

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4239 L. CPL

L. D. HUTCHINS

8TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH NOVEMBER, 1918

Leslie Duncan HUTCHINS

Leslie John Duncan Hutchins was born at Wimmera, Horsham, Victoria in 1893 to parents George & Mary Ann Hutchins (nee Duncan). His birth was registered in the district of Natimuk, Victoria.

Mary Ann Hutchins, mother of Leslie John Duncan Hutchins, died on 2nd September, 1913 in Perth, Western Australia.

From *Tasmania Police Gazette* – June 4, 1915:

DESERTERS FROM H. M. SERVICE

From H.M.A.S. "Cerberus," at Williamstown.

On the 18th ultimo –

LESLIE JOHN DUNCAN HUTCHINS, Stoker, 2nd Class, native of Natimuk, Victoria, aged 22, height 5 feet 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, fresh complexion, light-brown hair.

Leslie Duncan Hutchins was named as the accused in a conviction in the Court of Petty Sessions at Warrnambool, Victoria on 26th July, 1915 by W. J. Armstrong. "*For goods sold and delivered £1 -15/-.*" Leslie Duncan Hutchins was ordered to pay £1 -15/- also 15/6.

Leslie Duncan Hutchins was a 22 year old, single, Clerk from Horsham, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 26th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as Mrs J. Raith, 4 Campbell Street, Subiaco, Victoria (as listed on Embarkation Roll). Leslie Hutchins stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Scotch Infantry at Perth for 2 years service. He was 5 feet 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, 134 lbs, dark complexion, brown eyes with black hair. Distinctive Marks: Scar of R. side of neck, mole on L side of jaw, scar at base of 3rd finger L hand. Tattoo mark on extensor surface R forearm – star with steamer in centre "Heavens Light" in scroll above. "Our Guide" in scroll below.

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins was posted to Albert Park on 24th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "A" Company, 9th Depot Battalion at Ascot Vale on 1st October, 1915. Private Hutchins was transferred to 13th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 23rd November, 1915. (Details listed were from Statement of Service form, however another Statement of Service form recorded that Private Hutchins was posted to 21st Depot Battalion at Warrnambool from 18th October, 1915 then transferred on 16th November, 1915 to 13th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion. A Medical form (front page) recorded that he was posted to 21st Depot Battalion at Warrnambool – no date & the Hospital Admissions section (next page) had stamped "*B'mdws – No Admission*").

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins, Service number 4239, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) on 29th December, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements.

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins was admitted to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 22nd February, 1916 with Influenza. He was discharged to duty on 29th February, 1916.

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins was marched in & posted to Australian Reserve Brigade at Zeitoun on 2nd March, 1916. He joined 8th Battalion at Serapeum on 17th March, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Base Records advised Mrs J. A. Raith, 4 Campbell Street, Subiaco, W.A., next of kin of Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins, on 3rd March, 1916 that No. 4239 Private L. D. Hutchins, 8th Battalion has been admitted to 1st Auxiliary Hospital, Cairo on 22nd February, 1916 with Influenza mild.

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins proceeded from Alexandria on 26th March, 1916 on H.M.T. *Megantic* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 31st March, 1916. (One Statement of Service form recorded he was detached from 1st Australian Divisional Headquarters & returned to 8th Battalion A.I.F. "in the Field" on 10th November, 1916)

A change of address was lodged in September, 1916 to Base Records by Mrs J. A. Raitt, next of kin of 4239 Private L. D. Hutchins, from 4 Campbell Street, Subiaco, W.A. to 54 Blencowe Street, West Leederville, W.A.

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins reported sick on 8th February, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 8th February, 1917 then transferred to 36th Casualty Clearing Station & was admitted on 9th February, 1917. Private Hutchins was transferred to Ambulance Train on 14th February, 1917 & admitted to 32nd Stationary Hospital on 15th February, 1917 with Appendicitis. Private Hutchins was transferred to Boulogne & embarked for England on 21st February, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. David*.

8th Battalion

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

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In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Private Thomas Cooke, one of 81 members of the battalion killed at Pozieres, earned a posthumous Victoria Cross during the action. After Pozieres, the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917, the battalion participated in the operations that followed-up the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, and then returned to Belgium to join the great offensive launched to the east of Ypres....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins was admitted to Voluntary Aid Temporary Hospital, Exeter, England on 23rd February, 1917 with Appendicitis - slight. He was discharged to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital at Southall on 20th March, 1917.

