

**Hollybrook Memorial,
Southampton, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



54916 PRIVATE

J. R. HOPKINS

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH FEBRUARY, 1919

John Route (Jack) HOPKINS

John Route Hopkins' birth was registered in 1887 at Preston, Victoria, Australia to parents James Route Hopkins & Rosamond North Hopkins (nee Thomson). John Route Hopkins listed his date of birth as 17th March, 1885 on his Attestation Papers.

John Route Hopkins attended Preston State School, Victoria.

John Route Hopkins married Catherine Margaret Hopkins in 1907 in Victoria.

The 1908 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Bourke, subdivision of Preston, Victoria recorded John Route Hopkins, Plumber, & his wife, Catherine Margaret Hopkins, Home Duties, of Mary Street, Preston. His mother, Rosamond North Hopkins, Home Duties, was also listed at Mary Street, Preston.

A son - John Ralph Hopkins was born in 1908 in Victoria. He died 23rd April, 1908 & was buried on 16th April, 1908.

Catherine Margaret Hopkins, wife of John Route Hopkins, died on 26th August, 1908, in Victoria.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Bourke, subdivision of Preston, Victoria recorded John Route Hopkins, Plumber, of Mary Street, Preston. His mother, Rosamond North Hopkins, Home Duties, was also listed at Mary Street, Preston.

John Route Hopkins married Alice Mabel White in 1913 in Victoria.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Batman, subdivision of Gertrude, Victoria recorded John Route Hopkins, Plumber, of 19 Little George Street, Fitzroy.

The 1915 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Batman, subdivision of Gertrude, Victoria recorded John Route Hopkins, Plumber & his second wife – Alice Mabel Hopkins, Home Duties, both from 19 Little George Street, Fitzroy.

John Route Hopkins was a 33 year old, married, Plumber (& Gasfitter) from 31 May Street, Coburg, Victoria when he enlisted on 21st March, 1918 at Brunswick, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 54916 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs A. M. Hopkins, 31 May Street, Coburg, Victoria. John Hopkins stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Garrison Artillery for 15 years.

Private John Route Hopkins was posted to Recruit Depot on 27th March, 1918 then transferred to 1st Depot Battalion at Broadmeadows on 16th April, 1918. He was later transferred to 4th Victorian General Service Reinforcements.

Private John Route Hopkins embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 with the 4th Victorian Reinforcements & was appointed Acting Lance Corporal for the voyage. He disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Acting Lance Corporal John Route Hopkins reverted to rank of Private & was posted to 14th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire, England.

Private John Route Hopkins was allotted to Reinforcements of 59th Battalion on 13th August, 1918 whilst posted at 14th Training Battalion, Codford.

Private John Route Hopkins was admitted to Base Clearing Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire on 29th August, 1918 with Synovitis of Right Knee. He was transferred & admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital on 13th September, 1918 with Strained Vastus Intermus (L)

Private John Route Hopkins developed Scabies on 9th October, 1918 while a patient at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital & was transferred to Scabies Ward. He was cured on 18th October, 1918. His knee was reported to be much improved on 23rd October, 1918 & he was discharged to duty.

Private John Route Hopkins was admitted to No. 2 Group Clearing Hospital on 31st October, 1918 with Subluxation of Patella.

