

**Hanley Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent,  
Staffordshire, England**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**8820 PRIVATE**

**J. NESBY**

**N. STAFFORDSHIRE REGT.**

**7TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 54**

*R. I. P.*

## James NESBY

James Nesby was born at Walsall, Staffordshire, England between 1857 & 1862 (according to his age listed on the 1901 & 1911 English Censuses). His father was Bartholomew Nesby (as listed on James Nesby marriage details).

[Unable to locate James or Bartholomew Nesby in any England Censuses for 1871, 1881 & 1891]

A "J. Nesby", aged 20, enlisted with 1st Northumberland Fusiliers on 30th July, 1883. He was born in 1865 & issued a Service Number of 362. Private Nesby embarked on *Serapis* on 22nd February, 1885 for India.

James Nesby, 367, of Northumberland Fusiliers was listed in UK Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Soldier Service Records for 1760-1920.

James Nesby married Annie Crump at Northwood, Stafford, England on 31st March, 1901.

The 1901 England Census recorded James Nesby, Ironwork's Labourer, aged 37 & his wife Annie Nesby, (born Hanley, aged 33) living at 206 High Street, Norman Terrace, Hanley, Staffordshire, England as Boarders with Sarah Cooper (widow, aged 55) & her 2 children – Matilda Cooper (Potters Flat Tower (Clay), aged 20) & Albert Cooper (aged 13).

The 1911 England Census recorded James Nesby, Ironworker Puddler, aged 54 & his wife Annie Nesby, aged 48, living at 4 Thomas Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England which was a 3 roomed dwelling. James & Annie had been married for 11 years & had no children.

The 1911, 1914 & 1915 Electoral Registers recorded James Nesby of 4 Thomas Street, Hanley, Staffordshire, England.

James Nesby enlisted at Burslem, Staffordshire with North Staffordshire (Prince of Wales') Regiment. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion with a Service number of 8820.

Private J. Nesby, aged 51, No. 8820, of "B" Company, North Staffordshire Regiment, was admitted on 21st April, 1916 to 2nd General Hospital with "D.A.H. 305." His religion was listed as Roman Catholic & it was stated he had completed 22 years of service with the Army & 1 month with Field Force. Private Nesby was transferred on 22nd April, 1916 to Cinder City. (Information from Hospital Admissions and Discharge Registers).

[Note: it appears that Private James Nesby's Service Record file no longer exists.]

Private James Nesby died on 7th December, 1916 at Newcastle-on-Tyne Hospital, Northumberland, England from Pneumonia.

A death for James Nesby, aged 54, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.

Private James Nesby was buried in Hanley Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England – Plot number 10472 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – *Staffordshire Sentinel*, England – 11 December, 1916:

### **MILITARY FUNERAL IN HANLEY**

*Private James Nesby, aged 54, of Sutherland-street, Hanley, was this (Monday) afternoon buried with military honours at Hanley Cemetery. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and a number of soldiers attended. Pte Nesby died on Wednesday last at a Newcastle-on-Tyne Hospital.*

Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914 – 1919 recorded Private James Nesby, 3rd Battalion, Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment). Private James Nesby was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. Nesby – service number 8820, aged 54, of North Staffordshire Regiment. He was the husband of A. Nesby, 202 Edward St., East Brunswick, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

James Nesby is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

*\*\*It appears that Private James Nesby's name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that his next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned, it was assumed, would be Australian.)*

[Note: An "Annie Nesby" was a passenger on the *Demosthenes* which arrived at the port of Albany, Western Australia on 8th February, 1922. Annie Nesby was sailing on to Melbourne, Victoria.

An "Annie Nesby", Housewife, aged 61, was a passenger on *Demosthenes* which arrived at the port of Southampton, England on 10th June, 1929. Annie Nesby has departed from Melbourne, Australia & her address in England was listed as 8 Southern Street, Mill St, Hanley, Staffs. ]



**Commemorative Roll** (Photo from AWM)



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (Capital Photographer)



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **HANLEY**

MILITARY FUNERAL – The body of a Hanley soldier named Pte James Nesby, aged 54, of 54, Sutherland-street, was interred with full military honours at the Cemetery on Monday afternoon. A number of soldiers were present. Pte Nesby died at a Newcastle-on-Tyne hospital on the 4th inst.

*(Staffordshire Advertiser, England – 16 December, 1916)*

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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).

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

Private J. Nesby has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

*R.I.P.*

### **Hanley Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England**

Hanley Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent contains 191 Commonwealth War Graves – 124 relating to World War 1 & 67 relating to World War 2.







**CWGC War Graves in Hanley Cemetery** (Photo above from CWGC; below by Alf – Military Images)







**Cross of Sacrifice in Hanley Cemetery** *(Photo by Philip Halling)*



Photo of Private J. Nesby's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hanley Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England.



*(Photo from Find a Grave – Saz 2020)*