

## 141: Joseph Hulse

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

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

Rank: Serjeant

Battalion / Regiment: 'B' Coy, 11<sup>th</sup> Bn. Cheshire Regiment

Service Number: 16462

Date of Death: 10 October 1916

Age at Death: 27

Buried / Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial, Thiepval, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France

Additional information given by CWGC: Husband of Florence May Hulse, of Spealmans Cottages\*, Frodsham Bridge, Cheshire.

[\* This is erroneous – the address was Speakman's Cottages, Clifton Road, Sutton Weaver ]

Joseph Hulse worked as a signalman on the London & North Western Railway at Hadlow Road Station, Willaston, and is commemorated on the Willaston War Memorial. He is recorded in this work as he lived, perhaps only briefly, in Parkgate. Some of the details of his life, which have not been verified are taken from the publication *Lest We Forget : Willaston Remembers Its First World War Fallen*.

Joseph Hulse was born (apparently on 12 April 1889) in the Winsford district, a son of labourer James Reuben and Emily Hulse. James Reuben Hulse married Emily Wildblood in early 1888 at St Mary's Church, Whitegate, a small village between Northwich and Winsford although neither of them originated from that immediate area. Clearly, the couple lived in east Cheshire for many years, recorded variously at Winsford, Northwich and Sutton Weaver near Frodsham.

Jas. R. Hulse	Head	Man	28	Salt Labourer	x	Ches Overton
Emily Do	Wife	W	33			Mow Cop
Charles Do	Son	M	6	Schooler		Ches Winsford
Joseph Do	Son					" "
Jas. Do	Son		1 mo			" "

1891 census (extract) – 10 Chapel Street, Northwich

Jas. R. Hulse	28	salt labourer	born Overton, Cheshire
Emily	33		born Mow Cop, Staffs.
Charles	6		born Winsford
Joseph	1		born Winsford
Jas.	1 month		born Winsford

James Reuben Hulse, the son born in (probably) March 1891 died, aged 5, in mid-1896 in the Northwich district.

By the time of the 1901 census the family had moved from Northwich to Sutton Weaver, on the A65 a short distance north-east of Frodsham and close to the navigable River Weaver. Despite their move, James was still working in the Cheshire salt industry. Two further children had been born, Levi (born mid-1895) and Mary Ann (born late-1897).

James Hulse	Head	M	38	✓	Labourer at Salt works	Dr	Overton
Emily	Wife	M	44	✓			Mow Cop
Charles	Son	S	16	✓	Boiler Cleaner Chemical	Dr	Winsford
Joseph Hulse	Son		11	✓			Winsford
Levi	Son		6	✓			Winsford
Mary	Daughter		3	✓			Winsford

1901 census (extract) – Marshgate, Sutton, Northwich

James Hulse	38	labourer at salt works	born Overton
Emily	44		born Mow Cop
Charles	16	boiler cleaner, chemical wk.	born Winsford
Joseph	11		born Winsford
Levi	6		born Winsford
Mary	3		born Winsford

It is understood that Joseph was appointed as a porter at Dunham Hill Railway Station on 2 November 1909. This was a station, long-since demolished, on the Birkenhead, Lancashire & Cheshire Junction Railway's (BLCJR) Warrington and Chester line which opened on 31 October 1850. The station, opened as Dunham on 18 December 1850, was located to the west of the small settlement of Dunham-on-the-Hill between Mickle Trafford and Helsby. The December 1895 timetable showed 7 up and 7 down services Monday-to-Saturday with 2 trains in each direction on Sundays.

It is recorded that Joseph moved to Parkgate, still as a railway porter, on 14 November 1910 and he was recorded as being a boarder in Parkgate in the 1911 census:

**GENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

Number of Schedule 166  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last birthday) and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.		BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of —	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted.	Children born alive since present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have died.				Personal Occupation.
John Thomas Brazenell	Head	30	Married					Railway Signalman	514	Walsley	Stafford, Knightley	090
Sarah Ann Brazenell	Wife	29	Married								Shropshire, Shelve	4270
John Reginald Brazenell	Son	6	Married								Shropshire, Shrewsbury	1
Clement William Brazenell	Son	4	Married								Cheshire, Winsford	
Joseph Hulse	Boarder	21	Single					Railway Porter	518	Walsley	Cheshire, Winsford	
Joseph Pollitt	Boarder	60	Single					Traveller	494	Sea Road	Lancashire, Winwick	050