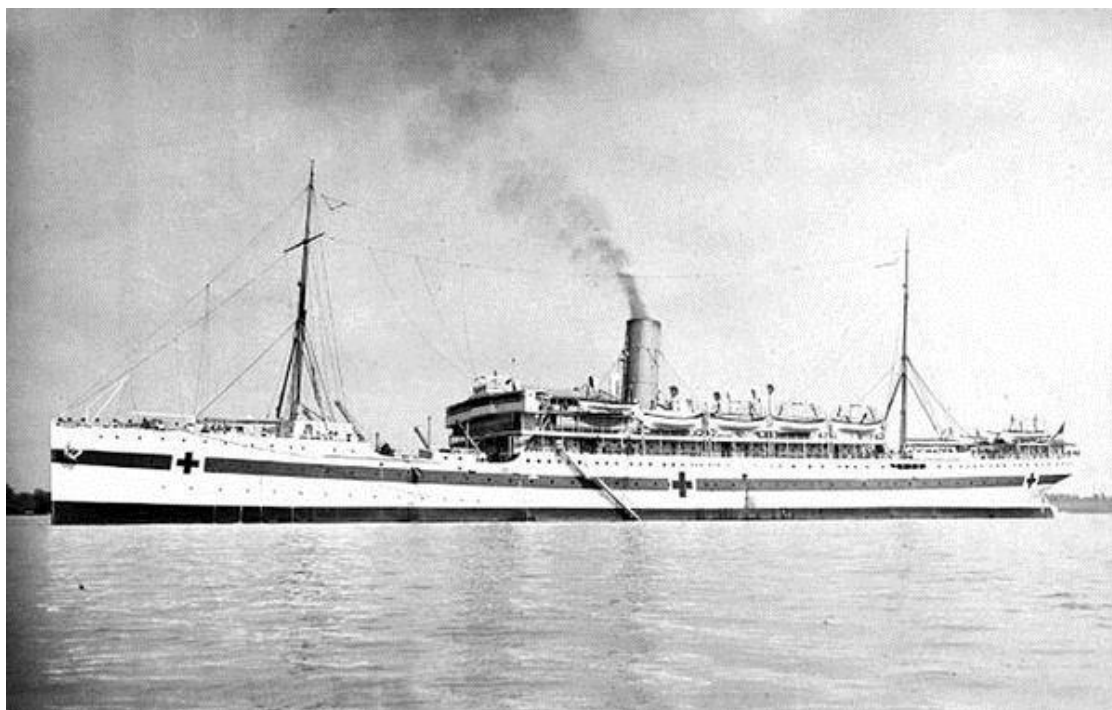
A Medical Report was completed on Private John Route Hopkins on 2nd November, 1918 at No. 2 Group Clearing Hospital. His disability was listed as Subluxation of Patella which had happened on 17th August, 1918 at Salisbury, Wiltshire, England. *"In tug o' war at Military Sports leg gave way. Since then has given way several times. Treated at Codford for Synovitis & at No. 3 N.Z.G.H. for strained vastus Intermus(?). Discharged "much improved."* Private Hopkins' disability was listed by Medical Officer as *"1. Traumatic 2. Attributable to Service 3. Not aggravated by Service."* Private Hopkins' present condition was listed as *"Undue mobility of patella with history of repeated subluxations, Swollen joint due to some excess fluid."* The Medical Officer in charge of the case recommended that Private Hopkins was classified as C1 – fit for Home Service only. The Medical Board found on 5th November, 1918 that Private Hopkins was permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service.

Private John Route Hopkins was discharged to his Unit on 15th November, 1918 from No. 2 Group Clearing Hospital, Wiltshire.

Private John Route Hopkins was returned to Australia & embarked from England on 24th January, 1919 on SS *Delta*.

Private John Route Hopkins was reported to be dangerously ill with Broncho Pneumonia as reported at Suez.

Private John Route Hopkins died at 5.45 pm on 11th February, 1919 in Ship's Hospital – H.M.T. Delta from Pleuro Pneumonia. Latitude 1170 North 5700 East. He was buried at Sea with full Military Honors at 9 pm on 11th February, 1919.



SS Delta

Private John Route Hopkins is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Private John Route Hopkins requested in his Will date 3rd May, 1918 *"In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to my Mother Mrs Rose Hopkins of No 6 Martin St., Northcote, Victoria."*

The personal effects of the late Private John Route Hopkins were sent to his mother – Mrs Rose Hopkins. Rosamond North Hopkins, married woman of 717 High Street, Northcote, completed a Statutory Declaration on 29th June, 1921 stating *“that my sons widow is not worthy to receive his war medals for the following reasons She drinks and squanders his money She was fine £10/- for assaulting a woman at the Brunswick Court about 3 years ago. There are no children of the marriage.*

I also agree to preserve with due care as memorials of the deceased soldier any war medals etc entrusted to me and to produce them to the Department of Defence at any time upon its receipt of its demand in writing.”

