

**Stoke Old Cemetery,
Guildford, Surrey
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6243 PRIVATE

J. DOLBY

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH MAY, 1918

John (Jack) DOLBY

John Dolby was born at Sheffield, Yorkshire, England in 1879 to parents Thomas & Mary Dolby (nee Asher).

The 1881 England Census recorded John Dolby as a 2 year old living with his family at 13 Belvoir Rd, Bottesford, Leicestershire, England. The head of the house was listed as Elizabeth Asher (aged 63). Her son was listed as Robert Asher (Railway Labourer, aged 20) & her grandson as George W. Asher (Scholar, aged 9). John's parents were listed as Thomas Dolby (Son-in-law, Railway Labourer, aged 35, born Long Bennington, Lincoln) & Mary (Dolby) (Daughter of Elizabeth Asher, aged 35, born Bottesford, Leicestershire). John was the youngest of four children – George Dolby (Scholar, aged 9, born Long Bennington, Lincoln), William Dolby (Scholar, aged 7, born Long Bennington, Lincoln), Annie E. Dolby (Scholar, aged 5, born Heely, York) & then John (born Heely, York).

The 1908 & 1912 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Herbert, subdivision of Thornborough, Queensland recorded John Dolby, Labourer, Stewart's Creek.

Mary Dolby, mother of John Dolby, died on 18th August, 1915 in Queensland, Australia.

John Dolby was a 37 year old, single, Labourer from H.M. Penal Establishment, Stewart's Creek, via Townsville, Queensland when he enlisted on 10th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6243 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr T. Dolby, of Stewart's Creek, via Townsville, Queensland.

Private John Dolby was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 14th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 20th Reinforcements of 9th Battalion on 16th May, 1916.

Private John Dolby embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 7th September, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 20th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd November, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private John Dolby proceeded overseas via Folkestone on *Golden Eagle* from 3rd Training Battalion on 27th December, 1916. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 18th December, 1916. Pte Dolby proceeded to join his Unit from Etaples on 23rd December, 1916 & joined his Battalion in France on 1st January, 1917.

Private John Dolby was sent sick to Hospital on 23rd May, 1917. He was admitted to 5th DRS with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) & was discharged to duty on 28th May, 1917. Pte Dolby rejoined his Battalion on 15th June, 1917.

Private John Dolby was wounded in action in Belgium on 20th September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Dolby was admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 21st September, 1917 with shrapnel wounds. He was transferred to 2nd Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 11th October, 1917 & discharged to Base Depot on 15th October, 1917. Pte Dolby was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on 16th October, 1917. He proceeded to join his Unit from 1st A.D.B.D. on 4th November, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion in France on 6th November, 1917.

War Diary – 9th Battalion

19/20/21 September, 1917

Casualties sustained by the Battalion during this period are – Killed – Lieut. F. B. Scougall, Lieut. R. M. McKenzie, 2/Lieut. H. M. Flynn and 36 Other Ranks. Missing – 20 Other Ranks. Wounded Capt. C. J. Carroll, Capt. J. F. McNaught, Lieut. R. Carson, Lieut. R. G. Hamilton, Lieut. H. L. Norris, Lieut. W. A. Shrewsbury and 178 Other Ranks.

(Extract of War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Dolby was sent to "Brig. Miners" on 27th December, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 6th January, 1918.

Private John Dolby was on leave to UK from 10th January, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion in France on 28th January, 1918.

Private John Dolby was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 24th April, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Dolby was transferred to Ambulance Train 6 on 25th April, 1918 & admitted to 32nd Stationary Hospital on 26th April, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to head & shoulder. Pte Dolby was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* on 6th May, 1918.

War Diary – 9th Battalion

24th April, 1918 Meteren-Becque Sector

At 12 midnight the two flank companies moved out in accordance with orders, "D" Company getting on to the RED line and Keeping in touch with the left flank battalion. "C" Company in the centre were unable to immediately gain their objective on account of the great number of Machine Guns posted in houses, hedges etc. where it was difficult to dislodge them. The O.C. asked for heavy barrage but it was considered inadvisable in account of the close proximity of our own troops. Stokes guns were used with satisfactory results. "B" Company on the right had to keep its left flank back slightly until "C" Company came up at about 2 o'clock. At this time we were well over the red line at all points. "A" Company on the extreme right moved out at 2 o'clock to connect with 10th Battalion on the far side south of METEREN, but had only gone about 30 yards when they were under cross fire from enemy machine guns. At this stage orders came through from Brigade to establish red line as the mopping up parties in the town had not been as successful as expected and that the day was beginning to dawn.

<u>Casualties</u> –	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	
	11 O. Ranks	32 Other Ranks	Lieut A. W. Wheatley killed.

(Extract of War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

9th Battalion

In 1917 the battalion moved back to Belgium for the advance to the Hindenburg Line, and in March and April 1918 helped stop the German spring offensive.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Dolby was admitted to Guildford War Hospital, Surrey, England on 7th May, 1918 with gunshot wounds to head – seriously ill.

Private John Dolby died at 2.15 am on 10th May, 1918 at War Hospital, Guildford, Surrey, England from wounds received in action

A death for J. Dolbey, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Guildford, Surrey, England. (Note – aged should be 39).

