

**St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard,
East Ham, Greater London, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2965 PRIVATE

H. R. S. HOPKINS

1ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH JANUARY, 1954 Age 56

Harold Rupert Splendie / Splendide HOPKINS

Harold Rupert Splendie/Splendide Hopkins was born on 25th February, 1897 at Wallsend, near Newcastle, New South Wales to parents Ulysses Grant & Eliza Hopkins (nee Horn).

Ulysses Grant Hopkins, father of Harold Rupert Hopkins, died on 7th June, 1914 at Marrickville, Sydney, NSW.

Harold Rupert Hopkins was an 18 year old, single, Dairyman from Glen Street, Marrickville, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 18th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2965 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Jackson, Glen Street, Marrickville, NSW.

As Harold Hopkins was under the age of 21 – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active Service abroad. Eliza Jackson wrote on 28th September, 1916 *"I give my consent for my son Harold R S Hopkins to enlist."*

Private Harold Rupert Hopkins was posted to 9th Reinforcements of 1st Battalion.

Private Harold Rupert Hopkins embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Argyllshire* (A8) on 30th September, 1915 with the 1st Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements.

1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Harold Rupert Hopkins was admitted to No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis on 25th January, 1916 with Cardiac disease.

Mrs E. Jackson, Glen Street, Marrickville, NSW was advised by Base Records on 5th February, 1916 that her son Private H. R. S. Hopkins had been admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis on 15th January – Cardiac severe.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Harold Rupert Hopkins on 12th February, 1916 while a patient at No. 1 Australian General Hospital, Heliopolis. His disability was listed as Cardiac Disease – place of origin – Australia; date unknown. *"Admitted 25.1.16. His pulse rate since admission has been very variable ranging from 48 to 84 beats per minute. The Heart's action is very irregular and there is a well marked systolic bruit. The condition is much more marked if he gets about. Says he had rheumatic fever some years ago."* The Officer in charge of the Medical case recommended that Private Hopkins be discharged as permanently unfit. The Medical Board agreed on 14th February, 1916 that Private Harold Rupert Hopkins was permanently unfit for service.

Private Harold Rupert Hopkins was transferred to No. 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 16th February, 1916.

Base Records advised Mrs E. Jackson, Glen Street, Marrickville, NSW on 29th February, 1916 that her son Private Harold R. S. Hopkins was convalescent.

Private Harold Rupert Hopkins was embarked from Suez on 3rd March, 1916 on H.M.A.T. *Argyllshire* for Australia & discharge due to Cardiac disease.

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. Jackson, Glen Street, Marrickville, NSW on 13th March, 1916 advising *"that No. 2965 Private H. R. Hopkins, 1st Battalion, is returning to Australia, and is due in Melbourne about the end of March, 1916. It is regretted no further details can be disclosed. It is to be noted that owing to possible mutilations in the cabled advice and other causes this notification may not be correct pending verification from the roll on the Troopship."*

Private Harold Rupert Hopkins arrived in Australia on 30th March, 1916. He was admitted to No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Sydney, NSW on 3rd April, 1916. Private Hopkins was under treatment from 17th to 27th April, 1916 for Mitral Regurgitation.

The Medical Board at No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Sydney, NSW agreed on 30th April, 1916 that Private Harold Rupert Hopkins should be discharged with a Pension.

Private Harold Rupert Hopkins was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 1st July, 1916 at 2nd Military District in consequence of medical unfitness.

A War Pension was granted to Harold Rupert Splendide Hopkins, "Chelsea", Glen Street, Marrickville, in the sum of £3 per fortnight from 2nd July, 1916.

Mary Adeline Lily Hopkins, Mollie Isabelle Hopkins & Sarah Emmeline Eda May Hopkins, all sisters of Harold Rupert Hopkins, all living at "Chelsea", Glen Street, Marrickville, all applied for a War Pension but all three were rejected on the grounds that "Claimant was not dependent on incapacitated soldier."

Private Harold Rupert Hopkins was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal for his Service.

Eliza Hopkins, mother of Harold Rupert Hopkins, died on 22nd February, 1933 at Marrickville, Sydney, NSW.