Alice Mabel Hopkins, “Dongara” Cremona Street, Mentone, Victoria, completed a Statutory Declaration on 29th September, 1922 stating *“do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am the widow of the late No. 54916 Private J. R. Hopkins, 59th Battalion, A.I.F. He was a widower when he married me and left no children by either marriage. I was previously married and divorced when I married him. I received his gratuity and am in receipt of a War Pension as widow of the above mentioned late soldier.*

In regard to the statement that I was fined for assault, it arose through a family quarrel between my son’s mother-in-law and myself. She struck me first, and I did not attend the Court to defend myself as I desired to avoid publicity.

I desire that my late husband’s medals etc may be handed over to me as his next-of-kin, and I hereby undertake to preserve same with due care and to return them to the Department of Defence, upon demand in writing.”

It was originally decided that the War Medals etc be given to the late Private Hopkins’ mother – Mrs R. N. Hopkins, 717 High Street, Northcote, Victoria under bond but this was changed to War Medals etc being awarded to widow – Mrs A. M. Hopkins, “Dongara” Cremona Street, Mentone, Victoria.

Private John Route Hopkins was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Hopkins’ next-of-kin. (Scroll to Mrs R. N. Hopkins (mother) in August, 1921 & Plaque sent to Mrs A. M. Hopkins (widow) in November, 1922).

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The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Route Hopkins – service number 54916, of 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. R. 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 167.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. R. Hopkins is remembered on the Coburg Lake First World War Avenues of Honour, located at Gaffney Street, Coburg North, Victoria. Private Hopkins is remembered with Tree # 51.



Coburg Lake First World War Avenues of Honour (Photos from AWM - Places of Pride – Mark Chilcott)





Coburg Lake First World War Avenues of Honour (Photos from AWM - Places of Pride – Mark Chilcott)

OF HONOUR

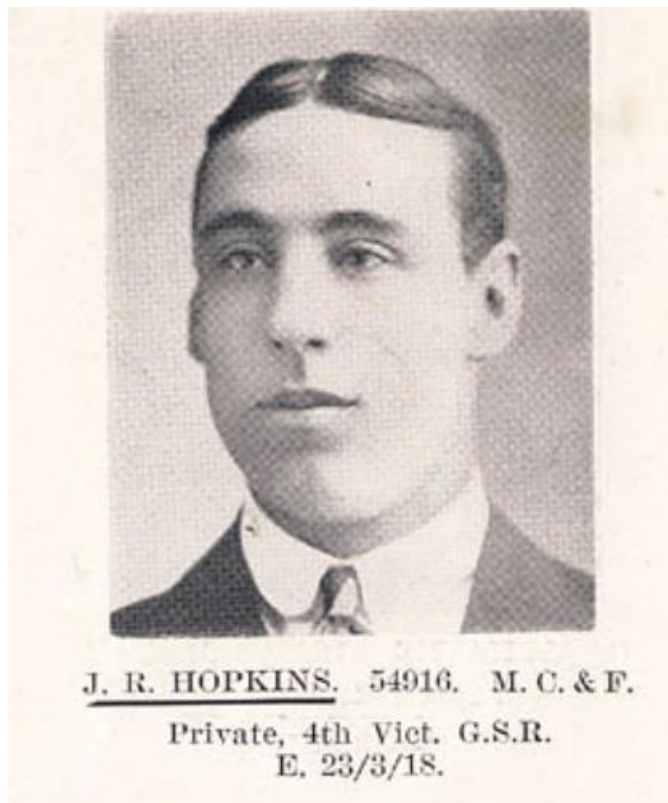
Map showing proposed Memorial Avenues of Honour at Coburg Lake.