Base Records advised Mrs Raitt, 54 Blencowe Street, West Leederville, W.A., next of kin of Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins, on 6th March, 1917 "*Sergeant Leslie Hutchins admitted Hospital Twentythird February Appendicitis.*"

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins was discharged to Furlo from 22nd March, 1917 to 6th April, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs. He was admitted to Anzac Hospital, Exeter on 28th March, 1917. Private Hutchins was transferred to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital on 25th May, 1917 with "*Appendicitis – painful scar.*" Private Hutchins was discharged to Depot at Weymouth on 21st June, 1917

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 21st June, 1917 from 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Southall.

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 & also Dorset. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins was marched in to No.3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 29th June, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for Overseas Training Camp in 2 – 3 weeks).

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins was marched in to Overseas Training Depot on 25th July, 1917. He proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 4th August, 1917 & was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on 6th August, 1917. Private Hutchins rejoined 8th Battalion in France on 21st August, 1917.

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins was on Leave from France from 9th March, 1918 & returned from Leave on 28th March, 1918.

Private Leslie Duncan Hutchins was appointed as Lance Corporal from 20th April, 1918.

Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins reported sick on 23rd June, 1918. He was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance on 23rd June, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 64th Casualty Clearing Station on 24th June, 1918. Lance Corporal Hutchins was discharged to duty on 7th July, 1918 & rejoined 8th Battalion on 9th July, 1918.

Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins reported sick on 6th August, 1918. He was transferred to Ambulance Train 34 with Septic Foot & admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbeville on 7th August, 1918. Lance Corporal Hutchins was transferred to Boulogne & embarked for England on 12th August, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* with a Septic right Foot.

8th Battalion

In March and April 1918 helped to stop the German spring offensive. The battalion subsequently participated in the allies' own offensive, launched near Amiens on 8 August 1918.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins was admitted to County of Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, St. Albans, England on 12th August, 1918 with Septic foot – slight. He was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 20th August, 1918.

Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins was on Furlo from 20th August, 1918 until 5th September, 1918 & was then to report to No. 1 Command Depot.

Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 5th September, 1918 & medically classified as B1 A1 (fit for light duty for 4 weeks). He was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 7th November, 1918.

Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins was admitted to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 25th November, 1918 with Intestinal obstruction. He was transferred to Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 27th November, 1918 with Intestinal Obstruction (Hospital Admissions form recorded he was admitted to Military Hospital on 26th November, 1918).

Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins died at 04.00 am on 28th November, 1918 at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Malignant new growth of large Intestine (Signoid Flexure) & Intestinal Obstruction.

A death for Leslie Hutchins, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins was buried at 4 pm on 3rd December, 1918 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 305A and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. Brass Mounts. Deceased was buried with full Military honors the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party from the Australian Machine Training Depot and the band of the "Royal Scots Greys". Six Australians supported the pall. Two Officers and about 50 N.C.O.'s and Men followed the remains to the graveside. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Miss Edith M. Duncan, Ellerman Street, Dimboola, Victoria wrote to Base Records on 19th January, 1919 with the following letter: *"Could you inform me if Lance-Corporal L. D. Hutchins, Leederville, W.A. whose name appeared in the paper as died of illness 28/11/18, is the same Leslie Duncan Hutchins, 8th Battalion, who enlisted at Warrnambool in 1915. He is a cousin of ours and none of his relatives in Victoria know anything concerning his death, and we would be very grateful if you could give us the required information, and if the same who was left his next of kin."*

Base Records replied to Miss E. M. Duncan on 28th January, 1919 advising *"I regret to state the soldier to whom you refer is No. 4239 Lance-Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins, 8th Battalion, and is evidently identical with your cousin. He is reported as having died on 28/11/18 from intestinal obstruction, at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, and the regrettable news was communicated to next-of-kin – Mrs J. A. Raitt (sister), resident in West Australia. It is anticipated that further particulars will come to hand shortly regarding his death and burial, and these on receipt will be promptly forwarded to next-of-kin and available to any enquirer."*

Base Records contacted Mrs J. A. Raitt, 57 McCourt Street, West Leederville, Western Australia on 6th October, 1921 stating that she was registered on the records of the late No. 4239 Lance Corporal L. D. Hutchins, 8th Battalion as next of kin, but requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father and mother were still living or if he has any brothers 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.