Harold Rupert Hopkins became a Merchant Seaman. He is listed in the British Merchant Seamen for 1918-1941 & listed in the database for World War 2 Medals issued to Merchant Seaman. Discharge number R 103147

● C.R. 1. No. of DIS. A issued. R103147.

Surname HOPKINS
[BLOCK CAPITALS]
Christian Names Harold Rupert Splendide
Birth: Date 25/2/1897 Place Wallsend NSW
Rating Asst Steward Certificate: Grade & No. or P.R. No. (if any)
Health } Society _____ Branch _____
Insce. } Membership No. _____
Unemployment Insce. :- Local Office _____ No. _____
Height 5-5 1/2 Colour Eyes Blue Hair Brown
Complexion Fair Distinguishing marks _____

(TURN OVER

DECLARATION TO BE MADE IF OCCASION ARISES.

I hereby certify that I am not now in possession of an unfilled Continuous Certificate of Discharge (Board of Trade, Irish Free State, or Canadian) for the following reason:—

*Previously serving on
Australian Coast. (Dis. 1st)*

Signature of Seaman

Harold Rupert Splendide Hopkins

Dated Stamp of M.M.O.

(7159) 23258/34 75m (6) 3/29 C&SLtd 186



Harold R. S. Hopkins married Frances L. Taylor in the district of Poole, Dorset, England in the December quarter, 1939.

Harold Rupert Hopkins died on 28th January, 1954 at The General Hospital, Dorking, Surrey, England.

A death for Harold S. R. Hopkins, aged 56, was registered in the March quarter, 1954 in the district of Surrey South Eastern, Surrey, England.

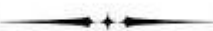
Harold Rupert Hopkins was buried on 4th February, 1954 in St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham, Greater London, England. His headstone appears to be a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. The CWGC were contacted to find out further information but they have no records regarding this man.

England & Wales National Probate Calendar:

HOPKINS, Harold Rupert Spendide of 18 St. Johns-road, East Ham, London died 28 January 1954 at The General Hospital, Dorking, Surrey. Probate London 9 April to Frances Lily Hopkins, widow. Effects £1,418 13s. 4d.

(41 pages of Private Harold Rupert Hopkins' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

FAREWELLS TO SOLDIERS

The Undercliffe boys have a farewell dinner and presentation to Private H. R. S. Hopkins. A large number of friends were present, and a very enjoyable evening was passed. The presentation was made by Mr W. N. Delaney, and consisted of a valuable sheepskin vest.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 25 September, 1915)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 142

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

First Battalion – Privates H. R. S. Hopkins (Marrickville)....

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 15 February, 1916)

CASUALTIES

151ST LIST ISSUED

NEW SOUTH WALES

PROGRESS REPORTS

Pte H. R. S. HOPKINS, 1 B., 9 R., Marrickville (convalescent)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 13 March, 1916)

Returned Soldiers

The Governor-General, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, witnessed the disembarkation of 117 returned soldiers for Sydney and 53 for Queensland on April 3.....

Following are the names of the sick and wounded:-

....

1st Battalion -...Pte H. R. S. Hopkins (9th Reinf.)

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 5 April, 1916)

RECENT ENGAGEMENTS

Miss Mary A. Coyne, eldest daughter of Mr Coyne, of Undercliffe-road, Undercliffe, and Mr Harold R. S. Hopkins (late of the 1st Battalion, A.I.F.), youngest son of the late Mr N. G. Hopkins, of Glen-street, Marrickville.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 20 May, 1917)

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES – Probate Jurisdiction – In the Will of ELIZA JACKSON late of 17 Glen-street Marrickville in the State of New South Wales Married Woman deceased. – Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that Probate of the last Will and Testament of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to GEORGE WILLA HOPKINS (In the Will called George Willer Hopkins) of Holbeche-road Blacktown Farmer and HAROLD RUPERT SPLENDIDE HOPKINS of Sydney Ship Steward the Executors named in the said Will and all notices may be served at the offices of the undersigned. All Creditors in the Estate of the deceased are hereby required to send in particulars of their claims to the undersigned within the said fourteen days. THOMAS ROSE and DAWES, Proctors for Executors, London Bank Chambers, 18-20 Martin-place, Sydney.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 13 April, 1933)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

The CWGC honours and cares for the men and women of the Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars, ensuring they will never be forgotten.

