

**Colchester Cemetery,
Colchester, Essex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6035 PRIVATE

J. HOUGHT

6TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

17TH NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 31

*Thy Purpose Lord
We Cannot See
He Gave His Life
That We Might Live*

Joseph HOUGHT

Joseph Hought was born at Hutton, Cranswick, Yorkshire, England in 1886 to parents John and Harriet Hought (nee Moat).

The 1891 England Census recorded Joseph Hought as a 4 year old, living with his family at "Mill" Watton, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as John Hought (Agricultural Labourer, aged 34, born Billington, Yorks) & Harrett Hought (aged 31, born Beverley, Yorks). Joseph was one of six children listed on this Census - James Hought (Scholar, aged 11, born Cranswick, Yorks), Harrett Ann Hought (Scholar, aged 8, born Cranswick, Yorks), John Hought (Scholar, aged 6, born Cranswick, Yorks) then Joseph, Margaret Hought (aged 2, born Cranwick, Yorks) & Jane Hought (aged 4 months, born Watton Mill, Yorks).

The 1901 England Census recorded Joseph Hought as a 14 year old servant – Horse man on a farm at Abbeys Farm – Servant's House, Watton, Yorkshire, England. Joseph was one of eight listed as Horse man on a farm, amongst other servants & farm workers.

The 1911 England Census recorded Joseph Hought as a 25 year old Farm servant – outdoor, living & working at Arras Farm, Sancton, Yorkshire – East Riding, England.

According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by his mother – Joseph Hought came to Australia when he was 26 years old. A Joseph Hought, Farmer, aged 26, was a passenger on *Suevic* which embarked from the port of Liverpool, England on 9th January, 1913.

Joseph Hought was a 30 year old, single, Labourer (information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour states Joseph was employed on the Railway in Melbourne) from 653 Spencer Street, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 23rd March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6035 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs H. Hought, Walkington, Yorks, England.

Private Joseph Hought was posted to Depot at Bendigo, Victoria on 27th March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 19th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 1st May, 1916.

Private Joseph Hought embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 28th July, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 19th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th September, 1916.

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.

Private Joseph Hought was marched in the 2nd Training Battalion, No. 3 Camp at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 15th September, 1916.

Private Joseph Hought proceeded overseas to France on 22nd October, 1916 from 2nd Training Battalion in England. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples from England on 23rd October, 1916. Private Hought was taken on strength of 6th Battalion from 19th Reinforcements on 2nd December, 1916 in the Field.

Private Joseph Hought was sent to Hospital sick on 12th December, 1916. He was admitted to No. 5 Australian Field Ambulance on 12th December, 1916 with Influenza then transferred & admitted to Anzac Rest Station on the same day. Private Hought was transferred & admitted to No. 38 Casualty Clearing Station on 26th December, 1916 then transferred to No. 25 Ambulance Train on 28th December, 1916. He was admitted to No. 11 Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 29th December, 1916 then transferred & admitted to No. 2 Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 3rd January, 1917 with Influenza. Private Hought was discharged to duty at Base Details at Rouen on 13th January, 1917. He joined the 1st Australian Base Depot at Etaples on 16th January, 1917 & rejoined 6th Battalion in the Field on 27th January, 1917.

Private Joseph Hought was wounded in action on 27th October, 1917 (Statement of Service form has the date of wounding as 26th October, 1917). He was admitted to No. 3 Australian Field Ambulance on 28th October, 1917 with

G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to arm & head. Private Hought was transferred & admitted to No. 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 28th October, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train. He was admitted to No. 83 General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 29th October, 1917 with G.S.W. to arm & head. Private Hought embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* on 2nd November, 1917.

6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

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In 1917, the battalion participated in the operations that followed-up the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, and then returned to Belgium to join the great offensive launched to the east of Ypres. During the battle of Menin Road in September 1917, Lieutenant Frederick Birks earned the 6th Battalion's only Victoria Cross.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 6th Battalion

Field

26 October, 1917

'D' Coy were detailed for minor operation in conjunction with 4th Canadian division on their left. During the day "B" Coy moved up to positions vacated by "D" Coy at ALBANIA, and "D" Coy on their return that night took up "B" Coy's old position at J I C 3 9 where they remained until the battalion was relieved from front line on night of 30/31 Oct.

Narrative of minor operation undertaken by "D" Coy attached – Appendix II.

