

**Comely Bank Cemetery,
Edinburgh, Scotland
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

E. HUGHES

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

14TH NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 24

We Are Only Parted Eric Dear

Just For A Little While

Eric HUGHES

Eric Hughes was born at Eidsvold, Queensland on 18th February, 1893 to parents Robert & Elizabeth Stirling Hughes (nee Duncan).

Eric Hughes was a 22 year old, single, Clerk from Curtis Street, South Bundaberg, Queensland when he enlisted at Bundaberg, Queensland on 22nd January, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1077 & his religion was listed as Presbyterian on one Attestation Paper & Methodist on another. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Robert Hughes of from Curtis Street, South Bundaberg, Queensland.

Private Eric Hughes was posted with 7th Reinforcements of 2nd Light Horse Regiment.

Private Eric Hughes was recorded as a Deserter on 4th August, 1915.

2nd Light Horse Regiment

The 2nd Light Horse Regiment was raised at Enoggera in Queensland on 18 August 1914. Its recruits came mainly from Queensland but some hailed from the northern rivers district of New South Wales. The 2nd was one of three regiments of the 1st Light Horse Brigade - the first Australian mounted formation raised by Australia during the First World War. The regiment sailed from Brisbane on 25 September and disembarked in Egypt on 9 December.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Eric Hughes was a 22 year old, single, Telegraphist from Curtis Street, South Bundaberg, Queensland when he re-enlisted at Bundaberg, Queensland in October, 1915 (Embarkation Roll has date as 23rd November, 1915) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2375 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Robert Hughes of from Curtis Street, South Bundaberg, Queensland.

Private Eric Hughes was posted to 16th Reinforcements of 5th Light Horse Regiment on 3rd January, 1916. (Another Statement of Service form recorded 10th January, 1916 with rank of Trooper).

Private Eric Hughes embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Mashobra (A47)* on 5th April, 1916 with the 5th Light Horse Regiment, 16th Reinforcements.

5th Light Horse Regiment

The 5th Light Horse Regiment was raised in Brisbane in September 1914, entirely from men who had enlisted in Queensland, and became part of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade. Sailing from Sydney on 21 December 1914, the regiment disembarked in Egypt on 1 February 1915.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Eric Hughes embarked on HMAT *Corsican* from Alexandria (no date recorded).

Private Eric Hughes was taken on strength of 2nd Light Horse Training Regiment on 9th May, 1916.

Private Eric Hughes was taken on strength 4th D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) from 4th Div. B Details on 9th May, 1916.

Private Eric Hughes was transferred to Artillery Details at Tel el Kebir on 25th May, 1916 with rank of Gunner.

Gunner Eric Hughes disembarked at Plymouth, England (no date recorded).

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.

Gunner Eric Hughes was written up for a Crime on 15th June, 1916 while posted at Parkhouse, Wiltshire - Absent without Leave from 10 pm on 12th June, 1916 till 1 pm on 14th June, 1916 (2 days). He forfeited 3 days' pay & was awarded 2 days Field Punishment No. 2.

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Gunner Eric Hughes was written up for a Crime on 21st July, 1916 while posted at Bulford, Wiltshire – 1. Disobeying an order not to leave Camp after being warned for draft therefore evading embarkation. 2. A.W.L. from 22.00 on 18th July, 1916 to 01.00 on 21st July, 1916. 4 days. He was awarded 7 days detention & forfeited a total of 11 days' pay.

Gunner Eric Hughes was transferred to 4th Divisional Artillery in France from Bulford on 30th July, 1916.

Gunner Eric Hughes was transferred to 4th D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) at Etaples, France on 9th August, 1916 & was taken on strength the same day.

Gunner Eric Hughes was temporarily attached to 4 D.A. HQ in France from 21st August, 1916. He returned from detachment with DA HQ on 4th November, 1916.

Gunner Eric Hughes was marched in to A. A. T. D. (Australian Army Training Depot) at Bulford, Wiltshire from Fovant Hospital, Wiltshire on 5th October, 1916.

Gunner Eric Hughes was seconded to R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps) on 4th November, 1916.

Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.)

The Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) was the air arm of the British Army before and during the First World War, until it merged with the Royal Naval Air Service on 1 April 1918 to form the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.). During the early part of the war, the R.F.C. supported the British Army by artillery co-operation and photographic reconnaissance. This work gradually led R.F.C. pilots into aerial battles with German pilots and later in the war included the strafing of enemy infantry and emplacements, the bombing of German military airfields and later the strategic bombing of German industrial and transport facilities.

