

Returning soldiers from WW1

26 Stainswick Lane  
Shrivenham  
Swindon  
Wilts SN6 8DX

17 February 2014

Dear Mr Vaizey

**George William Hicks Forgotten Soldier 1895 - 1918**

Gunner George William Hicks appears on Shrivenham War Memorial along with eight other men who died in the Great War but the location of his grave is unknown. He was gassed in 1916 and discharged from the Army. Thanks to "Finding the Forgotten" he has in the last 2 years been commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. He was awarded the 1915 Star, the Victory Medal and the War Medal. The intention is to erect a headstone to him in St Andrew's churchyard in Shrivenham where his parents lived but I understand this may be years away.

As you know, Shrivenham is the station of the Defence Academy and from 1946 has been the home of the former Royal Military College of Science. The Defence Academy and the village are closely intertwined and there will be a joint Commemoration of the Great War later this year.

I understand that MOD and the CWGC are both involved in erecting the headstone to our hero. It would be seemly, particularly with our strong Military presence, if it could be put into place this year. I am writing to you to ask if you could please help to make this possible.

Yours sincerely

Vivien Moss (Mrs)





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs Vivien Moss  
26 Stainswick Lane  
Shrivenham  
Swindon  
Wilts  
SN6 8DX

17 March 2014

Dear Mrs Moss,

Ed Vaizey MP has asked me to thank you for your letter regarding the erection of a headstone to Gunner George Williams Hicks, and to let you know he will do all he can to support this.

I can therefore confirm that we have contacted the Ministry of Defence asking for an update, and also to offer Mr Vaizey's support to try and make this happen before the end of the year. We have also contacted Wing Commander Simon Twose at the Defence Academy along the same lines.

We will of course let you know as soon as we receive any updates. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

Thank you once again for taking the time to bring this matter to Mr Vaizey's attention.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Jonathan Badyal | Office of Ed Vaizey MP**  
Minister for Culture, Communications and the Creative Industries  
Member of Parliament for Wantage and Didcot

jonathan.badyal@parliament.uk | 0207 219 6350





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs Vivien Moss  
26 Stainswick Lane  
Shrivenham  
Swindon  
Wilts  
SN6 8DX

23 March 2014

Dear Mrs Moss,

Further to my previous letter, Ed Vaizey MP has asked me to inform you that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) are delighted to assist with the arrangements for the headstone for George Hicks.

We have been informed by the Staff Sergeant at the Defence Academy that your query will take at least 20 days as part of the process for the CWGC to follow up and deliver their findings, which the CWGC will inform you of in due course.

We hope this is helpful. We will be back in touch as soon as we hear back from the MoD.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Jonathan Badyal | Office of Ed Vaizey MP**  
Minister for Culture, Communications and the Creative Industries  
Member of Parliament for Wantage and Didcot

jonathan.badyal@parliament.uk | 0207 219 6350





**Defence Academy**  
of the United Kingdom

**Mr D Lacey**  
**Corporate Governance and Secretariat**  
Defence Academy of the United Kingdom  
Headquarters, Greenhill House, Shrivenham  
Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 8LA

Tel: +44 (0)1793 78 5834  
Fax: +44 (0)1793 78 5072  
[www.da.mod.uk](http://www.da.mod.uk)

Mrs V Moss  
26 Stainswick Lane  
Shrivenham  
Wiltshire  
SN6 8DX

24 April 2014

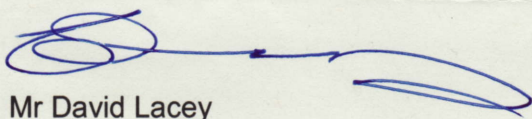
Dear Mrs Moss,

Further to your letter of 17 Feb to Mr Vaizey MP, in which you asked a question about a war memorial for Gunner George William Hicks. As this issue falls within my area of responsibility I have been asked to respond on the Defence Academy's behalf.

I have passed your request to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) as MOD is unable to facilitate this request as it is outside of our area of responsibility. They will be in touch directly but unfortunately the process will take at least 20 days for the CWGC to follow up the case and deliver their findings.

The Defence Academy is in no position to erect a headstone in St Andrew's churchyard, however, we have our own military cemetery in Watchfield where we may be able to do something should the Commonwealth War Graves Commission agree to erect a headstone in Gunner Hicks' honour.

Yours sincerely,

  
Mr David Lacey

reply 5/5/14  
V/L.

Copy to: Mr Vaisey MP  
CGWC  
CO Station





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs Vivien Moss  
26 Stainswick Lane  
Shrivenham  
Swindon  
Wilts  
SN6 8DX

25 April 2014

Dear Mrs Moss,

Ed Vaizey MP has asked me to forward to you the enclosed letter he has received, which we understand you are to receive directly from the Defence Academy.

We hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines.

---

**Jonathan Badyal | Office of Ed Vaizey MP | House of Commons | London | SW1A 0AA**  
Minister for Culture, Communications and the Creative Industries  
Member of Parliament for Wantage and Didcot

jonathan.badyal@parliament.uk | 0207 219 6350

ENC.





Ministry  
of Defence

LORD ASTOR OF HEVER DL  
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

Our ref: D/USofS/JA MC2014/00453e

8<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Thank you for the email from your office dated 17 March, attaching correspondence from Mrs Vivien Moss enquiring about the erection of a headstone for George William Hicks, a gunner who died in the Great War.

As we approach the start of the centenary of the First World War it is only right that we take time to reflect upon all those who selflessly gave their lives to protect freedoms that we still cherish today. The Government is determined to ensure that their sacrifice is remembered and they are honoured in the appropriate manner.

I can confirm that the commemoration of Gunner Hicks was approved by the Ministry of Defence in January 2012. My officials have made contact with the Commonwealth Graves Commission and I am pleased to inform you that Gunner George William Hicks will be commemorated via the appropriate *Memorial to the Missing*, which in this case will be the Brookwood (United Kingdom 1914-18) Memorial.

The timescale for providing this commemoration is dependent upon completion of the project to build the new Brookwood Memorial, but this is scheduled to take place during the current financial year.

LORD ASTOR OF HEVER DL

Ed Vaizey MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs Vivien Moss  
26 Stainswick Lane  
Shrivenham  
Swindon  
Wilts  
SN6 8DX

9 May 2014

Dear Mrs Moss,

Ed Vaizey MP has asked me to forward to you the enclosed letter he has received from the Ministry of Defence about the erection of a headstone for George William Hicks.

We trust this reply will come as good news. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Jonathan Badyal | Office of Ed Vaizey MP | House of Commons | London | SW1A 0AA**  
Minister for Culture, Communications and the Creative Industries  
Member of Parliament for Wantage and Didcot

jonathan.badyal@parliament.uk | 0207 219 6350

ENC.





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs Vivien Moss  
26 Stainswick Lane  
Shrivenham  
Swindon  
Wilts  
SN6 8DX

24 July 2014

Dear Mrs Moss,

Thank you for your letter in response to the letter Ed Vaizey MP received from Lord Astor.

I can confirm that we have contacted the MoD asking for their comments on your request for the headstone.

We will of course let you know as soon as we receive their reply.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Jonathan Badyal | Office of Ed Vaizey MP | House of Commons | London | SW1A 0AA**  
Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy  
Member of Parliament for Wantage and Didcot

jonathan.badyal@parliament.uk | 0207 219 6350



14 November 2014

7 Claypits Lane  
Shrivenham  
Oxfordshire  
SN6 8AH

Telephone:  
01793-783405

Lord Astor of Hever DL  
Under Secretary of State  
Ministry of Defence  
Floor 5 Zone B  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Dear Lord Astor,

**Your Reference: D/USofS/JA MC2014/00453e**

May I firstly apologise for writing to you directly. This is not out of choice but driven by frustration that we do not seem to be making any progress with getting a CGWC headstone for Gunner George William Hicks erected within St Andrew's churchyard in his home town of Shrivenham.

I have attached a copy of your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 to Ed Vaizey along with a copy of a subsequent letter from Vivien Moss. This was sent on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014 to Jonathon Badyal, who works in Ed Vaizey's office.

I know Vivien has spoken with Ed Vaizey but the inference seems to be that there is little more that he can do, hence her request for my involvement.

Hopefully now that some of the major commemorations have taken place in this 100<sup>th</sup> year of the outbreak of the 1<sup>st</sup> world war there may now be a little more time for requests such as this to be progressed.

We are ever hopeful of a successful conclusion with our effort to recognise one of the fallen who still to this day does not have a headstone to commemorate his ultimate sacrifice.

Yours sincerely,

David Watson

*Churchwarden  
St Andrew's Church  
Shrivenham*





# Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building (06/K)  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7218 9000

Ref: TO/2014-11-20T14-59-22

Mr David Watson  
7 Claypits Lane  
Shrivenham  
Oxfordshire  
SN6 8AH

27 November 2014

Dear Mr Watson,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November to Lord Astor of Hever DL regarding the headstone for George William Hicks. Your letter has been passed to this branch of the MOD, and I have been asked to reply to you.

It may be helpful if I explain that Gunner Hicks was added to the CWGC UK Book of Remembrance because it was initially believed that he had a known grave in St Andrew's churchyard. However, further research was unable to confirm a burial took place there so Gunner Hicks remains listed as having no known grave and, as a result, he will be commemorated on the appropriate Memorial to the Missing in accordance with CWGC policy.

