

**All Saints Churchyard,
Idmiston, Wiltshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3798 DRIVER

L. E. J. HOBBS

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

11TH JANUARY, 1918 Age 20

Leslie Edward John HOBBS

Leslie Edward John Hobbs was born at Somerset, Tasmania on 13th August, 1897 to parents Edward & Mary Hobbs (nee Weeks).

(Information for the Roll of Honour, supplied by Mary Hobbs (mother), states place of birth as Somerset, Tasmania, however Leslie Hobbs stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born at Somerset, Devon, England.)

Leslie Edward John Hobbs attended State School & International Correspondence School.

Leslie John Hobbs stated he was an 18 year old, single, Engine Driver from Ulverstone, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 30th November, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3798 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – E. Hobbs of Ulverstone, Tasmania. Leslie Hobbs stated he had served 4 years in Militia. Leslie John Hobbs would have been only 17 years old at the time of enlisting. He also signed his name as “J. Hobbs” on the front of the Attestation Paper & “Jack Hobbs” on the back.

Gunner Leslie E. J. Hobbs embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Hymettus (A1)* on 8th February, 1915 with the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Alexandria, Egypt on 16th March, 1915.

Gunner Hobbs joined M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on 30th April, 1915.

Gunner Hobbs was absent without leave at Cleopatra, Alexandria on 13th June, 1915. He was proclaimed a Deserter from the finding of a Court of Enquiry held at Cleopatra on 5th July, 1915. Gunner Hobbs rejoined his Unit on 9th July, 1915. He was written up for being Absent without leave from 15th June, 1915 until 9th July, 1915. He was awarded 25 days detention & 25 days forfeiture of pay - total forfeiture 50 days.

Gunner Hobbs was transferred to Detention Barracks at Abbassia, Cairo on 12th July, 1915 & rejoined his Unit at Cleopatra on 3rd August, 1915.

Gunner Hobbs was transferred to Gallipoli Peninsula on 3rd August, 1915. He was transferred to 2nd F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) & taken on strength on 6th September, 1915.

Gunner Hobbs was sent sick to Hospital on 11th October, 1915. He was transferred to Malta & admitted to Hospital on 15th October, 1915 with dysentery. Gunner Hobbs was transferred to St. Andrews Hospital on 16th October, 1915. He embarked on Hospital Ship *Braemar Castle* for England on 26th October, 1915 & was admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England on 4th November, 1915. Base Records notified Mr Edward Hobbs that his son had been wounded.

Gunner Hobbs was written up for an Offence – Breaking Ranks on 12th January, 1916. He received 7 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Gunner Hobbs joined Base Depot in France on 18th April, 1916, from Weymouth, England.

Gunner Hobbs was written up for a Crime – “*Using improper language to a Superior Officer. Conduct to the prejudice of good order & Military discipline (Base Depot)*”. He forfeited 28 days' pay.

Gunner Hobbs was taken on strength with D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) on 8th June, 1916 & posted to No. 4 Section.

Gunner Hobbs was transferred on 16th June, 1916 to 3rd F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade). He was taken on strength the same day with 103rd Battery.

Gunner Hobbs was written up on 17th August, 1916 for a Crime – “*1. When on A.S. Breaking line of March., 2. When on A.S. drunk on line of March.*” He was awarded 10 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 20 days' pay.

Gunner Hobbs was mustered as Driver on 21st November, 1916.

Driver Hobbs was sent sick to Hospital – 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 30th December, 1916 with Scabies. He was transferred to A.C.R. Station the same day. Driver Hobbs was discharged to duty on 11th January, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 18th January, 1917.

Driver Hobbs was charged with being absent without leave from 10 a.m. on 20th January, 1917 to 7 a.m. on 21st January, 1917, while in the field. He was found guilty & sentenced to "40 days Field Punishment No. 2. Time under charge – 32 days. Total Forfeiture – 72 days."

Driver Hobbs was sent to 13th Australian Field Ambulance with Scabies on 30th January, 1917 then transferred on 31st January, 1917 to 1st Australian Scabies Hospital. He was discharged to duty on 12th February, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 16th February, 1917.