The R.F.C.'s motto was *Per ardua ad astra* ("Through adversity to the stars"). This remains the motto of the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.) and other Commonwealth air forces.

(Extract from Wikipedia)

Eric Hughes was detached to 1st R.F.C. Officers Cadet Battalion in England from 14th November, 1916.

Eric Hughes was marched in to Exeter on 26th January, 1917 and was taken on strength from that date.

[At the time of researching the Service Record file for Eric Hughes & his Service with the Royal Flying Corps could not be located]

Eric Hughes received a Commission in Royal Flying Corps on 16th March, 1917 as Second Lieutenant (on Probation). (*London Gazette* 10 April, 1917). He was discharged from Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on consequence of being appointed to a commission in the Royal Flying Corps with effect from 16th March, 1917.

Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force, London, England wrote to 2nd Lieutenant E. Hughes, No. 13 Squadron, R.F.C., Swingate Downs, Dover, on 26th April, 1917 for him to complete the "*Proceeding on Discharge*" form which was enclosed. Once the form had been "*duly signed and completed a parchment Certificate of Discharge will be forwarded to you*".

Newspaper item – *The Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser*, Queensland, Australia – 6 July, 1917:

Letters from Soldiers


LIEUTENANT ERIC HUGHES

Mrs R. Hughes, Curtis-street, South Bundaberg, is in receipt of letters from her son, Lieutenant Eric Hughes of the Royal Flying Corps the last being dated 8th May – a short time previous to his meeting an accident already reported. He speaks of receipt of several letters from home, and from his brother, Trooper R. Hughes in Egypt, and forwarded a proof copy of a photograph of himself taken in his new Flying Corps uniform, from which it is noticeable that he is in excellent health, and although considerably stouter, not much altered since leaving Bundaberg. He mentions having

finished his flying and other instructions at Hendon and was proceeding to another advanced squadron to gain experience on fast machines, and other "items" such as aerial photography, bomb dropping, etc. He had not a single accident at Hendon which is quite a record on slow machines. A rather exciting incident, however, he mentions. While flying a machine at an altitude of 4000 feet a piston rod in the engine broke, and of course the engine stopped. He got the machine down all right, although it was the first time he had come down without the engine from anything like that height. His previous experience in that respect was 600 feet, which was part of the test for his aviator's certificate. He claims to be quite a good pilot now and feels quite at home in any kind of machine, and at any height. He was present in London at the Anzac celebrations. In his latest communication written from Royal Flying Corps, Swingate Downs, Dover, and in course of the letter says: I am now flying the very fast machines – one hundred miles per hour- and am getting on very well with them and expect to have gained my "wings" by the time you receive this letter. I will then be ready for France again. I am anxious to get back amongst it once more."

2nd Lieutenant Eric Hughes of No. 17 Training Squadron, R.F.C. Yatesbury, Wiltshire, returned a completed form to Officer in Charge Record, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London on 10th October, 1917 acknowledging "receipt of your letter of the 16th Aug, 1917, together with "PARCHMENT CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGED" No. 139."

139.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL  EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Certificate of Discharge of No. 2375 (Rank) Gunner

(Name) Eric Hughes

(Regiment or Corps) 4th Divisional Ammunition Column

born at or near the Town of Eidsvold.

in the State or County of Queensland.

Attested at Bundaberg on the October 28th 19 15 for the Australian Imperial Force. Regiment or Corps at the age of 22 years.

He is discharged in consequence of being appointed to a commission in the Royal Flying Corps, with effect from 16th March 1917. (Authority London Gazette 30014 of 10.4.17. 1st Anzac 77/49 of 13.11.16.

Service towards completion of engagement in A.I.F.	<u>1</u> years <u>140</u> days	Medals	
Service Abroad	<u>1</u> years <u>140</u> days	and	
		Decorations	

Signature of Officer Commanding Regiment or Corps. (Sgd) S. Brugg. Major for Colonel Commandant.

OFFICE COPY Place London.

Date 19th May 1917

Discharge confirmed at London, England.

Signature (Sgd) S. Brugg. Major for Colonel Commandant.

OFFICE COPY Date Administrative Hdqrs. A.I.F. 19th May 1917

This Certificate is issued without alteration or erasure of any kind and should it be lost or mislaid no duplicate can be obtained.

