

## **LIEUTENANT HUGH RUSSEL** **3rd Tunnelling Company**

Hugh Russel was born at Highgate, London, England on 11 March 1873, the son of Thomas Clarkson and Ann Elizabeth (nee Kidd) Russel.

Hugh trained as an attorney in his father's chambers, but when Thomas ordered Hughs' brother Archibald to become a partner in the family business, (solicitors), Archie did not want to. Hugh did, but Thomas didn't invite Hugh, so both his elder sons, and then daughter Elizabeth Viola, emigrated to the colonies.

In the 1891 Census he is an 18-year-old Bank Clerk living with his aunt, Rachel Russel, and his brother 19-year-old brother Archibald, a Solicitors Articled Clerk, at her home at 'West View', Hadley Highstone, Enfield, Middlesex

Hugh arrives in Western Australia in 1893, persuaded by his brother Archie who had emigrated before him. He retrains as a surveyor and in 1897 he is surveying for gold.

In 1901 Hugh persuades their sister Lizzie (Elizabeth Viola) to come out to WA. She marries Alfred Thomson in WA on 15 August 1902.

7377 Private Alfred Thomson, 51st Infantry Battalion, enlisted 8 October 1917 age 37 years and 9 months, embarked 13 March 1918 on board RMS *Ormonde* and returned to Australia on 17 October 1919.

On 9 March 1901 Hugh married Alice Rose Eloise Yelverton. Alice was born in 1875 at Quindalup, Western Australia, the daughter of Henry and Mary (nee Marshall) Yelverton.

A daughter, Doris Ethel Russel is born at Perth on 30 March 1902.



Hugh Russel's Surveying Team with Camels (Hugh is centre, bearded) - this is either during his surveying trip across the Nullarbor, or when he was working inland Western Australia, near Geraldton. It was while he was on a camp like this that his wife Alice Yelverton bore him a daughter, Doris Ethel Russel, in 1901

Photos courtesy Lisa Barry.

Hugh did not hear the news for several months when the mail finally reached him, somewhere east of Geraldton. By the time he reached civilisation again, his wife was dead, having never recovered from childbirth.

Alice died on 28 October 1902 of pernicious anaemia. A plaque is installed at St Marys Church, Busselton.

Alices' sister Georgiana comes back overland from Melbourne after her sister Alice dies, to help look after her niece Doris. She is living in High St, Fremantle, a typist, possibly working at the Perth Stock Exchange.

Hughs' late wife's family begins investigating adopting Doris Ethel Russel, on the grounds that Hugh is often off on expeditions into the interior, across the Kimberleys, the Gascoyne, and the Nullarbor. Hugh promises to fight them forever, and they desist.

On 15 July 1911 Hugh married Georgiana Yelverton. Not at all a marriage of convenience, so she could care for her late sister's child, (And despite being 14 years his senior) Hugh and Georgie were a love-match. Their letters held by their granddaughter show this clearly.

Hugh's brother Arthur Richard Russel, Lieutenant, 2nd Battalion, Norfolk Regiment, died on 25 December 1915 in Iraq when he was 20 years old.

Lt Russel was buried in a Commonwealth War Grave at Plot 8, Kut War Cemetery, Al Kut, Wasit, Iraq.



RUSSEL, Lt. Arthur Richard. 2nd Bn. INDEX No. Norfolk Regt. 25th Dec., 1915. Age 20. Son of Thomas Clarkson Russel and Elizabeth Russel, of 19, Morton Gardens, Wallington, Surrey. Born at Brighton. P. 8. IRAQ 1. KUT WAR CEM.

Images sourced from CWGC



Lieutenant A. R. Russel  
2nd Norfolk Regiment. He joined the Mesopotamian Force last spring, and took part under General Townshend

Image sourced from FindaGrave  
Contributed by Tim Cooper

In 1916 Hugh was teaching at Scotch College, Perth, (he'd studied the Classics at Oxford, according to his daughter), and is tutoring (among others) his nephew Mervyn Yelverton to do Medicine. Their departure for the war (and the War itself) put paid to Mervyn's ambition.

1153/2nd Lieutenant Mervyn Wilfred Yelverton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Machine Gun Company, 28th Infantry Battalion, embarks in June 1915 as a Corporal and serves at Gallipoli and on the Western Front before returning to Australia on 15 May 1919.

From the Nominal and Embarkation Rolls we know that Hugh was a 42-year-old Surveyor and Mine Manager of Perth, Western Australia, when he enlisted on 10 May 1916, recording previous service as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

He named his wife, Mrs. Georgina Russel of View Street, Cottesloe, Western Australia, as his Next of Kin and allotted three-fifths of his pay for the support of his wife and child.

