

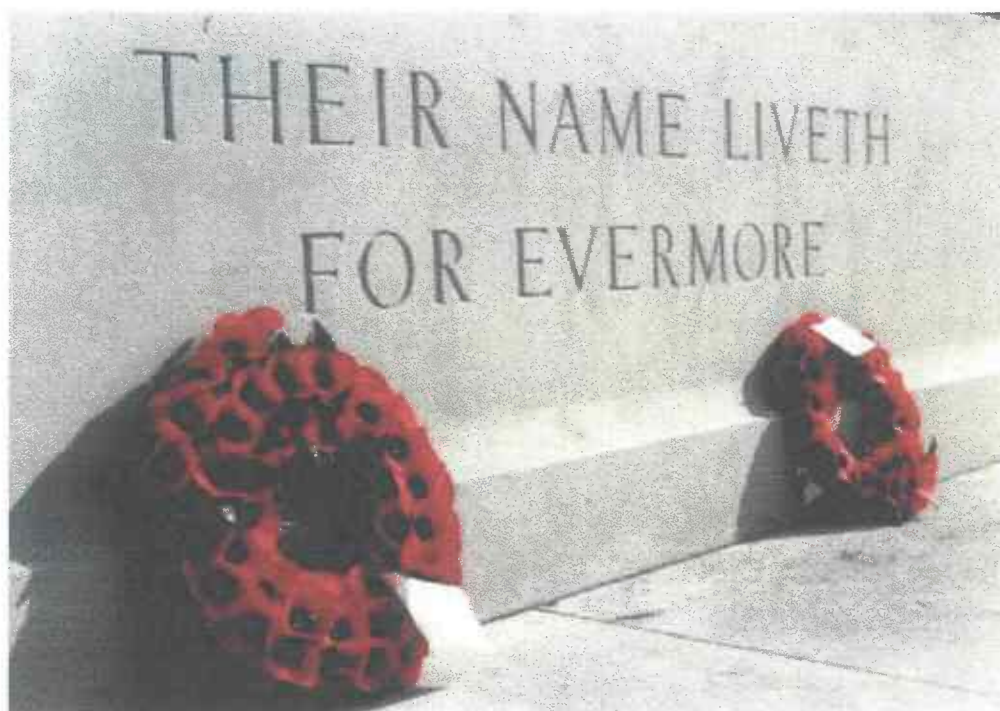


In Memory of

Private A P HICKS

*13th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F
who died on Wednesday, 8th May 1918.*

*Remembered with honour
LITTLE CORNARD (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD, Suffolk,
United Kingdom.*



*In the perpetual care of
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

In Memory of

A P HICKS

Private

7000

13th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F

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Commemorative Information

Cemetery:	LITTLE CORNARD (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD, Suffolk, United Kingdom
Grave Reference/ Panel Number:	Near North West buttress of church

Display Record of Commemoration

No. 7000, Pte. ALFRED PHILIP HICKS.

Alfred Philip Hicks was an Australian soldier, who was born near Bathurst, New South Wales, died in Dover Military Hospital and is interned in Little Cornard Church Yard.

Alfred was born 10 September 1884, in Perthville near Bathurst son of Phillip and Eleanor Hicks (nee Shute). Philip born 1855 in Stratford St. Mary and for a time farmed at Dove House Farm, Great Henny, sailed from Plymouth on the 20th November 1876, arrived in Sydney 5th February 1877, then Bathurst on the 9th February 1877. He married Eleanor Shute in Bathurst 1882. Their home address, (after the first war), was given as 357 Rankin Street, Bathurst, New South Wales. Alfred was married to Ellen (Nellie) Brown, and had two children, Marie and Ethel Daisy Hicks.

Alfred enlisted into the Australian army on April 4th 1916 at the Depot Camp Bathurst N.S.W. His attestation form says he was a natural born British subject, aged 31 years and 6 months. He is listed as being a fitter labourer (railway), 6 feet tall and weighed 165 pounds. His next of kin was given as his wife Nellie, and that he was a Baptist.

Alfred was enlisted into; -

“D” Company, Depot Batt. Bathurst 4/4/16 – 26/4/16

and then posted as follows,

“D” Coy, 53rd Batt. 26/4/16 – 10/6/16

“C” Coy, Depot Batt 10/6/16 – 8/8/16

“A” Coy, Depot Batt. 8/8/16 – 30/8/16

“C” Coy, Depot Batt. 30/8/16 – 13/9/16

he was then posted to the Adjutants Office at Victoria Barracks 13/9/16 – 28/10/16

“C” Coy, Depot Batt. 28/10/16 – 9/11/16

and then on 9/11/16 Alfred was posted with the 23rd reinforcement draft to the, 13th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces. The 13th Batt. embarked on to H.M.A.T.

