Hampstead Cemetery, London, England War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



337 PRIVATE

L. W. HAMILTON

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF. 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1915 Age 21

Thy Will Be Done

Leslie William HAMILTON

Leslie William Robert Hamilton was born at Wodonga, Victoria on 8th January, 1894 to parents William John and Hannah Jane Hamilton (nee Pearce).

Leslie William Hamilton attended school at Yackandandah, Victoria.

Leslie William Hamilton was a 20 year old, single, Fireman (on N.S.W. Government Railways - as listed on information provided for the Roll of Honour)* when he enlisted in Sydney, NSW on 25th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 337 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Hamilton, of Forsyth Street, Newtown, Wagga Wagga, NSW. (*according to information on NSW Railways Honour Boards – Leslie Hamilton first worked for NSWGR as a cleaner at Junee Locomotive Depot from 15th July, 1913 & "never progress from this position before he was released from duty to join the Expeditionary Forces.")

Private Leslie William Hamilton was posted to 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, A.I.F. from 25th August, 1914.

Private Leslie William Hamilton embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 20th October, 1914 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion "B" Company.

Private Leslie William Hamilton embarked on *Derflinger* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on 5th April, 1915.

Private Leslie William Hamilton was wounded at Gallipoli between 7 – 12th August, 1915*. He was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Mudros on 6th August, 1915* with bullet wound/s to chest from Anzac. Private Hamilton landed at Plymouth, England on 3rd September, 1915 from *Soudan*. (Note: *dates are as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service)

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Private Leslie William Hamilton was wounded at Gallipoli on Lone Pine Charge on 6th August, 1915.

3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves and served there until the evacuation in December. In August, the battalion took part in the attack on Lone Pine.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary - 3rd Battalion

6th August, 1915 – Anzac

After resting all night and until 1400 we moved round to rendezvous for the attack. The intensive bombardment by the artillery commenced at 16.30 and ended at 17.30 At 17.30 the signal to advance was given when "B" and "C" Coys advanced from the new and old Firing Lines – Half of each coy on each line. As soon as we appeared on the parapet the enemy artillery opened fire with shrapnel and high explosive but the men rushed straight on and into the enemy's trenches. The 4th BN had the left, the 2nd BN the right & the 3rd BN the centre. D Coy with picks and shovels followed on with C and B from the rear firing line. A Coy followed B Coy. Although we were allotted a certain frontage we found that our men far scattered and all different units were mixed. Our plans of the trenches were incomplete but were a good general guide. At night we hung on to the trenches taken against vigorous counter attacks and heavy bombing.

Our casualties are unknown but very heavy.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

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Private Leslie William Hamilton was admitted to Military Hospital, Hampstead, London, England on 4th September, 1915 with bullet wounds to chest.

Private Leslie William Hamilton died on 15th September, 1915 at Military Hospital, Hampstead, London, England from effects of G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to chest received in action at Gallipoli.

A death for Leslie W. Hamilton, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1915 in the district of Hampstead, London, England.

Private Leslie William Hamilton was buried in Hampstead Cemetery, London, England – Grave reference 213B Sec W.E. A notification on the Casualty Form – Active Service recorded "*Re-interred Grave No.* 33 Sec Q 4." Private Leslie William Hamilton has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Leslie Hamilton requested in his Will that in the event of his death he gives the whole of his property & effects to Mrs M. J. Hamilton, Forsyth Street, Newtown, Wagga, NSW.

Private Leslie William Hamilton was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Hamilton's father – Mr W. Hamilton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie William Hamilton – service number 337, aged 21, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William John and Hannah Jane Hamilton, of Thompson St., Wagga Wagga, New South Wales.

Private L. W. Hamilton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 36.