Key to plantings showing names of soldiers commemorated by particular trees

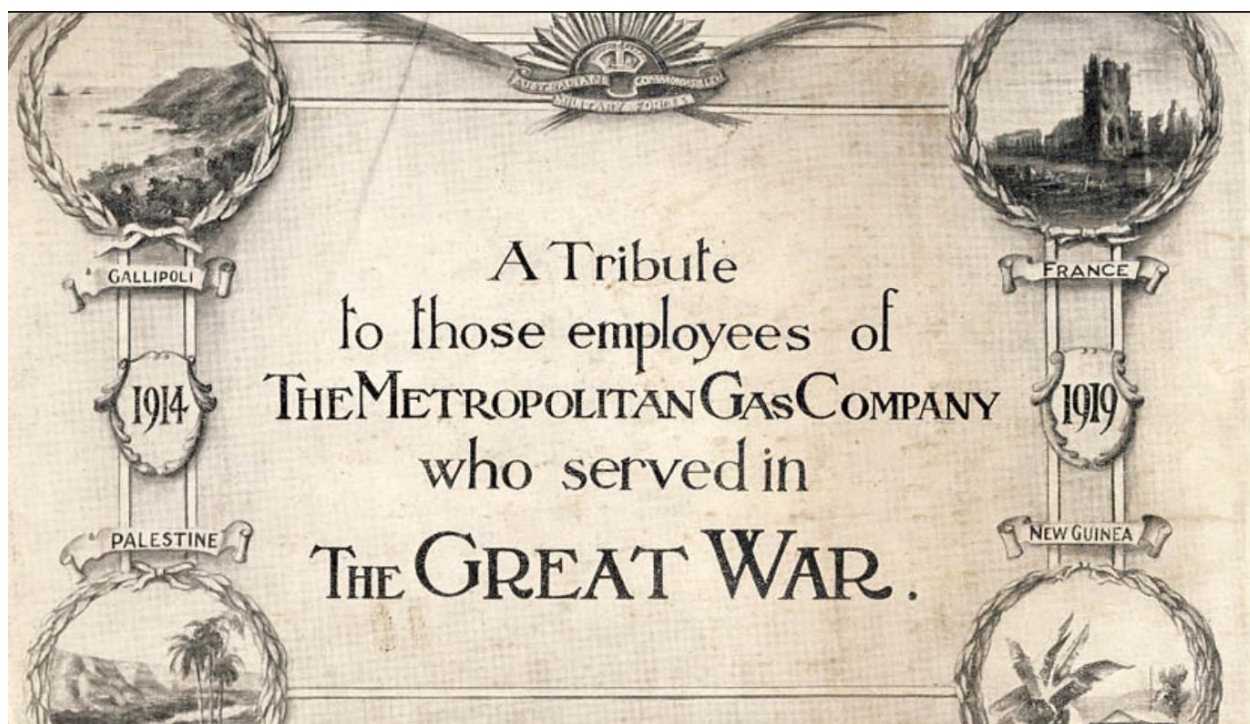
1. J. Anderson	34. W. Dalton	67. G.H. Linnett	100. T.F. Pole	132. H. Baxter
2. F.A. Atkins	35. J. Dickson	68. J.O. Laing	101. T.H.N. Powell	133. H. Beyer
3. F.G.T. Atkinson	36. A.W.G. Ellis	69. J.A. Lennon	102. H.W. Phair	134. W.R. Bingham
4. A. Alexander	37. H. Egan	70. A.W. Layfield	103. Pascoe	135. S. Bell
5. A. Alexander	38. A.M. Evans	71. J.B. Lynch	104. W.H. Quirk	136. F. Goringe
6. L. Ambler	39. M.J. Finucane	72. W.T. Libbis	105. V.G. Rapley	137. H.L. Barber
7. R.C. Atkinson	40. W.H. Fletcher	73. F.M. Lawler	106. J. Ross	138. W. Hickson
8. R.L. Brennan	41. H.F. Foxcroft	74. P.F. Lacey	107. H.F. Robinson	139. W.J. Jones
9. R.P. Bromley	42. G.E. Fewster	75. C.F.W. Lane	107.a A.H. Evans	140. R. Kiernan
10. L.S. Blackwood	43. G.H. Fowler	76. P.J. Lynch	108. L.C. Reeves	141. A.H. Love
11. James C. Burns	44. (no name)	77. L.H. Linnach	109. L. Snaith	142. B. Laughler
12. W.E. Buckland	45. A.R. Gardiner	78. Llewellyn	110. R.J. Scott	143. F. Lloyd
13. Arthur R. Boston	46. F. Gibbs	79. D.M. McKenzie	111. H.V. Stait	144. A.J. McGilboon
14. F.C. Barlow	47. J.C. Gerratt	80. D.P. Molynieux	112. E. Serong	145. T. MacKay
15. W.G. Barnes	48. H. Graves	81. T. Montflore	113. E.A. Smith	146. A. Robinson
16. J. O'Rourke	49. A. Hunt	82. G. Moore	114. P. Smith	148. A. Russell
17. C.R. Bergstrom	50. F.A. Hamilton	83. T.H. Massie	115. C.E. Shawe	149. Robertson
18. H. Bell	51. J.R. Hopkins	84. T. McGuire	116. A.C. Tepper	150. C.A. Smith
19. E. Bowden	52. J.V. Houston	85. L.J. Millett	117. E.H. Tomholt	151. F.C. Saxon
20. Lt. Catron	53. W.J. Hall	86. W. Miller	118. J. Tynler	152. E. Saxon
21. V. Clarke	54. A. Hayes	87. W. Mehegan	119. Northington	153. Trainor
22. T.C. Cook	55. John Hartley	88. T.O. Meredith	120. M. Maxwell	154. Walton
23. C.E. Clements	56. J.C. Hinman	89. H.C. Morris	121. G. Weir	155. R. Beattie
24. R. Cary	57. W.J. Halder	90. A.A. McAskill	122. W.B. Wallace	156. M. Holden
25. W.R. Cleland	58. J. Morgan Jenkins	91. A.D. McAskill	123. D. Wills	157. F. Harris
26. D.C. Dook	59. D.W. Johnston	92. C. McKay	124. L.T. Ward	158. R. Smith
27. W. Cousins	60. F.W. Jones	93. H. McLaughlin	125. S. Whitley	159. J. Hicken
28. Chapman	61. W.T. Jones	94. J. Nicol	126. A. Williams	160. H. Gillies
29. G. Davies	62. (no name)	95. F. Nash	127. W.R. Wilson	161. G.R. Deakin
30. W.B. Durbett	63. F.P. Kempson	96. G. Nicholls	128. (no name)	162. F.S. Woodcock
31. C.J. Durham	64. Chas. A. Kedge	97. A.J. Newman	129. E.B. Ashcroft	163. D. Fisher
32. E. Dunstan	65. W. Knight	98. E.J. Orr	130. W.H. Ashcroft	164. P. Jessop
33. S. De Medici	66. F. Kieley	99. F.D. Pridham	131. F. Archer	

