

## 105: Joseph Hughes

### Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Joseph Hughes

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 25th (Montgomeryshire and Welsh Horse Yeomanry) Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers

Service Number: 54504

Date of Death: 21 September 1918

Age at Death: 37

Buried / Commemorated at: Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile, Departement de l'Aisne, Picardie, France

Additional information given by CWGC: The son of John Hughes of Rake Cottage, Burton

Joseph Hughes was a son of John and Susannah Mary Hughes of Burton.

John married Susannah Thomas of Rhyl in early 1872 at St Oswald's Church, Chester, and in 22 years of marriage they had 14 children of whom (in 1911) 11 had survived.

Susannah died, aged 39, in May 1893 following the birth of Alfred.

In 1881, before after the birth of Joseph, the family was living close to the centre of Burton, midway between Mill Farm and Burton Hall:

John Hughes	Head	<del>77</del>	30	1	W <sup>m</sup> Coachman & Gardener	Burton Chester
Susannah do	Wife	<del>do</del>		27	do wife	Rhyl & Wales
do do	Daughter	<del>do</del>		8	do do	Chester
Sarah do	do	<del>do</del>		7	do	Burton do
Thomas E. do	Son	<del>do</del>	5		do	do do
John do	do	<del>do</del>	3		do	do do
William do	do	<del>do</del>	1		do	do do
Joseph do	do	<del>do</del>	3 weeks			do do
Mary E. do	Niece	<del>do</del>		11	do	Chester

### 1881 census (extract) – Burton

John Hughes	30	coachman & gardener	born Burton
Susannah	27		born Rhyl
Susannah	8		born Chester
Sarah	7		born Burton
Thomas E.	5		born Burton
John	3		born Burton
William	1		born Burton
Joseph	3 weeks		born Burton
Mary E.	11	niece	born Chester

By the time of the 1891 census the family had increased in size but appear to be living in the same cottage although the locations of both Sarah Hughes and Thomas Hughes are unknown in 1891:

John Hughes	40	gardener	born Burton
Susannah M.	37		born Rhyl
Susannah M.	18	dress maker	born Burton
John	13	servant, domestic	born Burton
William	11		born Burton
Joseph	10		born Burton
Sophia	8		born Burton
Hugh	6		born Burton
Margery	4		born Burton
Lizzie	2		born Burton
Francis	3 months		born Burton

1891 census (extract) – Burton

John Hughes	40	gardener	born Burton
Susannah M.	37		born Rhyl
Susannah M.	18	dress maker	born Burton
John	13	servant, domestic	born Burton
William	11		born Burton
Joseph	10		born Burton
Sophia	8		born Burton
Hugh	6		born Burton
Margery	4		born Burton
Lizzie	2		born Burton
Francis	3 months		born Burton

Susannah Hughes died in late May 1893 and was buried at Burton on 1 June. Francis, their penultimate child, died aged 7 and was buried at Burton on 26 October 1898.

The known details of the children of John and Susannah Hughes are:

Susannah Mary her birth was registered in the Holywell district in early 1873 and she wasn't baptised at Burton (see 1891 census). She married, at Burton, George Herbert Argyle, a butcher of Willaston, on 23 October 1895. Susannah was aged 23 and George was 28. Susannah's father, John, was recorded as a coachman and her sister, Sarah Hughes, was a witness. George Argyle died in early 1925, aged 59, and Susannah died, aged 85, in early 1958, in the Birkenhead district.

In the 1939 Register the family is recorded at 10 Rock Lane East, Rock Ferry:

Susannah M Argyle	born 24 June 1872		
Lydia W	born 3 August 1896	single	confectionary shop assistant
John H	born 18 February 1900	single	shipyard store clerk, Cammell Laird
Nellie D	born 11 October 1915	single	telephonist, trunks, GPO

Nellie Argyle married Stanley Davies in the Birkenhead district in late 1944.