The 6th Tunnelling Company was being formed in West Australia and an addition to the Commissioned ranks was 2/Lt. H. Russel who came to the company from the Pioneers on April 1st 1916. Almost immediately the individuality of the sections was established, No.1 going to Lt. Wentworth, No.2 to Lt. Wallman, 3 to Lt. Bennett, 4 to Lt. Allen, while the reinforcements fell to the latest arrival, Lt. Hugh Russel.

He embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on board HMAT A69 *Warilda* on 1 June 1916 with that unit. *Warilda* had departed Sydney, New South Wales on 22 May with the 4th Tunnelling Company (370 members) on board, stopping at Melbourne, Victoria to load stores and the 5th Tunnelling Company (370 members) before leaving there on 25 May. She arrived at Fremantle, WA on 1 June and the 371 members of the 6th Tunnelling Company were embarked. *Warilda* then voyaged via Durban and Capetown in South Africa, St Vincent in Portugal and on to Plymouth, England, arriving on 18 July.

The voyage had taken 58 days.

Most of the 6th Company proceeded overseas to France on 28 August 1916. On 25 September 1916, the 6th Tunnelling Company, which had marched in from Etaples, was absorbed into the 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company. Hugh was one of four Officers assigned to No.1 Section.

He was wounded in action (mine gas) on 28 November 1916 and was admitted to the 72nd Field Ambulance, returning to duty on 2 December.

*The Daily News*, Perth, WA – Thursday 8 February 1917:

271<sup>st</sup> Official List

The 271<sup>st</sup> official list of casualties at the fighting fronts was issued today. The Western Australian names included, with details, are as follows:-

Lt H. Russell, Cottesloe, second occasion, and returned to duty;

*Article abridged*

He was photographed with officers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Company and published in the:

*Punch* (Melbourne) Thursday August 2, 1917:

OFFICERS OF 3<sup>rd</sup> TUNNELLING COMPANY ABROAD  
on the Occasion of Review by Major-General Butcher Holland  
Bethune, Noeux-les-mines, France 1917



Officers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Company – 1917 – Aust War Memorial photo – public domain

Front row: Lieut. Robinson, Lieut. Jack Cavanagh, Lieut. John Dow, Lieut. Shaw  
Middle row: Capt. Hillman, Lieut. Crawshaw, Capt. Sanderson (2<sup>nd</sup> O.C.) Lieut. Wentworth, Capt. West (Adjutant),  
**Lieut. Russel**, Major Coulter (O.C.), Capt. Langdon, Lieut. M' Ardell, Lieut. Roy Howie  
Back row: Lieut. Buley, Lieut. Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Ashcroft, Lieut. Tyler, Lieut. Grainger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Trebilcock,  
Lieut. Wallman

On the 21 July 1917 Hugh happened to be standing talking to Corporal John Collinson; Sapper William Williams and Sapper Ernest Marsh in a trench at Hill 70, when a whiz-bang passing under his arm cut the cloth of his tunic and landing in the side of the trench 4 feet away, exploded. It was a wonderful escape from death, all four men being wounded by fragments of shell, Sapper Marsh rather severely.

About 8 a.m. on 28 June 1917, Hugh Russel with a party of Sappers examined several enemy dugouts entered from the Ahead Trench and found an explosive charge in the back of one entrance, behind the timbers about ½ way down the stairway. It was a charge of about 60 lbs weight. The C.O. in the trench was warned and the Brigade advised.



Lt Hugh Russel - left - partly obscured by his  
CO Major Jack Coulter DSO, 5 May 1917

The charge exploded one hour later and destroyed the Dugout. The Charge was doubtless exploded by a time device, probably of the copper-wire-in-acid-bath type. Other charges were discovered at the same time.

An investigation party consisting of 4 officers, 12 N.C.O.'s and 42 O.R's detailed by the 3rd Aust. Tnlg Co. to search for and remove any traps or mines left by the enemy in the area occupied by the 1st Canadian Division, during the operations at Hill 70 by the Canadian Corps, assembled in forward dugouts on the night of the 14th August 1917 under the command of Lieutenant Hugh Russel.

The first objectives were Forward Battalion Headquarters and Advanced Brigade report centre. These objectives were reached after passing through a severe enemy barrage. Having examined the first objectives, the detachments proceeded to investigate other parts of the area captured, particularly the dugout accommodation. No mines or traps were found, and any prisoners used in connection with the investigation denied all knowledge of mines or traps having been laid.

