Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire

War Grave

Lest We Forget

World War 1

SURGEON LIEUTENANT

R. A. HOBBS

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. *MELBOURNE*

13TH FEBRUARY, 1919   Age 33

Roland Augustus HOBBS

Roland Augustus Hobbs was born on 10th December, 1885 to parents Frederick Augustus Hobbs & Mary Jane Ellen Hobbs (nee Duck). His birth was registered in March quarter, 1886 in the district of Portsea Island, Hampshire, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Rowland A. Hobbs as a 5 year old Scholar, living with his parents at Waterford House, Fawcett Road (Grocer's Shop), Portsea, Hampshire, England. His parents were listed as Frederick A. Hobbs (Baker & Grocer, aged 43, born Portsmouth, Hants) & Mary J. E. Hobbs (aged 37, born Portsmouth, Hants). Roland was one of five children listed on this Census, all born at Portsmouth, Hants – Effie Hobbs (Scholar, aged 13), Alice M. Hobbs (Scholar, aged 11), Frederick W. Hobbs (Scholar, aged 9) the Roland & Gordon V. Hobbs (aged 3). Also listed was Ellen M. Smith (Servant, aged 26).

Roland Augustus Hobbs attended The Portsmouth Grammar School from 1899 – 1901.

The 1901 England Census recorded Roland A. Hobbs as a 15 year old, living with his parents at 137 Fawcett Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England. His parents were listed as Frederick A. Hobbs (Retired Provision Merchant, aged 53)) & Mary J. E. Hobbs (aged 47). Roland was one of six children listed on this Census – Effie Hobbs (aged 23), Alice M. Hobbs (aged 21), Fredk. W. Hobbs (Medical Student, aged 19), then Roland, Gordon V. Hobbs (aged 13) & Berth M. Hobbs (aged 9, born Portsmouth, Hants.) Also listed was a servant – Louisa Warman (aged 18).

Roland Augustus Hobbs qualified at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London into the Royal College of Surgeons in 1908.

The 1909 Electoral Register for Southern or Fareham Division, Portsmouth Polling District listed Roland Augustus Hobbs of High Wycombe.

The 1912 Electoral Register for Southern or Fareham Division, Portsmouth Polling District listed Roland Augustus Hobbs of

The Medical Register of Great Britain for 1913 listed Roland Augustus Hobbs, of Easton Street, High Wycombe, Bucks. He was registered 30th October, 1908. Roland Augustus Hobbs was in practiced with his brother Frederick Hobbs.

Dr. Roland A. Hobbs was appointed to the Medical Staff of the Wycombe Cottage Hospital in 1913.

The 1914 & 1915 Electoral Registers for Southern or Wycombe division of Buckinghamshire, parish of High Wycombe listed Roland Augustus Hobbs at Easton Street. Also listed was Frederick Augustus Hobbs (father) & Frederick William Hobbs (brother).

Roland Augustus Hobbs was appointed Temporary Surgeon, Royal Navy on 4th August, 1914.

From *The London Gazette Supplements* – 27 October, 1914

Admiralty 24th October, 1914

The undermentioned Gentlemen have been appointed Surgeons for temporary service in His Majesty's Fleet: -

Roland Augustus Hobbs.

Newspaper Article – *Sevenoaks Chronicle and Kentish Advertiser* – 15 October, 1915:

A notable instance of patriotic self-sacrifice is recorded from High Wycombe. Dr Roland Hobbs is serving with the Navy, and now his partner, Dr F. W. Hobbs, has decided to join the service although he is the only one left to carry on the practice. The other doctors in the town have agreed to undertake the care of Dr Hobb's patients during his absence.

Roland Augustus Hobbs married Isabel Marjorie Cargill on 12th June, 1917 in St. Saviour's Church, Paddington, London. Roland Augustus Hobbs was recorded as a 31 year old Doctor from Royal Naval Hospital, Argyle Street, Hull. Isabel Marjorie Cargill was listed as a 24 year old from 17 Warrington Crescent. Their marriage was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Paddington, London, England.

