

William Doyle HOBSON MID



Pre-enlistment:

- William HOBSON was born on 10 January 1890 in Toowoomba, the only son to William Doyle and Emith (Emily) Edith Symes. He had 1 sister, Mary Emma Lucille born in 1886.
- His father died in 1900 in Cairns and his mother in 1920 in Southport.
- He was educated at Toowoomba Grammar School
- He was a farmer by occupation at the time of enlistment

Previous Military Service

- His previous military service included 5 years 5 months with Kennedy Regiment
 - Mobilised for War Service with 2nd A.N. & M.E.F. (Australian Expeditionary Force) to Rabaul (German New Guinea)
 - Embarked at Cairns on 8 August 1914 for Thursday Island (War Station) Garrison Duty
 - Enlisted 14 August 1914 for service outside Australia
 - Re-embarked at Thursday Island on 16 August 1914, on Troopship 'Kanowna' to take part in the capture of German New Guinea
 - 'Taken on Strength' of the A.N. & M.E.F on 6 August 1914
 - Returned to Townsville on 18 September 1914, on account of the trouble caused by the firemen on troopship
 - Discharged 18 September 1914.
- Many of the men asked him to enlist for Europe & they would follow him, which is what happened.

Military Records

- Service Number: 1855
- William HOBSON enlisted on 8 January 1915 in Cairns with 49th Battalion, aged 25 years 11 months
- He embarked with his Unit from Brisbane, on board HMAT A15 Star Of England on 8 April 1915 and arrived in Alexandria on 11 September 1915.
- He joined the 1st Training Battalion in Zeitoun on 21 October 1915
- On 1 March 1916 he was promoted Sergeant at Tel-el-Kabir, and then he proceeded on to the School of Instruction on 30 April 1916
- He joined the British Expeditionary Force in Marseilles on 12 June 1916
- He fought in Gallipoli Campaign, Middle East and the Western Front
- Sergeant William DOBSON was killed in action at Pozieres, France on 16 August 1916
- From the AIF, 49th Battalion. 13th Inf. Brigade, 25th August, 1916. Dear Madam, I regret to state that your son, Sergeant W. D. Hobson, was killed on the night of 5th August, 1916, in action near Pozieres, France. This is the first occasion in which the 49th Battalion went into action and the conduct of your son under heavy fire was very gallant.

He was in charge of a strong post which was heavily shelled, and he sent all men possible away from the post and remained there with two other men to work the gun. At the time we were under heavy enemy shell fire and the position was extremely dangerous. Your son continued to observe and did excellent work until a high, explosive shell burst in the gun emplacement. I regret very much his loss, and my machine gun officer feels the loss of his senior sergeant very much indeed. By his splendid example and devotion to duty he undoubtedly set the men of his section a very fine example, and I had much pleasure in bringing to the notice of the General Sir H.V. Cox, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.S.T., the gallant conduct of your son in the night of August 15th/ 16. Though nothing will ever bring your son back, it is some consolation to know that he died as a gallant soldier should wish to die. Enclosed please find card forwarded by General Sir H. V. Cox. - Believe me, my dear madam, to be, Yours sympathetically, (Signed) Francis Lorenzo, Lt. CO. 49th Battalion.

Rifle Shooting

- William Hobson was a member of the Hambleton Rifle Club

ACWM Commemoration Service

Reference Links

- <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5265904>
- <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=139286>
- <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/50254>
- <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1634655>
- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/42894563> Cairns Post, Thu 13 Aug 1914, Page 8, Northern Mobilisation. Roll of Riflemen

Cemetery &/or Memorial

- Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France
- Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour
- Cairns Cenotaph
- Kuranda State School
- Toowoomba Grammar School WW1 Honour Board
- Toowoomba Grammar School WW1 In Memoriam Honour Board
- Toowoomba War Memorial (Mothers' Memorial)

Honours & Awards

- 1914-15 Star
- British War Medal
- Victory Medal
- Mentioned in despatches