The work was carried out under trying circumstances and was much hampered, particularly on the 15th, and 16th August by the presence of many wounded Canadians and Germans in the dugouts. The dugouts of the Chalk Cutting were found to be extensive, and part had been used as a Dressing Station for wounded. It is possible that entrances from this cutting to dugouts had been crumpled in by the heavy shelling and that further accommodation may be discovered by removing the spoil from the sides of the cutting. In his report to the Controller of Mines, and 1st Canadian Div. etc, 1st Army, the C.O. testified to the good work done by all ranks.

He wrote that, Lieut. H Russel, officer in Charge, of the party and Lieut C.C. Shaw in charge of the 2nd Detachment working in the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade Area, were deserving of special mention, particularly the latter, who did exceptionally good work.

The investigation of Hill 70 commenced on the 15th of August and when all the objectives had been successfully achieved, the Investigation Party of the 3rd Aust. Tnlg Co. continued the examination of captured positions, dugouts etc. in search of booby traps and mines until the 18th, when the Party withdrew. No mines or traps were found in the area of operation, and prisoners captured, denied any knowledge of them.

The following letter was received by the C.O.

“1st Canadian Division,  
G. – 3 -20/110  
22nd Aug. 1917”

“O.C. , 3rd Aust Tnlg Coy, page 41.

Reference A.M. 0810 dated 20th inst., the G.O.C. 1st Canadian Division has asked me to forward his remarks as under:-

Please thank Major Sanderson for the excellent, thorough, and courageous work of his Detachment, especially commending Lieuts Russel and C.C. Shaw.

Thanks for the thorough work, our people occupied the captured the German dugouts with perfect confidence, and were thus able to have their much needed rest without worrying.

(sgd) R. HAYTER Lieut Colonel Gen. Staff. 1st Canadian Division”



The following report was received by the C.O. from:- Lieut Russel, D.I.G. of Investigation Party:-

“O.C.,

3rd Tnlg Coy.

“I desire to bring under your notice the exceptionally good work done by Lieut C. C. Shaw during the days the 15th to 18th inst. During this time he carried out his investigation work with dispatch, coolly passing from Dugout to dugout, amidst the hostile barrage, without ever letting his party become disconnected, or failing to send back regular and clear reports, and keeping his men in good spirits and firm control throughout.

“I consider his work deserving of some special recognition.

(Sgd) H. Russel.

Lieut.

O.I.C. Investigation Party.”

Also the following as a result of the good work done by the Investigation Party in co-operation and under the command of the Canadian Corps at Hill 70, this letter was received by the C.O.: -

“Officer Commanding,  
3rd Tnlg Coy

“Headquarters,  
2nd Canadian Inf. B.  
Aug 27th, 1917.

“I wish to call your attention to the most excellent work done by Lieut H. Russel of your company, during the recent operations against Hill 70.

“Lieut Russel was in charge of the Investigation Party. On completion of his work in connection with the dugouts as far as the Red Line he made a special reconnaissance of the dugouts in the chalk Quarry. This task “in daylight”. As this area was under constant shell fire he had great difficulty in getting to the scene of operations. However, he succeeded in doing this, bringing back an excellent report on the condition of the dugouts in the Quarry.

“I cannot speak too highly of Lieut Russel’s work through the operations.

(Sgd) F.O.W. Looms,

Brigadier General

Commanding 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade.”

Lieutenant Hugh Russel was recommended for the Military Cross on 30 September 1917 by the Brigadier General, Chief Engineer, I Corps; the citation reading:

“Consistent devotion to duty. During mining operations he displayed marked ability and in the attack on Hill 70, near Loos, on 15th August, 1917 he was Officer in charge of the investigation party which immediately followed the advance and inspected all dugouts for traps &c. His organisation and fearlessness encouraged the men to such a degree that under the heaviest fire the work was not delayed.”

Lieut. H. Russel

Herewith pass and authority for your leave of absence for five (5) days from 15/10/17 to 20/10/17 for the purpose of proceeding to Paris.

On arrival in Paris you must report personally to the commandant, British Troops, 27 Place du Marche, St. Honore, near Place Vendome, in accordance with G.R.O. 1992, and produce the authority for leave.

*Alex Sanderson*

Major

O.C., 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company

14/10/17

[the letter was stamped as: ‘Commandant, Paris, Reported Date 15/10/17’]



On 6 November, Capt A.J. Hillman resumed command of No. 4 Section, and Lieut. H. Russel was transferred to No. 4 Section. Lieut J.W. Allen was temporarily transferred to No. 3 Section.

