

Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**3062 Corporal
Richard Dingley Hobbs**

4th Pioneer Battalion



1350102C

4th Pioneers Battn.
A.I.F.

Hoods.
R. D. 3062

"Killed 26.3.17"

I saw him killed outright by shell at Messines while we were digging a sap together. Pte. W. Kerr 2144 was killed by same shell. We buried them in marked graves alongside each other at "Fanny's Farm" in open country. We were all in Pl. 8 of B. Coy.

Witness:-

F. Tracey 2215
4th Pioneers Battn.

L.P.J.

London.

29.10.17.

B.

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0
8
Havre

Hobbs 4th October 1917

4th PIONEERS A.I.F.

HOBBS, R.D. 3062

A. 26th Aug. 1917 det. D/B

He was a Corporal and came from Brisbane - He used to be a Stone-mason and Bricklayer. He was killed by a shell in a sap at Messines about 1 a.m. He was buried right alongside the sap, near Fanny's Sgt. He had a good burial.

Informant: G. F. Linton 3083
4th Pioneers A.I.F.
H.S. "Grantully Castle"
Havre

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888

4th Pnr. Batt. A.I.F.

Hobbs. R.D. 3062.

K. 26.8.17. Det D/B

"Hobbs was working at the saps at Fanny's Farm on the Mesnes? pond bring up hay frames. He got up and put the hay frame down and went further up the sap to see if it was alright, when a shell came just over the top of the sap and took his head right off. He was buried 10 yards away from the sap in the open. We marked the place with a small wooden cross with his name and details on it."

Eyewitness:-- Yes.

Description:--

Informant:-- Pte Walter Sloper, 3996.

A.I.F. 4 Pnr. B.Coy. VIII Pl.
Beaufort Hos. Bristol.

Home address:-- C/O Mrs. Charles Sloper, B
Whimpole,
Dongana,
West Amphalia.

6.10.17

A.H. Styring.

FRANCE

4th AUST. PIONEERS.

HOBBS. R.D. 3062.

K. Aug 26th. 1917 Det

He belongs to B. Coy, 7 Platoon. Towards the end of August he was out with me opposite Warneton in Fanny's communication trench, which leads from Fanny's Farm to the left of Messines, in the direction of Warneton. We had made a sap and were putting in duck boards. A shell burst near him and hit him in the head and killed him on the spot. I saw him and his head was nearly taken off. We buried him up there near where he was killed and put up a cross over him.

JNA

Ref ---Pte Rudder. 3431.
No 16 Gen. Hospital

B

Le Treport. Oct 14th. 1917

Havre

15th October.1917.

4th AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

HOBBS, R.D. 3062

K. Aug. 26th.1917. Det. D/B.

I knew Corpl. Richard D. Hobbs of B.Co., VIII.Pltn., 13th Sect. I was about 10 yards from him at Fanny's Farm Communication Trench, Messines on the night of August 26th,1917, midnight - dark, when he was killed instantly by an high explosive shell along with two others. I helped to bury Hobbs in the same grave as Ft. Kerr of the 4th Pioneers, B.Co., VIII.Pltn. There is a cross on the grave. It is about 5 yards from the trench, which leads to our support trench. We held the ground. I could point out the spot.

Informant: Ft. H.A. Kearney, 2384
4th Australian Pioneers, B.Co., VIII
Pltn. 13 Sec.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDM.

B

A.I.F. Pioneers. 4.

HOBBS. R.D. 3062.

K. Aug. 26th 1917. Dets. D/B.

He was my mate, and his No. is about that. He was very sturdy of medium height, fair, and about 25, and came from Brisbane. I saw him killed. We were working in a sap behind our front line at Fanny's Farm Messines when he was hit in the head by a piece of shell and killed outright. I helped to bury him where he fell and our Battrn. put a cross on his grave. He was a very game chap and very much liked. Our Co. Commander said when he was killed that he was the best Cpl. in the Battrn.

Inf: Pte. B. McCormack. 1900. B. Coy.
3rd Can. Gen. Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 17.10.17.

SGC.

B

4th Aust: Para:.

Hobbs. C. R.D. 3062
B Co. 8 Pl.

K. 26/8/17 Det D/B

"Cpl. R.D.Hobbs, was killed by a shell at Messines, *instantly*
on the 26th August '17." *Buried out from safe.*

Eye-witness: No, told by Corpl.B.Turner, of same
platoon and Coy.

Description: Short, fairish, chubby man, (English
by birth) going bald.

Informant: C. J.T.Egan, 1625,
4th Aust: Para: B Co. 8 Pl.
Norfolk War Hos, Norwich.

Home address: Seymour Post Office,
Victoria,
Aust:.

23/10/17.
Edgar Rice.

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