- First World War: 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921 (dates inclusive).
- Second World War: 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947 (dates inclusive).

We commemorate people who served in the Commonwealth armed forces during the First or Second World War, whose death:

- occurred during the official war period; and
- was the result of:
- wounds inflicted or accident occurring during active service;
- disease contracted or commencing while on active service; or • disease aggravated by active service. In practice, this means that:
- serving military personnel are commemorated irrespective of the cause or circumstances of their death; and
- military personnel who died post-discharge are commemorated if it is established that they meet the above criteria.

*** The Commonwealth War Graves Commission were contacted at the time of researching ex-Private Harold Rupert Splendie/Splendide Hopkins to confirm if he did have a CWGC headstone or if it was a headstone made to resemble a CWGC Headstone.

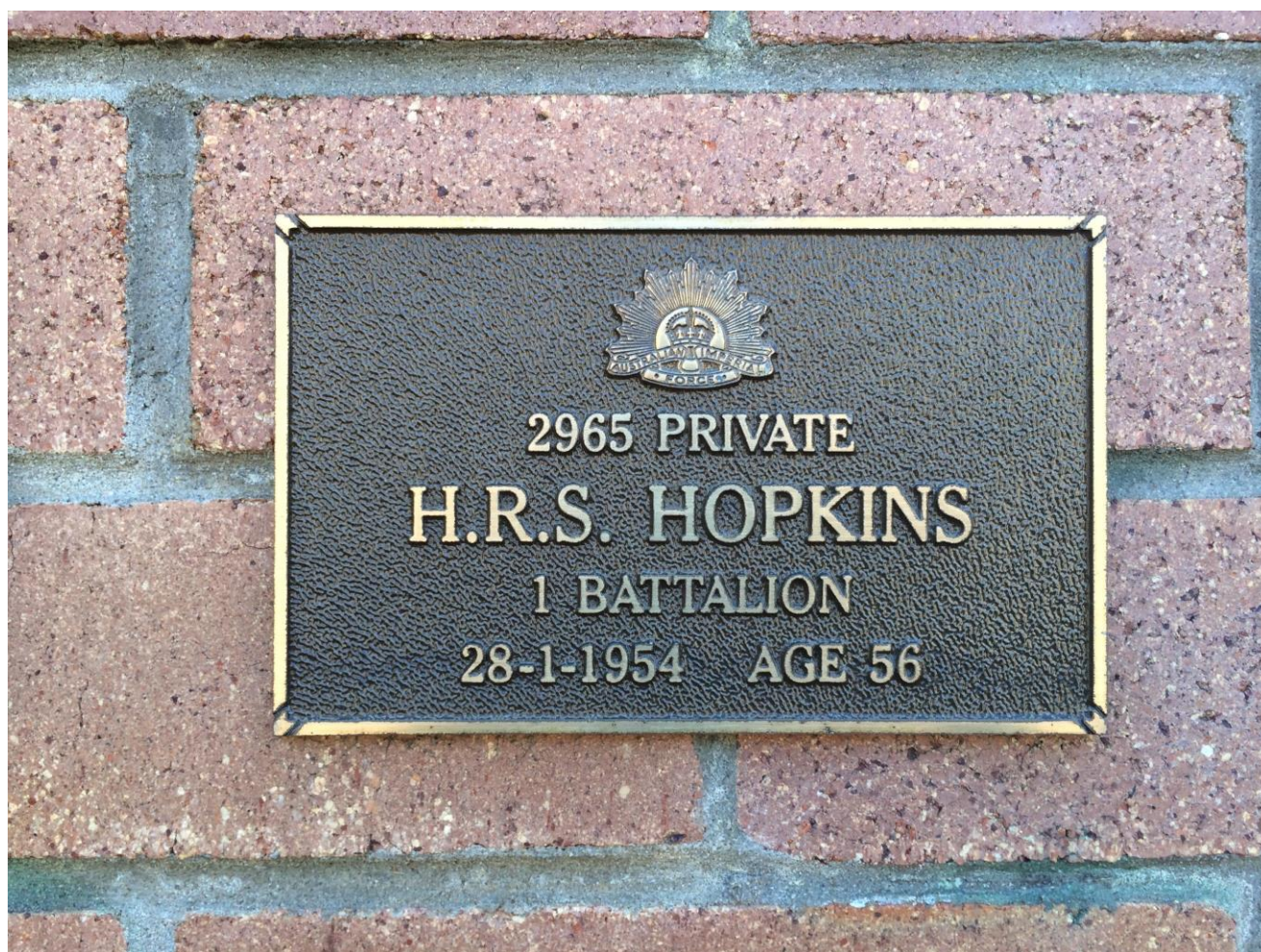
The CWGC advised that they had no records on this man.

