

Matthew Frederick Hampson collection

Accession number 31060

Abstract Collection of photographs, postcards and letters relating to the service of Private Matthew Frederick Hampson, during the First World War.

Scope and content This collection of photographs, postcards and letters was maintained by the family of Matthew Frederick Hampson #4658, who served with the 31st Infantry Battalion, during the First World War. The collection includes Hampson family photographs and an item of trench art in the form of a letter opener. There is also a commemorative certificate for Edmond Eddleston #3803 who served with the 26th Infantry Battalion.

Description Photographs; postcards; letters; trench art.

Administrative / Biographical history Matthew Frederick (Fred) Hampson was born in 1888 in Bundaberg, Qld the second son of James and Charlotte Hampson (nee Champ), who had 11 children. His father was a general inspector for the Bundaberg Town Council. Fred Hampson first enlisted in May 1916 but was discharged at his own request in July that year due to the ill health of his wife Belinda and two children, Theo and Thelma. Hampson re-enlisted in October 1916 and embarked with the 12th Reinforcements to the 31st Infantry Battalion in December on board HMAT 'Demosthenes'. Hampson arrived at the 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott, 3 March 1917 and embarked for France in July. He joined his battalion in the field in August where they were operating near Racquinghem, west of Hazebrouck. Two months later Hampson was killed in action by a shell on Passchendaele Ridge; he was buried in the battlefield where he died, and is remembered at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses.

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Preferred citation

31060, Matthew Frederick Hampson collection, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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Series 1: Correspondence (1916-1917)

Series number 1

Series title Correspondence

Date 1916-1917

Scope and content

Letters and postcards retained by the Hampson family, principally from Matthew Hampson, while he was serving overseas during the First World War.

Author / Creator

Hampson, Matthew Frederick, 1888-1917

Description

Description 1 folder (1 letter, 7 postcards)

Locate OMBOX Box 21009

Access

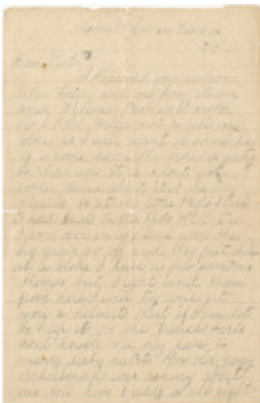
Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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Items in this series:

Letter (2 September 1917)



Unit ID 31060/1

Date 2 September 1917

Scope and content

Letter written by Matthew Frederick Hampson, in France to his brother Norman Victor Hampson, in Bundaberg. He writes that he does not want his bicycle to be sold, as he will need it when he returns. He mentions other soldiers from Bundaberg that are serving with him and the pelting they are getting from the shells.

Author / Creator

Hampson, Matthew Frederick, 1888-1917

Description

Description 1 letter (4 pages)

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)

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Postcard (Undated)



Unit ID 31060/2

Date Undated

Scope and content

Photographic postcard showing Norman Victor (Pat) Hampson (1902-1977) and another, seated on a racing bicycle. Norman Hampson is wearing a competition sash and three medals.

Description

Description 1 photographic postcard

Additional format Digital copy available

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Postcard (1916)



Unit ID 31060/3

Date 1916

Scope and content

Photographic postcard and studio portrait of Private Matthew Frederick Hampson, prior to embarking for England with the 31st Infantry Battalion.

Description

Description 1 photographic postcard

Additional format Digital copy available

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Postcard (1917)



Unit ID 31060/4

Date 1917

Scope and content

Souvenir postcard entitled 'Everlasting silver leaves from Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa'. Sent by Private Matthew Hampson while enroute to England, to his brother Norman in Bundaberg. The postcard contains pressed leaves, embossed 'To my dear brother, with kind regards, from South Africa.'

Description

Description 1 postcard (souvenir)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Postcard (14 July 1917)



Unit ID 31060/5

Date 14 July 1917

Scope and content

A humorous postcard sent from Matthew (Fred) Hampson, in England to his brother Norman (Vic) in Bundaberg. On the rear he writes of how cold it is, making his nose run, and quips that there are plenty of 'flying machines' there, he will try and bring one back.

Author / Creator

Hampson, Matthew Frederick, 1888-1917

Description

Description 1 postcard

Additional format Digital copy available

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Postcard (25 December 1916)



Unit ID 31060/6

Date 25 December 1916

Scope and content

Souvenir postcard of the troopship 'Demosthenes' posted from Sydney by Private Matthew Hampson to his brother William Hampson, Bundaberg. Hampson is departing for service overseas with the 12th Reinforcements for the 31st Infantry Battalion, AIF.

Author / Creator

Exchange Studios, Sydney

Description

Description 1 postcard

Additional format Digital copy available

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Postcard (5 October 1917)



Unit ID 31060/7

Date 5 October 1917

Scope and content

Field service post card from Private Matthew Hampson, on active service, to his brother William Hampson, Bundaberg.

Description

Description 1 postcard

Additional format Digital copy available

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Postcard (1917)



Unit ID 31060/8

Date 1917

Scope and content

Photographic postcard and studio portrait of Private Matthew Frederick Hampson, seated left with two others, prior to embarking for France, 1917.