Base Records wrote to Miss E. M. Duncan, Ellerman Street, Dimboola, Victoria, on 8th December, 1922 stating that she had written to their Office in 1919 in connection with the late No. 4239 Lance Corporal L. D. Hutchins, 8th Battalion & enquired if she could furnish any information to assist in getting in touch with the actual next of kin. The letter advised that *"the late soldier had nominated his sister Mrs J. A. Raitt, as next of kin, but a communication sent to her last known address in Leederville W.A. remains unanswered....."* The letter continued with asking Miss Duncan for the permanent address of Mrs Raitt & also if the late soldier's father was alive, or his mother, or any brothers. *"This information is desired in order that I may be in a position to properly dispose of the War Medals, etc., and the favour of early attention is requested."*

Edith M. Duncan, 74 Gertrude St, Geelong West, replied to Base Records on 27th December, 1922: *"In connection with the whereabouts of the relatives of the late No 4239 Lance Corporal L. D. Hutchins, 8th Battalion. I have found out the youngest sister's address; viz:- Mrs W. Polglase, "Badger Hey" Segtoun St, East Kew. I am sending her your communication & asking her to write & give you the desired details. Hoping you meet with satisfaction."* Edith Duncan had written to Base Records previously in December, 1922 stating she had not kept in touch with the relatives of the deceased soldier & did not know their present addresses but would endeavour to find out some information. *"Deceased's father, two brothers & a sister are living somewhere in West Aust."*

Base Records replied to Miss E.M. Duncan, Geelong West on 15th January, 1923: *"...will await advice from Mrs Polglase as to the actual next-of-kin of the deceased soldier. Thanking you for your courtesy in the matter."*

Mrs Adelaide Paitt, No. 1 Lawley Crescent, Mt Lawley, West Australia, wrote to Base Records on 10th January, 1923 with the following letter: *"With reference to your communication of Dec 8 1922 addressed to Miss E. M. Duncan, Victoria in connection with my brother the late No4239 Lance Corporal L. D. Hutchins, I have to inform you, that although my brother nominated me as his next of kin (being the eldest of the family) my father was alive, and is still living, his address being George Hutchins, Quaiaiding, W.A. I would like to state that about 2 years and 9 months ago I sent in an application for a Memorial Badge. So far I have not received same, or any communication whatsoever from the Defence Dept."*

Base Records replied to Mrs Paitt on 24th January, 1923 thanking her for the information in connection with the late Lance Corporal L. D. Hutchins. The letter continued with *"....The issuing of "In Memorial" Badges, etc. was discontinued from the 31st March last, but that portion of your communication concerning same has, however, been referred to Headquarters, 3rd District Base, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, for any action they may be able to take in the matter."*

Details for the next of kin of the late Private L. D. Hutchins, 4239, 8th Battalion was changed to his father – George Hutchins, 54 Blencowe St, W. Leederville, Western Australia.

Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Hutchins' father – Mr G. Hutchins, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent March, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins – service number 4239, of 8th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Lance Corporal L. D. Hutchins is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 53.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(74 pages of Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins' 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

ROLL OF HONOR

Warrnambool volunteers

LAST WEEK'S RETURNS

The following is a complete list of those who were examined at Warrnambool last week by Dr Littlewood for active service in defence of the Empire.

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LESLIE DUNCAN HUTCHINS

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(The Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 20 July, 1915)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

152nd CASUALTY LIST

Third Military District – L. D. Hutchins, 8th Battalion (Subiaco), ill, 1st Aux. Hospital, Cairo.

(The West Australian, Perth, W.A. – 14 March, 1916)

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

AT THE FIGHTING FRONTS

194th and 195th Official Lists

OTHER DISTRICTS

3rd Military District (Victoria) – Private L. D. Hutchins (Subiaco), returned to duty, previously reported ill.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 17 August, 1916)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

280th CASUALTY LIST

3rd MILITARY DISTRICT

Sergeant L. D. Hutchins (Leederville), ill, second occasion, previously reported returned to duty.

(The West Australian, Perth, W.A. – 20 March, 1917)

BATTLE CASUALTIES

AN ADDITIONAL LIST

Casualty List No. 451

DIED OF ILLNESS

HUTCHINS, L. Cpl. L. D., W. Leederville, W.A., 28/11/18

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 December, 1918)

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 19th July, 1921, to Mrs J. A. Raitt, 57 McCourt Street, West Leederville, Western Australia advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her brother, the late No. 4239 Lance Corporal L. D. Hutchins, 8th Battalion 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.

Lance Corporal Leslie Duncan Hutchins does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



Tidworth Military Cemetery *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

A corner of the Australian cemetery. Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)*



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of L. Cpl L. D. Hutchins' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers)