Hostile activity in the Hill 70 area, where the 3rd Tunnelling Company was operating, towards the last part of November was considerable. On 27 November 1917 while preparing to tamp a gallery in the Black Watch sap, the charging of 17,500 lbs of ammonal having been completed, the enemy exploded a camouflet, which exploded the charge. 20 Other Ranks were killed and Lt Hugh Russel and 8 Other Ranks were "mine gassed".

During the month of December, the seeds of a very important and extensive tunnel scheme at Hill 70, were sown by the carrying out of reconnaissances and surveys by a Party under the command of Lieut H. Russel. This tunnel was destined to be named Hythe Tunnel as it replaced the main communication trench on Hill 70 known as Hythe Alley.

The main tunnel was driven under the old German Line No. 1 and the main Lens – La Basse Road, and constructed under and parallel with the existing main communication Trench known as Hythe Alley.

The preliminary reconnaissances, surveys and alignments of the scheme and the marking out of the inclined shafts in opening up the work, were carried out by a party in command of Lieut H. Russel, M.C.

On 22 January 1918 Lieut. Hugh Russel was wounded in action in Hythe Alley at Loos and died of his wounds at 12.30 a.m. on 23 January at Braquement. 5001 Spr Carden, J. who was with Lt Russel was killed outright by the same shell explosion. Both men were buried at Hersin Communal Cemetery Extension, France.

The sad death of Lieut. H. Russel, one of the most deservedly popular officers in the Company and that of Sapper J. Carden, cast a spell of sadness over the Company.

Lt Russel was engaged with Sapper Carden in the work of surveying in Hythe Alley, Hill 70 near Lens, when a shell fell a few feet from them, & bursting killed Sapper Carden outright & severely wounded Lt Russel, who died 14 hours later.

The following letter was received by the C.O. from Lt-Colonel T.W. Edgeworth David, C.M.G., D.S.O., etc.

c/ E. in C.  
G.H.Q. 1st Echelon  
3rd Feb, 1918.

"My dear Sanderson,

Will you and our brother officers and No 3 Company in general, kindly accept my sincerest sympathy with you all, in the sad loss of our fine brave comrade Russel. It will be hard indeed to replace him. Everyone speaks most highly of him I sympathize deeply with you all in his loss.

"With many thanks for you kind last letter.

I am,

Yours very sincerely,  
(Sgd) T.W. Edgeworth David.

Major Sanderson wrote to the widow:

3rd Australian Tunnelling Company,  
January 24th, 1918.

Mrs H. Russel,  
View Street, Cottesloe,  
Western Australia.

Dear Mrs Russel,

It is with very deep sympathy and regret that I have to write to tell you of the death of your very gallant husband, Lieut Hugh Russel, M.C., who was severely wounded in action in France on the 22nd inst. at 10.30 a.m. and died in No 7 C.C.S. 14 hours later.

*contd.*

*continues*

While engaged on some important survey work near the front line he was severely wounded by an enemy shell which fell and burst a few feet from him. He was immediately attended to and carried to a field Dressing Station from whence he was sent by Motor Ambulance to No.7 Casualty Clearing Station.

The Medical Officer did all that was possible for him and he was quite conscious until midnight. Just before I left the hospital at about 11 p.m. he said "I am not feeling much pain, I expect I will pull through although I am very badly wounded". About an hour and a half later he quietly passed to join many of his brave Comrades. It is a very sad day for the 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company as he was loved by every man in the Unit. A tower of strength to the Company and one of my most efficient officers.

For Devotion to Duty and conspicuous bravery during the performance of some very important reconnaissance work in action last year he was awarded the Military Cross by his Majesty the King, in the New Year's Honour List. No one ever better merited the award.

He had been wounded on three previous occasions and each time so narrowly escaped death that we all thought his was a charmed life.

Unfortunately, the end of the war seems still a long way off and many of us will probably meet the same fate as Hugh but we are certain of the ultimate result and despite the loss of such fine comrades we are not down-hearted.

The Military conditions will not allow me to give you more information at present but I will later on send you additional particulars as to the location and a photograph of Hugh's grave.

He was buried in the presence of a very large number of officers and soldiers alongside the graves of over 50 of his comrades of this unit, in the Communal Cemetery of a fairly big town in Northern France. We will erect a cross over the grave.

His personal effects will be sent on to you through the usual channels at A.I.F. Headquarters.

