

**Catholic Churchyard, Bridgetown,
Count Clare, Republic of Ireland**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1699 PRIVATE

J. J. HICKEY

60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH JANUARY, 1918

John Joseph (Jack) HICKEY

John Joseph Hickey was born on 3rd June, 1894 in Port Melbourne, Victoria to parents John Patrick & Nora Hickey. He was baptised on 17th June, 1894.

John Joseph Hickey was a 21 year old, single Seaman from Port Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 16th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1699 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Patrick Hickey, 240 Ross Street, Port Melbourne, Victoria.

Private John Joseph Hickey was posted to 19th Depot Battalion at Geelong, Victoria on 9th March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Ascot Vale on 25th March, 1916 then transferred to 58th Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements at Broadmeadows on 2nd April, 1916.

Private John Joseph Hickey embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 4th April, 1916 with the 58th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Alexandria. The Statement of Service form for Private John Joseph Hickey states he deserted at Colombo off Troopship A14 on 24th April, 1916. No other mention or reprimand is recorded.

Private John Joseph Hickey was transferred to 60th Battalion on 24th May, 1916 & taken on strength of 60th Battalion on 25th May, 1916 at Ferry Post Camp.

Private John Joseph Hickey was written up for being absent without leave on 16th May, 1916 from 5th Training Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir. He was awarded 7 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 22 days' pay.

Private John Joseph Hickey embarked from Alexandria on *Kinfauns Castle* on 18th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private John Joseph Hickey was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital in France & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. David* in 21st July 1916 with gunshot wounds to hands (mild).

60th Battalion

The 60th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the A.I.F. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. The majority of both groups were Victorians. The new battalion formed part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 28 June, the 60th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the battalion. In a single day, it was virtually wiped out, suffering 757 casualties. These losses meant the battalion saw little further offensive action in 1916.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 60th Battalion – 19th July, 1916:

Trenches on Fromelles Front – Coy Cmdrs and all other available officers received final instructions re assault at Batn. Hdqtrs at 10 a.m. Zero time 11 a.m. Head of battalion moved past Brigade Hdtrs at 1.30 and marched via V.C. Sap to front line trenches under heavy enemy artillery bombardments. Friendly artillery very heavily bombarding enemy trenches. Battalion established in front line trench by 4.20, Lewis guns excepted, a few casualties having occurred, some serious. Battalion scaled parapet and advanced in four waves, the first wave leaving at 6.45, the last at 7. Each wave advanced under very heavy artillery, machine gun and rifle fire, suffering very heavy casualties. Advance continued to within 90 yards of enemy trenches. The attack was held up, although it is believed some few of the battalion entered enemy trenches. During the night 19/20 a few stragglers, wounded and unwounded, returned to our trenches.

(Extract of War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Joseph Hickey was admitted to Kingswood Park V.A.D. Hospital at Tunbridge Wells, England on 22nd July, 1916 & discharged on 12th August, 1916. Pte Hickey was transferred to Fort Pitt Hospital, Chatham, England on 12th August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to wrists & fingers. The wound on the left 4th finger had not healed. He was discharged on 30th August, 1916 to C. Camp.

Private John Joseph Hickey reported to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 1st September, 1916 & was medically classified A (fit for active service.). Pte Hickey was granted furlough on 2nd September, 1916.

Private John Joseph Hickey was written up for being absent without leave from Bovington Camp on 26th October, 1916 also 1. Insubordination to a senior N.C.O.; 2. Threatening to strike an N.C.O.; 3. Obscene language to an N.C.O.; 4. Neglecting to obey an order. He was awarded 28 days detention by Major Lowe.

Private John Joseph Hickey proceeded overseas via Folkestone on *Golden Eagle* on 11th December, 1916 from 15th Training Battalion. He was marched in from England to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 12th December, 1916. Pte Hickey was marched out to his unit from Etaples on 18th December, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion in the field on 20th December, 1916.

Private John Joseph Hickey was appointed Lance Corporal on 26th February, 1917.

Lance Corporal John Joseph Hickey reverted back to the rank of Private on 6th July, 1917 at his own request.

Private John Joseph Hickey was sent to Hospital sick on 25th September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 25th September, 1917 then transferred to 17th Casualty Clearing Station N.Y.D.N. (Not yet diagnosed neurosis). Pte Hickey was transferred to 15th Casualty Clearing Station on 27th September, 1917 & classified as "Shell Shock Wounded" then transferred to Ambulance Train on 1st October, 1917 N.Y.D.N. (buried) (Not yet diagnosed neurosis). Pte Hickey was admitted to 7th Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, France on 1st October, 1917 then transferred to 26th General Hospital at Etaples on 2nd October, 1917. Pte Hickey was transferred to 6th Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 5th October, 1917.

