

**Ford Park Cemetery,
Plymouth, Devon
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7910 LEADING SIGNALMAN

T. HUGHES

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

5TH MARCH, 1916

Thomas HUGHES

Thomas Hughes was born on 7th January, 1875 in Plymouth, Devon, England to parents Thomas & Clara Hughes (nee Collings).

The 1881 England Census listed Thomas Hughes as a 6 year old Scholar, living with his family at 147 King Street, Plymouth, Devon, England. His parents were listed as Thomas Hughes (Fruiterer, aged 34, born Plymouth, Devon) & Clara Hughes (aged 31, born Plymouth, Devon). Thomas (jnr) was the one of four children listed on this Census – all born Plymouth, Devon - Clara Hughes (Scholar, aged 8) then Thomas, Walter Hughes (aged 2) & William Hughes (aged 1).

Thomas Hughes joined the Royal Navy in 1890. He was a 15 year old Bar Boy. Thomas Hughes was given a service number of 155019 (Devonport).

Thomas Hughes was posted to H.M.S. *Impregnable* (a Training ship docked at Devonport, England) as Boy Class II from 5th May, 1890.

The 1891 England Census listed Thomas Hughes as a 16 year old crew of Royal Navy - H.M.S. *Impregnable*.

Boy Class II Thomas Hughes was promoted to Boy Class I on 21st May, 1891 while still serving in H.M.S. *Impregnable*. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Vivid* on 11th July, 1891 then transferred to H.M.S. *Anson* on 25th October, 1891. Boy Class I Thomas Hughes was transferred to H.M.S. *Vivid I* on 7th November, 1891 then back to H.M.S. *Anson* on 5th May, 1892. He was promoted to Signaller on 7th January, 1893.

Thomas Hughes signed on with The Royal Navy on 7th January, 1893, at the age of 18 years, for a period of 12 years.

Signaller Thomas Hughes was promoted to Leading Signaller on 1st June, 1893 while serving in H.M.S. *Anson*. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Empress of India* on 12th September, 1893 then transferred back to H.M.S. *Vivid I* on 19th May, 1895. Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes was transferred to H.M.S. *Tamar* on 28th May, 1895 then transferred to H.M.S. *Esk* on 11th August, 1895. He was then transferred H.M.S. *Victor Emanuel* on 16th July, 1896 then transferred to H.M.S. *Immortalite* on 6th March, 1897. Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes was transferred back to H.M.S. *Vivid I* on 8th July, 1899 then transferred to H.M.S. *Cambridge* on 18th October, 1899.

Thomas Hughes married Mary Rawlings in the June quarter, 1900 in the district of Plymouth, Devon, England.

The 1901 England Census listed Thomas Hughes as a 26 year old, married Signaller in the Royal Navy. Thomas Hughes and his wife – Mary Hughes (aged 29, born Plymouth Devon) were living in a 1 roomed dwelling at 4 Harwell Street, Plymouth, Devon, England. Also listed was Thomas Hughes' step-daughter – Bessie Rawlings (aged 7, born Saltash, Cornwall). There were 4 households listed at the same address.

A birth was registered in the December quarter, 1901 in Plymouth for Clara Lavinia Hughes, daughter of Thomas & Mary Hughes.

Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes was transferred from H.M.S. *Cambridge* to H.M.S. *Illustrious* on 5th December, 1902. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Caesar* on 23rd January, 1902 then transferred to H.M.S. *Orion* on 1st April, 1902. Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes was transferred to H.M.S. *Leander* on 25th February, 1904 then transferred to H.M.S. *Vivid* on 4th June, 1904. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Leander* on 1st May, 1905 then transferred back to H.M.S. *Vivid* on 1st March, 1906. Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes was transferred to H.M.S. *Queen* on 13th May, 1906 then was listed as Signaller in H.M.S. *Queen* from 21st October 1907 to 14th December, 1908. Signaller Thomas Hughes was transferred to H.M.S. *Vivid I* on 15th December, 1908 then transferred to H.M.S. *Majestic* on 10th August, 1909. He was promoted to Leading Signaller on 21st October, 1909 still with H.M.S. *Majestic*. Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes was transferred to H.M.S. *Cornwallis* on 2nd August, 1910.

The 1911 England Census listed Thomas Hughes as a 36 year old, married, Leading Signaller (Executive) on H.M.S. *Cornwallis*, which was located in the Mediterranean at the time of the Census on 2nd April, 1911. His religion was listed as Church of England.

The 1911 England Census recorded Thomas's wife – Mary Hughes (Laundress, aged 40) living with their daughter Clara Lavinia Hughes (aged 9, born Plymouth, Devon) in a 2 roomed dwelling at 70 Cecil Street, Plymouth.

Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes was transferred to H.M.S. *Vivid I* on 13th August, 1912. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Indus* on 5th January, 1913 then to H.M.S. *Vivid* on 1st March, 1913 to 26th June, 1913.