I shall be very grateful if you will kindly send, when you feel able to do so, a few particulars about Hugh's earlier history (some notes for a short early biography) and also, if possible a photograph of him, preferably in Military uniform, for inclusion in the Historical Records of this Company which will later be deposited in the Records Section of the Australian War Museum.

I have been requested by the officers of this Company to express to you and Miss Russel our deepest sympathy. We grieve that you have lost such a splendid husband and we a very brave and dear comrade, but there is some consolation in the thought that he proved himself a man, willing to die on the field of battle doing his duty sooner than be defeated by an enemy.

I pray that you will be sustained in your bereavement by the Honour which the Nation will show for such a man.

Yours very sincerely,  
(Sgd) Alex. Sanderson  
Major

C.O. 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company

Major Sanderson wrote to the widow a second time:

3rd Australian Tunnelling Company,

A.I. F., France,  
January 7th, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Russel,

I have just received a letter from General Sir W.R. Birdwood K.C.B. etc., Commanding the A.I.F, in connection with a request for some particulars of the service for which your husband the late Lieut. H. Russel, M.C., was awarded the Military Cross.

*Contd.*

*Continues*

I had not forgotten my promise of 24/1/18 to send you further information when military conditions would permit and would have done so ere now but for the fact that I have daily been expecting to receive a letter from you with the information for our records in regard to Lieut. Russel's earlier history.

I have on several occasions during the past year written to the Graves Registration Directorate requesting some photographs of the graves of members of this unit and have been informed that all the graves are being photographed and that the Next-of-Kin will receive photographs of them in due course. As a great deal of work is entailed it may be a long time before the prints are available, therefore, when the censorship regulations in regard to cameras were relaxed, I made arrangements to have the graves photographed by a local photographer. I expect to receive the prints in a few days when those of Lieut. Russel's grave will be forwarded to you.

At the time Lieut. Russel was wounded he was on HILL 70 near LENS making the preliminary survey for a tunnel which was afterwards constructed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company through HILL 70. This work is known as HYTHE TUNNEL. It is a mile and a half long with numerous lateral tunnels and exists to Machine Gun posts, accommodation for garrison, etc., and in the latter stages of our defensive campaign it formed the main defence of the famous HILL 70 position.

Lieut. Russel's war history is largely associated with the operations on HILL 70. A few months after he joined the unit we took over the underground protection of the front line on the HULLOCH-LOOS-MAROC Sector. This line traversed the Western slope of HILL 70 which was the main enemy position opposite our front. The enemy was trying to force our troops further down the slope of the Hill by mining and at the time we commenced operations against him he was actually underneath and blowing portion of our front line on HILL 70.

We had then some very stiff mine fighting for several months during which time Lieut. Russel was wounded on three occasions, twice nearly losing his life. However, we have it to our credit that before many months we had the enemy back under his own line and by July 1917 captured the whole of his HILL 70 mining system. This was largely due to the excellent work done by all the officers and men of this unit. Lieut. Russel did his share most splendidly.

I August 1917 the Canadians were ordered to capture HILL 70. This Company was ordered to supply a party for investigation for enemy mines and traps and for reconnaissance of dugouts etc., during the operations Lieut. Russel was placed in command of the party which consisted of 4 officers and 60 other ranks of this unit in addition to 40 attached infantry. The work was carried out bravely and excellently and was of very great value, the whole of the main HILL 70 position was then captured. During the operation Lieut. Russel personally carried out reconnaissances in the front line of the fighting and sometimes ahead of it. This gallant work was very highly commended and he was afterwards awarded the Military Cross in recognition of his bravery and the excellent work done on that occasion.

The many important duties which he carried out were always well done and when the Unit's History is completed I hope to have recorded in detail the work with which he was connected.

I have extracted from this Unit's records personal history file of Lieut. Russel an original document which is enclosed herewith and have replaced it with a copy. I have done this as the original will be of greater value to you but I am anxious to make the records as complete as possible and shall be grateful if you will send me a few particulars as asked for in my letter of 24/1/18. If you have already done so they have not reached me.

Lieut. Russel's grave is in the Cemetery of HERSIN a town situated about six miles South of BETHUNE, Northern France. A cross has been erected over the grave.

I cannot think of any additional information to send you at the present moment. It is expected that we may be back in Australia in the near future when I hope to have the opportunity of personally telling you of the great assistance given to me as Commanding Officer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company by your late gallant husband.

Yours Sincerely  
(sgd) Alex Sanderson

When Hugh's last letter arrived his family already knows of his death.



In the letter he mentions leave in London & Scotland, and how the front is 'poisonous' - a reference to gassing which made it past the military censors.