“Beltana”, in Sydney, on 25/11/16 and sailed for England. Arriving and disembarking at Devonport on 29/1/17.

On the 30/1/17, Alfred was posted to the 4th Training Batt. at Codford, and proceeded to France via Folkstone, on 13/3/17. Arrived at Etaples 14/3/17 and proceeded to unit on 17/3/17.

Alfred's active service and casualty record is as follows,

1917

18/3 – Taken on strength, 13th Inf. Batt.

12/6 – Sick to Hospital with “nerves”, and exhaustion

14/6 – Shell shock definitely diagnosed, 4th stationary hospital

11/7 – to base details

12/7 – rejoined unit, Belgium

18/8 – to 6th Aus. Field Ambulance - rheumatics and scabies

23/8 – to Casualty clearing station

19/9 – rejoined unit, France

5/11 – to 4th F.A., Scabies

29/11 – rejoined unit

1918

11/1 – on leave

26/1 – returned from leave

1/4 – wounded in action, Gunshot wound to face, to C.C.S.

5/4 – admitted to 23rd General Hospital Camieres, evacuated to England

6/4 – admitted to Dover military Hospital with G.S.W. to face and injury to lung

8/5 – died of wounds at Dover Military Hospital – cause – G.S.W to cheeks,
Emphysema and gangrene to lung, heart failure

13/5 – Buried, All Saints Churchyard, Little Cornard, Sudbury, Consecrated ground.

The following extract is from the book, “The Fighting Thirteenth”, by Capt.

T.A.White, about the events of 1st April 1918.

“At 1.15am on 1st April “C” [company] was ordered to cooperate with the 16th Battalion in an attack on a strong post some distance ahead of the junction of “C” and the 16th. This attack was another with bombs and bayonet and was wonderfully successful, 71 prisoners and 4 machine guns being captured and over 100 dead Germans counted. We had again definitely taken the offensive and all were in great heart. “B” advanced a post 200 yards into enemy territory, rushing it in broad daylight on two minutes notice; “C” sent out another post on its own left, and “D” sent another towards PUISIEUX. So well planned and swift were these stunts that we only had two wounded”.

Alfred’s funeral took place on 13 May 1918 at Little Cornard Church with the Reverend W. Bankes-Williams officiating. A full military funeral was accorded with a Union Jack draped over the coffin, and was attended by a firing party and a Bugler. The church choir was also present. Wreaths were laid from Alfred’s parents and Aunts, Uncles and cousins from Sudbury. Members of his family present included his brother, No.2187, L/Cpl. Walter Hicks. Aunt, Miss A. Hicks. Uncle and Aunt, Mr & Mrs A. East. Cousins Messers B & M East, Sudbury, and L/Cpl. A. R. East. Alfred’s grave is situated by the North West Buttress, he is buried alongside his cousin No.201479, Maurice East, “A” Coy. 7th Batt. Tank Corps, who died 1/5/1918. A photo of Alfred’s grave was sent to the next of kin on 18/6/18. In Alfred’s records there are details of his will thus; -

“I Alfred Philip Hicks Regimental number 7000 serving in 13th Battalion Australian Imperial Forces. Do hereby revoke all former wills made by me and declare this to be my last will and testament. I appoint my Father Phillip Hicks of 114 Bentick Street Bathurst New South Wales, Executor and Trustee of this my will. I give and bequeath all my real and personal estate wheresoever situate and whatsoever nature to my Trustee in trust for my two children Marie Hicks and Ethel Daisy Hicks to be paid to them on their attaining the age of twenty one years. Have and excepting any moneys which might be due and payable on my death from The Society of Druids of New South Wales, such money to be paid to my wife Nellie Hicks.
In witness thereof I have set my hand this sixth day of June A.D. 1917”

Alfred was not entitled to the 1914/15 Star, but was issued with The British War Medal, No. 54008, and with The Victory Medal, No. 53208. Copy of "Where the Australians Rest" sent to his widow, Mrs N. Hicks, on 21/5/21. Memorial Plaque and Scroll issued to his widow, Mrs N Foran, (remarried), on 24/1/23.

Alfred's brother, No. 2187 L/Cpl. Walter Hicks, 56th Battalion, Australian Infantry, who attended Alfred's funeral, was himself killed on 22/8/18 aged 29. He is buried in grave I. A. 39, in Cerisy-Gailly Military Cemetery, 10 Km. South-West of Albert, on the Somme.

[His Majesty's Australian Troopship "Beltana" was an ex-P&O Steam Navigation Co. ship, displacing 11,120 tons, with a top speed of 14 knots].

Alfred's two children Marie and Ethel Daisy Hicks married, Marie had three children, Ralph John Gilbert, Julie Gilbert and Adrian Gilbert. Unfortunately Ethel Daisy Hicks had no children.

Alfred is remembered by his families, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