(53 pages of Private John Route 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



(Photo from Metropolitan Gas Company)



Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

HOPKINS – on the 26th August, at her residence, Mary-street, South Preston, Catherine Margaret, the dearly beloved wife of John Route Hopkins, aged 22 years and 11 months.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 August, 1908)

VICTORIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 443

ILL

J. R. Hopkins, Coburg

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 November, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

HOPKINS – On the 11th February, at Suez, John Route (Jack), of broncho-pneumonia, loving husband of Alice Hopkins, Gaffney-street, Coburg (late of Gas Company, Brunswick). Though the ocean divides fond memory clings. Deeply mourned.

HOPKINS – On the 11th February, died at sea, Private J. R. Hopkins, dearly beloved son of Mrs R. Hopkins, No. 6 Martin-street, Thornbury, beloved brother of Stan and Harold (returned Anzacs) and loved brother of May and Ruby, brother-in-law of O. Ayton and Private F. Walker.

For years and years our family chain
Was closely linked together
But, oh, that chain is broken now,
One link is gone for ever.
Our soldier boy.

HOPKINS – In loving memory of my dear uncle Jack, who died on the Delta, at sea, 11th February, with broncho-pneumonia.

Oh, for the touch of a vanished hand,
The sound of a voice that is still.

-(Inserted by Elsie, Arthur (on active service) Skilbeck (?))