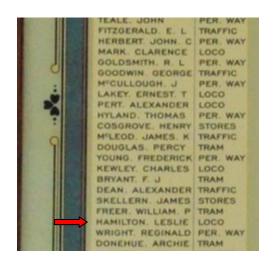


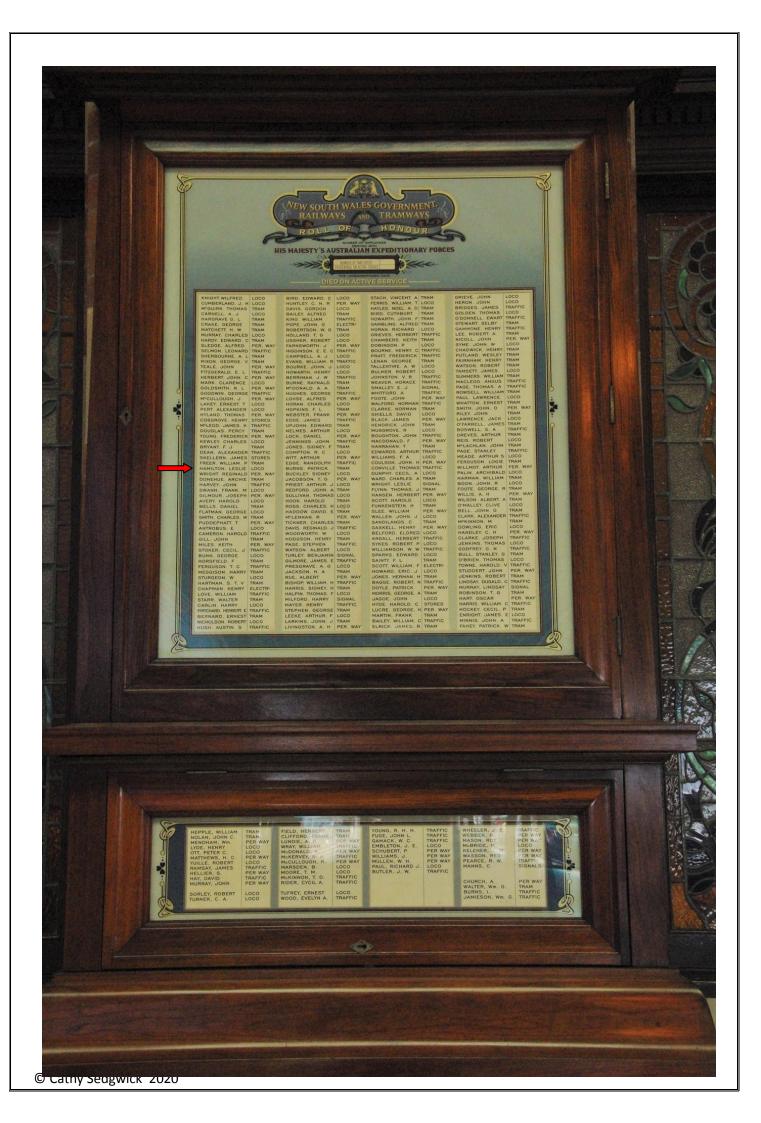
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Leslie Hamilton is remembered on the NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour, located at Country Trains Concourse, Eddy Avenue, Haymarket, Sydney, NSW.



NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Peter F. Williams)





(34 pages of Private Leslie William Hamilton'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) & National Archives

Leslie William Robert Hamilton is remembered in the UK De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour – 1914 – 1919 (Volume 2 Page 154)



A BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF MEMBERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S NAVAL AND MILITARY FORCES WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914–1918

> "And he Passed over... and all the Trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

PART TWO with some 1500 portraits

HAMILTON, LESLIE WILLIAM ROBERT, Private, No. 337, C Coy., 3rd Battn. Australian Imperial Force, eldest s. of William John Hamilton, of Tompson Street, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Builders' Labourer,



Leslie W. R. Hamilton.

by his wife, Hannah Jane, dau. of William Pearce, of co. Cornwall; b. Wodonga, Victoria, Australia, 8 Jan. 1894; educ. Yachandandah. Victoria, and on leaving school was attached to the staff of the New South Wales Government Railways at Junee; volunteered for Imperial Service, and joined the 3rd Battn. A.I.F. in Aug. 1914, after the outbreak of war; left for Egypt 20 Oct.; served with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Gallipoli from April, 1915; took part in the landing there on the 25th, also in the fighting at Lone Pine in May, and died at the Military Hospital, Hampstead, 15 Sept. following, from wounds received in action 6 Aug. A comrade wrote: "A gamer little fellow never put rifle on shoulder; always cheerful even under most trying circumstances, and his loss was deeply felt by his comrades, who knew that the country had lost a grand little fighter—game to the last. Although he has gone across the Great Divide.

you will know that a braver lad was never born." Unm.

Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN HEROES

Mr and Mrs W. J. Hamilton, of Forsyth-street, received a cable yesterday from their son, now at the Dardanelles, dated May 22nd, which stated that he was safe and well. Private L. W. R. Hamilton is a member of the 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry Brigade A.I.E.F.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 25 May, 1915)

PERSONAL

Mr. W. J. Hamilton, of Forsyth-street, Wagga, on Saturday night received a telegram from the Defence Department, stating that Private L. W. R. Hamilton had been wounded at the Dardanelles between August 7 and 12. He is not reported to be seriously wounded. Private Hamilton enlisted with the 1st Expeditionary Force and has been in action since April 25.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW - 6 September, 1915)

PERSONAL

Mr. William Hamilton, of Forsyth Street, Wagga, yesterday received a telegram from the Defence Department advising him of the serious condition of his son. Recently Private L. W. Hamilton was reported wounded, and the latest advice shows that he is suffering from a shrapnel wound in the chest and is in the military hospital at Hampsted, England, in a dangerous state. The Defence Department offer to despatch a free cable of inquiry at the request of the soldier's father.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW - 16 September, 1915)

GALLIPOLI LOSSES

TWENTY-NINE DEATHS

EIGHTY-SECOND CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte L. W. HAMILTON, 3rd Bn., Wagga (dangerously; in Hampstead Military Hospital, previously reported wounded)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 30 September, 1915)