[Note: There is no record in the Service Record file of when Driver Hobbs returned to England]

Driver Hobbs was marched out to No. 1 Command Depot on 4th December, 1917. He was medically classified B1 A4 (fit for Overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit).

Driver Hobbs was Absent without leave from No. 1 Command Depot from 9.30 p.m. on 11th December, 1917 until he returned at 2 p.m. on 13th December, 1917. He was awarded 9 days Field Punishment No. 2 & was in custody awaiting trial for 4 days, with a total forfeiture of 16 days' pay.

Driver Hobbs was sent sick to Sutton Veny Hospital on 2nd January, 1918 & admitted to Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 3rd January, 1918 with Erysipelas. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Struck his hand while running into his hut. Was not on duty*"

Driver Leslie Edward John Hobbs died on 11th January, 1918 at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire from Erysipelas & Broncho Pneumonia. He was aged 20 years & 5 months. Driver Hobbs' Uncle at Gomeldon, near Salisbury, Wiltshire was notified. Sanctions for a post mortem was approved by him.

A death for Jack Hobbs, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Driver Leslie Edward John Hobbs was buried on 15th January, 1918 at Idmiston Churchyard, near Salisbury, Wiltshire – Private Burial.

From the burial report of Driver L. E. J. Hobbs - *Coffin was Elm. The funeral which was a private one, was attended by the following relatives:- (uncles) Messrs F. Hobbs, C. Hobbs and W. Hobbs of Gomeldon, also Misses E. and B. Hobbs of the same village. The Clergyman who carried out the service was sent from another district, owing to the regular Chaplain (Rev. Noel) being absent and notwithstanding enquiries made in the neighbourhood of Idmiston, it is not possible to supply the Rev. Noel's permanent address.*

(Driver Hobbs' relatives who lived at Gomeldon would have organised the funeral at Idmiston which is less than 2 miles away).

A memo in Driver Hobbs Service Record file reads – "*Will – Jack Hobbs Regimental Number 3798 serving in 103rd Howitzer Batty. Does not wish to make a Will.*"

Driver Leslie Edward John Hobbs was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Hobbs' father – Mr E. Hobbs (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Leslie Edward John Hobbs – service number 3798 as being 20 years old & served with 3rd Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Edward and Mary Hobbs, of Ulverstone, Tasmania. Born at Somerset, Tasmania.

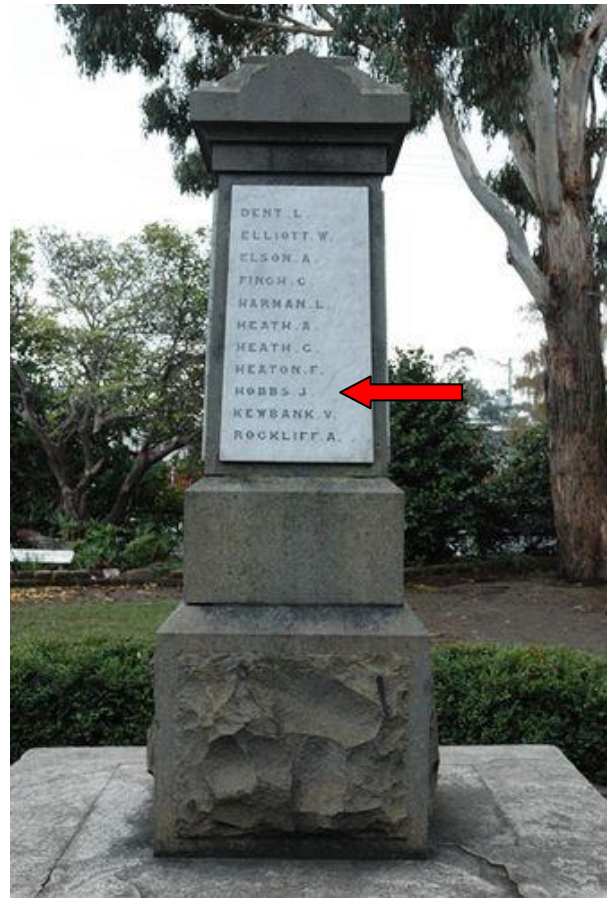
Mrs Doris J. Pearl, of 11 Farrer St, Braddon, A.C.T., sister of late Leslie Edward John Hobbs, applied for the Gallipoli Medallion in March, 1967, in respect of the service of her late brother – Leslie Edward John Hobbs.

