

Private Alfred James Hosie[©]
Regimental number: 24/2006
2nd Battalion Canterbury Infantry Regiment

born: 1886–died: 1916

Alfred James Hosie was born on 16 October 1886 in Wellington, New Zealand,¹ the son of Robert Hosie and Susan Alice Prince.² Robert was a watchmaker in Wellington,³ an authority on the Maori language, and served as a sergeant in the Wairarapa Mounted Rifles during the Maori wars.⁴

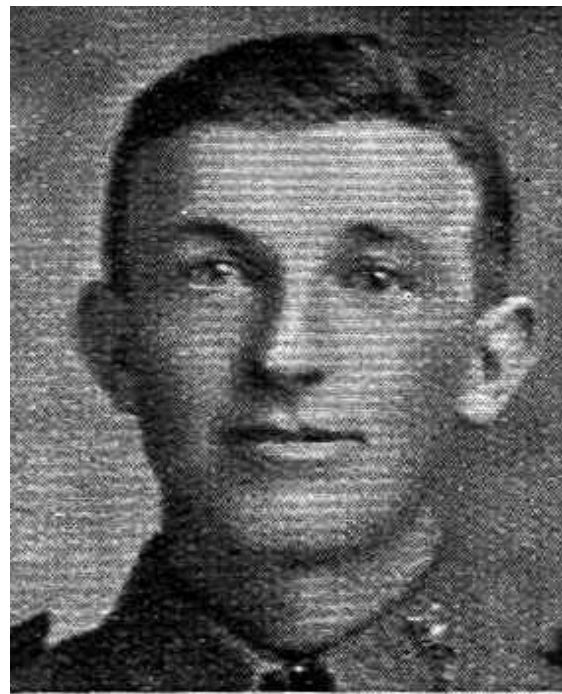
Alfred James was the eldest of four sons born to Robert and Susan Alice. The others were Ernest William, born in 1888,⁵ Cecil Robert, born in 1890,⁶ and Wilfred George, born in 1897.⁷

Prior to enlisting, Alfred was living with his parents and working as an electroplater.⁸ His military file records that he was working as a metal finisher for the Wellington Gas Company.⁹

Alfred enlisted in the New Zealand Armed Forces on 16 November 1915¹⁰ and was posted to F Company of the 10th Infantry Regiment.¹¹ On 4 March 1916 he embarked in Wellington with the New Zealand Rifle Brigade,¹² and five weeks later (on 10 April) he disembarked in Suez.¹³ Three days later he left Egypt for France, arriving on 28 April at the New Zealand base depot in Étaples.¹⁴ A month later he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion of the Canterbury Regiment in the field.¹⁵ The regiment was stationed near Armentières in Flanders.¹⁶

One month later, on 26 June, Private Hosie was admitted to No. 2 New Zealand Field Ambulance with a high fever (P.U.O. - Pyrexia of Unknown Origin).¹⁷ Four days later he was transferred to No. 3 New Zealand Field Ambulance with bronchitis.¹⁸

He rejoined his unit on 12 July, but only three days later he was wounded in action, and admitted the next day to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to the head and left hand.¹⁹ He died the same day at 1:45 p.m., 16 July 1916,²⁰ and was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, Reference II. E. 18.²¹ The cemetery lies in the east end of the town of Bailleul, in the region of Nord, and contains the remains of 4344 soldiers from the two world wars.



**PTE. A. J. HOSIE,
of Wellington,
Killed in action.**

Alfred James Hosie

Source: "Portrait, *Auckland Weekly News* 1916,"
Auckland Museum

Private Alfred Hosie received the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) for his service.²²

Sadly, Alfred was not the only one of Robert and Susan Alice's four sons to lose his life in WW I. Youngest son Wilfred George was only 17 at the start of the war. He actually enlisted before his much older brother, on 15 October 1915, and lied about his age, stating that he was born in 1895 rather than 1897.²³ At the time he was a letter carrier with the New Zealand Postal Department in Feilding.