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 February, 1919)

DIED ON SERVICE

HOPKINS – A tribute to the memory of the late Pte J. R. Hopkins, whied of pneumonic influenza at sea, February 11, 1919.

One of the best. Duty nobly done.

(Inserted by the employees of the Metropolitan Gas Co. district depot, Brunswick)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 February, 1919)

THE PRICE OF LIBERTY

CASUALTY LIST NO. 461

DIED OTHER CAUSES

J. R. HOPKINS, Coburg, 11/2/19, illness

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 March, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In loving memory of my dear husband, Private J. R. Hopkins (Jack), who died at sea of pleuro pneumonia, on the 11th February, 1919.

Dear, since we parted, I am always lonely,
 Longing to see one dear, beloved face;
Longing to hear one voice, one dear voice only,
 But we are kept apart by miles of spaces
I must be patient still, and bear my sorrow,
 The aching loneliness, the parted ways;
Hoping and praying for that glad to-morrow,
 When joy of meeting ends the lonely days.

-Inserted by his loving wife, A. Hopkins.

HOPKINS – In sad and loving memory of my dear son and brother, Private John Route Hopkins (Jack), who died at sea, while returning, 11th February, 1919; also his loving wife, Kate, died 26th August, 1908; and their infant son Ralph, died 23rd April, 1908; and his loving sister, Myrtle, died 26th March, 1898. Late Metropolitan Gas Company, Brunswick Depot. All united.

Close as the fondest link could strain,
 Twined with my very heart he grew;
And by that fate which broke the chain,
 My heart is almost broken too.
When alone I am thinking and the sad tears flow,
I can hear his dear voice near as in years ago,
As in his young manhood he stands by my side,
And whispers so softly, Mum, dear, don't cry.

He bade no one a last farewell,
He said goodbye to none;
His spirit flew before we knew,
That he from us had gone.

-Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters, Stan and Harold (returned Anzacs), M.W., R.A., M.H., O.A., F.W. (returned)

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 February, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HOPKINS – In loving memory of my dear husband, Pte J. R. Hopkins, who passed away 11th February, 1919, and was buried at sea. Late of Metropolitan Gas Company, Brunswick.

Although two years have gone and passed since my great sorrow,
Yet in my heart I mourn the loss of my husband I loved so well.
Time will bring its changes, but still my aching heart
Will keep my loved one's memory a sacred thing apart
When grief has left so deep a wound the pain must always last.

- By his loving wife, Alice Hopkins.

HOPKINS – In loving memory of my dear son, Pte J. R. Hopkins (Jack), died at sea returning 11th February, 1919.

Could I, his mother, have clasped his hand,
The son I loved so well,
To kiss his brow when death was near,
And whisper, Dear Jack, farewell.
Everybody loved him,
He was always bright and true;
Laughing at his troubles,
And a smile for all he knew.
And one who always thought of mother.

-Inserted by his ever loving mother, R. N. Hopkins, Northcote.

HOPKINS – In loving memory of my dear stepfather, Private J. R. Hopkins, who died at sea (coming home), on the 11th February, 1919. Late Metropolitan Gas Co., Brunswick.

Dear is my memory, and sweet to my heart,
My love for my stepfather will never part;
I know that my days, be they many or few,
Will be days, darling stepfather, thinking of you.

-Inserted by his loving stepdaughter, Lizzie.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 February, 1921)

On Active Service

IN MEMORIAM

HOPKINS – In ever loving memory of my dear husband, Pte J. R. Hopkins (Jack), who was buried at sea, 11th February, 1919, coming home, late of Brunswick Gas Company.

The roll has been called, but my dear husband is missing,
The one I loved dearly, will answer no more;
But my life must go on, though my heart may be breaking,
Till earth's night is finished and life's journey is o'er.

-Inserted by his loving wife, Alice Hopkins.

HOPKINS – In loving memory of my dear son and brother, Pte J. R. Hopkins (Jack), who died at sea returning 11th February, 1919.