The grave of Gunner Ebbsworth is commemorated with a CWGC headstone in St Andrew's churchyard because his burial there was presumably confirmed. It wasn't possible to confirm Gunner Hicks was buried in St Andrew's churchyard, therefore, the CWGC are unable to commemorate him with a headstone, hence the Memorial to the Missing.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

*G Krishnasamy*

Mr G Krishnasamy  
Defence Personnel Secretariat



30<sup>th</sup> January 2015

7 Claypits Lane  
Shrivenham  
Oxfordshire  
SN6 8AH

Telephone:  
01793-783405

Mr G Krishnasamy  
Defence Personnel Secretariat  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building (06/K)  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Dear Mr Krishnasamy,

**Your Reference: TO/2014-11-20T14-59-22**

Thank you for your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in response to mine to Lord Astor of Heaver DL regarding a CWGC headstone for Gunner George William Hicks.

We have, following your comments regarding the need for proof of his burial, been researching this through local sources and with the archives held by the Berkshire Records Office for St Andrew's Church in Shrivenham.

The attached cutting from the local Swindon Advertiser describes in some detail the funeral taking place but more importantly, also attached, is the proof from the St Andrew's church-records that you require. This record, number 686, clearly shows his burial taking place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1918.

You may also be interested in the subsequent record, number 687, which is for Gunner James Ebbsworth for whom we already have a CWGC headstone in our churchyard.

As we do now have the confirmation required we presume you can now move to the provision of a CWGC headstone for Gunner Hicks in St Andrew's churchyard. We would appreciate having an indication of how long this may take as we would want to involve the local press and make the necessary arrangements for this commemoration.

It is good that we are in sight of a successful conclusion to our efforts to recognise one of our local fallen. He will now have a headstone in his place of burial to commemorate his ultimate sacrifice.

Yours sincerely,

David Watson

*Churchwarden  
St Andrew's Church  
Shrivenham*



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RE: George

Richard

to me

Hi Vivien

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Regards

Richard

Wiltshire Soldiers

01249 760555

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considered that both subscribers and collectors  
are not only doing a service to their country, but  
are working together to save money which will  
prove to be much needed in the "lean years" that  
must follow such a great war. A vote of thanks  
was accorded the auditors for kindly auditing the  
accounts. In addition to the sum named, £489 3s.  
has been contributed by the Purton Schools Asso-  
ciation, making a total of £1,653 13s. raised in  
the parish.

### SHRIVENHAM.

\*\*\* A. E. COLLINS will buy all the SURPLUS FURNI-  
TURE, in villages or town, for spot cash.—Address:  
Corner Shop, 73a. Commercial Road, and 106, Curtis  
Street, Swindon.—3343-54

\*\*\* HUNDREDS OF PANAMA HATS, in smart dis-  
tinctive styles, 10/11, 12/11, 13/11, 21/6, 23/6, 25/6,  
35/6, 45/6.—KNOX & SADDLER, 32, 33, 34, Bridge  
Street, Swindon.

MR. & MRS. HICKS & FAMILY wish to thank  
all kind friends for their sympathy and flowers  
in their recent sad bereavement.—8410-15

MILITARY FUNERAL.—The war has claimed  
still one more of the brave young lads of this  
village—Gunner George William Hicks, R.G.A.,  
eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hicks, of Sandhill Cot-  
tages. He was in the Army previous to the out-  
break of hostilities, and early in the war was  
sent to France, where he was wounded in the  
face and gassed, the latter badly affecting his  
lungs. He returned home and shortly afterwards  
received his discharge. After being in the Sanato-  
rium at Abingdon for six weeks he died there  
on April 28th. He was 23 years of age. The body  
was brought home on Thursday in last week and  
was buried with military honours in the presence  
of relatives and friends. The Vicar (the Rev. E.  
F. Hill) officiated. The coffin was covered with  
the Union Jack, and a detachment of the War-  
wickshire Regiment from Swindon fired "three  
volleys" over the grave. The sounding of the  
"last post" by the buglers concluded a sad and  
impressive ceremony.

### SOUTH MARSTON.

\*\*\* HUNDREDS OF PANAMA HATS, in smart dis-  
tinctive styles, 10/11, 12/11, 13/11, 21/6, 23/6, 25/6,  
35/6, 45/6.—KNOX & SADDLER, 32, 33, 34, Bridge  
Street, Swindon.

A HERO'S DEATH.—Mrs. Sharps, of Yew Tree  
House, on Thursday received the sad news of the



1917-1918.