One line of the record is redacted (a daughter, Bernice A Argyle, was registered in mid-1918)

Susannah M Nield born 19 May 1906 widow householder, at present residing

One line of the record is redacted (a daughter of Susannah jnr, Norma M Nield, was registered in Birkenhead in mid-1938)

Susannah jnr, a daughter of George and Susannah Argyle, married Albert Nield at St Peter's Church, Rock Ferry, in mid-1937. Able Seaman Albert Nield (26, 80 The Causeway, Bromborough), and his brother Able Seaman William Alfred Nield (28) were reported as lost at sea whilst serving on HMS *Courageous*, an aircraft carrier torpedoed in the Irish Sea on 17 September 1939. Albert was a son of William Thomas and Harriet Nield.

Sarah born on 1 January 1874 and baptised at Burton on 15 February. Sarah married Thomas Gerrard (born 2 August 1876), a carter of Waterloo near Southport, at Burton on 8 August 1900. Sarah was 26 and Thomas (who seems to have been born in Burton) was 24; William Hughes was a witness. They had a number of children whilst living in Burton (in late 1907 they lived at Brook Cottage, Denhall) and some details of these are given in the general account, below. Sarah died on 18 July 1955, aged 81, and was buried at Burton on 21 July. Her address was recorded as 'Church View', the address at which she was recorded in 1939. Thomas Gerrard had died, also in Burton, on 11 April 1948 and was buried, aged 71, on 14 April.

Thomas Edward born on 20 September 1875 he was baptised at Burton on 24 October. Although he married (the date of his marriage and the name of his wife are unknown) he was divorced by 1939. He died on 2 May 1961, aged 85, and was buried at Burton on 8 May. His address was Shotwick House, Saughall.

John born 10 September 1877 and baptised at Burton on 4 November. In 1901, single, aged 23, he was a horseman on a farm in Burton and later recorded as a farm labourer and a contractor's labourer. He may have married an Elizabeth Dutton at a Civil Marriage in Chester in mid-1902 and she may have died in early 1910. Certainly, he was widowed before the 1911 census when he was recorded as living, with his four young children, in Burton with his married sister Sarah & Thomas Gerrard. His known children are:  
Hilda Winifred (bpt Burton 20 July 1902); John (no record of bpt at Burton); Lily (Lillian - bpt Burton (28 October 1906); Joseph (bpt Burton 3 January 1909).

William baptised at Burton, privately, on 12 April 1879. Living at Rake Cottage, Burton, he died on 7 March 1963 (buried 9 March) aged 83.

Joseph baptised at Burton on 17 April 1881 and died, unmarried, in France on 21 September 1918. He is the subject of this account.

Sophia baptised at Burton, privately, on 30 October 1882. Sophia married William Parry, a gardener of Burton (his father was a bailiff in the village) at Burton on 15 October 1908. Sophia was 26, William was 30 and Marjorie Hughes was a witness.  
In the 1939 Register they were recorded as living at Henley Park Gardens, Henley Park, Guildford, Surrey:  

William Parry	born 21 July 1878	head gardener
Sophia	born 2 November 1882	
Edith M	born 24 October 1914	dressmaker

Edith Parry married Jack Pike in SW Surrey in early 1940.  
William Parry may have died, aged 83, in the Croydon district, in mid-1961.  
Sophia died in SW Surrey in late 1969.

Hugh Thomas born on 29 October 1884 Hugh was baptised at Burton on 16 November 1884. He was buried at Burton, aged 88, on 8 May 1973 when his address was recorded as Stanley Cottage, Puddington. Hugh married Edith Williams at St David's Church, Fairfield, Liverpool, in mid-1920 and in the 1939 Register the family was recorded at 'The Nook', Puddington:  

Hugh T Hughes	born 18 October 1884	farm labourer
Edith	born 29 March 1884	
Harold	born 20 April 1922	single private gardener
Albert	born 20 July 1925	single poultry farming

Edith died on 9 February 1965 and she was buried at Burton on 12 February. Her address was recorded as 'The Nook', Puddington.

Marjorie Ann baptised at Burton on 19 September 1886 Marjorie married William James Perkin of Helsby at Burton on 22 May 1913. Marjorie was 27 and William, a gardener, was also 27. The witnesses were Marjorie's siblings Hugh and Lizzie. In the 1939 Register the family was living at 'Mostyn Cottage', Robin Hood Lane, Runcorn:

William J Perkin	born 29 December 1885	gardener (now full-time ARP Warden)
Marjorie A	born 4 August 1886	
Marjorie A	born 28 July 1921	single cardroom worker, cable works

Three lines of the record have been redacted

Marjorie jnr married Donald J Kirkham at St John's Presbyterian Church, Runcorn in mid-1942.