In the records of Lieutenant Thomas Taylor is the file copy of the following letter:

27<sup>th</sup> April, 1920

Dear Madam,

On the 5<sup>th</sup> August last ex-Lieutenant T. Taylor, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Company, reported to A.I.F. Headquarters, London that, after many enquiries, he had been successful in tracing a small gold watch which had been left by your husband, the late Lieutenant H. Russel, M.C., 3<sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Company, for repairs at a Jewellers shop in London early in 1918.

Ex-Lieutenant Taylor represented that he was a personal friend of both your husband and yourself and made application for permission to take the watch and deliver it to you personally. This was approved and the watch was returned to him on the 8<sup>th</sup> August for delivery to you on Lieutenant Taylor's return to Australia.

As that Officer returned to Australia on the 9<sup>th</sup> November last, I shall be obliged if you will advise me whether the watch reached you safely.

Yours faithfully  
Major,  
Officer i/c Base Records

Mrs. G. Russel, View Street, Cottesloe, W.A.

No further information on this matter is available at the time this profile was written.

*The Sydney Morning Herald* - Saturday 23 July 1921:

**ENGINEERS' ROLL OF HONOUR**

The Royal Engineer War Memorial Committee are arranging to deposit a roll of honour of all ranks of the Royal Engineers whose names were officially published as killed in action or died of wounds or disease in the war in the chapel of St. Paul's Cathedral, and the Engineer corps of the dominions, colonial, and Indian armies have been invited to deposit similar rolls of honour in St. Paul's, to be attached to that of the Royal Engineers. This invitation has been accepted in Australia. The roll will be inscribed on vellum and enclosed in a casket of Australian timbers to rest on a slab of Australian marble.

This extract from Tunnellers Roll of Honour included in profile with the kind permission of the  
Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, London  
Photos courtesy of Robin Sanderson, Paris



He is commemorated on the Midland Officers & Contract Surveyors of the Department of Lands & Surveys WA Honour Roll (below) and the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club WWI Honour Roll (right).

Images sourced from the Virtual War memorial Australia website  
<https://vwma.org.au/>



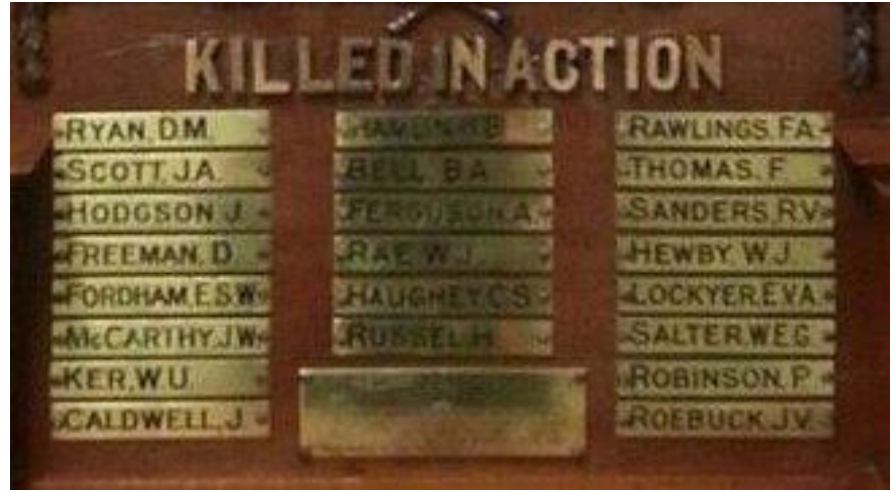


Photo of headstone in Hersin Communal Cemetery Extension, France - by kind permission of The War Graves Photographic Project [www.twgpp.org](http://www.twgpp.org)



The West Australian Thursday August 1930:

### STATE WAR MEMORIAL NAMES FOR TABLETS

The names of all West Australian soldiers who gave their lives during the Great War are to be handed down to posterity by means of a series of tablets bearing their names on the walls of a section of the State War Memorial on Mount Eliza.

