

**Volume 2 Section 354-21**  
**Life as a Prisoner of War**  
**8236 Sgt Arthur Thomas Hughes**

Hughes is mentioned in a report of Pte F Cleve (9503) of the 1st Lincolns` Cleve was at Langensalza from April to May 1916 (WO161/100 page 3017). He writes:-

Men were often not allowed to fall out for purposes of nature and I have seen men hit and kicked by under-officers and Feldwebels for easing nature in the ranks when having been repeatedly refused permission to fall out.

I complained of this treatment to a representative of the American Embassy and he took Lance Corporal Dubden, 1st Hants Regiment, and myself before the Commandant of the camp, Major Alexander and I asked him why I was treated like this and he replied it was because we had refused to work. We replied that we had never refused to work and that we had only refused to volunteer for work because the British sergeants of the strafe company (Sergeant Sterry, Royal West Kent, and Sergeant Hughes, Berkshire Regiment) had told us that we should be liable to suffer the death penalty on our return home if we did so. The sergeants got this information out of their small books. The commandant told us that as long as we would not volunteer he would commandeer us.

Cleve then noted that both he and Hughes along with about 50 others were sent to the salt mines two days later and Volkenroda and Mantenroda where they remained for four months. He went on:-

The treatment here was very bad. If we were ill we had to report to the sentry that came to wake us at 4 am. The sentry reported to the medical orderly, who was also a sentry, who took our temperature. If our temperature was below 39° Centigrade (102.2° Fahr) we were placed in a shed, our boots, jacket and cap being taken from us. Here we were left for three days and three nights without any food to eat or soup, not even any bread. At the end of which time the under-officer would come and ask us whether we would work. The reply was generally in the affirmative as the men were starving. If the temperature was above 39° (102.2° Fahr) the men were allowed one day in bed in their hut and food. The day following they had to work on the top of the salt mine for 12 hours receiving no pay whatever.

Eventually Hughes was transferred to Holland for internment as reported in the Berkshire Chronicle of 15/3/1918. When he returned to England after the war he was renumbered 5328131 and discharged 1/10/1930. He had enlisted 19/4/1906 and so completed over 24 years of service.