Pte Hickey was written up while posted at 6th Convalescent Depot on 21st October, for being absent from Tattoo Roll Call till reporting himself at 9.30 pm on 21st October, 1917. He was awarded 7 days confined to camp on 22nd October, 1917.

Private John Joseph Hickey was written up for drunkenness while posted at 6th Convalescent Depot on 2nd November, 1917. He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment No. 1 by Lt. Col. Macpherson on 5th November, 1917.

Pte Hickey was discharged from 6th Convalescent Depot to Base on 19th November, 1917.

Private John Joseph Hickey was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France from Hospital on 21st November, 1917. He was marched out from Havre on 29th November, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion in the field on 11th December, 1917.

Private John Joseph Hickey proceeded on leave to UK on 13th January, 1918.

Private John Joseph Hickey died at 5.30 pm on 27th January, 1918 at Edgy Curragh Military Hospital, Dublin, Ireland from Shock and Haemorrhage as a result of a Railway accident.

Medical Case Sheet – 1699 Pte Hickey, J., 60th Australian Imperial Infantry:

Compound fracture R. Arm R. Thigh, Nasal bones & right Parietal Bone.

At about 1.45 a.m. this man was found on the platform at Newbridge Station, having been run over by a train. His R. arm was hanging by one of the nerves, and was removed by me at the station.. He was then brought to this hospital in the Motor Ambulance.

He was taken straight to the Theatre and two pints of normal saline were injected into the left Median Basalic vein. Mr Mc. Bee attended to the right arm which was severed in the upper third.

The right thigh was badly lacerated posteriorly and there was a wound in front of the thigh, through which a spike of Femur had protruded. The Femur was shattered in its lower half into numerous pieces, and the external Condyle

almost completely detached. The posterior aspect of the right knee joint was laid open and no pulsation could be felt with popliteal artery. Thigh amputated in upper third flap closed over drainage tube.

Given Tactal Saline and Pituitrin 4 hourly after operation, The Nazal bones were stripped bare, and there was a compound fracture of right parietal bone.

Patient died at 5.30 pm.

(Sgd) L. Day

Lieut. R.A.M.C.

Inquest held 29th January 1918.

Verdict "That John Joseph Hickey died on January 27th 1918 at Curragh Camp from shock and Haemorrhage, the result of the injuries received by being accidentally struck by a train. We have no evidence as to how the deceased came by his death. We attach no blame to anyone".

A death for John Joseph Hickey, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Naas, Ireland.

Private John Joseph Hickey was buried at 4.45 pm on 31st January, 1918 in Bridgetown Catholic Churchyard, County Clare, Republic of Ireland – Plot number – family grave (east of Church) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte John Joseph Hickey - *Coffin was good polished oak. The deceased soldier was interred privately. The remains were taken by road from Limerick. All arrangements incidental to the funeral ceremony were conducted by deceased's Uncle. Uncle and Aunt, 4 cousins and about 25 friends of deceased were present.*

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, were represented at the funeral. An oak cross, bearing the deceased's regimental particulars, was taken from London by the A.I.F. representative, and was erected on the grave after the burial ceremony. Relatives present expressed their grateful satisfaction to the A.I.F. for the arrangements made from London.

Names of relatives and friends present at the funeral – Uncle – T. Hickey, Ballybrack Clonlara, Count Clare, Ireland.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private John Joseph Hickey contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible into his wounds, death and burial. The O. C. of Military Hospital, Curragh replied: *"Pte Hickey was admitted to this Hospital on the 26th January 1918 suffering from Compound Fracture of Humerus, Ulna and Radius, Skull and Nose, having been found lying on the Railway line between Tallins and Graffan, Co. Kildare. He was conveyed with all speed to Hospital where it was found necessary to perform an operation, amputation of right arm and leg being necessary. Patient rallied fairly well but the shock was too great and he passed away at 6 pm on the 27th January 1918. Inquest held on the 29th ult and verdict given as under... "That John Joseph Hickey died on Jan. 27th 1918 at Curragh Military Hospital from Shock and Haemorrhage, the result of injuries received by being accidentally struck by a train. We have no evidence as to how the deceased came by his death. We attach no blame to anyone". The body was claimed by his uncle and conveyed to Ballywall for burial. All personal effects were forwarded to O.i/c Records Australia Imp. Forces.*

Private John Joseph Hickey requested in his Will dated 5th June, 1917 that all his personal & real estate to be bequeathed to his mother – Norah Hickey, of 240 Ross St, Port Melbourne, Victoria.

Private John Joseph Hickey was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Hickey's father – Mr J. P. Hickey, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent May, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. J. Hickey – service number 1699, of 60th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the nephew of Thomas Hickey, of Ballybrack, Kilmore, Limerick.

Private J. J. Hickey is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 170.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Port Melbourne War Memorial, in the form of a drinking fountain, located at Beach & Stokes Streets, Port Melbourne, Victoria does not contain individual names.