## Kings Park - Perth



Great War Memorial



Honour Boards



CORPS OF ENGINEERS			ENGINEERS P		
ABBERTON E.	TEOX J. B.	JONES J. P.	PEIRCE A. W.	TRUMAN H. P.	
ABBOTT C. H.	COX W. J.	JOSE A. H.	PEMBER J.	TUCKER A.	
ALEXANDER H. D.	CRAWFORD C. E.	KELLY E.	PERRY W.	TURNBULL J.	
ALLEN J.	CRAWFORD S. J.	KELLY M. H.	PHILLIPS F.	UREN A. N.	
APPEL H. J.	CROSS A.	KELLY P. J.	PHILLIPS F. H.	VALLAURI S.	
APPLEBY F. W.	CUNNINGHAM M.	KELLY R.	PIDGEON J. F. W.	VAN DOK W.	
ASHTON C. C.	CURPHEY W. K.	KEMP W. C.	PLAYNE J. M.	VECCHIA D. C.	
ATKINSON J.	CURRAN B. J.	KENNEDY A.	PLUNKETT J.	VERRAN W. R.	
AYLIFFE M.	CURTIS S. G.	KENNY W.	POOLE L. W.	WALKER W. R.	
AYLWARD W. S.	DABB W. H.	KERSLAKE C. K.	POWELL W.	WATERSTON C. A.	
BARCH R. M.	DAVIS E.	KNIIGHT F. N.	PRAED W. J.	WATKINS C. A.	
BARLOW A. E. B.	DAVIS J.	LARKIN H. V.	PROSSER T. E.	WELCH A.	
BARNES T.	DAWSON F. W.	LAVARS W. J.	PUDSEY W.	WIGZELL A. T. J.	
BARNES W. H.	DENNEY J.	LAVERY J. E.	QUINE W. J.	WILLIAMS C. E. C.	
BARNETT W.	DENTON A. J.	LAW-DAVIS F. C.	QUINN C.	WILLIAMS H.	
BARRETT C.	DONNELLY J.	LAWRANCE P.	READ F.	WILLIAMSON F. C.	
BENSON F.	DONOHUE J. T.	LEAVERS R.	REID J.	WILLIAMS R. E.	
BENSON F.	EDDISON J. J.	LEEHANE H.	REID N. A.	WILSON JOHN	
BERRY J. W.	EDMUNDS E. A.	LEIPOLD J. T.	RICHARDS J.	WILSON JOHN	
BERRY W.	EDWARDS H. L.	LEWIS J. F.	RICHES H. J.	WISE E.	
BIDMEAD S. M.	ELIASSEN A. M.	LUCC A. R.	ROBERTSON J.	WOOLCOCK A. J.	
BIRRELL N. H.	ELIASSON C. A.	LUND W.	ROBERTSON L.	WOTHERSPOON J. A. E.	
BLADES F. H.	ELLIS W.	LYNN J.	ROBERTSON T. R.	WRAY R. A.	
BOOTH R.	FARE A. E.	LYNTH J. C.	RODER J. H.	YEWS A. W.	
BORG C. L.	FENNEL S.	M'ANDREW G. N.	ROGERS W. J.	WILLIAMS A. S.	
BOWERS A. E.	FINCH T.	M'COMISH A. C.	ROSS H.		
BOWRA F. D. A.	FLANACAN J.	M'CURRIE F. H.	RUSSEL H.		
BRENNAN F.	FOX G. W.	M'INERNEY J.	RUSSELL O. J. S.		
BROCKLEY J. R.	FRECKLETON J.	M'INTOSH C.	SACKS C.		
BROWN E. J.	CATTI A.	M'KAY D.	SAMPFORD E. M.		
BROWN P.	CEDDER A. C.	M'KAY JOHN	SAUNDERS T. A.		
BUCK F. T.	CIBSON E. T.	M'KAY JOHN	SAYERS A. H.		
BUCK J. N.	CILES W. J.	M'KAY W. A.	SCOTT W.		
BURLEY C. E.	CILLET A. S. F.	M'LEARY C.	SEINOR J.		
BUTLER E.	GODFREY A. J.	M'LEAN H.	SHEEHAN P.		
CAMPBELL J. W.	GODLEY T. H.	M'MAHON J. I.	SHERIFF C. M.		
CAMPBELL N.	GRANT C. W.	M'PEAK W. J.	SHIELDS M. J.		
CAMPBELL W. A.	GRANT W. A.	MAHDNEY W.	SKINNER W. J.		
CARDEN J.	GRAY J.	MASON R.	SMITH C. R.		
CARLTON F. W.	GREEN F. L.	MATHIESON W. D.	SMITHERAM J. T.		
CARROLL H. J.	GRIFFITHS W.	MAYNE W. C.	SNELL W. A.		
CASSIN W. F.	HALEY A.	MENZIES W. R.	SNOWDEN J. L.		
CHALKLEY J.	HALEY F.	MEYER A. C.	STEDMAN T.		
CHAMBERS W. H.	HALL S. O.	MOORE W. J.	STEPHENS J. R.		
CHEETHAM N.	HANBURY A.	MORRIS A.	STEPHENS R.		
CHECWOODEN C. H.	HARVEY J.	MORRIS O.	STEWART J. E.		
CHRISTIANSEN P. M.	HAWKINS S. H.	MUNDY F. T.	STRANGER T. J.		
CLARKE G.	HAWTIN F.	MUNRO A. C. R.	SUTHERLAND J. F.		
CLARKE R. F.	HEAP W.	MUNSTER J. T.	SYMERS D. C.		
CLINCIN G.	HEWKEY F. P.	MYTTON E.	TAYLOR F. L.		
CLIVE B.	HOOD J. J.	NEWTON H. R.	THOMPSON C. R.		
COCKBURN G.	HOPKINS H.	NIELSEN L. H. V. M.	THOMPSON L.		
COCKS F. J.	HORAN A. A.	NIGHTINGALE W.	THOMPSON S.		
COCKTON H.	HORROCKS B.	NOBLE R.	THOMSON A. T.		
COHEN D. C.	HORTON W. F.	NOONAN W. D.	THORPE F. E.		
COLLYN E. E.	HUTCHINSON F. J.	OATES W. H.	TOMLINSON T. C.		
CONNOLLY M.	JARRY A. E.	OLSEN S. F.	TREGANOWAN W. J.		
COOK C. J.	JOHN C. W. C.	O'SULLIVAN V.	TRESIDDER H. C.		
COOPER F.	JOHNSON A. R. D.	PASCO M. O.			
COLTON D.	JOHNSON J.				
	JOHNSTON J. W.				