Although William J Perkin died in early 1966 aged 80, it is not known when Marjorie snr died.

Richard )  
Henry )

Richard and Henry were twins and both were baptised, privately, on 9 May 1888. Both died shortly after their birth; Henry was buried on 23 May 1888, aged 2 weeks, and Richard was buried on 27 May 1888, aged 18 days.

Lizzie baptised at Burton on 19 April 1889. Nothing further is known of Lizzie.

Francis baptised at Burton on 1 March 1891 he died, aged 7, and was buried at Burton on 26 October 1898.

Alfred baptised at Burton on 6 August 1893, he died on 22 June 1964 and was buried at Burton on 26 June, aged 71. His address was recorded as 2A Greenfield Road, Little Sutton. Alfred married Mary Ellen Henshaw at St Paul's Church, Hooton, in late 1917 and he served in WW1.

Alfred enlisted with the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Cheshire Regiment on 9 September 1914 when he had the Service Number 2290. Transferring to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment (Service Number 49394) Alfred was wounded on 17 August 1917 but survived the war and was demobilised on 13 February 1919. He had served as a signaller and became an Acting Lance Corporal. He died on 22 June 1964 aged 71 and was buried at Burton.

In the 1939 Register the family is recorded at 6 King's Road, Little Sutton:

Alfred Hughes	born 22 May 1893	process worker, margarine manufacturer's
Mary E	born 14 February 1885	
Joseph W	born 29 September 1920	single apprentice electrician

It is not known when Mary Hughes died.

By the time of the 1901 census the family - Susannah had died in May 1893 and was buried at Burton on 1 June, aged 39 - had moved to a cottage near New House Farm on Puddington Lane, Puddington (towards the junction with the Chester High Road).

In August 1900 Sarah Hughes (born 1 January 1874) had married Thomas Gerrard at Burton Parish Church and, at the time of the 1901 census, Joseph Hughes was with them at Waterloo, near Southport. Not recorded as a visitor, it appears that Joseph was living with his sister at this time.

John Hughes	Head	Widow	50	Gardener Domestic	Worker	born	Burton
Thomas Edward Do	Son	M	25	Ordinary Agricultural Labourer	Worker	Do	Do
John Do	Son	S	23	Horseman on Farm	Worker	Do	Do
William Do	Son	S	21	Groom Domestic	Worker	Do	Do
Hugh Thomas Do	Son	S	16	Carter, out of work		Do	Do
Margary Ann Do	Daughter	S	14	Keeps Household Duties		Do	Do
Lizzie Do	Daughter	S	12	Farmer		Do	Do
Alfred Do	Son	S	7			Do	Do

1901 census (extract) – Puddington

John Hughes	50	widower, gardener, domestic	born Burton
Thomas Edward	25	ordinary agricultural labourer	born Burton
John	23	horseman on farm	born Burton
William	21	groom, domestic	born Burton
Hugh Thomas	16	carter, out of work	born Burton
Margary Ann	14	keeps household duties	born Burton
Lizzie	12	farmer	born Burton
Alfred	7		born Burton

Thomas Gerrard	Head	M	24	Labourer in Brickworks	Worker	born	Burton
Sarah Do	Wife	M	27			Do	Do
Joseph Hughes	Boys in law	S	20	Groom Domestic	Worker	Do	Do

1901 census (extract) – 4, Norway Street, Waterloo, Southport

Thomas Gerrard	24	labourer in brickworks	born Burton
Sarah	27		born Burton
Joseph Hughes	20	groom, domestic	born Burton

Norway, Sweden and Denmark Street off St John's Road in Waterloo were known locally as Little Scandinavia. Only Sweden Street now remains.

By the time of the 1911 census Joseph was back living with his father and unmarried siblings, now living at Rake Cottage in the centre of Burton.

Also in the household was John Alfred Gerrard (born 28 October 1901 and baptised at Burton on 22 December), the son of Thomas and Sarah (née Hughes) Gerrard.