Private John Dolby was buried at 2 pm on 14th May, 1918 in Stoughton Cemetery, (now referred to as Stoke Old Cemetery), Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey, England – Plot number G. 373 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte John Dolby - Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were present. Prior to the interment a service was held by the Chaplain H. Lee in the Chapel at the Cemetery. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Names of relatives and friends present at the funeral – Cousins – Messrs Charles & Henry Freeman, 66 Grove St, New Balderton, Newark, Notts. Friend – Miss E. O. Combes, Ashenhurst, Albury Rd, Guildford.

Mr W. Dolby, Stewarts Creek near Townsville, Queensland, wrote to Base Records in October, 1918 asking if they would “forward me my late Brother’s Kit bag and personal effects.” Base Records replied that no personnel effects of the late Private J. Dolby had been returned to date, but any articles would be promptly transmitted to Mr Thomas Dolby who was the sole legatee under the late soldiers’ will. Base Records pointed out that there was considerable delay in transmitting soldiers’ effects to Australia owing to the lack of shipping space & that a soldier’s kit bag, being part of his Military equipment, was the property of the Government & was not returned, however any articles of sentimental value would be extracted & forwarded to the next-of-kin.

Private John Dolby requested in his Will dated 15th July, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to Mr Thomas Dolby, Stewarts Creek, Townsville.

Private John Dolby was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Dolby’s father - Mr T. Dolby, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

Mr Thomas Dolby died 7th March, 1918 in Queensland. There was no record of his death in the Service Record file for Private John Dolby.

Newspaper Notice:

Death – DOLBY – At Stewart’s Creek on March 7th, Thomas Dolby, beloved father of George, Willie, John and Joseph Dolby, and Emma Huston, aged 72 years and 3 months. At Rest.

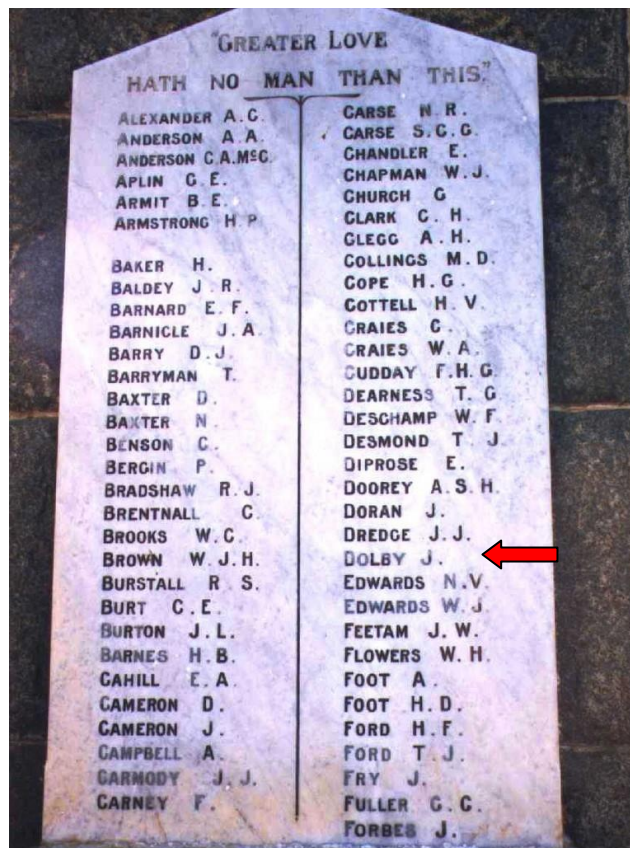
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. Dolby – service number 6243, of 9th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. Dolby is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Dolby is remembered on the Townsville War Memorial/Cenotaph, located at Anzac Memorial Park, The Strand, Townsville, Queensland.



Townsville War Memorial/Cenotaph (Photos from Queensland War Memorials – Shirley & Trevor McIvor)

(55 pages of Pte John Dolby's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

QUEENSLAND LOSSES

Casualty list No. 347....

Wounded

Pte J. Dolby, Townsville

(*The Daily Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 30 October, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 405

Died from Other Causes

Private J. Dolby (Townsville)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 31 May, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

DOLBY – Officially reported died of wounds at Guildford War Hospital, May 10th, 1918, 6243 – Private John Dolby, 9th Battalion, third son of the late Thomas and Mary Dolby, Stewart's Creek.

His footsteps never faltered,
His courage never failed;
In the ranks he was only a private,
But he sleeps in a hero's grave.

(Inserted by his sorrowing and only Sister, Emma Huston.)

(*Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Queensland – 7 June, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DOLBY – In fond and loving memory of our dear brother, Private John Dolby, who died of wounds at Guildford War Hospital, May 10th, 1918

You shall always be first in our memory,
Though your grave is far over the foam,
Where you fell 'midst the thunder of battle,
Fighting for loved ones at home.
We had pictured your safe returning,
And longed for a clasp of your hand,
But god has postponed our meeting,
It will be in a better land.