T added by tunnellers.net



Honour Avenue - Perth, WA  
Photo courtesy L Atkinson (thegardensfamily.com)



Lt Hugh Russel - 1916



Memorial Plaque and Military Cross  
of Hugh Russel received by his  
widow, Georgiana







Lt Russel and Spr Carden of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Aust. Tunnelling Coy were killed by the shell that struck this theodolite in January 1918. The theodolite and Major Sanderson's letter were on display at the Australian War Memorial in 2008.

Hugh Russel's name is located at panel 27 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial. Joseph Carden's name is located at panel 26 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

In 1926 Georgiana and Doris travel by ship to England. Georgiana Russel died in Perth, Western Australia on 14 February 1936.

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#### ADDENDUM

Tuesday, February 22, 2011 5:18 PM - Subject: Hugh Russel MC

Lisa Barry, eldest great-grandchild of Hugh Russel, contacted the website seeking possible assistance to recover the wooden cross original erected over Hugh Russel's grave in France.

*The West Australian* Thursday, April 7, 2011

#### Chance find gives war relic new home

##### ROD MORAN

The Army Museum in Fremantle has been given a significant relic from World War 1 – and a curious lost and found story.

When Lt Hugh Russel, of Cottesloe, died on the Western Front in January 1918, his grave was marked by an elaborate wooden cross made by his unit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Company.

In 1920, the Imperial Graves Commission replaced the cross and thousands of others with headstones and members of the unit presented it to his widow Georgina in WA.

It was in the family until the 1970s when the cross disappeared after being sent for maintenance.

The cross was lost for 40 years until the cherished relic turned up in a Ballarat auction hall, in Victoria.

“My eldest daughter Lisa had become very interested in genealogy, especially her great-grandfather,” Mt Claremont resident Beverley Barry, Lt Russel's granddaughter, said.

“She was searching on a site one day and found this auctioneer's catalogue with a picture of the cross on it.

They were going to auction it in four days.”

Police were alerted, a stay was put on the auction and a solicitor was commissioned.

The cross was eventually returned to the family who will present it to the Army Museum of WA at a ceremony on April 16. The mystery of how it got to Ballarat remains unsolved.





The Presentation took place at the Army Museum of Western Australia on 16 April 2011 and was well attended by family & descendants of Australian Tunnellers who had served with Hugh Russel.

Beverly Barry, on behalf of the family and descendants, presented the cross to the Museum, the presentation being acknowledged by Graham Horne, Chairman, Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation.

The family had loaned to the Museum memorabilia of Hugh Russel's service which enhanced the display.

The size and type of timber used to make the cross leads researchers to believe it may very well be made of the 9 inch by 3 inch timber 'sets' salvaged from the tunnel systems around Hill 70 in January 1918.



Updated 2011/2022 with the assistance of Beverly Barry, granddaughter of Hugh Russel, and her daughter Lisa Barry. Addendum photos and photos of Hugh Russel, original cross, Memorial Plaque & Military Cross courtesy of the Army Museum, Fremantle, WA