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

# 1933 Private Arthur Hobbs

## 45th Battalion



1341009I

45th A. I. F., Hobbs, A., 1933,

K. Feb. 21st 1917. Det: D & B.

"I know that Arthur Hobbs (45.,B.,V) was hit by a piece of pineapple bomb about February 21st, when he was out on a bombing post in the front line at Dunecourt in front of Bapaume. He was wounded in the chest and tried to walk away. I am a stretcher bearer, and we were called to help him. We found him on his knees, and we bandaged him up. He only lived for about 10 minutes. We carried him to the first aid post, in a big German dug out, about 100 yards away, and we buried him over the top of the parapet."

Eye Witness: Yes.
Description: Medium height, clean shaven, young, "Hobbey."

Informant:-- Pte. George De Malin, 4761,
45th A. I. F., B. Coy., VIPl.,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
The Base, Oxford.

Home address:-- 155, Eveleigh Street,
Redfern, N. S. W.

4.5.17.
H.H.P.Cambridge.

45th A. I. F.,

Hobbs, Pte. A., 1933,

K. Feb. 21st 1917. Det: D & B.

"I was next t o Hobbs in our trench before Bapaume about 1½ miles from Bapaume when he was hit by a piece of shell which went right through him. He was buried just behind the front line where he was killed. I helped to byr him."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Was in B. Coy. short, fair, age apparently about 22 or 23.

Informant:-- Pte. Norman G. Ford, 2177.
45th A. I. F., B. Coy. VII Pl:
County of London War Hosp:
Horton, Epsomk

Home address:-- Morwimmumbah,
North Coast, N.S.W.

9.5.17.
P.L.Waterhouse.

45th A.I.F.

Hobbs Pte. A. 1933,

(K. Feb. 21/'17)

I was told by W.H. Hannam, a cousin of Hobbs that he was killed in a trench at Gueudecourt on Feb. 19th (not 21st, see Report) by a shell which blew all his chest away. Probably he was buried in the trench at night. Hannam was killed at the same post on Feb. 21st. They were both old friends of mine.

Eye-witness:

Description: Abt. 5ft. 3ins. in height, ruddy complexion, age abt. 30 yrs., always laughing.

Informant: Pte. J.W. Wilson 2020,
45th A.I.F.,
Lewisham Military Hospt.

May 9th 1917,
V. Swain.

Havre 23rd May, 1917.

45th AUSTRALIANS HOBBS, A. 1933

K. Feb. 21st. 1917. Det. D/B.

He was in B. Company. At Guendecourt on the 21st February we were holding our line. Hobbs was killed by a rifle grenade; he was killed instantaneously. I was told this by others. I saw his body a short time after he was killed. I helped to bury him in a shell hole at the back of the trench; he was a great favourite with us all. I do not know where he came from, but I think Lithgow, N.S.Wales.

Informant: Pt. J.E. Shoemark 1994
45th Batt., B.Co., VI. Pltn.
Australians.
H.S."Essequibo" Havre.

HPG.

45th A. I. F.,

Hobbs, Pte. A, 1933,

K. Feb. 21st 1917. Det: D & B.

"I was at Guendecourt Wood on the Somme in a trench called "Greece Trench" between the 19th and 22nd February 1917. One morning I saw Hobbs lying on a stretcher, dead. I was told that he had been hit by a piece of shell the previous night. His body was lying there awaiting burial, and in the ordinary course he would have been buried in the Cemetery at Flers, which is about a mile back. Jack Nigro Nigro, and Waites were both killed in the same trench the following evening, and would probably be buried in the same place as Hobbs. Hobbs came from Mundwooran, New South Wales. He and I were jockeys, and we often rode together. Mundwooran and Coonabarabran are about 40 miles apart. I have known Hobbs for years. I do not think he was married. He was in B. Coy."

Eye Witness: Of the fact of death.
Description: Small, always smiling.

Informant:-- Pte. Stephen Tracey, 1674,
45th A. I. F., A. Coy.,
1st Southern General Hosp: Edgbaston,
Birmingham.

23.5.17.
Pettitt. Home address:-- Coonabarabran, New South Wales.

45th Battn. B Coy. Hobbs.
A. I. F. A. 1933.

"Killed 21.2.17."

I saw this man killed instantly on the Somme Front near Guendecourt on Feb. 21st 1917. The handle of a "stick bomb" entered his chest and passed through the body. The enemy was attacking and "holding" Front line of trenches. I saw him lying dead in trench, but do not know where he was buried. The ground was held. He was about 5 feet 5ins., thin, dark. 28 years. Was a labourer from Mundooran N.S.W. He came from Australia with 4th Reinf of 45th Battn.

we were counter-attacking and

Witness:-
Cpl. J. C. Cameron. 4747.
A Coy. 45th Battn.
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.
30.5.17.

S.