Driver L. E. J. Hobbs is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 12.



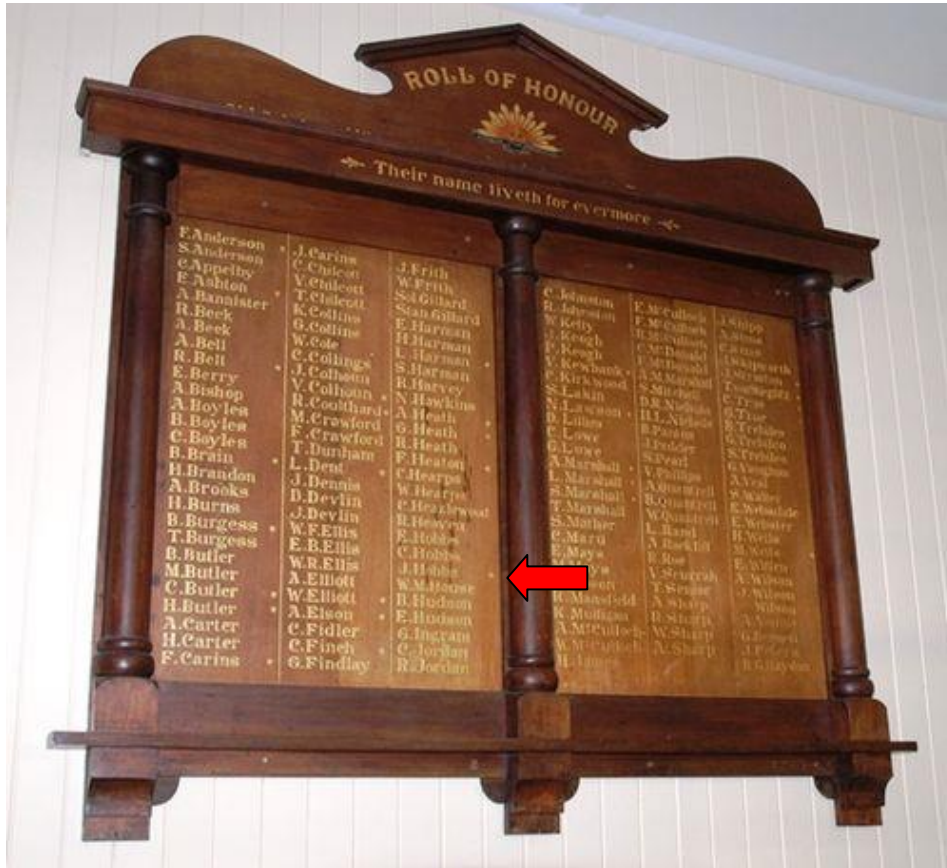
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Hobbs is remembered on the Ulverstone Primary School War Memorial, located at Ulverstone Primary School, Leven Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania.



Ulverstone Primary School War Memorial (Photos by Arthur Garland – Monument Australia)

J. Hobbs is also remembered on the Ulverstone State School Roll of Honour, located at Ulverstone Primary School, Leven Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania.