New South Wales Garden of Remembrance

Over 3,000 of the Commonwealth's First World War dead are buried in Australia, most of them Australians. Many lie singly or in small groups in public cemeteries throughout the States and Territories, but over the years it has proved impossible to maintain some of these sites to an acceptable standard. To ensure the proper commemoration of those who died as a result of service in the First World War, and indeed subsequent campaigns, Gardens of Remembrance have been laid out in each of the six States. The names of nearly 2,000 First World War casualties appear in these Gardens of Remembrance. The majority are still recorded by the CWGC under the name of the cemetery in which they are actually buried, but a few, the location of whose graves are not known, are commemorated only in the Gardens of Remembrance.

(Information from CWGC)

Private H. R. S. Hopkins is remembered in the New South Wales Garden of Remembrance, adjacent to Sydney War Cemetery, Memorial Avenue, Rookwood, Sydney, NSW. Wall 28 Panel Q.



(Photo from DVA – Department of Veterans Affairs)



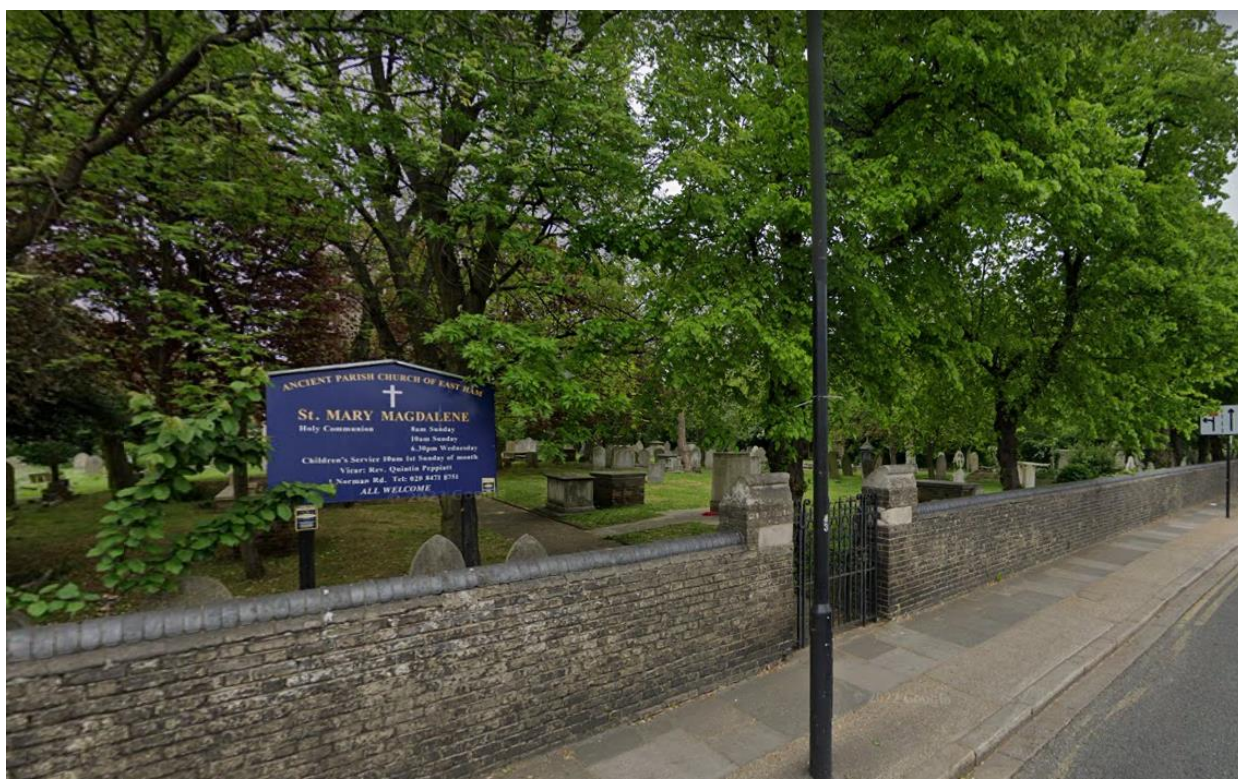
New South Wales Garden of Remembrance (Photos from Find a Grave – Deleted User)