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that —  
 (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper age column.  
 (2) I have entered the names and Surnames in Columns 3 and 4 respectively, and have compared them with the total number of persons.  
 (3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on this Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Total: Males 5, Females 1, Persons 6

(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 declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature J. L. Brazenell  
 Postal Address The Parade, Parkgate, Cheshire

1911 census (condensed) – The Parade, Parkgate

John Thomas Brazenell	30	railway signalman	born Knightley, Stafford
Sarah Ann	29		born Shelve, Shropshire
John Reginald	6		born Shrewsbury
Clement William	4		born Shrewsbury
Joseph Hulse	21	boarder, railway porter	born Winsford
Joseph Pollitt	64	boarder, traveller (tea dealer)	born Winwick, Lancs.



In 1911 Joseph's parents (James, 48, was now recorded as a general labourer), brother Levi (16, farm labourer) and sister Mary Ann (13) were living at Marshgate Cottage, Sutton Weaver, Frodsham. The census return notes that James and Emily had been married for 24 years and that three of their four children were still alive (although this is inaccurate as one child [James] is known to have died and four were still living. The eldest child, Charles William Hulse (27, a farmer's labourer in 1911) had married Elizabeth Ainsworth at a Civil Marriage in Runcorn in late 1909 and in 1911 they were living on Belle Mont Road, Frodsham, with their newly-born daughter Janet.

Apparently, Joseph Hulse moved from his post at Parkgate to become a signalman at Hadlow Road Station on 4 September 1911 - it is not certain whether he then lived in Willaston - and was employed at Hadlow Road on the outbreak of war.

Hadlow Road Station opened on 1 October 1866 as part of the Great Western Railway & London and North Western Railway Joint Railway's Hooton – Parkgate branch line. Hooton was on the Joint Companies Birkenhead to Chester line which had opened in 1840.

On 19 April 1886 the branch line had been extended from Parkgate to West Kirby and, in December 1895, Hadlow Road had eleven down trains and eleven up trains from Monday to Friday with an extra up train (northwards) on Saturdays and Tuesday).

Joseph Hulse married Florence May Turner in St Peter's Church in the small hamlet of Aston-by-Sutton near Runcorn in July / September 1915. Florence was a daughter of domestic gardener Thomas and Elizabeth Ann Turner of Speakmans Cottages, Frodsham Bridge. Florence had been born at Sutton Weaver and in 1911, aged 19, was recorded as a jam wrapper. It is believed that Joseph and Florence did not have any children and that Florence remarried (to Albert V Robinson) at Trinity Methodist Church, Davenham, in late 1922. Nothing further is known of Florence.



Speakmans Cottages, Sutton Weaver  
[Google Street View]

The 11<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion was formed in Chester on 17 September 1914 as part of the Third New Army (K3) and then moved to Codford St Mary in the 75<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 25<sup>th</sup> Division before moving to Bournemouth.

In May 1915 the troops moved to Aldershot and on 26 September 1915 were mobilised for war, landed in France and engaged in several actions on the Western Front which included, in 1916, the German attack on Vimy Ridge (21 May), The Battle of Albert (1 - 13 July), The Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14 -17 July), The Battle of Pozieres (23 July - 3 September), and The Battle of the Ancre Heights (1 October - 11 November). As Joseph died on 10 October he was, presumably, in action during the earlier stages of the Ancre Heights conflict.

Although the account relates primarily to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion (which worked alongside the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Joseph Hulse's unit), Arthur Crookenden's account of the opening stages of the conflict gives some indication of this time:

### ANCRE HEIGHTS. 1st October to 11th November.

Maps p. 92, 93

This battle was undertaken to gain the ridge running from just south west of Martinpuich to the high ground north of Thiepval, which was crowned by the Schwaben and Stuff redoubts.

The capture of this ridge would give us the observation over the Ancre Valley and Grandcourt.

Thiepval had been captured, but not the top of the ridge.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> October, our 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion made a single-handed attack on the Stuff redoubt under Colonel A. C. Johnston. The attack started in the southern portion of the redoubt, which was in our hands, and was intended to capture the remainder.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion moved up by platoons and relieved the troops holding the front line by 10-15 a.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A hot meal was issued. By 12-35, when an intense artillery fire opened on the enemy trenches, every man was in his place. The barrage was rather "over" the enemy trench. Under its cover, the Battalion formed up in no-man's land and advanced in excellent style, keeping good direction and not bunching.