Thomas Hughes signed on with Royal Australian Navy, on loan from Royal Navy, for a period of 3 years from 1st March, 1913. Thomas Hughes was 5ft 5 ¾ in, with brown hair, brown eyes & a fresh complexion, He had a tattoo of his right forearm of clasped hands & heart. On his left forearm was a rose. Thomas Hughes was given a service number of 7910 & his next-of-kin was listed as his wife – Mary Hughes of 18 Creek St, Forest Lodge, Sydney, NSW. Her later addresses were listed as 13 Water Street, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW; 10 Park Avenue, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW; c/- Mrs Denison East Glendon, Glendon Brook via Singleton, NSW.

Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes was reported as being transferred to London Depot from 1st March, 1913 to 26th June, 1913. He was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Sydney* on 27th June, 1913 then transferred to H.M.A.S. *Australia* on 25th March, 1914. Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes was transferred back to H.M.A.S. *Sydney* on 29th May, 1914.

H.M.A.S. Sydney

H.M.A.S. *Sydney* was a Chatham-class light cruiser of the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.). She was launched in 1912 and commissioned into the R.A.N. in 1913.

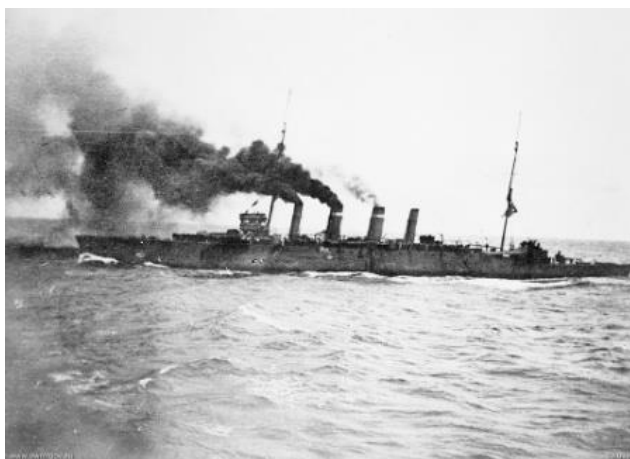
Following the outbreak of war in August 1914, *Sydney* was engaged in operations against Germany's Pacific colonies and destroyed a radio station in the Pelew Islands. Returning to Australian waters, *Sydney* joined the escort of the first troop convoy from Australia to the Middle East, which left Albany on 1 November, 1914.

On 9 November, *Sydney* was detailed to leave the convoy to investigate reports of an unknown vessel off the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. This vessel turned out to be the German cruiser SMS *Emden*. In the resulting engagement, *Sydney* was hit early by the long-ranging 10.5 cm guns of *Emden*, which resulted in four dead and twelve wounded. However, the superior firepower of the Australian cruiser's broadside soon told and *Emden* was left "beached and done for" on North Keeling Island.

Sydney briefly rejoined the convoy at Colombo before proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean, via the Mediterranean Sea. In December, 1914, *Sydney* was deployed to the Caribbean and based at Bermuda. For the next 18 months, she carried out patrol duties between the islands of the West Indies and along the east coast of North America, in concert with H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*. Both ships were also detailed for occasional special patrols along the north coast of South America.

In September 1916, *Sydney* and *Melbourne* were transferred to the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron for duties with the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet in the North Sea.

(Extract of information on HMAS Sydney from 1914-1916 from the Australian War Memorial)



H.M.A.S. Sydney, 1914

Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes died on 5th March, 1916 at 147 King Street, Plymouth, Devon, England (his mother's residence) from Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Hughes, aged 41, was registered in the March quarter, 1916 in the district of Plymouth, Devon, England.

Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes was buried in Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number Church HA. 5. 3. and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Leading Signaller Thomas Hughes – service number 7910, of H.M.A.S. "Sydney", Royal Australian Navy. No family details are listed.

Leading Signaller T. Hughes is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 1.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Leading Signaller T. Hughes is remembered on Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, located at HMAS *Cerberus* Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Nelson Road, Crib Point, Victoria.



HMAS *Cerberus* Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Crib Point, Victoria (Photos courtesy of Karen Standen)



Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour) & National Archives

Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

HUGHES – Thomas Hughes, leading signalman, late of H.M.A.S. Sydney, died suddenly March 5, 1916, at his mother's residence, 147 King-street, Plymouth, England.

Thy will be done.

Inserted by his loving wife and daughters, 121 Hereford-street, Forest Lodge, Sydney. All papers please copy.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 March, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

HUGHES – In loving memory of my dear husband and our dear father, Thomas Hughes, leading signalman, late of H.M.A.S. Sydney, died suddenly in England, March 5, 1916.

So quick and sudden was the call,
His sudden death surprised us all.
Only those who have lost are able to tell
The pain in our hearts at not saying farewell.

