

**Painswick Cemetery,
Painswick, Gloucestershire**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4694 SERGEANT

L. F. HOPKINS M.M.

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

28TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 25

He Went, By Youth's

Grave Purpose Filled

Goal Unknown

Cost Unweighed

Leonard Frank HOPKINS

Leonard Frank Hopkins was born at North Sydney, NSW in 1893 to parents Edward Jordan Hopkins and Elizabeth Hopkins (nee Lane). His birth was registered in the district of St. Leonards, NSW. (Leonard Hopkins completed his Attestation Papers recording that he was born at Inverell, NSW)

Leonard Frank Hopkins attended Crows Nest Public School, NSW.

Leonard Frank Hopkins was a 21 year old, single, Student Engineer from (care of Mr E. J. Hopkins), Inverell, NSW when he enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland on 20th January, 1915 with the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, 7th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4694 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. J. Hopkins, of Inverell, NSW.

Gunner Leonard Frank Hopkins was posted to A.F.A. (Australian Field Artillery) Reinforcements on 20th January, 1915 for recruit training. He was posted to 7th Reinforcements 3rd Field Artillery Brigade on 12th June, 1915.

Gunner Leonard Frank Hopkins embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Persia* on 10th August, 1915.

Gunner Leonard Frank Hopkins was taken on strength 3rd Field Artillery Brigade H.Q. from Reinforcements at Zakeriah on 1st October, 1915 as part of Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Gunner Leonard Frank Hopkins proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 23rd March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th March, 1916.

Gunner Leonard Frank Hopkins was temporarily attached to D.A. Headquarters from Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters, France on 31st May, 1916 & rejoined F.A. Brigade Headquarters on 16th June, 1916.

Gunner Leonard Frank Hopkins was awarded the Military Medal on 22nd June, 1917 in France. Reported in *London Gazette* - 16th August, 1917 & *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* - 20 December 1917.

"HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the Field to the undermentioned soldier – No. 4994 Gunner L. F. Hopkins."



Military Medal (showing front & back)

Gunner Leonard Frank Hopkins was transferred to 3rd (Army) F.A.B. Signal Sub Section from 3rd Army F.A.B. on 25th June, 1917 & mustered as Sapper.

Sapper Leonard Frank Hopkins was on leave to England on 11th October, 1917 & rejoined from leave on 25th October, 1918.

Sapper Leonard Frank Hopkins was appointed Lance Corporal in France on 21st January, 1918 vice No. 214 L/Cpl. W. G. Candlish promoted.

Lance Corporal Leonard Frank Hopkins was promoted to 2nd Corporal on 15th May, 1918 vice 2/Cpl. Candlish to Cadet School.

Gunner L. F. Hopkins wrote to Base Records from France on 29th May, 1918 stating that his next-of-kin should show as his father – Mr E. J. Hopkins, Esq., of “Lullingworth” Gordon Road, Nth Sydney, NSW. Mr E. J. Hopkins was advised by Base Records on 6th August, 1918 that after receiving a letter from his son nominate his father as next-of-kin that the records had been amended. Base Records stated that a letter had been sent to Mrs E. J. Hopkins, of Inverell, NSW in January, 1918 & had been returned unclaimed. The letter concerned was advise that Gunner L. F. Hopkins, No. 4694. 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, had been awarded the Military Medal

2nd Corporal Leonard Frank Hopkins was promoted to Corporal on 30th June, 1918 vice Cpl. W. D. May to Cadet School.

Corporal Leonard Frank Hopkins was to proceed to England for training as a Pilot in A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps). (no date recorded).

Corporal Leonard Frank Hopkins was appointed Training Sergeant on 23rd September, 1918.

Training Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins proceeded to UK for a course at A.F.C. School on 11th October, 1918.

Training Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital at Stroud, Gloucestershire, England on 25th October, 1918, dangerously ill with pneumonia.

Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins died on 28th October, 1918 at 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England from Double Pneumonia. (Note: One Hospital Admissions form records Sergeant Hopkins was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, while another has he was admitted to Stroud V.G. Hospital. The Burial Report records he died in Red Cross Hospital, Stroud.)

A death for Frank L. Hopkins, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Stroud, Gloucestershire, England.

Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins was buried on 31st October, 1918 in Painswick Cemetery, Painswick, Gloucestershire, England – Plot number 1986 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sergeant L. F. Hopkins - *Coffin was Elm with brass furnishings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance, supplied by the Australian Flying Corps. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent by:- Mr & Mrs Hopkins, NSW, Mr & Mrs Poulton of Stroud, Miss Poulton, Mr & Mrs Loryman, Mr & Mrs Stokey. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev: A. Armstrong officiated. A temporary oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Friends present at the Funeral – Mrs J. C. Poulton of Stroud, Miss K. Poulton of Stroud & Mr A. Loryman of Stroud.

Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant L. F. Hopkins' father – Mr E. J. Hopkins, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins – service number 4694, aged 25, of 3rd A.F.A. Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Edward Jordan Hopkins and Elizabeth Hopkins, of 11 Falcon Street, Crows Nest, New South Wales. Born at North Sydney. Awarded M M.

Sergeant L. F. Hopkins is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 12.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. L. Hopkins is remembered on the Crow's Nest Public School Roll of Honour, located at North Sydney High School, cnr Pacific Highway and Davis Street, Crows Nest, NSW.