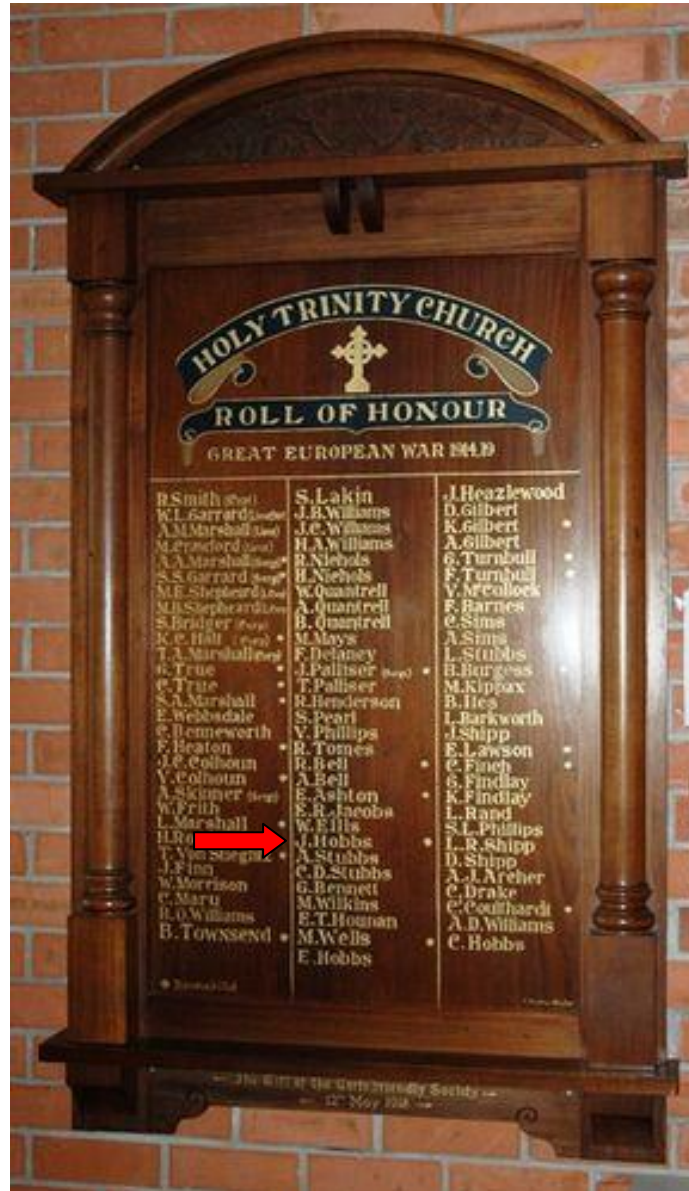
Ulverstone State School Roll of Honour (Photo by Arthur Garland – Monument Australia)

J. L. Hobbs is also remembered on The Shrine of Remembrance (clocktower built in 1953) located at Risby Street, Reiby Street & Alexandra Road, Ulverstone, Tasmania.



The Shrine of Remembrance (Photos by Diane Watson/Lorne Lewis – Monument Australia)

J. Hobbs is also remembered on the Holy Trinity Church Roll of Honour, located inside Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 6 – 10 Kings Parade, Ulverstone, Tasmania.



Holy Trinity Church Roll of Honour (Photo by Arthur Garland – Monument Australia)

Driver Leslie Edward John Hobbs is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



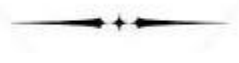
Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