St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham, Greater London, England

There are 60 Commonwealth War Graves located here – 47 relating to World War 1 & 13 relating to World War 2.

The war graves in this churchyard, which are no longer maintained, are now commemorated on a memorial erected in 1997 since the site is now a nature reserve.



St Mary Magdalene Church, East Ham. Courtesy London Borough of Newham Library and Archive.



St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham (Photo above by Nigel Cox; below by Ian Yarham)



St Mary Magdalene has possibly London's largest churchyard. St Mary Magdalene is one of the very few scarcely altered Norman churches to be found in the London area. The body of the church dates from about 1130, although Roman bricks are used in the construction alongside Norman pudding stone. The upper part of the tower dates from the 16th Century.

The churchyard is managed as a nature reserve by Newham Council and includes a visitor centre, built in 1981 and which was formally opened by the Queen in 1983. The visitor centre includes a classroom and a small museum display. The churchyard is known as East Ham Nature Reserve and was used as a model for the National Churchyard Conservation Campaign, which was launched here in 1991. The oldest part of the churchyard, around the church, is kept neat and tidy but much of the rest towards the south and east has been allowed to turn into woodland. This is in the woodland part of the churchyard.

Photo of (ex) Private H. R. S. Hopkins' Headstone in St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham, Greater London, England.



(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)

****At the time of researching (October, 2022) a request was made to The New Friends of St. Mary Magdalene (Facebook page) for updated photos of ex-Private H. R. S. Hopkins' Headstone.**

St. Mary Magdalene Church, East Ham, Greater London advised that they had no burial map so the Plot number was not known.

I contacted Essex Record Office & they advised that they had no plan of the grave plots & the Burial Register did not include plot numbers. The Duty Archivist however advised that *"the East of London Family History Society published a list of the known graves (our T2037 part 1) in which they allocated Private Hopkins the number 302. The sketch plan included with the list shows that grave numbers 1-359 occupied the north-eastern corner of the churchyard. The plan is on too small a scale to show individual plots, but a handful are marked for reference. Plot 303 (Robert Ellingham, 1917) is one of these, and lies to the right of a path running north-eastwards from the eastern end of the church, perhaps a third of the way towards the corner of the churchyard."*

This information was conveyed to The New Friends of St. Mary Magdalene (Facebook page) & Rev: John King said he would look. The photos below are his efforts & what he has to contend with to locate the headstone. I have advised him that it is too hard & not to worry.



St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard in the vicinity of ex-Private Hopkins' headstone

(Photos taken October 2022 by Rev: John King)





****Further Update – December 2022:**

Kevin Barnes – Commonwealth War Graves Commission Regional Operations Coordinator for South East Region, England posted on Twitter that he was at St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham so I quickly replied that I was looking for Ex Private Harold Rupert Splendie HOPKINS 2965 CWGC lookalike Headstone.

Result – Kev Barnes found the headstone.

Note: there is a gap between the CWGC lookalike headstone & the scroll but the angle doesn't show it.





Loving Memory

Of Harold

Beloved Husband Of

Lily Hopkins

Who Died 28th Jan 1954