John married Mary Catherine Jones (born 12 January 1901) at Neston Parish Church in early 1925 and in the 1939 Register they were recorded as living at Rake Cottage, Burton, and John was a gardener. Mary died on Wirral in late 1967 and John died, in the Darlington area, in early 1972.

John Hughes, Joseph's father, died in 1933 whilst living at Rake Cottage and he was buried at Burton, aged 82, on 18 February.



Rake Cottage, The Rake, Burton  
[Source : <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/>]



1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
1	John Hughes	Head	60	Widower	02	11	3		Domestic Gardener	78	Widow	Widow	Cheshire	Burton	
2	William Hughes	Lon	31	Single					Domestic Coachman	76	Widow	Widow	Cheshire	Burton	
3	Joseph Hughes	Lon	30	Single					Estate Labourer	74	Widow	Widow	Cheshire	Burton	
4	Hugh Thomas Hughes	Lon	26	Single					Horseman on Farm	73	Widow	Widow	Cheshire	Burton	
5	Marjory Ann Hughes	Daughter	24	Single					Housekeeper	70	Widow	Widow	Cheshire	Burton	
6	Lizzie Hughes	Daughter	21	Single					Between maid domestic	70	Widow	Widow	Cheshire	Burton	
7	Alfred Hughes	Lon	17	Single					Horseman on Farm	70	Widow	Widow	Cheshire	Burton	
8	John Alfred Gerrard	Grandson	9	School					School				Cheshire	Burton	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)			(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling)		
I certify that— (1) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column. (2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sums with the total number of persons. (3) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous. Initials of Enumerator: <i>A.A.H.K.</i>			Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Pantries, or Apartments), Count the Kitchens as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop. 5		
Males	Females	Total	I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.		
6	2	8	Signature: <i>John Hughes</i>		
			Postal Address: <i>Rake Cottage, Burton, Cheshire</i>		

1911 census (condensed) – Rake Cottage, Burton

John Hughes	60	widower, domestic gardener	born Burton
William	31	domestic coachman	born Burton
Joseph	30	estate labourer	born Burton
Hugh Thomas	26	horseman on farm	born Burton
Marjory Ann	24	housekeeper	born Burton
Lizzie	21	between maid domestic	born Burton
Alfred	17	horseman on farm	born Burton
John Alfred Gerrard	9	grandson	born Burton

Until her death in 1893 John and Susannah had been married for 22 years and 11 of their 14 children had survived.

Thomas and Sarah had moved back into Burton where Thomas was now a horseman on a farm (although in other records he was recorded as a labourer). Living with them and their daughter (Sophia Marjory, 3, baptised at Burton on 22 December 1907) was Sarah's widowed brother, John Hughes (a horseman on a farm), and his four young children. Thomas had lost another child (Thomas, baptised at Burton on 25 January 1903 but died, aged one month, and was buried on 14 February) but on 27 October 1912 they baptised another son, Hugh Thomas Gerrard.

The 1939 Register records Thomas Gerrard as a roadman with Neston UDC living at 'Church View', Burton, with Sarah and Sarah's divorced brother, Thomas Edward Hughes, a general farm labourer and Sarah's widowed brother, farm labourer John Hughes.

The location of Susannah Hughes, the eldest daughter of John and Susannah, has not been found in either the 1901 or 1911 census returns.

Sophia Hughes was, in 1901, an 18-year old housemaid at a house on Burton Road; she married domestic gardener William Parry of Burton at Burton Parish Church in October 1908 and in 1911 they were living with their young son (William Francis Parry, 1) at a house called 'Little Style' in Ness.

As the Service Record of Joseph Hughes has not been found few details of his army career or his death are known. It is understood that he enlisted in Wrexham, firstly into the Denbighshire Yeomanry (where his Service Number was 1683) but later entered the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers where he had the Service Number 11176. The 16<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion was formed at Llandudno in November 1914 by the Welsh National

Executive Committee from recruits who were surplus to the 13<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> North Wales) Battalion.