Port Melbourne War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia)

(66 pages of Pte John Joseph Hickey'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



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTY LIST No 383

VICTORIA

DIED. ACCIDENT

L.-Cpl. J. J. Hickey, Port Melbourne

(The Ballarat Star, Victoria – 18 February, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

HICKEY – Died at Edgy Curragh Military Hospital, Ireland, Lance-Corporal John Joseph Hickey, 60th Battalion, late of the 58th, eldest son of Patrick and Norah Hickey, dearly loved brother of Kate, Mary, Pat and little Irene, aged 23 years and 8 months.

His life on the battle field was spent,
And Australia raises this monument;
A soldier and a man he died,
Honoured by all, his country's pride.
Sadly missed.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 February, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HICKEY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-Corporal John Joseph Hickey (Jack), died at Edgy Curragh Military Hospital, Dublin, on the 27th January, 1918, aged 28 years.

The midnight stars are gleaming
On a grave we cannot see,
Where sleeping without dreaming
Lies the one so dear to us.

-Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brother.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 January, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HICKEY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-Corporal John Joseph, who died at Edgy Curragh Military Hospital, Dublin, 27th January, 1918, 60th Battalion (late 58th).

When it strikes home, gone is the laughter,
When it strikes home, your hearts forlorn,
But when you hear of brave boys dying,
That is the time when it strikes home.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother, sisters and brother.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 January, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HICKEY – In loving memory of my dear son and brother, Jack, who died at Edgy Curragh Military Hospital, Dublin, 27th January, 1918.

Just a sad but sweet remembrance,
Of a memory fond and true;
Tokens of affection, dear Jack, for you.

-Inserted by his loving mother and sisters and brother.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 January, 1923)

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 15th July, 1921, to Mr J. P. Hickey, 240 Ross Street, Port Melbourne, Victoria advising that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Pte J. J. Hickey 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.

Private J. J. Hickey does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Bridgetown Catholic Churchyard, County Clare, Republic of Ireland

Bridgetown Catholic Churchyard contains only 1 Commonwealth War Grave. The graveyard is attached to St. Thomas' Catholic Church.

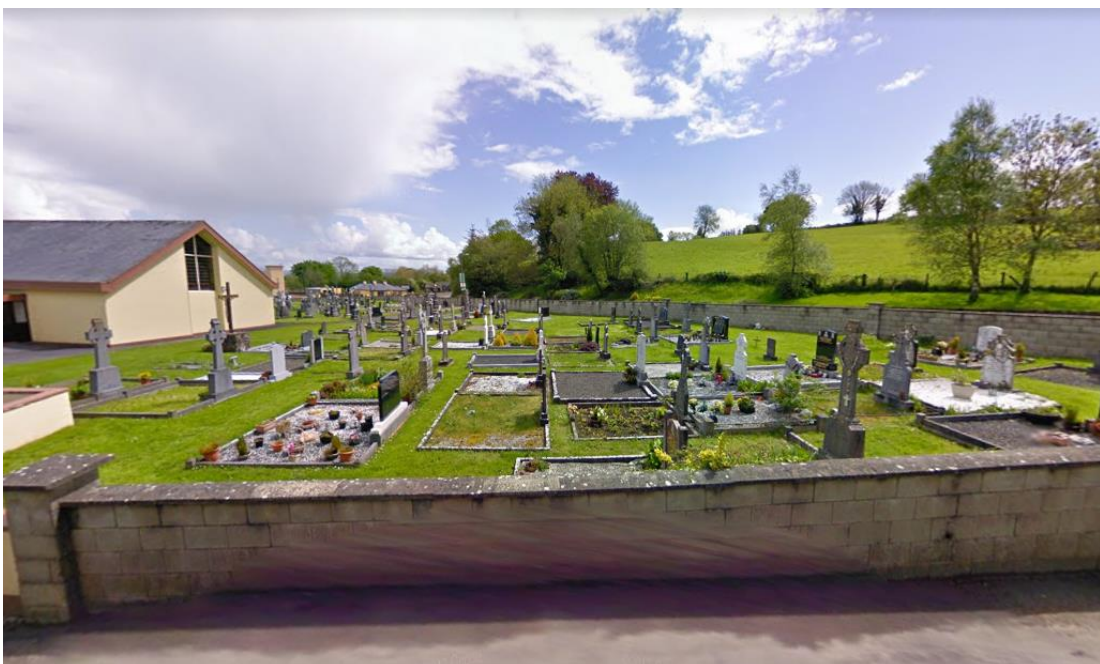


Photo of Private J. J. Hickey's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bridgetown Catholic Churchyard, County Clare, Republic of Ireland.



Pte J. J. Hickey's Headstone & below with other Hickey Headstones (Photos courtesy of Simon Mamouney)

