-father, Mr Winter, still resides.

(*The Blackwood Times*, Greenbushes, Western Australia – 14 January, 1916)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

A letter in the Service Records file for the late Private Thomas James Hall, dated 7th March, 1921, from Medical Officer of Health to Public Health Department, Wandsworth reads : *" With reference to the enclosed letters I find that Private T. J. Hall died on the 15th October, 1915, the cause of death being Cerebellar Abscess; George Grysell died on the 25th October 1915, the cause of death being Gunshot wound in spine; George Revens died on the 28th October 1915, the cause of death being Enteric fever; and Ernest Iddington died on the 14th December 1915, the cause of death being Gunshot wound in thigh.*

Under the circumstances, as one of the men died from Enteric fever, I do not advise the disturbance of the bodies."

A letter was written on 9th March, 1921 by D. A. Nicholl, Town Clerk to the Under Secretary of State Home Office, Whitehall which reads: *"I am directed by the Wandsworth Borough Council to advert to your letter of the 4th inst. relative to the proposal to remove the remains of Private T. J. Hall, from the grave in which they are interred in Wandsworth Cemetery, and to enclose a copy report of the Council's Medical Officer of Health, dated 7th inst., giving particulars of the cause of death of each of the persons whose remains will have to be disturbed.*

The Council were prepared to raise no objection to the exhumation, but in view of the report of the Medical Officer of Health, they are of opinion that the bodies should not be disturbed.

I am to add that the coffins have been moved twice previously in order to exhume the remains of Newfoundland and New Zealand soldiers and the Cemetery Superintendent reports that on the last occasion, the coffins showed signs of decay. In these circumstances, the Borough Council are of opinion that the exhumation should not be allowed."

The Australian Graves Services, London, England, wrote to Base Records, Melbourne, Australia on 30th March, 1921 with the following: *"Buried in Wandsworth Cemetery, Grave 131 Section F.B.18 are the remains of the late 151 Pte T. J. Hall, 16th Bn. A.I.F. The grave in question is a common one and in accordance with the policy which has been applied in similar cases an application was made by this Office to the Home Office to have the remains exhumed and reinterred in a separate single grave.*

The Medical Officer now advises that any exhumation is undesirable, as will be seen upon perusal of the attached copies of correspondence received from the Home Office.

In the circumstances no action is being taken in the matter of opening this common grave and the Commission will be asked in due course to arrange for the erection of some suitable form of memorial."

In the case of the late Private Thomas James Hall – he was buried in a common grave (a common grave is one that belonged to the owners of the Cemetery & were used to bury the bodies of unrelated individuals who died around the same time.) From information contained in the letters listed above - Private Hall was buried with other Commonwealth Soldiers in the same grave. Newfoundland & New Zealand Soldiers were exhumed from the grave leaving, it appears, Private Hall & the following British Soldiers – Private George Crysell, 15514, "C" Company, 11th Battalion, Essex Regiment who died on 25th October, 1915; Sergeant George Samuel Revens, 13732, 6th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment

who died on 28th October, 1915 & Lance Corporal Ethelbert Iddenden, L/6719, 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

After Private Thomas James Hall's death it became "Policy" for all Australian WW1 Soldiers to be buried in a single grave.

From the information provided in the letters above & the advice from the Medical Officer – the bodies of these soldiers were not exhumed & remain buried together in the one common grave. As a consequence, Australian WW1 soldier Private T. J. Hall is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall, whereas the other 34 Australian WW1 Soldiers buried in Wandsworth Cemetery have headstones – 1 has a Private Headstone & the other 33 have Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones.

Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16917

A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(taken 15 April, 1931)*



(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)