Marriage Notice – *Reading Mercury* – 23 June, 1917:

HOBBS - CARGILL – On June 12, at St. Saviour's Warwick Avenue, W., by the Rev. Arthur Goodman, Rector of Stockton, Wilts (cousin of the bridegroom), assisted by the Rev. F. W. Delane Small, M.A., Vicar of St. Saviour's, Surgeon Roland A. Hobbs, R. N., second son of F. A. Hobbs, of High Wycombe, Bucks, to Marjorie, elder daughter of Mr Justice and Mrs Cargill, of Kingston, Jamaica.

(Photo courtesy of Nicholas Aldridge)

In 1917, Dr Roland Augustus Hobbs was appointed Medical Officer of the Royal Naval Hospital, Hull.

Roland Augustus Hobbs & his wife had a daughter – Jocelyn Marjorie, born 22nd March, 1918 at High Wycombe.

Roland Augustus Hobbs transferred to Royal Australian Navy on 10th September, 1918 as a Temporary Surgeon on H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*. He was accepted with the option of transferring to Permanent List.

H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*

The light cruiser HMAS Melbourne was built in the United Kingdom and commissioned in January 1913. On 4 October 1913 she entered Sydney Harbour with other ships of the fleet unit.

Upon the outbreak of war Melbourne was engaged in operations against the German Pacific colonies. She was present at the capture of Samoa and landed a force which took Nauru on 9 September. Returning to Australian waters, she joined the escort of the first troop convoy from Australia to the Middle East, which departed Albany on 1

November 1914. On 9 November, Melbourne, commanding the convoy after the departure of HMS Minotaur, ordered HMAS Sydney to investigate a strange ship sighted off the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, which led to the destruction of SMS Emden.
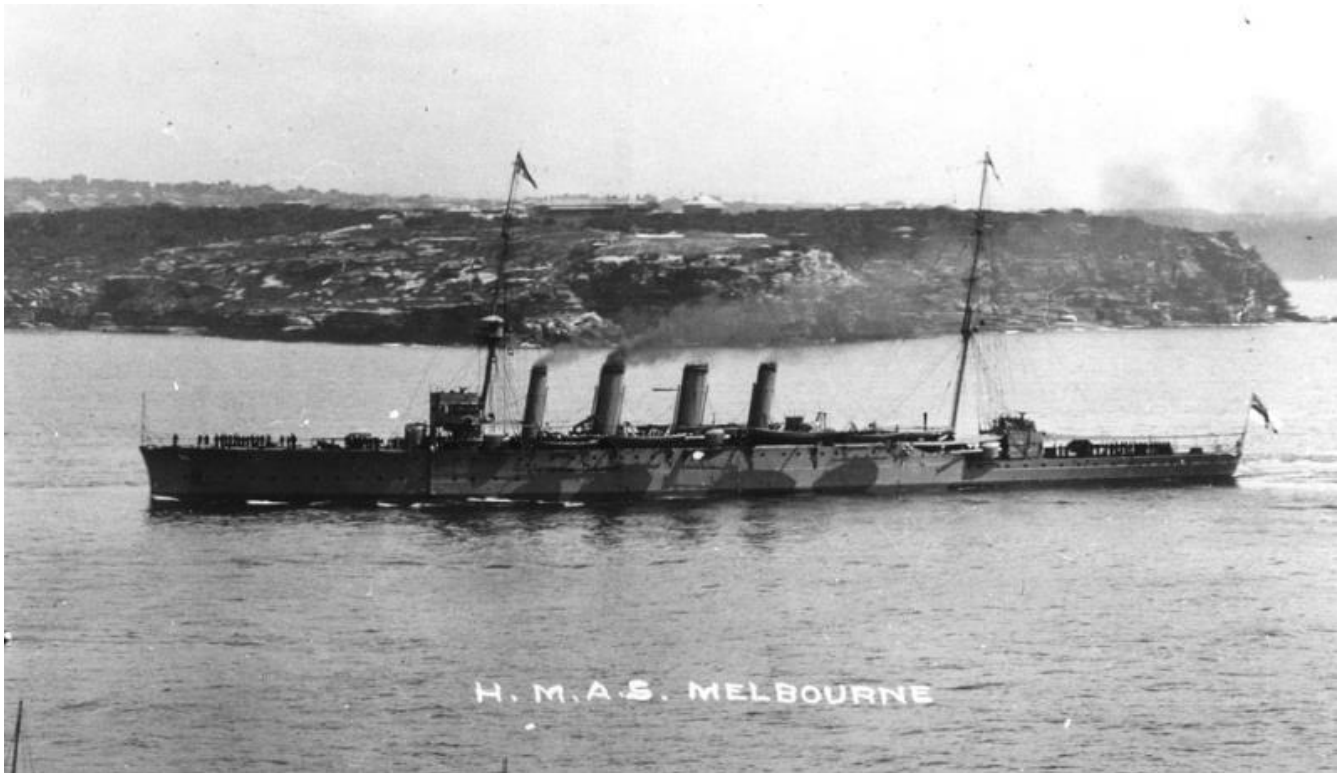
Melbourne left the convoy at Colombo on 15 November and proceeded to the Atlantic Ocean. In December 1914, Melbourne was deployed to the Caribbean and based at Bermuda. For the next 18 months, she carried out patrol duties between the islands of the West Indies and along the east coast of North America, in concert with HMAS Sydney.