Inserted by his wife and daughters, Clara and Bessie, In Australia. English papers please copy.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 March, 1917)

On Active Service

HUGHES – In loving memory of Thomas Hughes, leading signalman, late of H.M.A.S. Sydney, March 5, 1916.

Gone, but not forgotten.

Inserted by his loving wife and daughter, Clara.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 March, 1918)

Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England

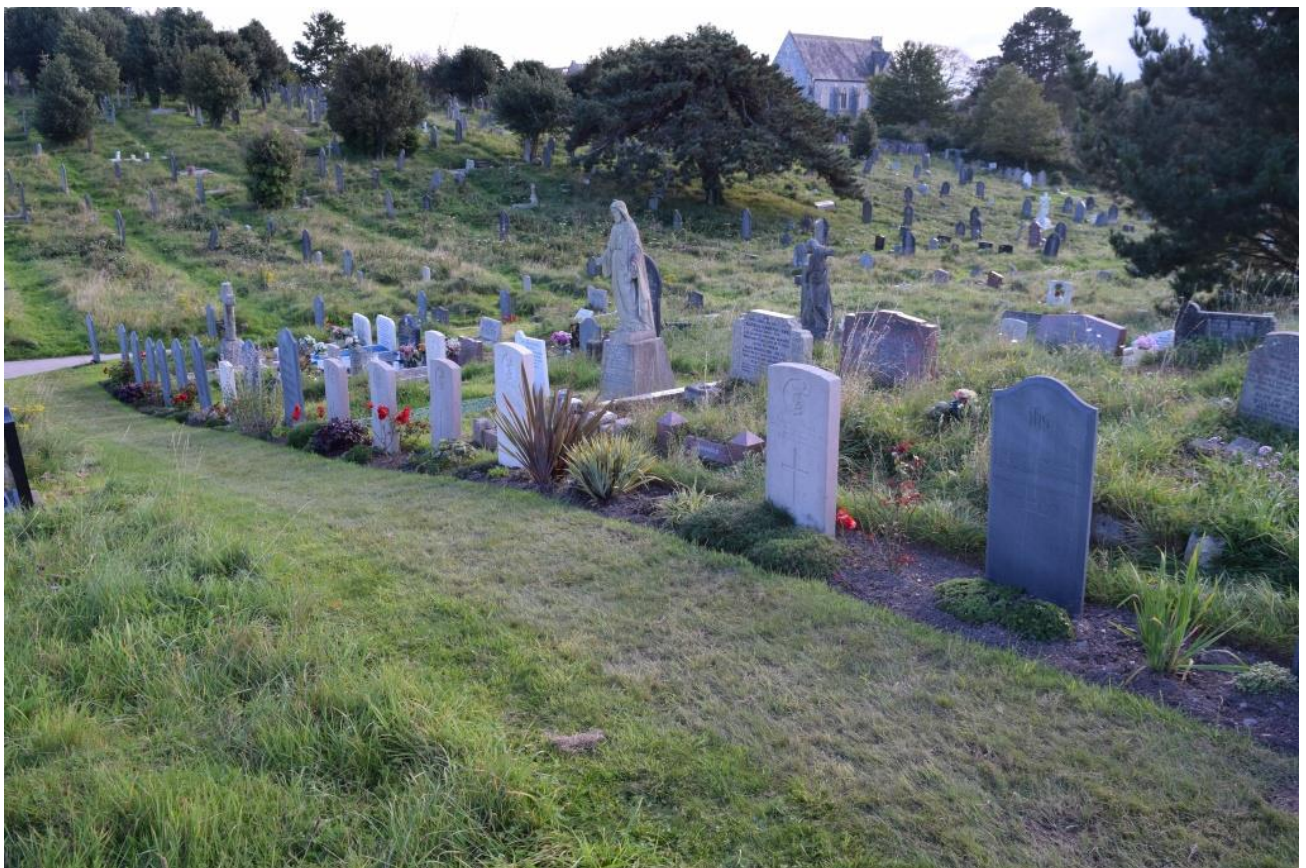
During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area.

Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth.

Ford Park Cemetery (formerly known as Pennycomequick or Plymouth Old Cemetery) contains 769 burials of the First World War, more than 200 of them in a naval plot, the rest scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 198 Second World War burials are scattered, 1 of which is an unidentified airman of the Royal Air Force. There are a further 4 Foreign National and 1 non world war service burials here. *(Information from CWGC)*



Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth (Photo from *julia&keld*)



Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth (Photo from *CWGC*)

Photo of Leading Signalman Thomas Hughes's Private Headstone in Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England. Leading Signalman Thomas Hughes is buried with his aunt – (mother's elder sister).



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)

Also

AMELIA RULE

Eldest Daughter Of

WILLIAM COLLINGS

Who Died January 1st 1909

Also THOMAS HUGHES

Who Died March 5th, 1916

Aged 41 Years