4049	Pte	Harrison	Morton	05.04.1918	24	4th Inf Bn	Cygnal	15028
3043	Pte	Harvey	John Ballour	29.09.1918	25	40th Inf Bn	New Norfolk	6304
7499	Pte	Hawkes	Harold Aaron	24.08.1918	19	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	3355
15432	Tpr	Hawkesford	Horace	24.10.1918	28	AAMC	Hobart	3358
(8467)	Lt	Hay	Charles William	06.04.1918	31	8 Trng Sqn AFC	Huon	3088
1631	Pte	Hayes	Theophilus Trevill	28.03.1918	20	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	
55546	Pte	Haynes	Arthur Ernest	24.10.1918	23	Depot rec (Aust)	Rokeby	7445
637A	Cpl	Hayward	Edwin Joseph	19.09.1918	25	3rd MG Bn	Hobart	3359
3963	Cpl	Heald	John Francis	29.08.1918	26	26th Inf Bn	Waratah	19471
839	Sgt	Heathcote	Geo Thos	09.08.1918	23	26th Inf Bn	Westbury	3197
3330	Pte	Heathcote	Walter George	31.08.1918	34	40th Inf Bn	Westbury	3358
7740	Pte	Henderson	William Gladstone	01.05.1918	19	12th Inf Bn	Coolesdown	101378
1259	CSM	Henry MM	William Livingstone	03.10.1918	26	26th Inf Bn	Doloraine	7313
6794	Pte	Henshaw	Cilford Osborne	09.08.1918	18	46th Inf Bn	Zeehan	57685
3981	Pte	Herbert	Alfred	19.10.1918	24	26th Inf Bn	Launceston	635
1106	Dvr	Herron	Edwin George	28.03.1918	34	26th Inf Bn	Launceston	2489
3332	Pte	Higgins	Walter	28.03.1918	34	26th Inf Bn	Apaley	4851A
7024	Pte	Hill	Robert Bertram	05.06.1918	29	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	3962
1850	CSM	Hills	Joseph Norman	05.04.1918	27	4th Inf Div HQ	Zeehan	46374
(226)	Lt	Hines	Walter John	06.08.1918	25	14th Fd Arty Bde	Cressy	7620
6230	Dvr	Hitchens	Robert	29.10.1918	23	14th Fd Arty Bde	Ulverstone	3323
3796	Dvr	Hobbs	Leslie Edward John	11.01.1918	20	3rd Fd Arty Bde	Hobart	6771
1110	Pte	Hobson MM	Oswald	08.08.1918	26	26th Inf Bn	Hobart	4546
8236	Pte	Hodgkiss	Charles Jamieson	29.09.1918	22	57th Inf Bn	Somerset	2419
7580	Pte	Hodgkiss	Hector Lachlan	30.08.1918	29	40th Inf Bn	Cressy	3850
6162	Dvr	Holcombe	Edward John	30.05.1918	23	3rd Fd Arty Bde	Launceston	2642
2925A	Pte	Holden	Wilfred James	10.05.1918	25	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	33508
2892	Pte	Holden	Gordon Roy	25.07.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	(979)
18018	Gnr	Holler	Frederick William B	17.06.1918	28	12th Fd Arty Bde	Ross	4
800	Pte	Holland	Sidney George	28.07.1918	34	2nd Bn MG Corps	Launceston	1813
1805A	Pte	Holmyard	Richard	08.08.1918	26	26th Inf Bn	Elizabeth Town	14713
2029	L/Cpl	Hollum	Cyril Robert	11.06.1918	28	12th Inf Bn	Zeehan	ANZAC
822	Pte	Hollum MM	Henry Edward	22.09.1918	27	12th Inf Bn	Zeehan	ANZAC
5110	Pte	Horne	William James	24.04.1918	25	52nd Inf Bn	Bothwell	1852
2294	Pte	Horne	Harbert	22.04.1918	27	40th Inf Bn	Bothwell	459
3293	Pte	Horsay	Harold Norman J	09.09.1918	21	26th Inf Bn	Kempton	3063
7285	Pte	Hortle	Roy Thomas	12.01.1918	23	12th Inf Bn	Carrick	6317
2510A	Pte	Horton MM	Frederick Norwood	29.07.1918	20	26th Inf Bn	Forest	1909
1647	Pte	How	Donald Reginald	24.04.1918	21	40th Inf Bn	North Molton	785A
826	Pte	Howard	Anthony	13.06.1918	36	40th Inf Bn	Devonport	1855A
318	L/Cpl	Howell	Lionel Arthur	29.08.1918	31	40th Inf Bn	Glenluak	1550
894	Gnr	Howell	Albare Hurst	25.04.1918	23	36th Hyv Arty Gp	Hobart	5252
851	Pte	Howell	David Royden S	22.04.1918	25	40th Inf Bn	Launceston	7032
17084	Pte	Hunter	James	22.04.1918	24	NZEF W/B	Tyenna	53852
6216	Sqr	Hunter	James Harold	18.04.1918	23	13th Fd Coy Engrs	Carrick	5385
8002	Pte	Hurst	Walter Alfred	16.09.1918	22	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	64441
766	Pte	Husband	Leslie	04.06.1918	36	12th Inf Bn	Sheffield	3190
2025	Pte	Hutchison	Frederick William	17.07.1918	29	40th Inf Bn	Greeneston	ANZAC
3694	Smdr	Ives	Georion Henry	08.04.1918	20	10th Fd Arty Bde	Greenland	3364
874	Pte	Ives	Frank Solomon	28.03.1918	22	2nd MG Coy	Devonport	28356
7747	Pte	Ivory	Bert	01.05.1918	20	12th Inf Bn	Devonport	1957
2492	Sgt	Jackson	Tasman Collinson	03.10.1918	22	26th Inf Bn	Hobart	6504
62	CSM	Jacques MID	Victor Arthur	31.07.1918	23	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	3226
2728A	Pte	James	George Henry	18.05.1918	23	47th Inf Bn	Hobart	2482
16032	Gnr	James	Rodrick Reginald	24.04.1918	20	14th Fd Arty Bde	Langford	ANZAC
785A	Pte	James	Alfred Edward	26.07.1918	23	12th Inf Bn	Lattrobe	ANZAC
1023	Pte	Jarman	Cyril Leslie	17.04.1918	23	12th Inf Bn	Scottsdale	ANZAC
2708	Dvr	Jarvis	George	10.08.1918	32	4th MG Coy	Launceston	ANZAC
2928	Pte	Jeffrey	Gilbert William	24.04.1918	25	52nd Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC
30874	Sgt	Jeffrey MM	William Oakford	10.08.1918	30	13th Fd Arty Bde	Hobart	3639
5324	Pte	Jens	Ernest Alfred	05.07.1918	41	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	1862
7044	Pte	Johnson	John	10.08.1918	24	1st MG Bn	Yalla	5164
8006	Pte	Johnson	Albert Edward	22.08.1918	17	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	6327
7746	Pte	Johnson	Arthur	02.08.1918	19	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	3193
862	Pte	Johnson	Levi	30.08.1918	33	40th Inf Bn	Devonport	287
3341	Pte	Johnson	Herbert John	18.08.1918	27	40th Inf Bn	Launceston	4384
5130	Pte	Johnstone	Eric Walter	20.06.1918	27	8th Inf Bn	Uiverstone	8848
12387	Pte	Jolley	Albert	28.09.1918	23	NZEF AR	Port Cygnal	6896
2852	Cpl	Jones	Thomas Redburn	11.08.1918	24	26th Inf Bn	Wynyard	ANZAC
3484	L/Cpl	Jones	James Lindsay	05.04.1918	33	52nd Inf Bn	Launceston	3814
								127 (108)

