

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,  
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3336 PRIVATE**

**R. H. HODGE**

**5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS**

**19TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 30**

*In Memory*

*Of The Dearly Loved Husband*

*Of Ethel Hodge, Victoria*

## Reginald Henry HODGE

Reginald Henry Hodge was born at Eaglehawk, Bendigo, Victoria in 1885 to parents Henry & Elizabeth Ann Hodge (nee Chergwin).

Reginald Henry Hodge attended Buln Buln School, Victoria.

Reginald Henry Hodge married May Ethel Canifield/Manifield (both names listed on Victoria B,D & M's. Name possibly Manefield) in 1910 in Victoria. Births were registered for the following children of Reginald & Ethel May Hodge (nee Manifield (as per Victoria B, D & M's) - Reginald William Henry Hodge (birth registered at Carton in 1911); Leslie Thomas Hodge (birth registered at Warragul in 1914) & Ethel Alice Hodge (birth registered in Mirboo North in 1915).

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Maribyrnong, subdivision of North Melbourne, Victoria, recorded Reginald Henry Hodge, Labourer & Ethel May Hodge, Home Duties, of 132 Dryburgh St, North Melbourne.

The 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Mirboo North, Victoria, recorded Reginald Henry Hodge, Labourer & Ethel May Hodge, Home Duties, of Mirboo North.

Reginald Henry Hodge was a 29 year old, married, Labourer from Mirboo North, Victoria when he enlisted on 21st July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3336 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. M. Hodge, Mirboo North, Victoria.

Private Reginald Henry Hodge was posted to "C" Company, 8th Depot Battalion on 30th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion on 16th September, 1915.

Private Reginald Henry Hodge embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11th October, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

### 7th Battalion

The 7th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Reginald Henry Hodge joined 7th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 20th January, 1916. He was transferred to 59th Battalion on 24th February, 1916 & was taken on strength of 59th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir the same day.

### 59th Battalion

The 59th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 21 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits came from the veteran 7th Battalion, and the other half were fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 7th, the 59th was predominantly composed of men from rural Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Reginald Henry Hodge was transferred to 5th Pioneer Battalion on 3rd March, 1916. He was taken on strength of 5th Pioneer Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir the same day.

### 5th Pioneer Battalion

The 5th Pioneer Battalion was an Australian infantry and light engineer unit raised for service during the First World War as part of the all volunteer Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Formed in Egypt in March 1916, the battalion subsequently served on the Western Front in France and Belgium, after being transferred to the European battlefields shortly after its establishment. Assigned to the 5th Division, the 5th Pioneer Battalion fought in most of the major battles that the AIF participated in between mid-1916 and the end of the war in November 1918. It was subsequently disbanded in early 1919.

The 5th Pioneers were established on 10 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 5th Division. The battalion was formed in the aftermath of the failed Gallipoli campaign when the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was expanded as part of plans to transfer it from the Middle East to Europe for service in the trenches along the Western Front. This expansion saw several new infantry divisions raised in Egypt and Australia, as well as specialist support units such as machine gun companies, engineer companies, artillery batteries and pioneer battalions, which were needed to meet the conditions prevalent on the Western Front.

Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. The pioneer concept had existed within the British Indian Army before the war, but had not initially been adopted in other British Empire forces. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

The 5th Pioneer Battalion was formed from volunteers from the 5th Division who possessed relevant trade qualifications, or who were deemed to be suitable for manual labouring tasks. Many were skilled and experienced in mining and other artisanal trades. According to some sources a majority of the battalion's recruits were from South Australia, although others refer to a significant proportion originating from Western Australia.

*(Extract of Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)*

Private Reginald Henry Hodge reported sick on 7th April, 1916 while posted at Ferry Post. He was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance at Ferry Post on 7th April, 1916 then transferred to No. 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station with Gleet. Private Hodge was transferred & admitted to No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital at Ismalia on 7th April, 1916 with V.D. He was transferred & admitted to No. 1 Australian Dermatological Hospital at Abbassia on 8th April, 1916. Private Hodge was discharged on 12th April, 1916 to Quarantine Compound. He was discharged from Quarantine Details on 22nd April, 1916 to Tel-el-Kebir & was marched in the same day to Miscellaneous Reinforcements at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private Reginald Henry Hodge was admitted to No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 29th April, 1916. He was transferred to No. 4 Hospital Train on the same day & re-admitted to No. 1 Australian Dermatological Hospital at Abbassia on 29th April, 1916 with V.D. He was marched in & posted to Miscellaneous Reinforcements at Tel-el-Kebir on 3rd May, 1916.

