



A Queensland Rifle Club member who made the supreme sacrifice
1914-1919

The Story Behind the Name



Sergeant William Doyle HOBSON MID

10 January 1890 - 16 August 1916



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PRE-ENLISTMENT:

- William Hobson was born on 10 January 1890 in Toowoomba and was the only son to William Doyle and Emith (Emily) Edith Symes. He had 1 sister Mary Emma Lucille born in 1886.
- William's father, a long-established general merchant in Cairns, died in 1900 in Cairns and his mother in 1920 in Southport.
- Educated at Toowoomba Grammar School from 1st April 1903 until 15th December 1904 with another source showing he graduated in 1907
- He was single and he was a farmer by occupation
- His next of kin was listed as Mrs E.E Hobson, Lake Street, Cairns but this was later changed to "parents dec'd, no brothers, only sister Mrs. L. Walker Hambledon, Cairns"

RIFLE SHOOTING:

- William (Tom) Hobson was a member of the Hambledon Rifle Club (in the Cairns/Edmonton area).
- He came 4th in the Hambledon's Dear's Trophy Prize Shoot in August 1910 with scores for 200, 500 and 600 ranges being 19, 29, 26 respectively with a handicap of 30 giving total of 104

PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE:

- 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.





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MILITARY SERVICE:

- Service Number: 1855
- William Hobson enlisted on 31 December 1914 in Cairns as a Private with 9th Battalion aged 25 years 11 months. He arrived at Enoggera Training Camp on 8 January 1915
- He embarked with his Unit from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT A15 Star of England on 8 April 1915 aged 26 years and arrived in Alexandria on 11 September 1915, after the original 9th Battalion landed at Gallipoli, but he was soon headed for the Peninsula as a reinforcement.
- William landed at Gallipoli with his Unit on 26 May; for the next three months he served at ANZAC, surviving the daily risks of shell and bullet.
- He was promoted to corporal on 12 July 1915
- On 6 September, having lived through the August offensive, he succumbed to illness and on 8 September he was evacuated to Mudros, the hospital base at Lemnos Island, then on to Alexandria and 1st Aux Hospital in Cairo by the 11 September.
- He joined the 1st Training Battalion in Zeitoun, Egypt, on 21 October 1915
- He re-joined his Unit at Gallipoli on 17 November 1915 for the last month of the campaign.
- On 4 January 1916 he landed in Egypt for the third time in eight months when he became part of the re-organisation of the AIF for the campaigns in France and Palestine.
- He was transferred to the new 49th Battalion at Habeita on 25 February 1916 and a week later, on 1 March 1916 he was promoted Sergeant at Tel-el-Kabir with 49th Infantry Battalion.
- He proceeded to the School of Instruction on 30 April 1916 and re-joined his Unit on 20 May 1916
- He sailed for France with his new unit on 5 June 1916. The 49th Battalion was part of the 4th Division; half its men were Gallipoli veterans, like William.
- He joined the British Expeditionary Force in Marseilles on 12 June 1916
- The men then travelled by train to the reserve areas for the Battle of Pozieres, the Australian role in the wider Somme campaign.
- The 4th Division attacked at Mouquet Farm on 8 August 1916. Again, William survived.
- In four days, 21 men of the battalion were killed.
- He served in Egypt, Gallipoli and on the Western Front



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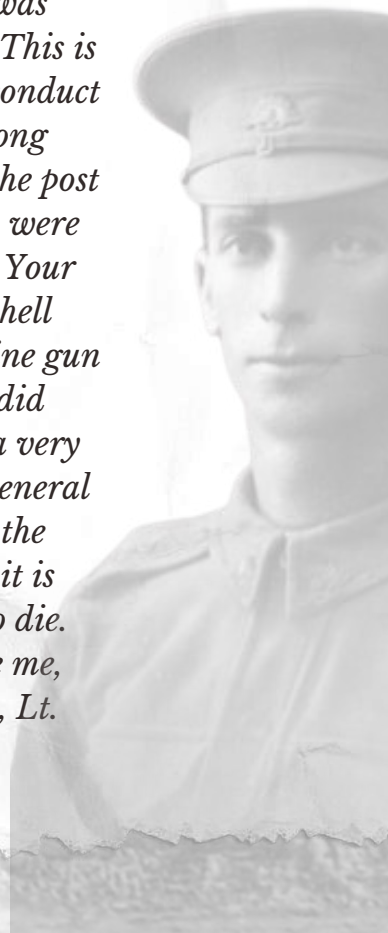
10 January 1890 - 16 August 1916

DEATH OF SERGEANT HOBSON:

- Sergeant William Doyle HOBSON was killed in action in the Battle of Pozieres, France on 16 August 1916, aged 27 years
- Two days after the death of Sergeant Hobson, his CO recommended him for a decoration for his conduct with the citation: Major General Sir H. V. Cox, K.C. M.G., C.B., C.S.T., commanding 4th Australian Division, congratulates 1885 Sgt. Hobson, W. D., 49th Battalion. 13th A.I. Brigade, on his gallant conduct as observer, on night August 15th, near Pozieres, under heavy fire. Place B.E.F., France. Date 23rd August, 1916.- H.V Cox, Major General.
- Sergeant Hobson was mentioned in despatches (MID): ***The gallant conduct of this NCO who throughout the intense enemy bombardment of front lines on night of 15th Aug stuck to the observation Post, the observer whom he sent into safety knowing the tremendous risk and mental strain the post demanded, he was subsequently killed at his post.***

Australian Imperial Force, 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.





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CEMETERY &/OR MEMORIAL:

- Cemetery: No know grave
- Memorials: 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)

MILITARY HONOURS & AWARDS:

- MID Mentioned in despatches
- 1914-1915 Star
- British War Medal
- Victory Medal



ARMISTICE CENTENARY WAR MEMORIAL

Commemoration Service





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REFERENCES:

LINKS for William Doyle (Tom) HOBSON

- <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://tgsoba.twgs.qld.edu.au/record/hobson-william-doyle/>

TROVE

- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/39892402?searchTerm=Hobson%2C%20hambledon%20rifle%20club> Cairns Post (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), Thu 4 Aug 1910, Page 6, THE RIFLE – 4th in Hambledon Prize Shoot
- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/42894563> Cairns Post (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), Thu 13 Aug 1914, Page 8, Northern Mobilisation
- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/40016723?searchTerm=Hobson%2C%20death> Cairns Post (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), Fri 15 Sep 1916, Page 4, Death of Tom Hobson.
- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/40022333?searchTerm=Hobson%2C%20family%20notices> Cairns Post (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), Wed 27 Sep 1916, Page 4, Family Notices
- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/40396589?searchTerm=Hobson%2C%20death>, Cairns Post (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), Fri 27 Oct 1916, Page 2, DEATH OF TOM HOBSON.



KILLED IN ACTION - 16 AUGUST 1916

DEATH OF SERGEANT WILLIAM DOYLE (TOM) HOBSON MID
AT POZIERES, FRANCE

- [/trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/40016723?
searchTerm=Hobson%2C%20death](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/40016723?searchTerm=Hobson%2C%20death)

He is Remembered with Honour



Emma Mary Doyle (with kitten), her brother Tom
(William Doyle Hobson (on right hand side))