PERSONAL

The death from shrapnel wounds in the chest has occurred of Private L. W. Hamilton at the military hospital Hampstead, England. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hamilton, of Forsyth Street, Wagga, have received a message from the Defence Department, conveying the sympathy of the King and Queen and the Commonwealth Government upon the loss sustained in the death of a soldier. Private Hamilton, who prior to enlisting, followed his occupation as a carpenter, was a member of the Third Battalion and saw a considerable amount of the fighting following the memorable landing on the 25th of April, at Gallipoli. Private Hamilton was reported to have been wounded some time since, and conveyed to England. A cable message sent by the Defence Department a few days ago elicited the reply that the young soldier had died on September 15.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 25 September, 1915)

EIGHTY - FOURTH LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

IN HOSPITAL, LONDON

Pte L. W. HAMILTON, 3rd Bn., Newtown (previously reported wounded, afterwards dangerously ill)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 30 September, 1915)

GENERAL

The death from shrapnel wounds in the chest has occurred of Private L.W. Hamilton at the military hospital, Hampstead, England. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hamilton, of Wagga, have received a message from the Defence Department, conveying the sympathy of the King and Queen and the Commonwealth Government upon the loss sustained. The young soldier died, on September 15.

(The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express, NSW – 1 October, 1915)

DEATH

HAMILTON – On September 15, at Hampstead, England, died from wounds, received at Gallipoli, Private Leslie William Robert Hamilton, beloved eldest son of H. J. and W. J. Hamilton, also loving brother of A., O. J., and C. Hamilton, Wagga.

"They Will Be Done."

His God and country needed him.

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sister and brothers.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW - 2 October, 1915)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

87th and 88th Casualty Lists

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private L. W. Hamilton, Wagga, on September 15; previously reported wounded, afterwards seriously ill. (87)

(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW - 8 October, 1915)

PERSONAL

At St. John's Church of England last Sunday an inscribed litany desk was dedicated to the memory of the late Private Leslie William Robert Hamilton, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hamilton, of Forsyth-street. The dedication was conducted by Canon Pike, who briefly expressed sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton in their bereavement. Pte. Hamilton was wounded in Gallipoli in August, and died at Hampstead, London, last September.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW - 6 June, 1916) & (The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express, NSW - 9 June, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

ROLL OF HONOR

HAMILTON – In loving memory of Leslie W. R., dearly beloved and eldest son of W. J. and H. J. Hamilton, of Forsyth street, Wagga, who died in Military Hospital, London, on September 15, 1915, from shrapnel wounds received at Gallipoli in Lone Pine charge on August 6; aged 21 years and 8 months.

A loyal, honourable and loving son and brother,

He nobly fought and died a hero.

Sadly Missed, and Deeply Mourned.

-Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW - 15 September, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

HAMILTON – In sad but loving memory of our darling son and brother, Private Leslie W. R. Hamilton, who died oin Military Hospital, Hampstead, London, on September 15, 1915, from wounds received in Lone Pine charge on August 6, 1915; aged 21 years and 8 months.

"Until the day breaks and the shadows pass away."

Our Hero.

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents, W. J. and H. J. Hamilton, Tompson street, Wagga, and loving sisters and brother, A., O., G., C., J.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW - 15 September, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

HAMILTON – In sad but loving memory of our darling son and brother, No.337, Private Leslie Wm. R., who gave his life for God and country, at Hampstead Military Hospital, London, September 15, 1915; aged 21 years 8 months.

Only a private called for higher service,

Honorably he lived,

Fearlessly and nobly he died,

Our darling "laddie,"

Loved by all.

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents, Wm. J. and H. J. Hamilton, sisters and brothers, Adelaide, Olive, Jean, George and Cecil, Tompson-street, Wagga.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW - 14 September, 1918)

**Notices were also placed in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1926, 1927, 1929

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)

Private L. W. Hamilton does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Thy Will Be Done

Hampstead Cemetery, London, England

Hampstead Cemetery is located at Fortune Green with the entrance at the northern end of Fortune Green Road, 400 metres from West Hampstead Railway Station.

There are 217 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war and a further 45 of the 1939-45 war here. In addition there is 1 Polish soldier and 1 Czech soldier burials and 1 non war military burial.

Those whose graves cannot be marked by headstone are recorded by name on a Screen Wall memorial in the War Graves Plot where the majority of the burials are to be found, near the Northern boundary, to the right of the main entrance.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Hampstead Cemetery (Photo by Marathon)



Four Australian graves at Hampstead Cemetery on Anzac Day. On the far left is the grave of 337 Private (Pte)
Leslie William Hamilton, 3rd Battalion, of Wagga Wagga, NSW who died of his wounds on 15 September
1915 aged 21 years. From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration
Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited
many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many
Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed
to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer
Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.



4 Australian WW1 War Graves (Left to Right) Hamilton, Westaway, Cameron & Kerr (Photo by D - Find a Grave)

Photo of Private L. W. Hamilton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hampstead Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo by julia&keld - Find a Grave)