In September 1916 Sydney and Melbourne were transferred to the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron for duties with the Grand Fleet in the North Sea. In company with HMS Southampton and Dublin, they undertook patrol, escort and screening duties.

In November 1917, Melbourne was fitted with an aircraft launching platform and a Sopwith Ships Pup fighter. On 1 June 1918, both Melbourne and Sydney launched their aircraft to engage two German reconnaissance aircraft. Melbourne's fighter lost its target in the clouds.

Melbourne was present at the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet on 21 November 1918. She returned to Portsmouth on 30 November 1918. Melbourne took no part in any action at sea and suffered no casualties. On 7 March 1919 her service in the European theatre ended when she departed Devonport for Australia, finally entering Sydney Harbour on 21 May 1919 after a leisurely cruise via Suez, Singapore and Darwin.

(HMAS *Melbourne* information from the Australian War Memorial)

H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*

Surgeon Lieutenant Roland Augustus Hobbs died on 13th February, 1919 at Royal Naval Hospital Haslar, Gosport, Hampshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Roland A. Hobbs, aged 33, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Alverstoke, Hampshire, England.

The Quadrangle R.N. Hospital Haslar.

Death of Surgeon-Lieut. R. A. Hobbs

The news of the death of Surgeon-Lieut. R. A. Hobbs, R.A.N., who until recently was the medical officer of the Royal Naval Hospital at Hull, will come as a surprise, and will be received with great regret. The cause of death was pneumonia, following an attack of influenza. Dr Hobbs enjoyed popularity with all he came in contact with, for his courtesy and genial disposition, and no one will regret his death more than his former patients and staff at the Hospital. Dr Hobbs, who was only in his 33rd year, was the second son of Mr F. A. Hobbs, of High Wycombe, and was married. He died at the Royal Naval Hospital, Harlow.

Dr Hobbs was presented to the King on the occasion of the Royal visit to the Naval Hospital, and also to Admiral Jellicoe, when he came to Hull. Dr Hobbs had been Medical officer at the Naval Hospital at Hull from 1917 to the time of its closing, having succeeded Dr Tinley Sissons.

Surgeon Lieutenant Roland Augustus Hobbs was buried in Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England, – Plot number F. 10. 31. and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Nation Probate Calendar details: Roland Augustus Hobbs of 132 Anlaby-road, Kingston-upon-Hull, died 13th February, 1919 at Royal Naval Hospital, Gosport, Hampshire. Probate London 24th May to Frederick William Hobbs, surgeon. Effects £1540 15s. 8d.

Surgeon Lieutenant Roland Augustus Hobbs was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Surgeon Lieutenant R. A. Hobbs, of H.M.A.S. "Melbourne", Royal Australian Navy. No family details are listed.