Wilfred served with the 3rd Battalion of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade.²⁴ He arrived in France three weeks before his brother, on 7 April 1916, but was killed in action on 15 September 1916, just two months after his brother.²⁵

Robert and Alice's other two sons, Ernest William and Cecil Robert, did not serve in the military, though both were listed in the army reserve rolls in 1917.²⁶ Ernest was an electrician in Petone, and Cecil a plumber in Wellington.

Ernest William married Ethel Maud Annie Pearce in 1911²⁷ and had six children, including one named Alfred James, born in 1916 just two months after his uncle was killed.²⁸ Ernest lived to the ripe old age of 86.²⁹

Cecil Robert married Nellie Parkin in 1912³⁰ and had two children.

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¹ "New Zealand, World War 1 Service Records 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 8 March 2020), entry for Alfred James Hosie, Service Number: WW1 24/2006

² *Auckland Museum* (<https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph/record/C7205>: accessed 8 March 2020), entry for Alfred James Hosie

³ "New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1853–1981," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 9 March 2020), entry for Hosie, Robert, Electoral Year: 1900, District: Wellington, Region: Wellington

⁴ "Papers Past," *National Library of New Zealand* (https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/EP19420320.2.88?items_per_page=10&page=3&phrase=2&query=robert+hosie&snippet=true), obituary for Mr. R. Hosie, *Wellington Evening Post*, Volume CXXXIII, Issue 67, 20 March 1942

⁵ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 8 March 2020), entry for Ernest William Hosie, Registration Place: Wellington, New Zealand, Folio Number: 3660

⁶ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 8 March 2020), entry for Cecil Robert Hosie, Registration Place: Wellington, New Zealand, Folio Number: 3618

⁷ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 8 March 2020), entry for Wilfred George Hosie, Registration Place: Wellington, New Zealand, Folio Number: 549

⁸ "New Zealand Electoral Rolls, 1853–1981," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 9 March 2020), entry for Alfred James Hosie, Electoral Years: 1911, 1914, District: Wellington Suburbs and Country, Region: Wellington

⁹ "Archives New Zealand, Wellington Office," *Archives New Zealand* (<https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=18049997>: accessed 8 March 2020), entry for Hosie, Alfred James - WW1 24/2006 - Army (R18049997), image 1

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, image 6

¹¹ *Ibid.*, image 12

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- ¹² *New Zealand War Graves Project* (<https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/casualties/alfred-james-hosie>: accessed 8 March 2020), entry for Alfred James Hosie
- ¹³ "Archives New Zealand, Wellington Office," *Archives New Zealand* (<https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=18049997>: accessed 8 March 2020), entry for Hosie, Alfred James - WW1 24/2006 - Army (R18049997), image 6
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ "1916: Armentières and the Battle of the Somme," *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/the-battle-of-the-somme>: accessed 10 March 2020)
- ¹⁷ "Archives New Zealand, Wellington Office," *Archives New Zealand* (<https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=18049997>: accessed 8 March 2020), entry for Hosie, Alfred James - WW1 24/2006 - Army (R18049997), image 6
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 5 March 2020), entry for Hosie, Alfred James, Service No: 24/2006
- ²² "Archives New Zealand, Wellington Office," *Archives New Zealand* (<https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=18049997>: accessed 8 March 2020), entry for Hosie, Alfred James - WW1 24/2006 - Army (R18049997), image 10
- ²³ "New Zealand, World War 1 Service Records 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 10 March 2020), entry for Wilfred George Hosie, Service Number: WW1 25/1052
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ "New Zealand Army WW1 Reserve Rolls, 1916–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 10 March 2020), entries for Hosie, Ernest William and Hosie, Cecil Robert
- ²⁷ "New Zealand, Marriage Index, 1840–1937," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 10 March 2020), entry for Ernest William Hosie
- ²⁸ "New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2020), entry for Alfred James Hosie, Registration Place: Petone, Wellington, New Zealand, Folio Number: 6155
- ²⁹ "New Zealand, Cemetery Records, 1800–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 12 March 2020), entry for Ernest William Hosie
- ³⁰ "New Zealand, Marriage Index, 1840–1937," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 10 March 2020), entry for Cecil Robert Hosie