

Hick's family

John Colin Hicks, born 1890. Son of John Thomas Hicks
Regimental No 436. Bombardier.

In 1911 he is living at 91 Reeves Road, Derby. He is listed as working at the railway waggon works.

His service record shows that he joined up on 26/10/1911 and assigned as a Private in Royal Field Artillery.

He married Lily Eaton in April 1914 and they lived at 126 Abbey Street Derby
Later that year he was sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force.

He was injured, a shrapnel wound to the left thigh and shipped back to London for treatment on 7 /09/1915. Sadly, he died 21/09/1915. I have a copy of a newspaper article that showed that he had a full military funeral in Derby.

His grave is in Nottingham Road cemetery. His name is listed on the Midland Road war memorial.

Just as a codicil when his wife claimed his pension a year or so later and by then she had remarried to a Alfred Mawbey, John's best friend!

Lawrence Hicks, born 1894. Son of John Thomas Hicks and brother to John Colin

Regimental Nos 456, 30526

In 1911 he is living at 91 Reeves Road, Derby, a tin smith at railway waggon works.

His service record shows that he joined up on 14/12/1911 and was a Private in 17th Battalion Notts & Derby, later he is with 4/nth Mid Howitzer Brigade RFA. I can only find part of his service history and this shows that he was discharged on 5/8/1914 as medically unfit.

There should be another set of records as I know that he fought in France because his medal card shows he was awarded a Victory and British medal.

Sadly he also died in France in 1916 on 3 Sept .Lawrence's name is listed on his parents gravestone in Nottingham Road cemetery. He name is listed on the Midland Road war memorial.

The family story is that their father, John Thomas Hicks, veteran of the Boer war, was so distraught at the warmongering at John ' s funeral that he joined up as well. I can't find any service records though I do have a photo of John senior in battle dress with his superior officer.

I also have a montage photo of John senior and his two sons that may be of interest.

Thomas Hicks born 1896, son of Richard Hicks; cousin to John Colin and Lawrence.

Regimental Nos South Notts 44201, 1/6 Hussars 2212 and Sherwood Foresters 7749/242539.

In 1911 he is living at 52 Duke Street, Chesterfield, working in his fathers wholesale grocery business, having been taken out of school to assist after his mother died in 1910

Thomas enlisted on 11/12/1915, and become a infantryman and Lewis gunner. Following training, he was sent to France in 1917. He was injured on 23/12/1917, a shrapnel wound to the right leg and was shipped back to a convalescence hospital in Aberdeen in May 1918, finally being discharged in1919.

He went back to the grocery business and died in the 1960s. I have one or two poor photos of Thomas in his convalescent uniform if you are interested.

Lawrence Simpson born 1897 son of Thomas Simpson and Rebecca, nee Hicks, nephew of Richard Hicks and John Thomas Hicks.
Regimental Nos 15954, 4th Bttn Sherwood Foresters and 23294, 6th Bttn Kings Own Royal Lancashire Regt.

In 1911 he is living at 74 Duke Street Chesterfield and is listed a wagon repairer working at the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Works.

Lawrence enlisted on 1 Sept 1914 and he served as a machine gunner. Following training he was sent to France, as part of an Expeditionary Force on 3/5/1915

He was declared a deserter on 25-3-16 and 'rejoined' on 21-4-16 and was then transferred to the KORL Regiment on 5/5/1916 just in time to be shipped out to Mesopotamia.

There is a letter in his file dating from 1916 from his mother to his commanding officer stating that he had suffered enough and asking for him to be discharged from the army. At the time, Mrs Simpson was living in Burley in Leeds.

His records he also served in India, eventually being transferred to the Military Hospital in Salonika 24-12-18 with Influenza. He made uneventful recovery, however, there is a comment that he had malaria twice in 1917!

Lawrence was discharged from the Mill Lane Military Hospital in Manchester in April 1919.

The first photo is a montage of John Thomas Hicks with his two sons John Collin and Lawrence.



The next two are of the two sons individually.



John Colin Hicks



Lawrence Hicks

The photo shows an officer and two sergeants. The one on the far right is John Thomas, I presume in a camp after joining up again. He has retained his sergeants rank from the Boer war.



Thomas Hicks, on a horse after joining up - the stock photo- and later in the blue uniform at the convalescence home, after returning to the UK wounded.



Lawrence Simpson, the photo has the note Bangalore 1918 and on the back one of the soldiers writes can you see the dog! I think Lawrence is the one on the right as he is about the right age (22), the other man looks in his mid 30s.