Second Lieutenant Eric Hughes was attached to No. 77 Squadron at Edinburgh, Scotland.

On 14th November, 1917 Second Lieutenant Eric Hughes was flying a B.E.2e Serial number B4011 when he collided in the air with a Sopwith Camel Serial number B6262 piloted by Second Lieutenant Hilliar Mark Armstrong, from Ontario, Canada, also of Royal Flying Corps.



B.E. 2e

Second Lieutenant Eric Hughes was killed whilst flying on 14th November, 1917 above the railway line between Corstorphine and the Firth of Forth, Scotland.

A Court of Inquiry was held: *"The Court having considered the evidence is of the opinion that the apparent cause of the collision was that neither pilot saw the other on account of the BE2E pilot watching his target & the Camel pilot watching the landing circle. There was no breach of aerodrome discipline. Lt Armstrong was practising landings while Lt Hughes was practising dummy bombdropping. Lt Armstrong was instructed to go up for the first half hour to practice turning & throttling his engine & for the 2nd half hour to practice landings. 2Lt Hughes was instructed to go up & practice bomb dropping. 2Lt's B.E.2E caught fire on striking the ground."*

Newspaper item – Daily Gazette, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire, England – 15 November, 1917:

FATAL COLLISION IN THE AIR

A fatal aeroplane accident, involving the death of two pilots, occurred yesterday above the railway line between Corstorphine and the Firth of Forth. The machines were flying at a considerable height, when they collided and took fire, to the consternation of the beholders. The machine came crashing to the earth, with the result that both pilots, who belonged to the Royal Flying Corps, were killed. Their names are Second-Lieutenant H. M. Armstrong, who belonged to Canada, and Second Lieutenant E. Hughes, who belonged to Australia.

Second Lieutenant Eric Hughes was buried on 18th November, 1918. His Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone is located in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number K. 901. (Note: A report in the Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for 2nd Lieutenant Hughes & also a Memorial notice in the newspaper in 1918, placed by his family, state that he was buried in Craighleith Cemetery, Edinburgh). Second Lieutenant Hilliard Mark Armstrong, aged 21, is also buried in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number K. 904.

Newspaper Item – The Bundaberg Mail, Queensland – 11 February, 1918:

LATE LIEUT. ERIC HUGHES

In connection with the death of Lieut. Eric Hughes, of the Royal Flying Corps, son of Mrs R. Hughes Curtis-street, South Bundaberg, the following paragraph culled from the "Evesham Standard and West Midland Observer," of November 24th last, which come to hand by last English mail:- "Last week we reported the death, in an aeroplane accident, of Lieut. Eric Hughes, R.F.C., of Australia, who was engaged to be married to Miss Alice May Bourne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Bourne, of Evesham, Mr Bourne has received a letter from the officer commanding

giving particulars of the accident. He writes: "Dear Mr Bourne, -It grieves me greatly to have to convey to you the sad news of Lieut. Hughes' death. He had only been with me a very short time, but his sterling qualities as a friend and officer had appealed to all. His machine collided with another machine in the air. Both machines got out of control, and came down in a spin. Both officers were killed instantaneously. I was at the funeral yesterday. Full Military honours were given. Six officers bore the coffin, which was draped in a Union Jack, and covered with wreaths, down to the gun carriage. The pipe band of the A. and S. Highlanders played the 'Dead March,' and at the grave three volleys were fired and the Last Post sounded.... He had often spoken of you all, and was hoping to have had leave to get married very shortly.....At this sad time all my brother officers join with me in conveying to you their sincerest sympathy."

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for 2nd Lieutenant Eric Hughes contains a request from Mrs Hughes, mother of the late 2nd Lieutenant Eric Hughes, to the Red Cross London to find out details of his accident.

- Informant B.A.R. Shore, Lieut & A/Adj, No. 77 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, Clyde St., Edinburgh wrote the following letter: *"Reference your letter dated 11th inst. Mrs Hughes, given by the late Lieut. E. Hughes as Next of Kin, has been communicated with y the Officer Commanding the Flight to which the late Lieut. Hughes was attached at the time of his death. Particulars were written by the Flight Commander to Mrs Hughes and the only information available is that when flying in the vicinity of the Aerodrome the machine the deceased officer was flying collided with another machine at a height of about 500 feet. Both machines started "spinning" and crashed to earth, both pilots being instantaneously killed. He was given a Military funeral and buried at Craighleith Cemetery, Edinburgh on the 18th day of November, 1917."*

Morris & Fletcher, Solicitors, Brisbane, Queensland wrote to Base Records on 4th March, 1918 requesting a certified copy record of the death of Eric Hughes.