Author / Creator

A.J. Bealing, Shaftesbury & Fovant

Description

Description 1 photographic postcard

Additional format Digital copy available

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(8 digital)

Series 2: Photographs (1910-1916)

Series number 2

Series title Photographs

Date 1910-1916

Scope and content

Photographs retained by the Hampson family featuring Matthew Hampson, his wedding to Bella Dobe and his children Theo and Thelma and other close family members.

Description

Description 9 photographs

Locate OMBOX Box 21009

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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Items in this series:

Photograph (Undated)



Unit ID 31060/9

Date Undated

Scope and content

Colourised, mounted studio portrait of Matthew Frederick Hampson seated on racing bicycle alongside a victory trophy. A postcard copy is included.

Author / Creator

Vandyck Studios, Bundaberg

Description

Description 1 photograph ((colourised))

Additional format Digital copy available

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Photograph (1917)



Unit ID 31060/10

Date 1917

Scope and content

Mounted photograph, featuring Private Matthew Frederick Hampson and another in a rickshaw whilst on shore leave, in South Africa, enroute to England, 1917. A postcard copy is included.

Description

Description 1 photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

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Photograph (21 September 1910)



Unit ID 31060/11

Date 21 September 1910

Scope and content

Studio portrait of the wedding party for the marriage of Matthew Frederick Hampson and his bride Bella Belinda Dobe.

Description

Description 1 photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

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Photograph (December 1916)



Unit ID 31060/12

Date December 1916

Scope and content

Studio portrait of Private Matthew Frederick Hampson with his two children, Theo, b.1912 and Thelma, b.1915, taken prior to his departure for overseas in December 1916. Theo is dressed in a soldier's uniform, Thelma as a nurse.

Description

Description 1 photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

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Photograph (1918-1920?)



Unit ID 31060/13

Date 1918-1920?

Scope and content

Portrait of Matthew Hampsons children, Thelma and Theo Hampson, undated.

Description

Description 1 photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

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Photograph (Undated)



Unit ID 31060/14

Date Undated

Scope and content

Hampson family home, Walla Street, Bundaberg, sited between Woongarra and Bourbong Streets, on the eastern side.

Description

Description 1 photograph (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Photograph (Undated)



Unit ID 31060/15

Date Undated

Scope and content

James and Charlotte Hampson, parents of Matthew Frederick Hampson.

Description

Description 1 photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

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Photograph (Undated)



Unit ID 31060/16

Date Undated

Scope and content

Charlotte Hampson, mother of Matthew Frederick Hampson, with her pet collie dog.

Description

Description 1 photograph

Additional format Digital copy available

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Photograph (Undated)



Unit ID 31060/17

Date Undated

Scope and content

From left: William Hampson, older brother of Matthew Frederick Hampson; with nephews Reginald Hampson; John Hampson, and at front Paul Hampson, great nephew.

Description

Description 1 photograph (colour)

Additional format Digital copy available

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(9 digital)

Series 3: Newspaper clippings (1917)

Series number 3

Series title Newspaper clippings

Date 1917

Scope and content

Newspaper clippings relating to the death of Matthew Hampson, while serving overseas during the First World War.

Description

Description 2 articles

Locate OMBOX Box 21009

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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Items in this series:

Clipping (20 December 1917)

Unit ID 31060/18

Date 20 December 1917

Scope and content

Newspaper clipping titled 'Comrade's tribute, to a fallen soldier' which reproduces letters of condolence regarding the death of Matthew Hampson received by his wife Bella. Published in the Bundaberg Mail, 20 December 1917.

Description

Description 1 clipping

Clipping (1917)

Unit ID 31060/19

Date 1917

Scope and content

Unsourced newspaper article referring to news of the death of Private Matthew Frederick Hampson, received by the mayor of Bundaberg, Alderman R. Ruddell.

Description

Description 1 clipping

Series 4: Trench art (1917)



Series number 4

Series title Trench art

Date 1917

Scope and content

Souvenir dagger or letter opener, manufactured from artillery copper shell-shrapnel during the First World War. The design includes a crown, a German cross and the date 1917. The item was presumably collected by Private Matthew Hampson during his time in France and sent to his family in Bundaberg. [Item 31060/20]

Description

Description 1 dagger

Additional format Digital copy available

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Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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(1 digital)

Series 5: Certificates (11 November 1918)



Series number 5

Series title Certificates

Date 11 November 1918

Scope and content

Certificate commemorating the service of **Edward Eddleston** who served with the 25th Infantry Battalion during the First World War, issued by the Shire of Kolan, Gin Gin it reads "this token of esteem and admiration for his self sacrifice, and Patriotism in joining the gallant band who left our shores for the battle fields of Europe to maintain the Glorious Heritage of our flag, and empire, in the Greatest War of History". [Item 31060/21]

Description

Description 1 certificate

250 mm x 300 mm

Additional format Digital copy available

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(1 digital)