Private Reginald Henry Hodge was reported to be still in Hospital at Abbassia on 4th July, 1916 (Casualty Form- Active Service states "Adm 29/4/16"). He was discharged to Details on 13th July, 1916 & was marched in to 5th Divisional Base Depot at Tel-el-Kebir on 15th July, 1916. Total V.D. period – 76 days.

Private Reginald Henry Hodge embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 2nd August, 1916 per H.M.T. *Franconia*. He was marched in to 15th Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire, England on 21st October, 1916. Private Hodge was marched out from 15th Training Battalion at Larkhill on 26th August, 1916 & was marched in to Pioneer Training Battalion at Parkhouse Camp, Wiltshire, England on the same day. He was taken on strength of Pioneer Training Battalion on 26th August, 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 Reginald Henry Hodge was admitted to Delhi Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 14th September, 1916. He was reported with Pneumonia – serious.

Private Reginald Henry Hodge died on 19th September, 1916 at Delhi Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Reginald H. Hodge, aged 31, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Private Reginald Henry Hodge was buried in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 194 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records sent a notification on 25th September, 1916 to Mrs G. M. Hodge, Mirboo North, Victoria advising that her husband Private Reginald H. Hodge was seriously ill with Pneumonia.

The 3rd Military District advised Base Records, Melbourne on 2nd October, 1916 that there had been a change of address of the next-of-kin of the late Private R. H. Hodge. *“A telegram has been forwarded to Mrs G. M. Hodge through the Reverend Evans, Neerim Shout, notifying her of Pte Hodge’s death.”*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Reginald Henry Hodge contains a letter from Matron, Q.A.I.M.N.S., Military Hospital, Tidworth which reads: *“He was in this Hospital for one week before his death. He arrived here in a very bad condition, & everything possible was done for him. The Sister-in-Charge wrote to his people both before & after his death. There is a very nice cemetery here where all the soldiers are buried & he had of course a military funeral. I am sure Sister would give his people all the details they would wish for.”*

A War Pension was granted to Ethel May Hodge, Neerim South, widow of the late Private Reginald Henry Hodge, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 30th November, 1916. Pensions were also granted to the following children of Ethel & the late Private Reginald Henry Hodge – Reginal William Hodge (£1 per fortnight); Leslie Thomas Hodge (15/- per fortnight) & Ethel A. Hodge (10/- per fortnight) all granted from 30th November, 1916.

The Mutual Life and Citizen’s Assurance Coy. Ltd, Sydney, wrote to base Records on 24th November, 1916 with a list of six soldier’s names & requested *“confirmatory certificates of death”* for them. Reginald Henry Hodge, No. 3336 – Victoria was one of the names.

Private Reginald Henry Hodge was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Hodge’s widow – Mrs E. M. Hodge, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

Mrs E. M. Jeffreyses, Mirboo North, wrote to the Deputy Commissioner, Repatriation Commission, Melbourne on 30th June, 1937 with the following: *“I am writing you re the late Pte R. H. HODGE, No. 3336, 5th Pioneers Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Delhi Hospital, Tidworth, England, of Pneumonia, 18th September, 1916. His father died 12th August, 1916, left a small house to him, but in the event of his not returning, it was to go to his children, but not until the youngest was 21 years old. That time has now arrived, and I have been informed by the Solicitor that letters of administration will have to be taken out, if the deceased Pte R. H. Hodge did not leave a Will. If so, could I obtain a copy of same from you, also Death Certificate copy...”*

Base Records replied to Mrs E. M. Jeffreyses on 7th July, 1937 advising *“Your communication of 30th June, 1937, addressed to the Repatriation Commission, Melbourne, in connection with the affairs of the late No. 3336 Private R. H. Hodge, 5th Pioneer Battalion, has now been referred to this Office for attention, and in reply I have to advise that no record is held of the abovenamed soldier having executed a will whilst a member of the Australian Imperial Force. Certificate of report of death of the late Private Hodge is enclosed herewith as requested. Your change of name as hereunder has been noted on the records.”*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Reginald Henry Hodge – service number 3336, of 5th Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Henry & Elizabeth Hodge; husband of Ethel Hodge, of Neerim South, Victoria.

Reginald Hodge is remembered on the Neerim War Memorial, located outside Cemetery, 2626 Main Neerim Road, Neerim, Victoria.



**Neerim War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia - Nancy Alford)



R. H. Hodge is remembered on the Neerim South War Memorial, located at Main Neerim & Neerim East Roads Roundabout, Neerim South, Victoria.



**Neerim South War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia - Nancy Alford)



R. Hodge is remembered on the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Roll of Honour, located in St. Andrew's Uniting Church, 32 Ridgeway (Strzelecki Highway), Mirboo North, Victoria.



The Mirboo North War Memorial, located at Ridgeway, Mirboo North, Victoria, does not list individual names.