Thanks to the splendid leadership of 2nd/Lieuts. Wilson and Hills, the advance of the first wave was so rapid that our men were in the German trenches before their men had time to man the parapet and get their machine guns to work. On the right, the enemy put up a poor fight. On the left, a bombing party rushed a strong point where there were several deep dug-outs, from which many Germans were emerging. A *mélée* ensued. Many Germans were killed in the open or in dug-outs. Five officers and 100 men were captured. Some very fierce bombing and a determined bayonet charge under 2nd/Lieut. Hills ensued before the enemy blocks, some way up the two communication trenches leading away from the Redoubt, were captured, these being the second objectives.

A block was then made here to protect the left flank, but was twice destroyed by our own artillery fire. The third wave, led by Captain Simmons, materially assisted in the capture of the second objective.

By this time, all communication with our Artillery had been cut, and increasing German pressure with bomb and rifle drove our men back some 50 yards.

All the time, enemy shelling was severe on the communication and support trenches, making the supply of bombs and ammunition very precarious.

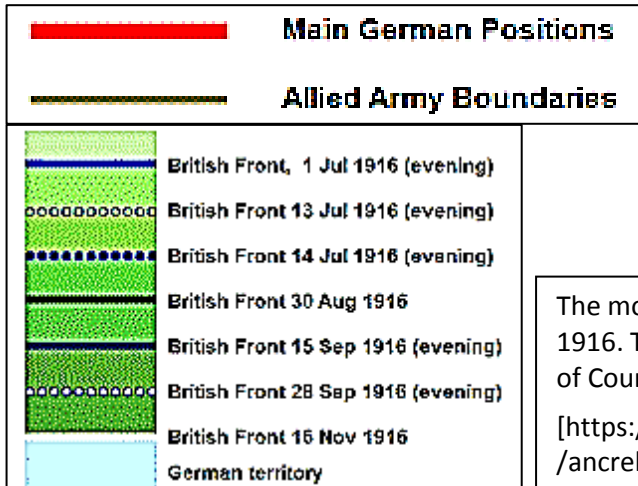
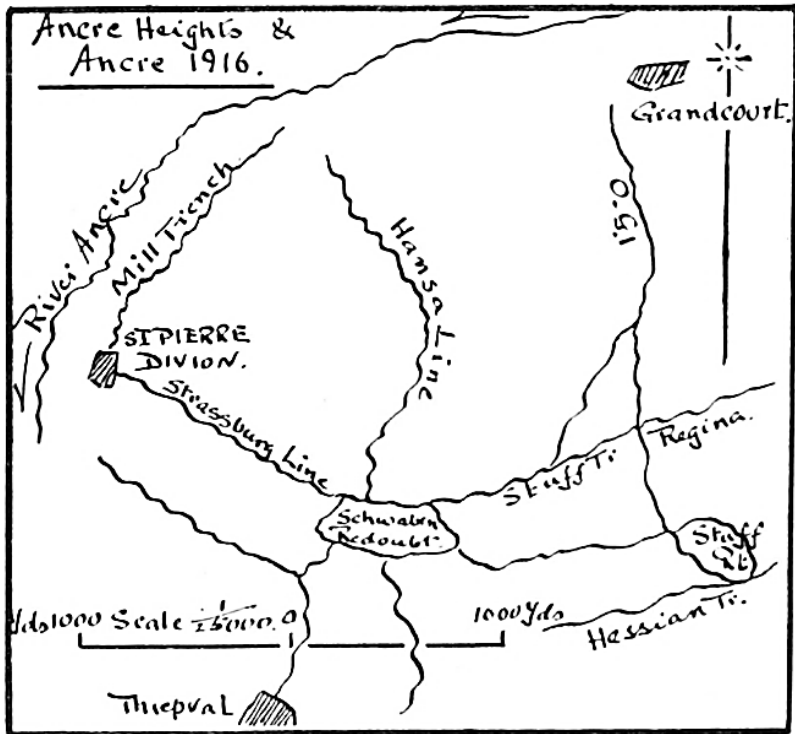
At about 4-30 p.m., the enemy brought up a *minenwerfer* and under cover of its fire and of a heavy artillery barrage, made a counter-attack which was successfully driven off. The gallantry and energy of two artillery subalterns of the 58<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade, 2nd/Lieuts. Taylor and Touse, did much to maintain protective artillery fire and to defeat the counter attack.

The situation quietened about 7 p.m., but a fresh counter-attack in the night was repulsed.