Base Records replied to Messrs Morris & Fletch Solicitors on 9th March, 1918 & advised them that as *"2nd Lieutenant E. Hughes, was a member of the Royal Flying Corps, Imperial Army, it will be necessary for you to apply to the Secretary War Office, London, for a certificate of report of death."*

Base Records, Melbourne, Australia wrote to The Secretary, Air Ministry, London on 28th September, 1921 advising *"that ex-No. 2375 Gunner Eric HUGHES, 4th Divisional Ammunition Column has by his service with the Australian Imperial Force from 12.10.15 to 16.3.17 qualified for the undermentioned war medals, viz.:- BRITISH WAR MEDAL – VICTORY MEDAL but in consequence of his subsequent service with a Commission Royal Flying Corps no medals will be administered by the Department of Defence, Australia, the same to be issued by the Air Ministry."*

Second Lieutenant Eric Hughes was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. The Victory Medal was issued to Elizabeth Hughes, mother of the late Second Lieutenant Eric Hughes, & she signed as receipt of on 6th June, 1923.

Mrs E. Hughes wrote to Base Records on 6th June, 1923 to advise that her address had changed to Womgaria Street, West Bundaberg & she had *"not lived in Curtis Street for two years but the medal came to me all right to the present address."* The letter went on to advise *"There is a letter mistake in the Medal my late son's name was only Eric Hughes & the Medal has an envelope & has E. D. Hughes in it although the Reg No is right 2375. As there is another family of the same name here that lost I think two boys I thought that this medal might have been for one of them. Please do not think that I am finding fault but I thought that I had better let you know...."*

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. Hughes, Womgaria Street, West Bundaberg, Queensland on 16th June, 1923 stating *"I have to acknowledge receipt of your of the 6th June, and regret that the initial "D" was incorrectly included in the inscription on the Victory Medal issued on account of the service of your son, the late Lieutenant E. HUGHES, Royal Flying Corps, (previously served with the A.I.F. as No. 2375, Gunner, 4th Divisional Ammunition Column). If you will return the Medal to this Office the necessary amendments will be made – I enclose herewith an envelope duly stamped to cover the cost of registration...."*

Mrs E. Hughes wrote to Base Records on 26th June, 1923 to advise that she was *"returning the war Medal to you as requested sorry to trouble you so much. I would have returned it before but I was in bed ill with the Flu. Will you*

kindly take notice how the name of the street I live in is spelt as the postman had some trouble in finding me last time...Mrs E. Hughes, Woongarra Street, West Bundaberg.”

Mrs Hughes wrote to Base Records (letter received at Base Records on 24th July, 1923) stating that she had “received the medal sorry to have had to trouble you Thanks for same. I did not get the 1914/15 Star but perhaps I am not entitled to that Eric enlisted on the 22 Jan 1915.”

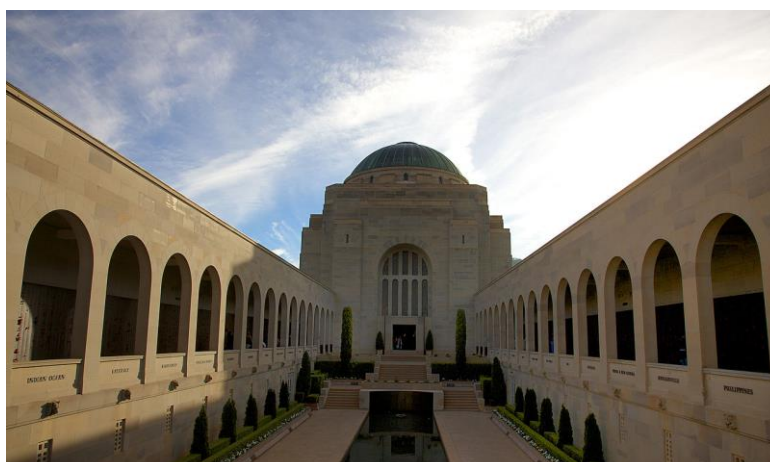
Base Records replied to Mrs E. Hughes on 30th July, 1923 that her “son, the late Lieutenant E. HUGHES, Royal Flying Corps (previously served with the A.I.F. as No. 2375, Gunner, 4th Divisional Ammunition Column), was not eligible for the issue of the 1914/15 Star owing to the fact that he did not serve on the strength of a unit in a theatre of war prior to 31st December, 1915.”