Page 86

BURIALS in the Parish of Shriovenham in the  
County of Berk's in the year One thousand  
eight hundred and seventeen

Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Glady's Irene Hicks.</i>	<i>Sandhill Cottage, Shriovenham.</i>	<i>June 11.</i>	<i>3 years</i>	<i>Edward F. Hill. (Vicar)</i>
No. 681				
<i>Alice Jane Oliver.</i>	<i>School House, Shriovenham.</i>	<i>Dec. 12.</i>	<i>59 years</i>	<i>Edward F. Hill. (Vicar)</i>
No. 682				
<i>Margaret Beryl Gibbs.</i>	<i>Shriovenham.</i>	<i>Dec. 12.</i>	<i>1 month.</i>	<i>Edward F. Hill. (Vicar)</i>
No. 683				
<i>Alice Kalkarine, Jane Milligan.</i>	<i>Shriovenham House, Shriovenham.</i>	<i>Feb 11</i>	<i>71 years</i>	<i>Edward F. Hill. (Vicar)</i>
No. 684				
<i>Sarah Ann Barrett.</i>	<i>Shriovenham.</i>	<i>May 1.</i>	<i>38 years.</i>	<i>Edward F. Hill. (Vicar)</i>
No. 685				
<i>George William Hicks.</i>	<i>Shriovenham.</i>	<i>May 2.</i>	<i>23 yrs.</i>	<i>Edward F. Hill. (Vicar)</i>
No. 686				
<i>James Ebbsworth.</i>	<i>Shriovenham.</i>	<i>July 3.</i>	<i>48 years.</i>	<i>Edward F. Hill. (Vicar)</i>
No. 687				
<i>Charles Rickings</i>	<i>Shriovenham</i>	<i>Aug. 31</i>	<i>52 years</i>	<i>Watson Fidler, Rector of Ashbury</i>
No. 688				





# Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building (06/K)  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7218 9000

Ref: TO/2015-02-03T11-53-24

Mr David Watson  
7 Claypits Lane  
Shrivenham  
Oxfordshire  
SN6 8AH

26 February 2015

Dear Mr Watson,

Thank you for your further letter of 30 January regarding the headstone for George William Hicks. I am please to inform you that the additional information in relation to the burial of Gunner Hicks has been shared with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commission has confirmed that they intend to provide Gunner Hicks with an appropriate commemoration at the Shrivenham site and that arrangements to do so are in progress. A Commission representative will be in contact with the Church authorities in the near future to discuss the action to be taken.

I hope this explains the position.

Yours sincerely,

*G Krishnasamy*

Mr G Krishnasamy  
Defence Personnel Secretariat



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John Banbrook

Lyn Aitken

richard@wiltshire...

rp.rooms DA Stud...

Stella Tidmarsh

CNN.com Recently Published/Updated - What are natural flavors, really? - 1 hour

RE: George William Hicks

Inbox x

Richard

to me

Hi Vivien

Please find attached the proof you require I have already sent this to the ( they have chosen to ignore it.

Please can you continue to mention Finding the Forgotten we are in many with the CWGC at present the MOD have let the research of Non Commel soldiers to a private company and refuse to communicate please write to but ask him to speak to James Gray North Wils MP. He has supported FTF aware of the Situation with the MOD. We are still waiting for 5 headstone erected some of the commemorations are six years old

Please let me know how it goes

Regards

Richard Broadhead

Wiltshire Soldiers

01249 760555

07700 503111

13 Jan (1 day ago)

2/1

Andrew Murison

David Cameron's adviser

on WWI issues

8/2/15

Keep in loop

Richard Broadhead informed of successful outcome

2 November '16

1 of 1

14/01/2015 13:20



26 Stainswick Lane  
Shrivenham  
Swindon  
Wilts SN6 8DX

20 November 2016

Mr G Krishnasamy  
Defence Personnel Secretariat  
Ministry of Defence  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2 HB

Ref: TO/2014-11-20T14-59-22

Dear Mr Krishnasamy,

Gunner George William Hicks

Gunner Hicks was one of the Forgotten Soldiers of the Great War who was listed as having no known grave. When we were able to provide proof of his burial somewhere in St Andrew's Churchyard, Shrivenham on 2 May 1918, you were then in a position to ask the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to provide a headstone to commemorate his ultimate sacrifice.

I am writing to thank you for your part in achieving this. It was greatly appreciated by Gunner Hicks' niece and about 10 family members. The Vicar dedicated the stone in a special ceremony immediately after the Remembrance Day Service to which he invited all those in the congregation who wished to be there. There is always a strong Military presence at our Remembrance Day Services and I was particularly pleased to see a full Colonel from the Defence Academy talking to Gunner Hicks' niece for some time. The headstone has been beautifully excised.

Thanking you for your help,

Yours sincerely

*Vivien Moss*

Vivien Moss (Mrs)