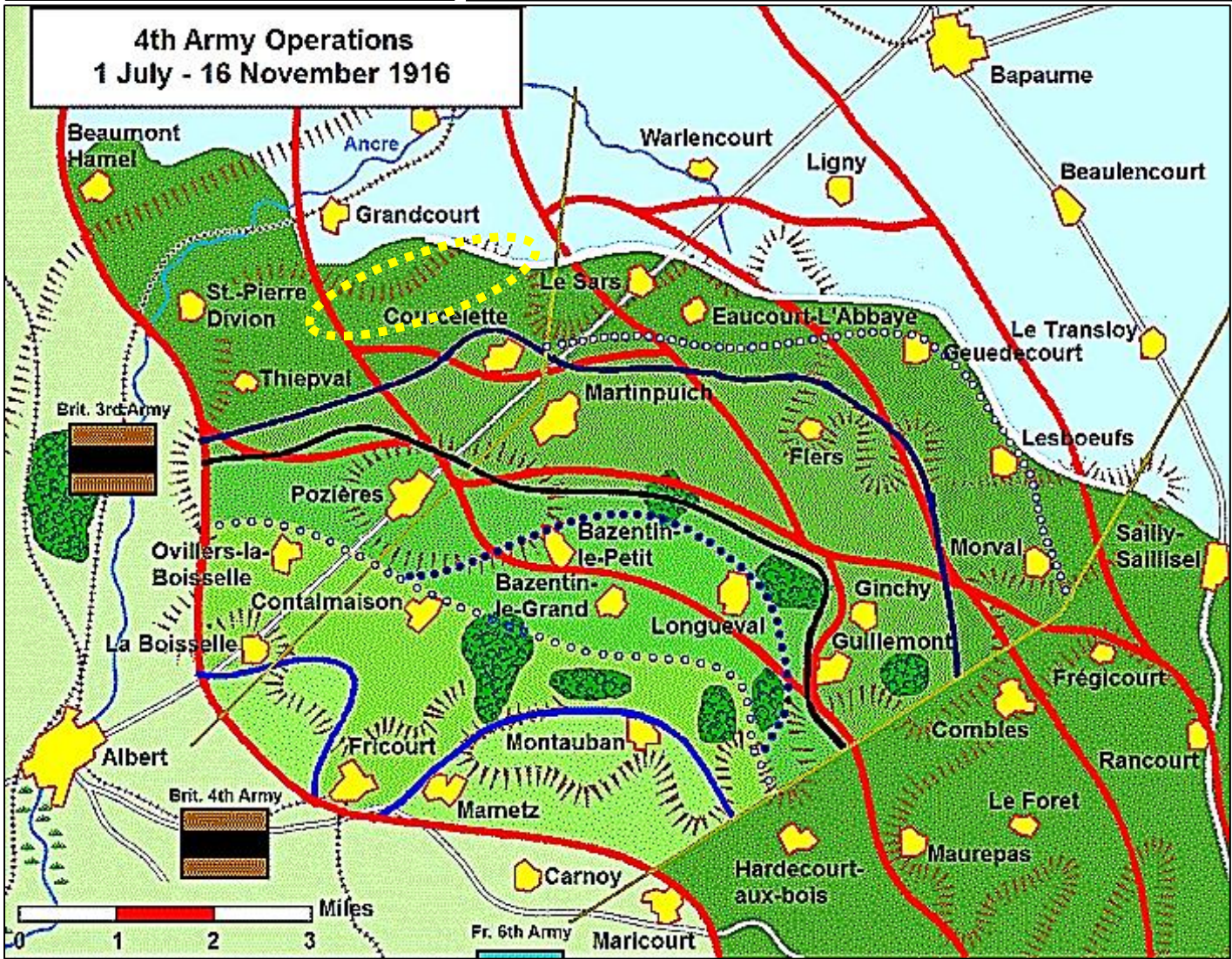
A company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wiltshire Regiment was invaluable in carrying bombs and stores during the whole action.



