

Sutton Veny

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



67389 PRIVATE

H. T. S. HICKS

2ND BN LONDON REGIMENT (ROYAL FUSILIERS)

21ST MARCH, 1918

Hector Thomas Stewart HICKS

Hector Thomas Stewart Hicks was born at Upper Parkestone, Dorset in 1892 to parents Thomas & Annie Hicks (nee Blackman). His parents had married in the district of Poole, Dorset in the December quarter, 1891. Hector's birth was registered in the district of Poole, Dorset in the June quarter of 1892.

The 1901 England Census recorded Hector Hicks as an 8 year old living with his Grandmother – Arabella Watts (aged 64) & her husband – George Watts (Farmer, aged 81) & Benjamin Blackman (Arabella's son & George Watts' stepson) (Mason's Labourer, aged 39). The four family members were living at Bourne Moor (Farm) Rossmoor, Branksome, Dorset. Meanwhile, Hector's parents & 4 siblings were recorded living at 33 High Street, Warminster. Hector's parents were recorded as Thomas Hicks (Baker & Confectioner, aged 44, born Southwick, Sussex) & Annie Hicks (aged 36, born Battle, Sussex). The children listed on this Census were – Louis (aged 15), Tommie (aged 7), Percy (aged 5) & Dorris (aged 2).

The 1911 England Census recorded Hector Stuart Hicks as an 18 year old Baker & Confectioner living with his family at 33 High Street, Warminster in a 6 roomed dwelling. His parents were recorded as Thomas Hicks (Baker & Confectioner, aged 54, born Southwick, Brighton, Sussex) & Annie Hicks (aged 45, born Battle, Sussex). Thomas & Annie Hicks had been married for 20 years & had a total of 4 children. Hector was the second eldest of the five children listed on this Census– Louisa Hicks (Assistant, aged 26, born Warminster, Wilts), then Hector, Thomas Stanley (Vanman, aged 17, born Warminster, Wilts) & Percy Edward (Outfitter's Assistant, aged 15, born Warminster, Wilts) & Emily Dorris (At school, aged 12, born Warminster, Wilts). Also listed was Arthur Richard White, a visitor (aged 56).

Hector Thomas Stewart Hicks married Jessie H. Fleet in the registration district of Totnes, Devon in the June quarter, 1914.

A death for Thomas Hicks (father of Hector Thomas Stewart Hicks) was registered in December quarter, 1914 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire. Details from Probate – "Hicks, Thomas of 3 Castle-street Trowbridge Wiltshire Baker died 28 November 1914 at Warminster Wiltshire. Probate Salisbury 10 June to Robert William Hicks, retired baker; Henry James Maxfield, insurance agent and Annie Hicks, widow. Effects £1665 2s 7d. Resworn £1678 5s 7d."

Births were registered for the following children with mother's maiden name of Fleet:

- Daisy H. E. Hicks – June quarter 1915 - Totnes registration district (Devon)
- Ernest H. W. Hicks – June quarter 1916 – Tonbridge registration district (Kent & Sussex)
- Violet M. D. Hicks – March quarter 1917 – Newton Abbot registration district (Devon).

Hector Thomas Stewart Hicks originally enlisted with the R.A.S.C. & was given a service number of S/4/215802. He was transferred to London Regiment & given the rank of Private & a service number of 67389. Private Hicks's records show that he was last posted to 2/2nd London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers). He had enlisted at Warminster & was residing at Warminster at the time of enlistment.

Private Hector Thomas Stewart Hicks was killed in action on 21st March, 1918, aged 25 years.

Private Hector Thomas Stewart Hicks is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, France – Panel No. 20. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