I shall know his voice in the angel choir,
His steps on the golden floor;
And his singing of _____ how sweet,
When we meet to part no more.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers, Northcote.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 February, 1922)

On Active Service

IN MEMORIAM

HOPKINS – In ever loving memory of my loved husband, Pte J. R. Hopkins, who was buried at sea, 11th February, 1919; late Brunswick Gas Company.

In memory's keeping, treasured ever
Those happy days I spent with you;
No time, nor absence e'r can sever
The loving thoughts I have of you.

HOPKINS – In sad and loving memory of my dear son, Private J. R. Hopkins (Jack), who died at sea returning on 11th February, 1919.

Ever loved, ever remembered. Mother's boy.

-Inserted by his loving mother, R. Hopkins.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 February, 1923)

***Notices were also placed in 1924 & 1925

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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.

Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England

The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

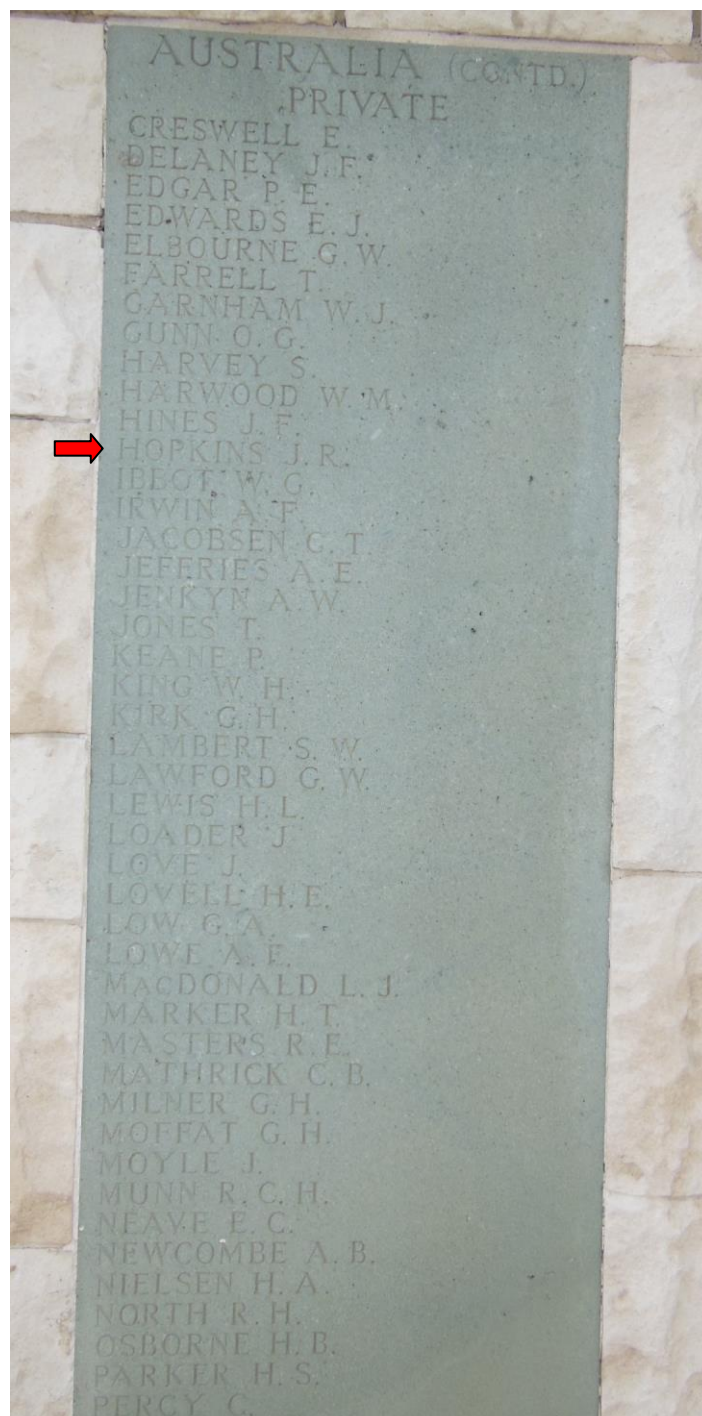
(Information & photos from CWGC)



CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private John Route Hopkins' name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