23 - 27 October, 1917

From night of 23/24 until night of 27/28, battalion was in brigade reserve and was used for carrying and work parties to front line, and in addition improved and increased the accommodation in the reserve positions. During this period casualties were fairly light.

27 October, 1917

Battalion moved to front line and relieved 8th Bn, A.I.F.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Joseph Hought was admitted to General Military Hospital, Colchester, Essex, England on 2nd November, 1917 with G.S.W. to right arm (slight).

Private Joseph Hought died at 7.50 pm on 17th November, 1917 at General Military Hospital, Colchester, Essex, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. right arm

A death for Joseph Hought, aged 32, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Colchester, Essex, England.

Private Joseph Hought was buried at 3.15 pm on 22nd November, 1917 in Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England – Grave No. 58, Section S, Space 1. From the burial report of Private Joseph Hought - *Coffin was Beech wood with brass fittings. Regulation Military. Owing to the fact that the Mother of the deceased soldier at the last moment changed her mind, and did not have a private burial at the place appointed, to which a representative of the A.I.F. had proceeded, the funeral took place at Colchester before our representative could return to London from Yorkshire and proceed to Colchester.*

[Note – Other Australian Soldiers buried in Colchester Cemetery have a letter in their Service Record file that was sent to the next-of-kin advising that the remains had been exhumed & re-interred. There is no such letter in the

Record file for the late Corporal John Francis Byrne, however his remains would have been re-interred as the current information of the grave of Corporal Byrne by the CWGC is T. 5. 5.]

Private Joseph Hought has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Joseph Hought was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Hought's mother – Mrs H. Hought (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in October, 1922).

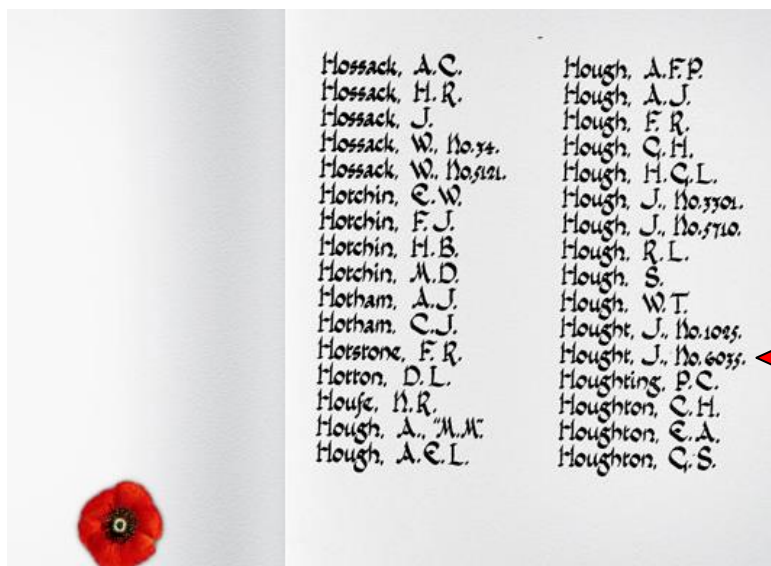
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Joseph Hought – service number 6035, aged 31, of 6th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. He was the son of John and Harriet Hought, of Walkington, Beverley, Yorks.

Private J. Hought is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 47.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Hought is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





(39 pages of Private Joseph Hought'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

THE 371st and 372nd CASUALTY LISTS

The Victorian names are:-

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private J. Hought, England

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 22 December, 1917)

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT COLCHESTER

GRAVES CAREFULLY TENDED

Prominent Englishmen and women were quick to spring to the defence of Australian soldiers when they were libelled recently in one of the flood of belated war books on the market. The abiding sense of gratitude felt by the English people towards the men from overseas who rallied to the defence of the Empire, is typified in the action of the members of the women's section of the British Legion at Colchester. Mrs. Florence T. Towsey, chairman of the Colchester section, has sent a message to the Australian relatives of the men of the A.I.F. who were laid to rest in the cemetery at Colchester, the quaint old Essex town, which was established in the time of the Saxons, and was once a stronghold of the Danes in the days when they ravaged the coasts of England. It was strongly fortified by the Romans, and the great Roman walls remain almost entire to this day. The countryside must have seen much fighting, and the frowning Norman keep is one of the largest in England, and there is something singularly touching in the fact that the soldiers of the younger countries rest here, amid the brotherhood of warriors of long ago.