R. A. Hobbs is remembered on The Portsmouth Grammar School Old Portmuthians World War 1 Honour Board, located in the School Library (first floor, Main Building). R. A. Hobbs is also remembered in the School's Book of Remembrance.

The Portsmouth Grammar School Old World War 1 Memorial

(Photo from Memorials & Monuments in Portsmouth)

R. A. Hobbs is remembered on the High Wycombe & District War Memorial located at the entrance to High Wycombe Hospital, Queen Alexandra Rd, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England.

High Wycombe & District War Memorial

High Wycombe & District War Memorial

Surgeon Lieutenant R. A. 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 1.
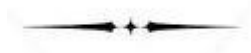

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Surgeon Lieutenant R. A. Hobbs is remembered on Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, located at HMAS Cerberus Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Nelson Road, Crib Point, Victoria.

HMAS *Cerberus* Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Crib Point, Victoria *(Photos courtesy of Karen Standen)*
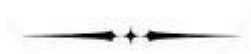
Surgeon Lieutenant Roland Augustus Hobbs

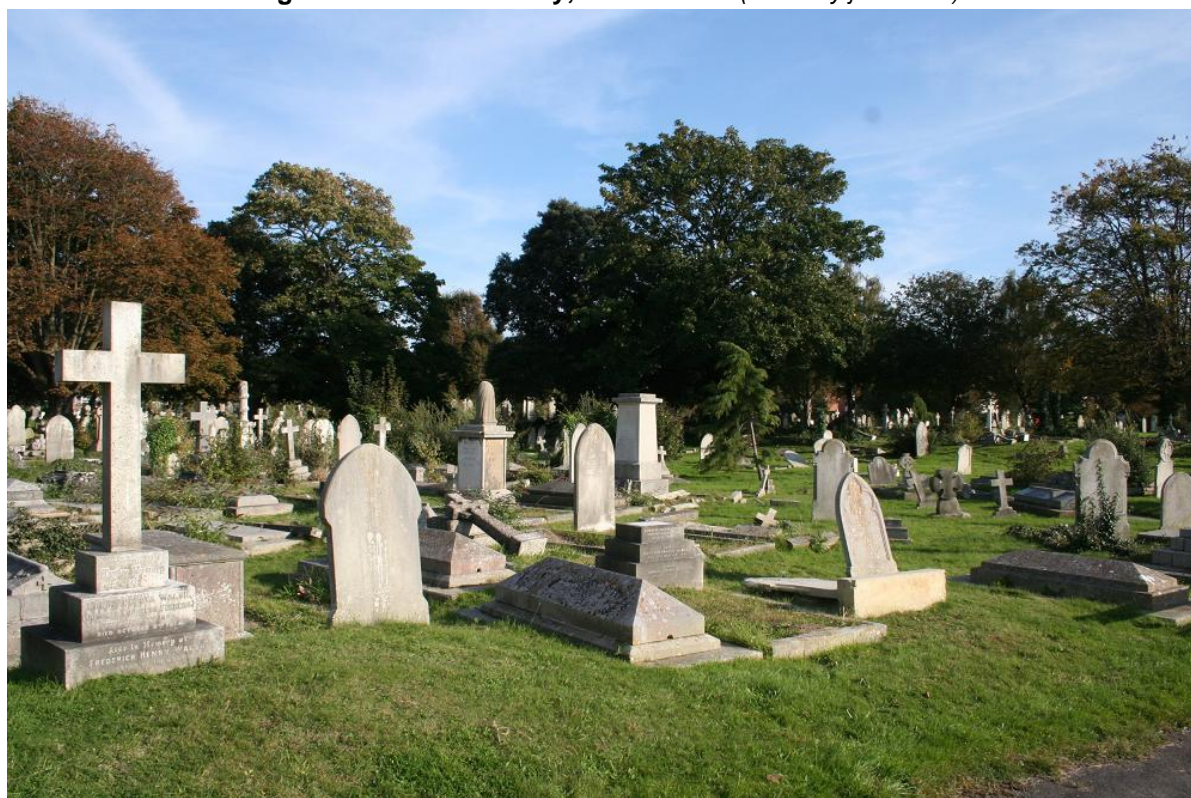*(Photo from Buckinghamshire Remembers – courtesy of Celia Aldridge, granddaughter & Nicolas Aldridge)*

Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

Portsmouth, a parliamentary and county borough, is a city, a seaport and a Royal Naval station on Portsea Island, opposite the Isle of Wight. It is 44 kilometres south-east of Southampton and just over 120 kilometres by rail south-west of London. This cemetery, which belongs to the Corporation, is near the barracks. It was opened in 1854 and contains war graves of both world wars. The 1914-1918 burials are spread throughout the cemetery. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected near the entrance, in honour of all the service war dead who rest in the cemetery. The 1939-1945 War graves, too, are widely scattered. There are 226 war graves relating to World War 1 & 51 relating to World War 2. *(Information from CWGC).*

Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by julia&keld)*

Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by julia&keld)*

Photo of Surgeon Lieutenant Roland Augustus Hobbs' Private Headstone in Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

(Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

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Also their dear son

ROLAND

AUGUSTUS HOBBS

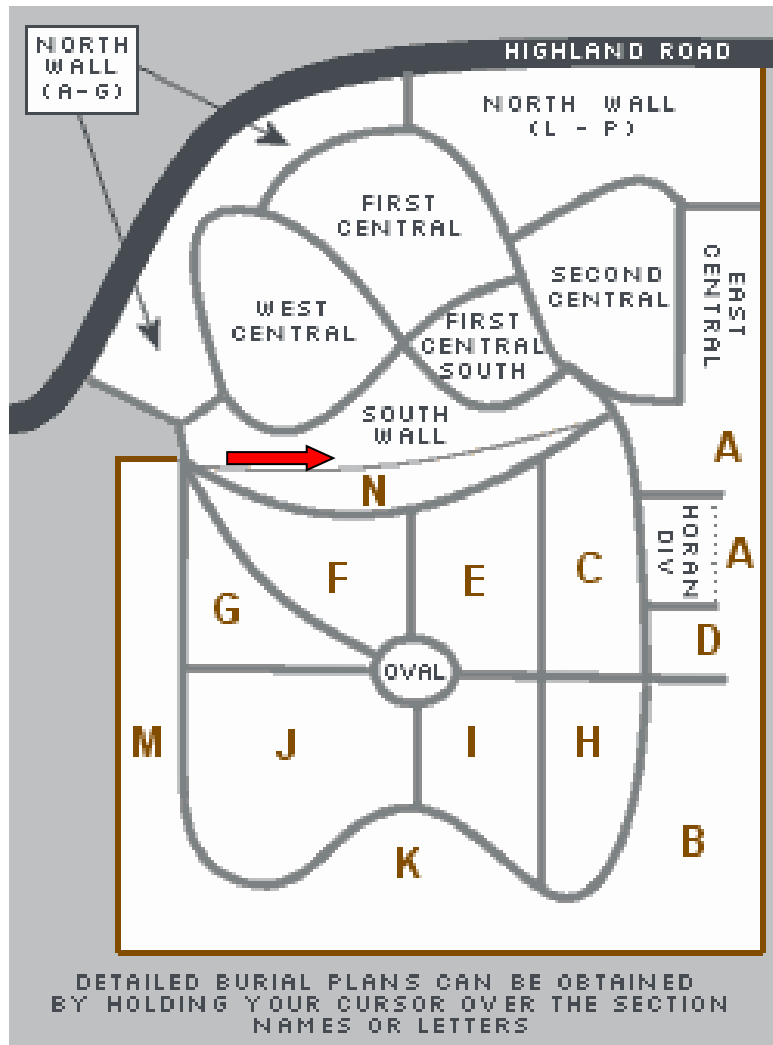*SURGEON LT. R.A.N.*

Dearly Loved Husband Of

MARJORIE HOBBS

Who Died At The

ROYAL NAVAL HOSPITAL HASLAR

On February 13th 1919. Aged 33.

(Map from Memorials & Monuments in Portsmouth)