1850	CSM	Hills	Joseph Norman	05.04.1918	27	47th Inf Bn	Hamilton	ANZAC
(226)	Lt	Hines	Walter John	06.08.1918	25	4th Inf Div HQ	Zeehan	ANZAC
6230	Dvr	Hitchens	Robert	29.10.1918	23	14th Fd Arty Bde	Cressy	
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1110	Pte	Hobson MM	Oswald	08.08.1918	26	26th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC

(81 pages of Driver Leslie John Hobbs' 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



Driver Leslie John Hobbs



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

HOBBS— On January 11, 1918, at Suttonbury Military Hospital, England, of erysipelas and broncho- pneumonia, after three years' service, Gunner Jack Hobbs, 103rd Howitzer Battery, dearly loved eldest son of E. and M. Hobbs, of Riverside, Ulverstone, aged 20 years and five months.

A volunteer at 17, he stood on freedom's side;

Three years he fought for God and Country; then he died.

But not in vain, for great is his reward;

With blood-washed robes he stands before his Lord.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Tuesday 22 January, 1918) &

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – Wednesday 30 January, 1918) &

(Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania – Friday 15 February 1918) &

(The Mercury, Hobart Tasmania - Friday 15 February 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

381st CASUALTY LIST

THE TASMANIANS

DIED OF ILLNESS

Gnr. Hobbs, Leslie Edward John, Ulverstone, 11/1/18

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Friday 1 February, 1918)

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 of Driver L. E. J. Hobbs at Idmiston (All Saints) Churchyard. 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)

Driver L. E. J. Hobbs does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

All Saints Churchyard, Idmiston, Wiltshire

All Saints Churchyard, Idmiston contains 1 Commonwealth War Graves Commission Grave from World War 1 & 2 from World War 2.



All Saints Church, Idmiston, Wiltshire (Photo above from CWGC; below Chris Talbot)



Photo of Driver L. E. J. Hobbs' Headstone at All Saints Churchyard, Idmiston, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Lady Linda)

The photo below shows the previous headstone for Driver L.E.J. Hobbs with incorrect date of death. I contacted CWGC in February, 2016 to advise them of the incorrect date. It has now been replaced with the correct date of death (see above).



(Photo courtesy of Anthony Bysouth 2010)



Driver L.E.J. Hobbs' Headstone in Churchyard at Idmiston, England – buried beside his grandparents

(Photo courtesy of Rhonda Hobbs)



NEWSPAPER NOTICE

SAD DROWNING ACCIDENT

DAUGHTER OF MR HOBBS, M.H.A.