Impressive Ceremony

Mrs. Towsey says on Anzac Day, 1929, the members of the British Legion (Women's Section), Colchester Branch, assembled at the cemetery to pay a tribute to the memory of the men of the overseas Dominions, who came to fight for the British Empire in the Great War, and who lie buried there. A simple but impressive little service was held, and then flowers were placed on each grave. It is proposed to hold this service annually. The graves are carefully tended. The following are the names of the Australians who rest in Colchester Cemetery, and the simple inscriptions on their graves: —

38 651. Gunner C. C. Willcock, Field Artillery. Dec. 25, 1918. Age 38. 'Happy in my lot.'

2 182. Corporal J. P. Byrne, 58th B.N., Australian T.N.F. Jan. 5, 1918. Age 29.

3370. Private H. M. C. D. McIntosh, 3rd B.N., Australian I.N.F. July 12, 1916. Age 18. 'My son, your memory we will cherish, until we follow you.'

1100. Driver R. C. Hendry, Australian Field Artillery. August 9, 1918. Age 25. 'Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away.'

6035. Private J. Hought, 6th Bn., Australian Infantry. Nov. 17, 1917. Age 31. 'Thy purpose, Lord, we cannot see; He gave his life that we might live.'

1384. Private W. I. Mackenzie, 51st Bn., Australian Infantry, Aug. 5, 1916. Age 27. 'Gone, but not forgotten.'

10973. Driver W. R. Bennett. Australian Engineers, Nov. 23, 1918.

1906. Private S. E. Barclay, 45th Bn., Australian Inf. April 11, 1918. Age 24.

493. Private F. R. Rankin, 21st Bn. Australian Inf., Sept. 10, 1916. Age 21 'God has saved from weary strife, In its dawn this young, fresh life.'

2413. Driver C. S. McKellar, Australian Engineers, June 18, 1918. Age 25. The dearly-loved son of Mr. and Mrs. McKellar, of Sydney, late of Glasgow.

19477. Sapper H. F. Smith, Australian Engineers, Nov. 5, 1918. Age 31.

Getting in Touch with Relatives

Mrs. Towsey asked Mrs. Florence Muriel Paxman, a member of the Colchester branch, who is visiting Sydney on a holiday trip, to try and get in touch with the Australian relatives of any of these men. In a letter to 'The Chronicle,' Mrs. Paxman says— 'I visited all the graves the day before I left England, and I shall be most happy to give any relatives any further information, or to get them photographs of any particular grave if they will write to me at my address, Winton, New South Head-road, Rose Bay, Sydney.'

Mrs. Towsey's address is Tollgate House, Shrub End, Colchester, and many Australians will remember with gratitude the hospitality that was extended to them there during the war.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 March, 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)

Private J. Hought does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Thy Purpose Lord We Cannot See
He Gave His Life That We Might Live*

Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England

Colchester Cemetery was opened in 1856 and now belongs to the Corporation. It originally covered about 30 acres, but was enlarged in 1940 to 67 acres. The newer part is on the western side of the original burial ground, and behind it is the site of a Roman Way. There are 267 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, 1 being unidentified, of which 50 are in the War Plot, while 11 Australian graves are together in a group nearby, the remainder being scattered. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on a site overlooking both the plot and the group of war graves, in honour of all the servicemen buried here. There are also 114 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war here, 1 of which is unidentified. In the early months of the 1939-1945 War, shortly after the enlargement of the cemetery, land was set aside in the newer part for service war burials. This is now the War Graves Plot. Among these casualties are men who were killed at sea after being evacuated from Dunkirk. The non-war graves are those of a man of the Merchant Navy and two ex-servicemen who were buried in the War Graves Plot although their deaths were not due to war service. There are also 7 Foreign National burials. The plot is enclosed by a hedge of cotoneaster frigida and a Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western side. The graves are set in level mown turf, with continuous flower borders along the rows of headstones in which are polyantha roses and other seasonal flowers.
(Information from CWGC)



Colchester Cemetery Entrance *(Photo by Iain MacFarlane – Find a Grave)*



Cross of Sacrifice, Colchester Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Australian Plot of World War 1 War Graves, Colchester Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)
Private J. Hought's CWGC Headstone (marked with red arrow)

Photo of Private J. Hought's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England.



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)



Welcome to Colchester Cemetery

to Crematorium,
Garden of Remembrance
Office, Toilets, Pay-phone
and Car Park.



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth – Find a Grave)