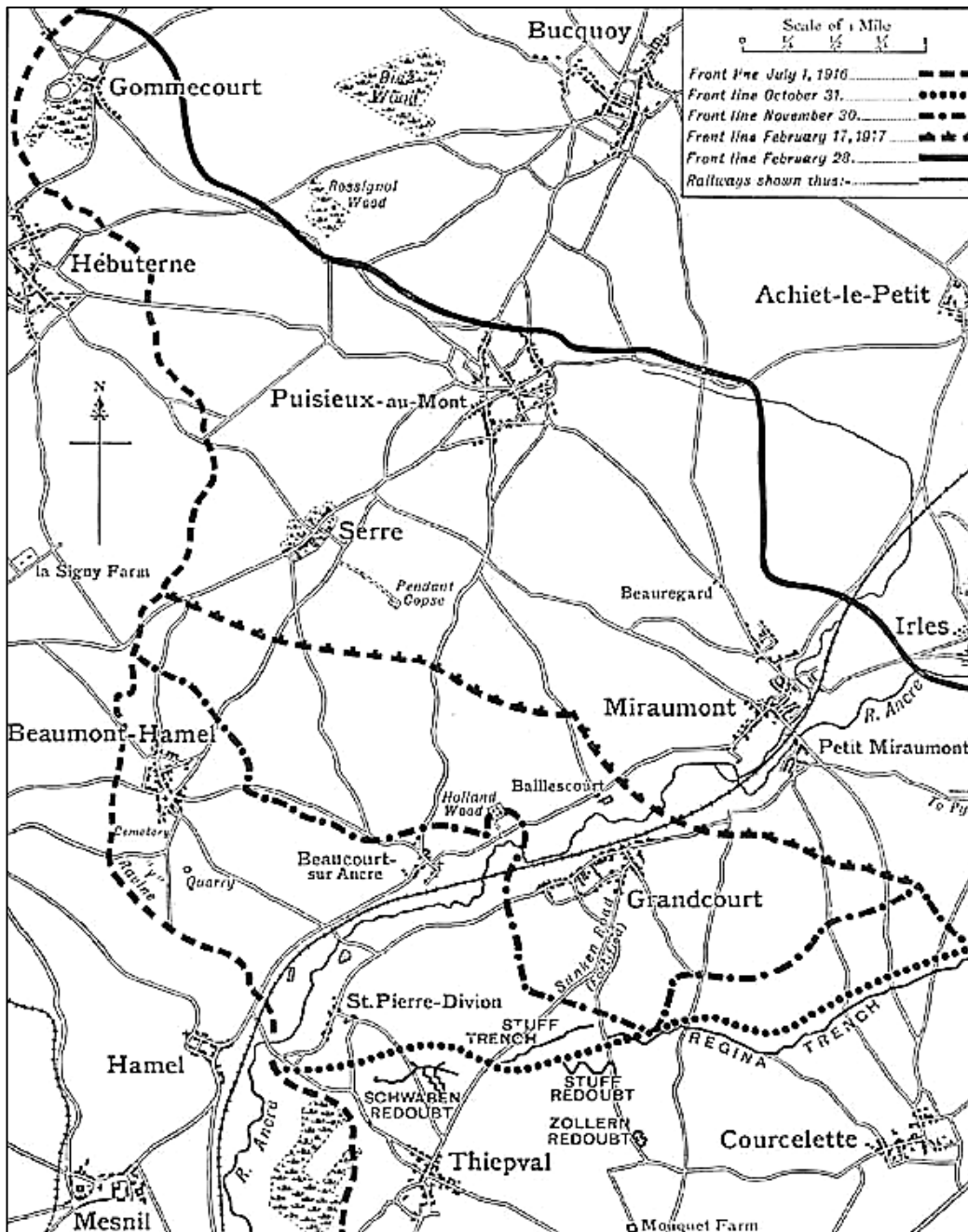
[Text and sketch map :  
*The History of the Cheshire Regiment in the  
 Great War, 1914-1918*  
 A. Crookenden, Colonel of the Regiment  
 WH Evans, Sons & Co. Ltd. 1938]



The movement of Allied forces north and eastwards during mid- to late-1916. The location of the Ancre Heights, south of Grandcourt and north of Courcellette, has been encircled in yellow.  
[\[https://www.canadiansoldiers.com/history/battlehonours/westernfront/ancreheights.htm\]](https://www.canadiansoldiers.com/history/battlehonours/westernfront/ancreheights.htm)







British advances from October, 1916 to February 28, 1917  
 [http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/maps/somme16f.jpg]

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
HULSE	Ches. R.	L/CPL	16462
Joseph	-	7. Sp	-

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	10/10/17	2113	Kin A 10.10.16
BRITISH	20	20	
15 STAR	1/2/15	819	

Theatre of War first served in	Date of entry therein
(1) France	25.9.15

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

As Joseph Hulse is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme it is clear that his body was not recovered or that his grave is unknown.

The Thiepval Memorial commemorates 72,246 missing British and South African servicemen who died in the Battles of the Somme between 1915 and 1918 and who have no known grave.

Joseph is commemorated also on the LNWR Roll of Honour.