BODY NOT FOUND

Ulverstone, Sunday night – Miss Elma Hobbs, daughter of Mr E. Hobbs, M.H.A., aged 24 years, met with her death today about noon. She went out for a row towards the river by herself in a boat. The weather was fine and the sea smooth. She was seen rowing by two fishermen, who on looking later saw that the boat had drifted considerably to the leeward. On investigating they found the boat without the occupant. One oar was missing, and the other dragged across the boat. Miss Hobbs' gloves and book were left in the boat. It is presumed she lost the oar, and in endeavouring to regain it, overbalanced, and fell into the sea, and was drowned. Parties are scouring the beaches and river, but to a late hour to-night her body had not been found.

Mr Hobbs returned from Melbourne yesterday.

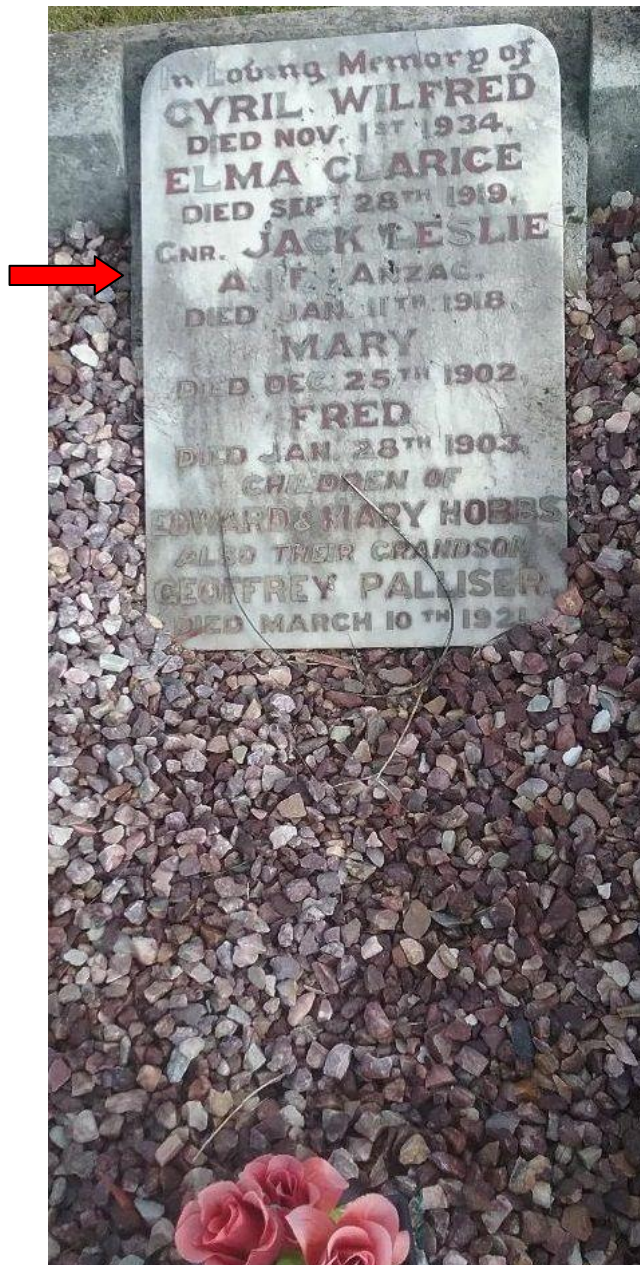
(Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania – Monday 29 September, 1919)

THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. E. Hobbs and family wish to thank the people for their kind sympathy and help in their sad and sudden bereavement in the loss of their dear daughter and sister, Elma Clarice, who was accidentally drowned in River Leven, September 23, 1919. "Riverside," Ulverstone, 22/11/19.

(Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania – Saturday 22 November, 1919)

Jack Leslie Hobbs is also remembered on the family Headstone in Ulverstone General Cemetery, Tasmania, along with his sister Elma Clarice who tragically drowned in 1919.



Hobbs Family Headstone in Ulverstone Cemetery, Tasmania (Anglican Section)

(Photo from Find a Grave – Julie Henderson & Lacey Milier)