**Mirboo North War Memorial** (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

Private R. H. Hodge is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 174.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(61 pages of Private Reginald Henry Hodge'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DIED ON SERVICE**

HODGE – On the 19th September, at the Dehli Hospital, Tidworth, England, Private Reginald H. Hodge (of pneumonia), after 12 months on active service, dearly loved husband of Ethel Hodge, and loving father of Reggie and Leslie and (baby) Ethel, of Neerim South, aged 30 years and 10 months.

My hero at rest.

His duty nobly done.

-(Inserted by his loving and sorrowing wife and children.)

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 October, 1916)*

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### **Our Boys**

Gippsland casualties for the week are as follows:-

Died of Illness – R. H. Hodge, Mirboo North

*(South Gippsland Shire Echo, Victoria – 13 October, 1916)*



## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

HODGE- In sad but loving memory of my dearly beloved husband and our dear daddy, Private Reginald H. Hodge, who died of pneumonia at Delia Hospital Tidworth, England, on the 19th September 1910, after 12 months of active service aboard.

Sad was the blow that compelled us to part,  
From you, my dear husband, so dear in my heart;  
I miss you and mourn you in silence unseen,  
And dwell on the memory of days that have been.  
Sad and often my thoughts do wander  
    To a lonely grave so far away,  
Where soldiers laid my dear husband,  
    Just a year ago today.  
In our hearts your memory lingers  
    Always fond and true;  
There's not a day goes by, dear daddy,  
    But what we think of you.

His duty nobly done

-(Inserted by his loving wife and children Ethel Hodge and Reggie, Leslie, and baby Ethel, of Neerim South)

HODGE - In loving memory of my dear and only son, Private Reginald Henry Hodge (Reg), who died of pneumonia in Delhi Hospital, Tidworth, London on the 19th September, 1916.

God grant in some glad future day this night of woe and pain  
Shall be dispelled, and we shall meet, a happy band again.  
When He shall wipe our tears away, and cause our hearts to sing,  
And life for us shall be renewed in heavens eternal spring.

Ever remembered

-(Inserted by his loving mother and sister Mrs E. A. Hodge, Neerim South, and Mrs J. White, Numurkah.)

HODGE-In affectionate remembrance of our dearly loved and only brother, Private Reginald Hodge (Reg.), who died of pneumonia in Delhi Hospital, Tidworth, on the 19th September 1916.

Not a sound disturbs his slumber,  
    Not a sorrow marks his brow;  
He is free from the earth's worries,  
    He is happy resting now.  
We bow not our heads in grief, dear Reg,  
    But hold them up with pride;  
Proud you loved and fought for your country;  
    We scorn shirkers for whom you died.

-(Inserted by his loving sisters, Mrs W. B. Arthur, Neerim South, and Mrs W. J. Davey, Tennison St, Seddon )

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria - 19 September 1917)

## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

HODGE – In loving memory of my only son, Reg, who died of pneumonia at Tidworth Military Hospital, 19th September, 1916.

Your cheery, sunny countenance  
Will not from my memory fade;  
Nor yet will I forget the noble  
Sacrifice you made;  
And when my heart is sore for you,  
I seem to hear you say,  
Break not your heart, dear mother,  
We will meet on the eternal day.

-(Inserted by his loving mother)

HODGE – In affectionate remembrance of my dearly loved and only brother Reg, who died at Tidowrth Military Hospital, September 19, 1916.

He did his best along with the rest,  
It matters not how they fall;  
A thousand times better to die like this  
Than to be deaf to the country's call.

(Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, M. and ex-Trooper W. B. Arthur, returned Anzac.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria - 19 September 1918)

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\*\*Notices were also placed in 1919, 1920, 1921 & 1923

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Reginald Hodge is remembered on his father's headstone in Neerim Cemetery, Victoria.



**Henry Hodge's Headstone in Neerim Cemetery, Victoria**



*(Photos courtesy of Carol's Headstone Photos)*

*In Loving Memory*

*Of*

*HENRY HODGE*

*Died 12TH Aug, 1916*

*Aged 70 Years*

*Also His Loved Son*

*REGINALD*

*Died Military Hospital England*

*Aged 30 Years*

*At Rest*

### 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)*

Private R. H. Hodge does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Husband Of Ethel Hodge, Victoria*

### **Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England**

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Tidworth Military Cemetery** *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

*The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.*

*Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground*

*Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.*

*Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.*

*Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

### Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

*A corner of the Australian cemetery. Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.*



**Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



**Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire** *(Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)*



*(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)*

Photo of Private R. H. Hodge's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.

*(Note: the date of death on the CWGC Headstone is incorrect – should be 19th September, 1916. CWGC were advised September, 2022 at the time of researching)*



*(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)*