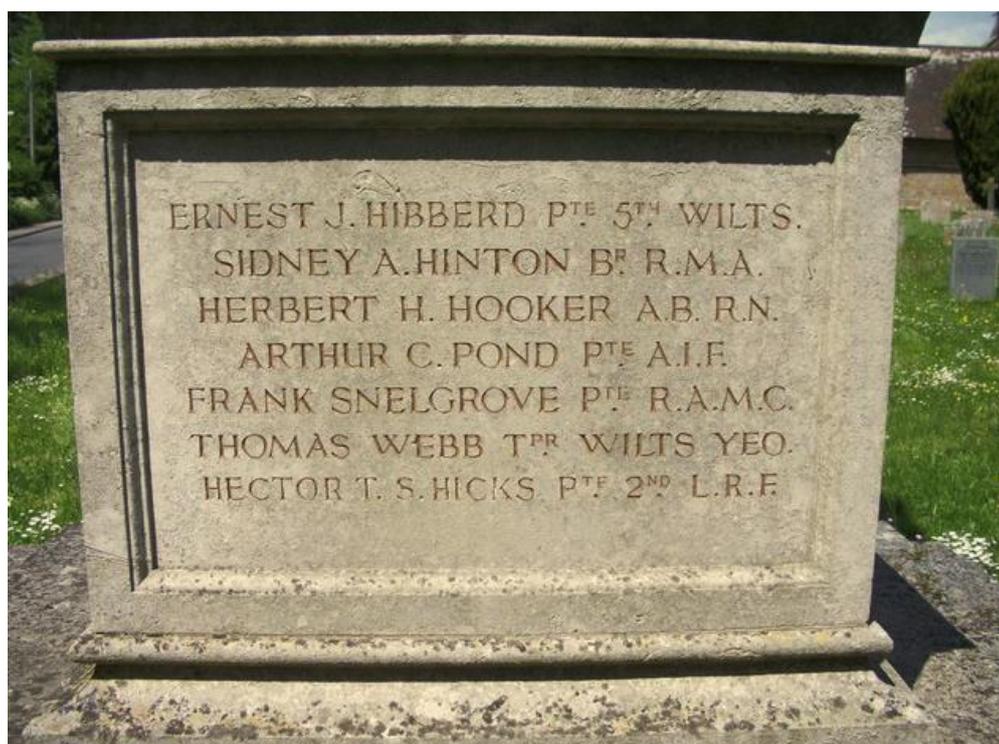
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Hector Thomas Stewart Hicks, 67389 of Royal Fusiliers, posted to 2nd/2nd Bn. London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers). No family details are listed.

Private Hector Thomas Stewart Hicks was entitled to the British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card does not show a date that he had entered a Theatre of War.

Hector T. S. Hicks is also remembered on the Sutton Veny War Memorial located in the foreground of St. John the Evangelist churchyard.



Sutton Veny War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth)



Connection to Sutton Veny –

**Thomas Stanley Hicks (brother of Hector) married Elsie Hill at Sutton Veny on 25th March, 1918. He was listed as a Soldier (2nd Field Engineers) & his father was listed as Thomas Hicks, Baker. Both Thomas & Elsie were listed as residents of Sutton Veny. One of the witnesses to the marriage was Annie Hicks (mother of Thomas & Hector).

Thomas S. Hicks was listed in the Kelly's Directory at Sutton Veny for 1920 as a Grocer & Caterer; in 1927 as a Grocer, Provision Merchant & Caterer & 1939 as a Grocer. Thomas Stanley was Hector's younger brother. Probate details for Thomas Stanley Hicks – "of 77 Sutton Veny Stores near Warminster Wiltshire, died 1 January 1955 at Frenchay Hospital Bristol. Administration (with Will) Winchester 24 March to Elsie Ann Hicks, widow. Effects £4509 0s. 10d."

A headstone for Thomas Stanley Hicks & his wife Elsie Ann Hicks is located in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

**Emily Doris Hicks (younger sister of Hector & Thomas Stanley) married Cecil Davis at Sutton Veny on 16th May, 1921. Thomas Stanley Hicks was one of the witnesses.

**Annie Hicks died on 31st October, 1942. She was buried in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny.

Hector T. S. Hicks is remembered on his mother's headstone – Annie Hicks



Headstone of Hector T. S. Hicks & his mother – Annie Hicks at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard

(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth 2012)



Hector Thomas Stewart Hicks



Poizieres Memorial

Poizieres is a village 6 kilometres north-east of the town of Albert. The Memorial encloses Poizieres British Cemetery which is a little south-west of the village on the north side of the main road, D929, from Albert to Poizieres.

On the road frontage is an open arcade terminated by small buildings and broken in the middle by the entrance and gates. Along the sides and the back, stone tablets are fixed in the stone rubble walls bearing the names of the dead grouped under their Regiments.

It should be added that, although the memorial stands in a cemetery of largely Australian graves, it does not bear any Australian names. The Australian soldiers who fell in France and whose graves are not known are commemorated on the National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux.

The POZIERES MEMORIAL relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918.

The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918. The Corps and Regiments most largely represented are The Rifle Brigade with over 600 names, The Durham Light Infantry with approximately 600 names, the Machine Gun Corps with over 500, The Manchester Regiment with approximately 500 and The Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery with over 400 names.

The memorial encloses Poizieres British Cemetery, Plot II of which contains original burials of 1916, 1917 and

1918, carried out by fighting units and field ambulances. The remaining plots were made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields immediately surrounding the cemetery, the majority of them of soldiers who died in the Autumn of 1916 during the latter stages of the Battle of the Somme, but a few represent the fighting in August 1918.

There are now 2,758 Commonwealth servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 1,380 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 23 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. There is also 1 German soldier buried here. *(Information & Memorial & Cemetery photos from CWGC)*