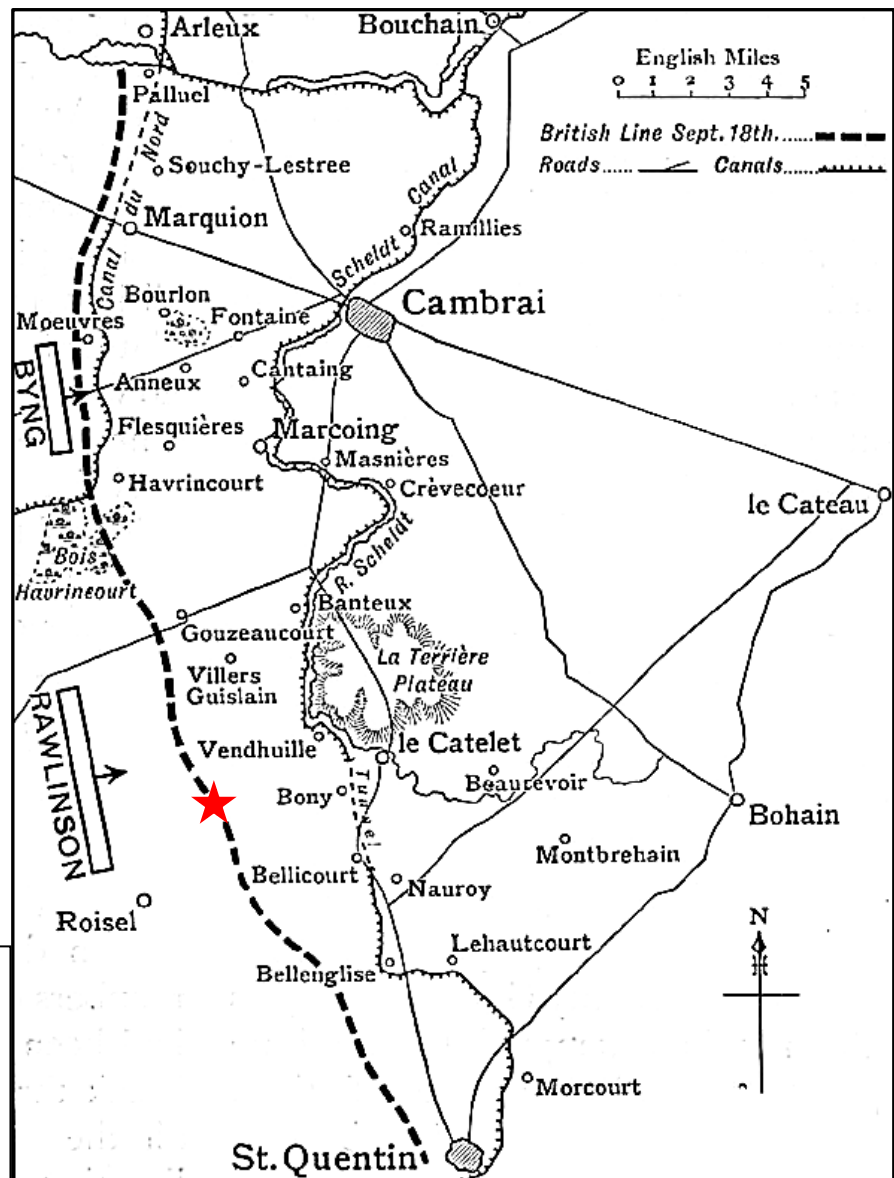
In November 1914 the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion came under the orders of the 128<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 43<sup>rd</sup> Division at Llandudno and on 28 April 1915 the formation became the 113<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 38<sup>th</sup> (Welsh) Division.

The troops moved to Winchester in August 1915 and landed in France in December 1915.

Although Joseph appears to have served with the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion for some time he later transferred to the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion, where his Service Number became 54504, and he was serving with them when he died in September 1918.

The 25<sup>th</sup> (Montgomeryshire & Welsh Horse Yeomanry) Battalion had been formed, at Helmia in Egypt, on 4 March 1917, from the dismounted Montgomery and Welsh Horse Yeomanry and they came under the orders of the 231<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 74<sup>th</sup> (Yeomanry) Division before moving to France in early May 1918. Having taken part in The Second Battles of the Somme the 74<sup>th</sup> (Yeomanry) were, in mid-September 1918, engaged in The Battle of Epehy which commenced on 18 September when the British Fourth Army,

(under the command of General Henry Rawlinson) fought against German outpost positions on the high ground in front of the Hindenburg Line. On 18 September at 5.20am, the attack opened and the troops advanced, despite the lack of assistance from the promised French forces, but supported by two Australian divisions. The assault commenced with a creeping artillery barrage from approximately 1,500 guns and 300 machine guns. Although the Germans held steady on both flanks, they were defeated in the centre by the Allied advance, led by two Australian divisions under General John Monash.



