

Wilfred Augustus (Gus) Hicks was born in Feilding, New Zealand around 1889 the son of John Edward and Martha Hicks and came to Sydney in July 1914. On his enlistment papers he gave his name as Wilfred Augustus Fraser. At the time of enlistment, he was on 3 years' probation for forgery and uttering in Auckland, New Zealand in 1912.

He joined the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914, stating that he was 25 years old, a farmer and gave his next of kin as Duncan Fraser, Brandon Hall Station, Feilding, NZ. (Enquiries later revealed that there was no such person). He was allotted to D Company.

In a letter he sent to his mother the day after he enlisted, he stated:

"My Dear Mother

Well, Mum, here I am writing what may be the last you ever here (SIC) of me. I am sailing with the first contingent of the Australian Force tomorrow. I do not know where we are going to as we are sailing under sealed orders. I am going under the name of Gus Fraser and all being well and I return I will be home to see you all. Kind love to you and all, I remain your loving son, Gus"

Wilfred served with the AN&MEF until he was discharged, time expired on 4th March 1915, having served 206 days.

On return from Rabaul he immediately signed up with the 17th Battalion, AIF again as Fraser, as a driver, and sailed aboard the THEMISTOCLES to Suez on 12th May 1915. He served with the Battalion on the Gallipoli Peninsula until the Battalion was evacuated over a few days, commencing on 18th December 1915.

On 17th March 1916, he sailed with the battalion to Marseilles and was killed near Albert on 26th July 1916 during the First Battle of Pozieres.

Wilfred is buried at the Sunken Road Cemetery, Contalmaison, France and is remembered on Panel 83 at the Australian War Memorial Canberra.