Crow's Nest Public School Roll of Honour (Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW – David Roden)

L. F. Hopkins is remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial, located in St. Leonard's Park, corner Walker and Ridge Streets, North Sydney,



North Sydney War Memorial (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)



(70 pages of Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins' 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





Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins



Photograph of War Medals, Memorial Plaque & Scroll for Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins

Newspaper Notices

MILITARY HONORS

AWARDS TO AUSTRALIANS

Military Medal

4694, Gnr. L. F. Hopkins, Fld Arty

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 October, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HOPKINS – October 28, at Stroud Hospital, of pneumonia, Gunner Leonard Frank Hopkins, M.M. An Anzac. Eldest son of Mr and Mrs Hopkins, Crow's Nest. Interred Painswick Cemetery, Stroud. At rest.

HOPKINS – October 28, at Stroud Hospital, Gunner Leonard Frank Hopkins, M.M. an Anzac. Inserted by his loving sister and brother, Alice and Les Bezer and nephews, Ted and Fred. The supreme sacrifice.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 31 October, 1918)

Personal Paragraphs

A letter of condolence will be forwarded to Mr and Mrs E. Hopkins, of Crows Nest by the North Sydney Council on the death of their son, Leonard Frank Hopkins, while on active service. He enlisted in 1915 in the Australian Light Horse, but was transferred to the artillery. He took part in the Gallipoli operations, and later in France, and at the time of his death was a member of the Flying Corps.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 7 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Cpl. L. F. Hopkins, M.M., Crow's Nest, NSW., 28/10/18, Illness

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 7 December, 1918)

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In loving memory of Anzac Sergt. L. F. Hopkins, M.M., A.F.C., died Stroud Hospital, October 28, 1918; interred Painswick Cemetery, England.

He went by youth's grave purpose filled,

The goal unknown, the cost unweighed.

He learned to fear no foes on earth,

The bravest thing God ever made.

Inserted by his loving parents, Mrs and Mr E. J. Hopkins, and Pte E. L. Hopkins, Crow's Nest.

HOPKINS – In ever loving memory of my dear brother, Anzac Sergt. . L. F. Hopkins, M.M., A.F.C., died of pneumonia Stroud Hospital, England, October 28, 1918, after four years' active service. So dearly loved so sadly missed. Inserted by his loving sister, Mrs L. Beyer

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1919)

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In ever-loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergeant L. F. Hopkins, M.M., A.F.C. and 3rd Army F.A.B., Gallipoli and France, who died at Stroud Hospital, England, October 28, 1918. Inserted by his sorrowing parents and brother Ted, (4th L.H.F.A.)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1920)

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In ever-loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sgt. F. L. Hopkins, M.M., of Gallipoli and France, died in England, of influenza, October 28, aged 26. Inserted by his parents, sister, Mrs Bezer, and brother Ted, 4th L.H.F.A.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1922)

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In ever loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sgt. Leonard Frank Hopkins, M.M., of Gallipoli and France, who died in England, October 28, 1918, after four years' service. Inserted by his parents, sister (Mrs Bezer), and brother Ted, A.I.F.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1923)

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In ever loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins, M.M., 3rd F.A.B., Gallipoli and France, died in England, October 28, 1918. Inserted by his parents, sister (Mrs L. Bezer), and brother Ted, 4th L.H.F.A.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1924)

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In ever-loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sgt. Frank Leonard Hopkins, M.M., 3rd F.A.B., of Gallipoli and France, died Stroud, England, October 28, 1918, aged 26. Inserted by his parents, sister, Mrs Bezer, brother Ted, 4th L.H.F.A.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1925)

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In ever loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergt. Leonard Frank Hopkins, M.M., of Gallipoli and France, died Stroud, England, aged 26. Inserted by his parents, sister, Mrs L. Bezer, brother, Ted (A.I.F), St. Leonards.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1926)

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In ever loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergeant Leonard Frank Hopkins, M.M., 3rd F.A.B., of Gallipoli and France, died Stroud, England, 1918. Never forgotten by his parents, sister (Mrs A. Bezer), and brother Ted.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1927)

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In ever-loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sgt. L. F. Hopkins, M.M., 3rd F.A.B., Gallipoli and France, died Stroud, England, October 28, 1918. Never forgotten by his parents, sister, Mrs L. Bezer, brother Ted, A.I.F.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1929)

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In ever-loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergt. L. F. Hopkins, M.M., of Gallipoli and France, died of illness, England, October 28, 1918. Inserted by his parents, sister, Mrs Bezer, and brother Ted, A.I.F.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1930)

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 18th July, 1921, to Mr E. J. Hopkins, of 13A Falcon Street, Crows Nest, Sydney, NSW advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Temporary Sergeant L. F. Hopkins "MM" 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.

Sergeant L. F. Hopkins does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Went, By Youth's Grave Purpose Filled Goal Unknown Cost Unweighed

Painswick Cemetery, Painswick, Gloucestershire

Painswick Cemetery contains 13 Commonwealth War Graves, 11 relating to World War 1 & 2 relating to World War 2.



Painswick Cemetery (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Sergeant L. F. Hopkins' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Painswick Cemetery, Painswick, Gloucestershire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Simon Dew)