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Eric Hughes, aged 24, of Royal Flying Corps. He was the son of Mr R. and Mrs E. Hughes, of Woongarra St., West Bundaberg, Queensland.

Second Lieutenant Eric Hughes is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)

(96 pages of Second Lieutenant Eric Hughes' Australian Imperial Force 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

BRIEF WIRES

Two aeroplanes flying near the Firth of Forth on Wednesday collided in mid-air, burst into flames, and crashed to earth. Lieut. H. M. Armstrong (Canada) and Sec.-Lieut. E. Hughes (Australia) were killed.

(Gloucestershire Echo, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England – 15 November, 1917)

FATAL FLYING ACCIDENTS

Second Lieutenant H. M. Armstrong, a Canadian, and Second Lieutenant E. Hughes, an Australian, were killed through their machines colliding and taking fire between Corstorphine and The Firth of Forth.

(Western Daily Press, Bristol, England – 16 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

LIEUT. ERIC HUGHES

The extremely sad tidings were yesterday afternoon conveyed direct, to Mrs. Robert Hughes, South Bundaberg, that her son Lieutenant Eric Hughes, of the Royal Flying Corps, had been "killed in an aeroplane accident this morning." The message had been despatched from Edinburgh, Scotland, on Wednesday, 14th November, by the Officer Commanding Aeronautics, and was received in its bare nakedness by the distracted mother, who, at the time, was in hopeful expectation of receiving a cablegram from her son announcing his returning home in consequence of injuries received in an accident some four or five months ago when his machine fell to the earth from a height of several thousand feet, and in which an officer was smashed to pieces. It appears that the Royal Flying Corps is distinct from the A.I.F. and hence messages of this painful nature are forwarded direct to relatives, instead of such tidings being broken gently.

Lieutenant Eric Hughes was a gallant officer, and a true patriot. He had seen much service on the field, in the trenches, and wherever his services could be made useful for the noble cause that enlisted his whole thoughts. He had been wearing the regimental uniform for 2 years and 10 months, and had gained promotion upon promotion, always earned by zealous work, either in Egypt or in France.

He was born at Eidsvold 24 years ago, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hughes, pioneer Mt. Perry and Eidsvold residents. His older brother, Trooper Robert Hughes, has accomplished wondrous work during the past two years in Egypt and at Palestine, having been in the great battles and engagements that have, brought fame to the Queenslander, and in which the Upper Burnett boys have prominently participated.

The young officer, who is now at rest, having fulfilled his mission was naturally of an ambitious nature and had the cruel war not intervened, was destined to fill an important position. He was looking for his sphere, and would have found it. But the outbreak of the war claimed the attention, and he did not hesitate to obey the call of duty. Having obtained honourable distinction as a signaller and in the trenches he became enamoured with aeronautics being

convinced that laurels were to be won in the air, and that greater opportunities were provided for the student in the Royal Flying Corps than was possible in the regular army. He studied hard, and his different examinations were easily negotiated by him. About June last, whilst soaring at a great height, several thousand feet, an untoward accident occurred and machine and occupants fell to the ground. Lieutenant Hughes was badly injured and it was anticipated that he would have to retire from the profession. However, his heart was in the work and he strove hard to overcome the objections to his renewing his efforts, and apparently he was successful in that respect, otherwise he would ere now have been on his way home.

He was an excellent correspondent, and never failed in his weekly letter to his mother, and to his sister, Miss Gertie Hughes. The cheery pleasant style of his descriptive narratives will be remembered by "Mail" readers from the numerous letters we have published.

Writing to his mother from the Prince of Wales Hospital for Convalescent Officers, Marylebone, N.W.I., on 7th August, 1917 he said: I am still in hospital but think I will get back to duty about the end of the other day. I weighed 11 stone about 14 days before I fell and when month. I had rather a rude shock I weighed here I was just 9st. 6lbs. I must have weighed about 8 stone when I was allowed out of bed, as I feel 90 per cent better now.

In another portion of the letter he says : How is dear old Bundy progressing. I often think of it when lying in my room and nothing to attract my thoughts. Won't it be a very great day when we all return. Everyone who has a relative on service will simply lose their heads— will you, mother, dear. I know exactly how you will be, and hope it is not long before this takes place.