(Inserted by his loving brothers and sister-in-law, G. and J. Dolby and family)

(*Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Queensland – 10 May, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DOLBY – In loving memory of our dear brother, No. 6243 Private John Dolby, who died of wounds at Guildford War Hospital, England, on the 10th May, 1918.

Midst the roaring of the battle,
And the rain of shot and shell,
Fighting for home and country,
He like a hero fell.
Far away from all who loved him,
They gently laid him to rest;
In a far away grave dear Jack is sleeping,
One of the bravest and best.

Inserted by his loving only sister and brother-in-law, Emma and Charles Huston.

(*Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Queensland – 10 May, 1923)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DOLBY – In loving memory of our dear brother, No. 6243 Private John Dolby, who died of wounds at Guildford War Hospital, England, on the 10th May, 1918.

We can still see his smiling face,
 Although six years have passed,
And in our memory still he lives,
 And will until the last.

Inserted by his loving only sister and brother-in-law, Emma and Charles Huston.

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 10 May, 1924)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DOLBY – In loving memory of our dear brother, No. 6243 Private John Dolby, who died of wounds at Guildford War Hospital, England, on the 10th May, 1918.

Sweet is the memory left behind,
Of one so noble, true and kind,
His fight is fought, he stood the test,
We'll always remember him one of the best.

Inserted by his ever loving only sister and brother-in-law, Emma and Charles Huston.

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 9 May, 1925)

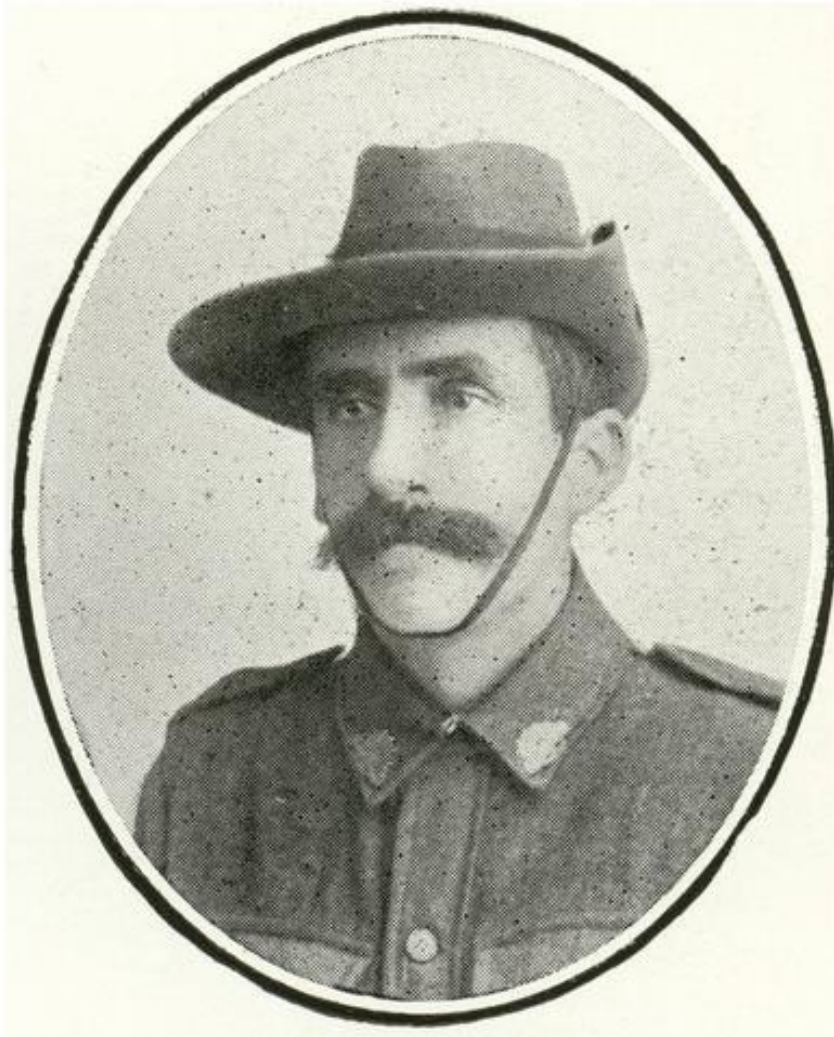
ROLL OF HONOUR

DOLBY – In loving memory of our dear brother, No. 6243 Private John Dolby, who died of wounds at Guildford War Hospital, England, on May 10th, 1918.

We always think of you dear Jack,
It's sweet to breathe your name,
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Emma and Charles Huston.

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 10 May, 1927)



Private John Dolby



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

A letter from Base Records, dated 8th July, 1921, to Mr T. Dolby, Stewarts Creek, Townsville, North Queensland, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Pte J. Dolby, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private J. Dolby does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Stoke Old Cemetery, Guildford, Surrey, England

Stoke Old Cemetery, Guildford, Surrey contains 84 Commonwealth War Graves – 76 from World War 1 & 8 from World War 2.

There are 4 Australians buried in this Cemetery.



Cross of Sacrifice in Stoke Old Cemetery, Guildford *(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*

Photo of Private J. Dolby's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Stoke Old Cemetery, Guildford, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)