

**Hastings Cemetery,
Hastings, Sussex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6766 PRIVATE

L. A. LEE

14TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH SEPTEMBER, 1917

A Young Life

Nobly Ended

Not Lost But Gone Before

Ever Remembered

Leslie Aubrey LEE

Leslie Aubrey Lee was born on 24th March, 1893 at Germantown (Holbrook), NSW to parents Edward & Elizabeth Sarah Lee (nee Middleton).

Leslie Aubrey Lee was a 23 year old, single, Farm Labourer from Kinross, Holbrook, NSW when he enlisted at Cootamundra, NSW on 18th July, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr E. Lee of Holbrook, NSW.

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee was posted to "C" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion at Cootamundra on 18th July, 1916. He was transferred to "B" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 29th July, 1916. Private Lee was transferred to "B" Company of 3rd Depot Battalion on 21st August, 1916. He was transferred to 22nd Reinforcements, 14th Battalion prior to embarkation.

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee, Service number 6766, embarked from Sydney, NSW on SS *Port Napier* on 17th November, 1916 with the 14th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 29th January, 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 Aubrey Lee was marched in from Australia to 4th Training Battalion, Codford, Wiltshire on 30th January, 1917.

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee proceeded overseas to France from 4th Training Battalion Codford, via Folkestone on 13th March, 1917.

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France from England on 14th March, 1917.

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee was taken on strength of 14th Battalion on 19th March, 1917.

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee was sent to hospital on 30th March, 1917 & discharged to Base Details on 19th April, 1917.

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee proceeded to join his Unit from 4th A.D.B.D. at Etaples on 24th May, 1917 & rejoined his Unit with 14th Battalion in France on 27th May, 1917.

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee was wounded in action on 13th August, 1917. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to back then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station. Private Lee was admitted to 56th General Hospital at Etaples on 13th August, 1917. He was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Peter de Coninck* on 15th August, 1917 with gunshot wounds to left shoulder & back.

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee was admitted to East Sussex County Hospital, Hastings, Sussex, England on 15th August, 1917 with Transverse spinal lesion. The Hospital Admissions form states "*Complete paraplegia below waist. Acute cystitis.*"

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee died on morning of 9th September, 1917 at East Sussex County Hospital, Hastings, Sussex, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wound to back & Acute Cystitis following Paraplegia.

A death for Leslie A. Lee, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Hastings, Sussex, England.

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee was buried at 3 pm on 11th September, 1917 in Hastings Cemetery, Hastings, Sussex, England – Plot number L.D. P17. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Lee - *The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Firing Party and party of mourners being supplied by the Officers Cadet Training Battalion (R.F.C.) station at Hastings. The service at the graveside was conducted by the local Presbyterian Clergyman Rev. Mr Shaw. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside by three buglers from the Royal Flying Corps Officers Training Battalion. Sister Foster and Nurse Peel from the East Sussex Hospital, Hastings were present. Four beautiful wreaths from the patients and Nursing Staff of the Hospital were laid upon the coffin. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.*

Private Leslie Aubrey Lee was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Lee's father – Mr Edward Lee, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie Aubrey Lee – service number 6766, aged 24, of 14th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward and Elizabeth Sarah Lee, of 544 Parkinson St., Albury, New South Wales. Born at Holbrook, New South Wales.

L. Lee is remembered on the Holbrook War Memorial located in Ten Mile Creek Gardens, Jingellic Road, Holbrook, NSW.



Holbrook War Memorial

(Photos from Monument Australia – Glen Yeomans/Roger Johnson/ Peter F. Williams)



Private Leslie Aubrey Lee is remembered at the Albury War Memorial. The Albury Memorial was opened on Anzac Day 1925. The tower was originally lit by ground lights however electric lighting was not supplied to the torch until 1995. In the same year a number of individual plaques were set in the gardens around the monument to recall those who had died in both World Wars, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The monument is located at the end of Dean Street.



Albury War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register in NSW)



Individual Named Memorial Plaques (Photo from TripAdvisor)



Private L. A. Lee is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 73.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(72 pages of Private Leslie Aubrey Lee'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





Private Leslie Aubrey Lee (*Photo courtesy of Lorraine Shelton*)



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

The 336th casualty list....

ILL

Pte L. A. LEE, Holbrook

(*Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 11 September, 1917)

LATEST CASUALTIES

339th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died (Other Causes)

Pte L. A. Lee, Holbrook (previously reported ill)

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 28 September, 1917)

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 28th June, 1921, to Mr E. Lee, of Hillside, via Holbrook, NSW advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Pte L. A. Lee, 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.

Mr E. Lee advised Base Records that he had received the letter late due to his change of address to 544 Parkinson St, Albury, NSW.

Private L. A. Lee does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

A Young Life Nobly Ended

Not Lost But Gone Before

Ever Remembered

Hastings Cemetery, Hastings, Sussex, England

Hastings Cemetery, Hastings, Sussex contains 243 Commonwealth War Graves.

There are 176 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war here, 2 being unidentified sailors of the Royal Navy. There are a further 69 burials of the 1939-45 war here. Those whose graves are not marked by headstones are named on a Screen Wall Memorial. There are 9 Foreign National war burials and 4 non-war service burials here.

(Information from CWGC)



Entrance to Hastings Cemetery *(Photo by N. Chadwick)*



War Graves in Hastings Cemetery *(Photo by Robin Webster)*

Photo of Private L. A. Lee's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hastings Cemetery, Hastings, Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)



(Photo by Martin Barry – December 2022)