The father, Mr. Hughes, is in the Mt. Perry district, and has not yet heard the painful news. To the bereaved parents, and the sister and two brothers, the fullest sympathy is extended in their great bereavement.

(The Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland, 16 November, 1917)

On Saturday morning Mrs R. Hughes, Curtis-street, received a confirmatory cablegram from the Secretary of the War Office, London, regarding the fatality of her son. It reads: "Deepest regret Lieutenant Eric Hughes, Royal Flying Corps, killed in an aeroplane accident at Edinburgh on 14th November. The Army Council express sympathy."

(The Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland, 19 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

HUGHES – In loving memory of our dearly loved Son and Brother, LIEUT. ERIC HUGHES, 77 Squadron Special Reserves, Royal Flying Corps' killed at Turnhouse, Midlothian, Scotland, November 14th, 1917, as a result of an aeroplane accident; buried at Craighleith Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Life's highest mission he fulfilled

And bravely answered duty's call

To fight for liberty and right,

And battle for oppression's fall.

(Inserted by his loving Father and Mother and Sister Gertrude and two Brothers, Robert on active service, and Stuart.)

(The Bundaberg Mail, Queensland – 14 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR

HUGHES – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lieut. Eric Hughes, Royal Flying Corps, who was killed on the 14th November, 1917, aged 24 years and 10 months. Buried at Comeley Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.

We are only parted Eric dear,
Just for a little while.

(Inserted by his loving Father and Mother and two brothers, Robert and Stuart and Sister Gertrude.)

(The Bundaberg Mail, Queensland – 13 November, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HUGHES – In sad but loving memory of our dear Son and Brother, Lieut. Eric Hughes, 77 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, who was killed on the 14th November, 1917; aged 24 years and 10 months; buried at Comley Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.

There is one link death cannot sever,
Love and remembrance that lasts for ever.

(Inserted by his loving Father and Mother, Sister Gertrude and Brothers, Robert and Stuart.)

(The Bundaberg Mail, Queensland – 14 November, 1921)

ROLL OF HONOR

HUGHES – In loving memory of our dear Son and Brother, Lieut. ERIC HUGHES, 77 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, who was killed on the 14th November, 1917, and buried in Cormley Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.

A place is vacant on our home
That never can be filled.

(Inserted by his Loving Father, Mother, Sister and Brothers)

(The Bundaberg Mail, Queensland – 14 November, 1922)

ROLL OF HONOR

HUGHES – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lieut. ERIC HUGHES 77 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, who was killed at Turnhouse, Midlothian, on the 14th November, 1917, and buried in Comley Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Memory is the only thing
That grief can call its own.

(Inserted by his loving Mother, Brothers and Sister)

(The Bundaberg Mail, Queensland – 14 November, 1923)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HUGHES – In sad but loving memory of our dear Son and Brother, Lieut. ERIC HUGHES 77th Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, who was killed November 14th, 1917.

Those who think of your Dear Eric
Are those who loves you best.

(Inserted by his loving Mother and Brothers E. and R. F. Hughes)

(The Bundaberg Mail, Queensland – 14 November, 1924)

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)

Second Lieutenant E. Hughes does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

We Are Only Parted Eric Dear Just For A Little While

Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland

Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland contains 302 War Graves. There are only seven Australians buried in this cemetery from World War 1.

During the First World War, Edinburgh was headquarters to the 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th Battalions of the Royal Scots, with the 7th Battalion at Leith. The 2nd Scottish General Hospital (1,000 beds) occupied Craighleith Poorhouse, the Edinburgh War Hospital (2,600 beds) was in the Asylum buildings at Bangour and the Leith War Hospital (585 beds) in the infirmary at Leith. The port of Leith was used by hospital ships from north Russia and about 4,500 officers and men passed through it.

Second World War military hospitals were in Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Bangour. The city was also Scottish Command Headquarters.

Edinburgh (Comely Bank) Cemetery contains 225 burials of the First World War, most of them forming a war graves plot in Section D. The Second World War plot is immediately in front and contains more than half of the 76 Second World War burials. The cemetery also contains a Finnish war grave and two non-war service burials.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Second Lieutenant E. Hughes' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.



(Photo courtesy of Patricia Keppie)



Second Lieutenant E. Hughes' CWGC Headstone (red arrow) *(Photo courtesy of Patricia Keppie)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00524

Australian Graves at Comely Bank Cemetery in Edinburgh, Scotland.

(From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp, who was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War.)