The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(Photos from CWGC)*

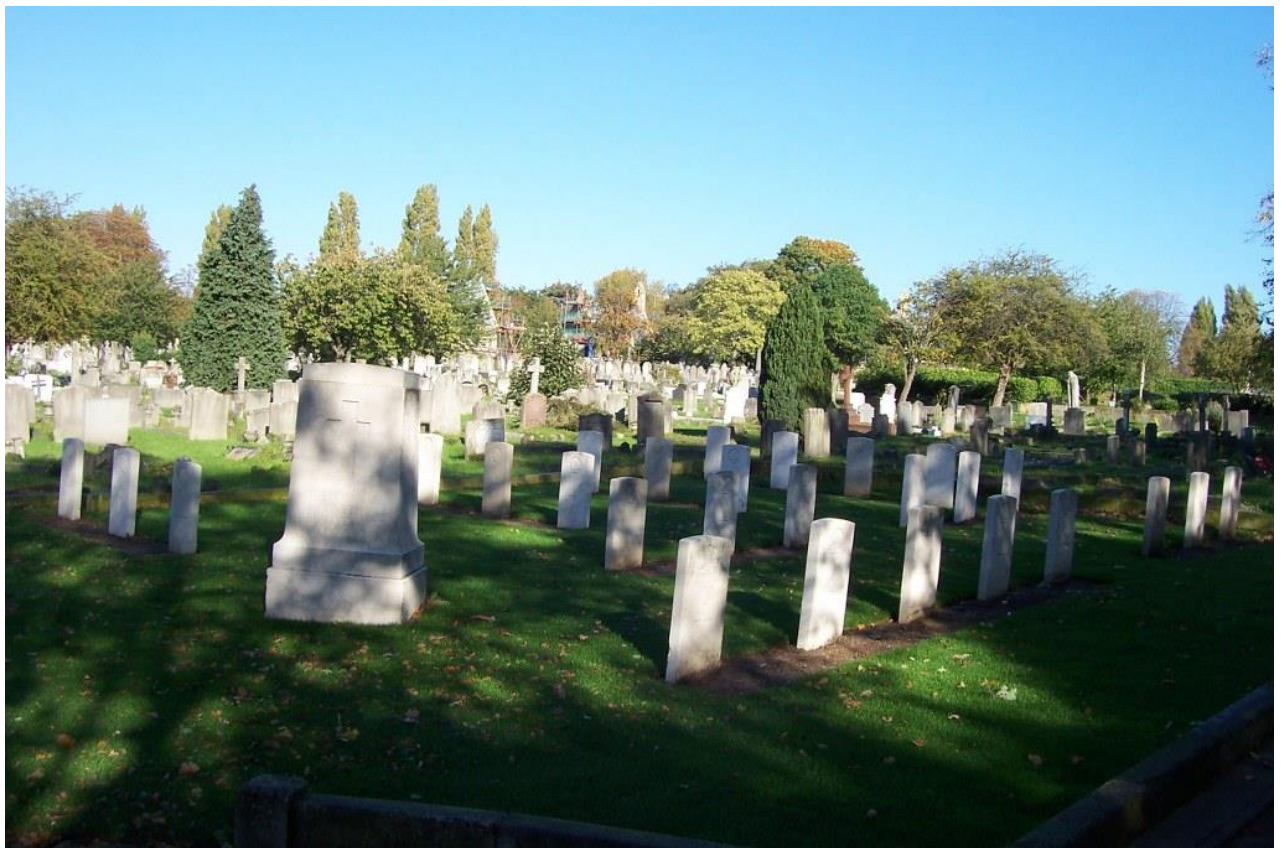
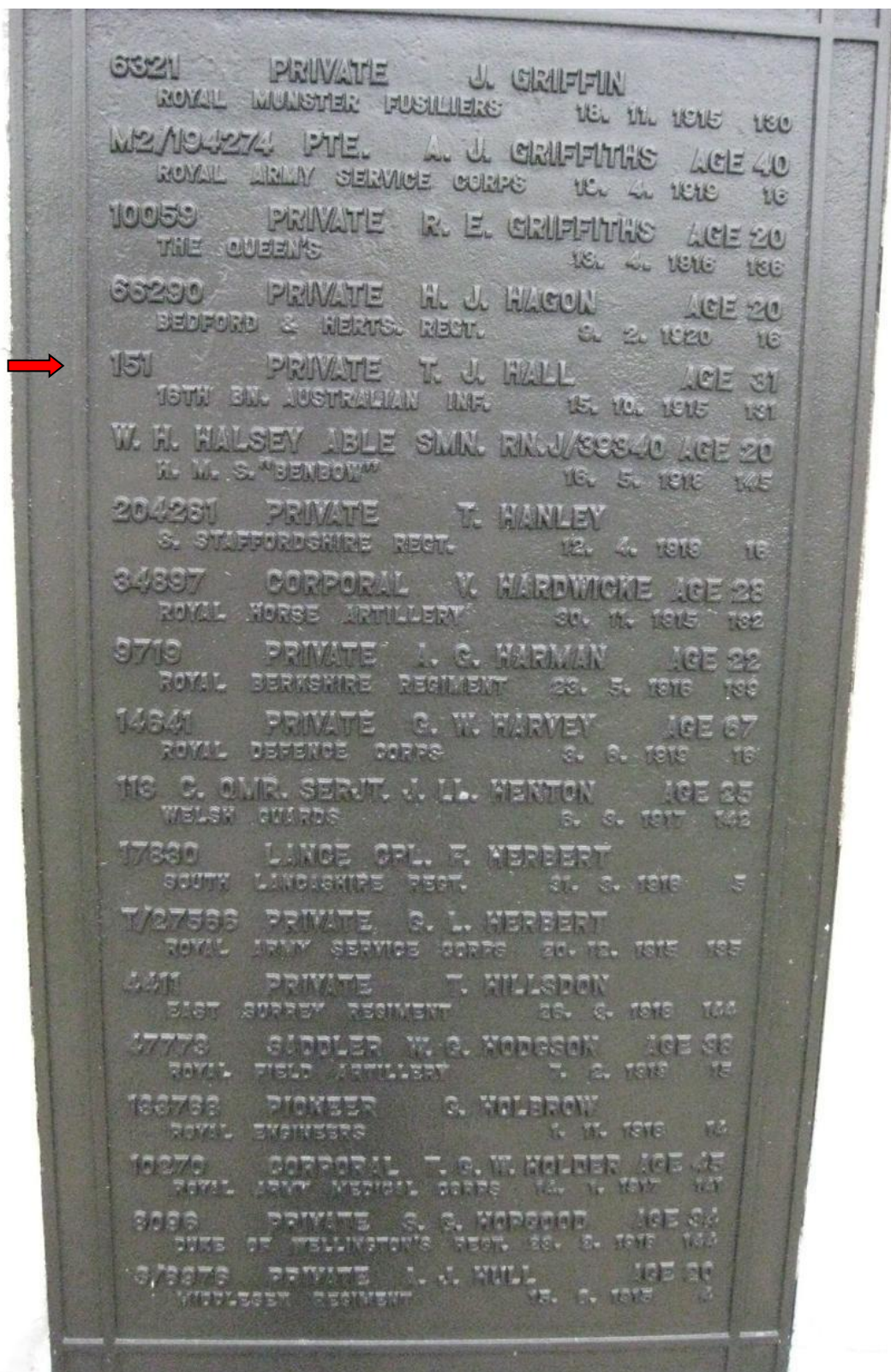


Photo of Private T. J. Hall's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.





CWGC Screen Wall (Photos from *Find a Grave* – Julia&keld)