The red star indicates the location of the village of Epehy with the front line to the west in mid-September 1918.

[Source : <http://www.stoke-sub-hamdon.co.uk/centenary-great-war/albert-victor-trotman/>]

By the end of the day, the Allies had advanced about three miles, encouraging Haig to develop further attacks to capitalise on the emerging German weaknesses.

The battle achieved its main objective, putting the Fourth Army in place in preparation for the upcoming attack on the Hindenburg Line. Although German resistance was more determined than at Amiens it was not as stiff as it had been earlier in the war and by the end of the month, pressing their advantage and pushing ahead with their so-called "Hundred Days Offensive," the Allies had broken the formidable Hindenburg Line.

During the action 11,750 prisoners and 100 guns were captured.

Over the next several days British forces encountered stubborn resistance but gained more ground to the east of Epehy, capturing Le Petit Priel Farm and other strong positions. It was, very probably, during these following skirmishes that Joseph Hughes was killed. Joseph was, most likely, buried locally before being removed to the Unicorn Cemetery when this was created after the Armistice.

The Battle of Epehy saw the first mutiny of Australian forces, when 119 men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Battalion refused to conduct an attack to help the neighbouring British unit. Rather than face charges of desertion in the face of the enemy, they were charged with being AWOL (with all but one soldier having their charges dropped after the Armistice).

[Source: Wikipedia]

