

Herbert Leslie Hughes was born in Sebastopol in September 1891, the son of Thomas (T. Hughes & Sons, Grocers, Sebastopol) and Mary Ann Hughes. He was educated at the Sebastopol State School.

On enlistment in 1916, 'Bert' was a 24 year-old Grocer, married for twelve months and the father of one child, his Next of Kin being his wife, Mrs Jessie Hughes of Albert Street, Sebastopol (later 20 Faussett Street, Albert Park, Melbourne), Victoria. He was a Methodist and had no previous military experience.

Note: as the government paid a pension to two children, Jessie must have been pregnant when Bert' sailed off to war.

Hughes was a prominent member of the Sebastopol Fire Brigade and was a familiar figure in all the fire brigade demonstrations. He was also a member of the Sebastopol Tent I.O.R.



1916

- 12 Feb Enlisted, 60th Battalion.
- 13 Mar Took Oath and Sworn In, in Ballarat.
- 25 Mar Commenced training at the 14th Depot Battalion at Ballarat, the location of the 39th Battalion.
- 31 Mar Transferred to 60th Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements, Broadmeadows.
- 4 May Embarked A17 *HMAT Port Lincoln*. Regimental Number 1676.
- 10 Jun Disembarked Suez, ex *HMAT Port Lincoln*, Egypt.
- 9 Jul Taken on Strength 5th Division Details, Tel el Kebir.
- 2 Aug Embarked for England *HT Franconia*.
- 8 Aug Disembarked Marseilles, France, (15th Training Battalion, Camp 26).
- 21 Aug Taken on Strength of 15th Training Battalion (ie 15th Brigade's Training Battalion in England), Lark Hill, from Overseas (Australia)
- 11 Nov Proceeded overseas from Folkestone on the *SS Golden Eagle*, to join unit in France.
- 12 Nov Marched In to 5th Australian Division Base Depot (ADBBD), Etaples.
- 28 Nov Marched Out from 5 ADBD to unit.
- 30 Nov Taken on Strength of 58th Battalion.

1917

- 13 Sep To England on Leave (Furlough).
- 2 Oct Returned from Leave.

1918

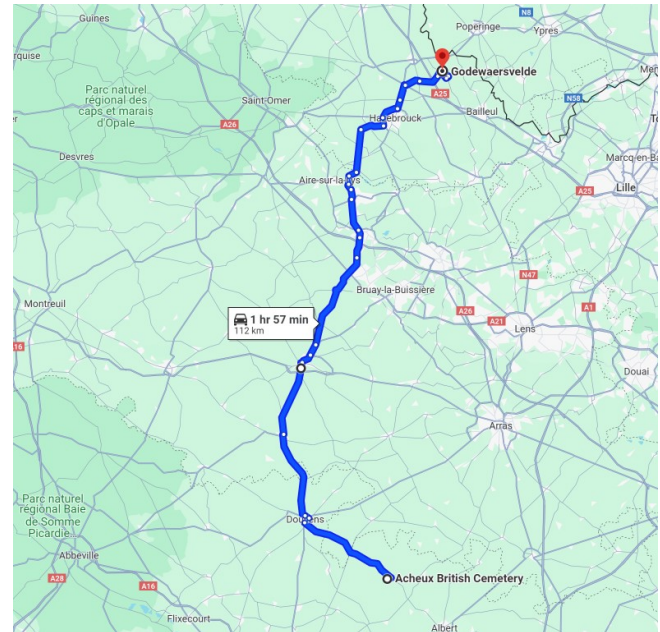
It was becoming obvious that the Germans were planning an offensive and on 21 March 1918 it began. Along a 54-mile front between the Sensee and Oise Rivers they attacked the 3rd Army with more divisions than the British had on the whole Western Front (Some of those divisions had come from the Russian (Eastern) Front. Over several days they took Ham, Roisel, Beaumetz, Louverval, Noreuil, and then Peronne, Bapaume, Flers, Gueudecourt, Montauban and Albert – towns well-known to the Australians.

On 26 March the 1st and 2nd Divisions took over the 5th Division front allowing the 5th Division to move to the 3rd Army Reserve Area in the Somme. The 8th Brigade entrained at Godewarsvelde (south-west of Poperinghe), the 14th at Hopoutre and the **15th at Caestre near Godewarsvelde**. The 8th and 15th Brigades moved to Doullens (north of Amiens) while the 14th moved to Mondicourt 5 miles to the south. DHQ opened at Vauchelles (NNE of Amiens) on the 27th March. The 15th Brigade was ordered south to Corbie where penetration was most threatening and became under command of the 3rd Division. (The 5th Division then participated in the battle to retake Villers Bretonneux on 24/25 April 1918).

- 25 Mar 15th Brigade were ordered to move to Meteren Area that day.
 26 Mar Orders received to move by train from Caestre to Acheux over 27/28 March.
 27 Mar Advance Billeting Party left Caestre on train at 10.25am. The remainder of battalion marched to Caestre and entrained, departing 5 minutes early at 4.25pm. 'About 1 kilo beyond St Pol the train was hit while in motion by a 15" shell. The hit was a direct one on a truck containing the whole of the Q.M's (Quartermaster) staff and canteen assistants. 4 trucks and the officers' carriage, which was next to the truck hit, were derailed. The casualties were 16 killed, 9 wounded & 8 horses killed.' (58th Battalion War Diary, March 1918, AWM)
 Herbert Hughes was one of those killed. He was Buried St Pol Cemetery, St Pol-sur-Ternoise.

Move of the 5th Division south.
 Caestre is near Godewaersvelde (north)
 St Pol is just below the 1 hr 57 min mark, and
 Acheux is at the south

- 8 Jun Pensions commenced for Mrs Jessie Hughes (40/- per fortnight), son John Raymond Hughes (20/- per fortnight) and daughter Josephine Hughes (15/- per fortnight).



Awarded:

British War Medal	40953
Victory Medal	40537

Memorial Plaque 341882 to Mrs J Hughes (Widow), 25 Oct 1922.
 Memorial Scroll 341882 to Mrs J. Hughes, 24 Feb 1922