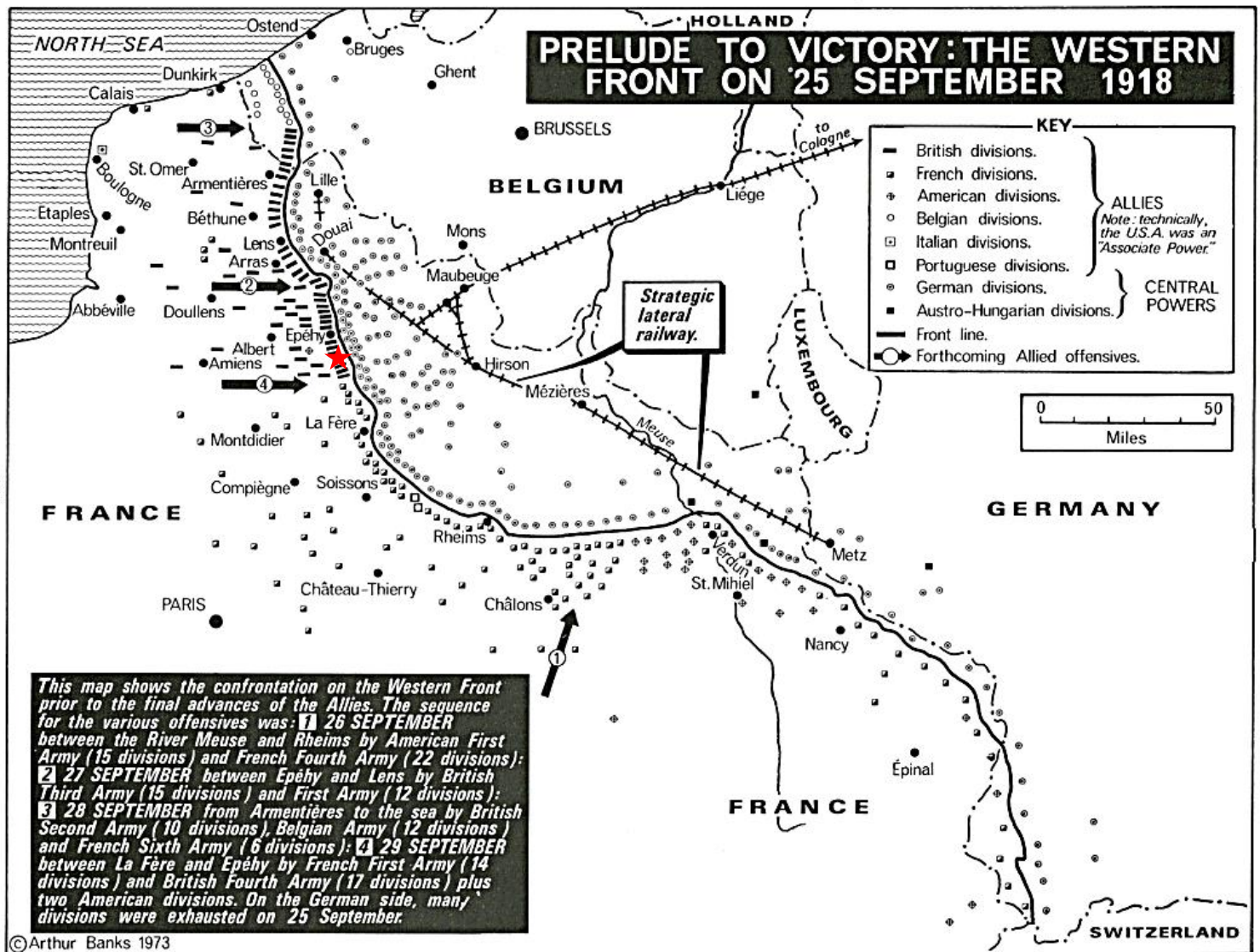


Epehy, 1918

Contemporary artwork showing four stretcher-bearers walking along a wet road holding a wounded soldier on a stretcher high on their shoulders. There is a dead horse in the left of the composition and the corpse of a German soldier to the right, each lying at the side of the road. Four figures walk behind; two supporting the third, wounded, and the fourth trailing at the back. A shell-burst rises up in a field beyond the road in the left of the composition.

[Source : [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Epehy,\\_1918\\_Art.IWMART3653.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Epehy,_1918_Art.IWMART3653.jpg)]





This map shows the confrontation on the Western Front prior to the final advances of the Allies. The sequence for the various offensives was: 1 26 SEPTEMBER between the River Meuse and Rheims by American First Army (15 divisions) and French Fourth Army (22 divisions); 2 27 SEPTEMBER between Epéhy and Lens by British Third Army (15 divisions) and First Army (12 divisions); 3 28 SEPTEMBER from Armentières to the sea by British Second Army (10 divisions), Belgian Army (12 divisions) and French Sixth Army (6 divisions); 4 29 SEPTEMBER between La Fère and Epéhy by French First Army (14 divisions) and British Fourth Army (17 divisions) plus two American divisions. On the German side, many divisions were exhausted on 25 September.

It seems probable that Joseph Hughes was killed to the north of St Quentin (indicated by the red star) on 21 September 1918. This map indicates the front line positions a few days after his death.

[Source: *A Military Atlas of the First World War* Arthur Banks Leo Cooper (an imprint of Pen & Sword Books) 2001]

Note: The database UK Soldiers died in the Great War records that Joseph enlisted in Wrexham for the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion (his place of residency was noted as Neston) and that he had served formerly with the Denbighshire Yeomanry when his Service Number was 1683. No other indication or record of service with the Denbighshire Yeomanry is known.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
HUGHES	RW Fus	Pte	11176 54504
Joseph	—		
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	J/2/02 <sup>B</sup>	196265	
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

6265 (b).		ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS.			REGIMENT OR CORPS.		of 19/.		
by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 301 and 266.							
Regtl. No.	Rank	NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regtl. Nos. therein: the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations (a) Presented (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock		REMARKS	
54504.	Pte	HUGHES, Joseph.	R.W.Fus. Pte. 11176. 16/R.W.Fus. 54504. 16/R.W.Fus. 16/R.W.Fus. R.W.Fus. 25/R.W.Fus.						Infantry Base Depot.      Infantry Base Depot.

WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920 British War Medal and Victory Medal

953534	17692	Hughes, Joseph	25 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>ty</sup> Welsh Fus <sup>ry</sup> France 10-19. Pte. 54504. Award.	24-9-18. Shrewsbury 20 12 1.				16.12.19. J. John	20 12 1	
Includes War Grat £16-10-										

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. Joseph's father John received a payment of £20 12s 1d from the army which included a War Gratuity of £16 10s. This is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £3950 in 2016.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.