

Captain William Ross HOGGART



Captain William Ross Hoggart was born at Buangor, Victoria, the son of John Hoggart and Susan Hoggart (nee Boyd).

He was the eldest of three sons and two daughters.

Captain Hoggart enlisted on the 9th Oct 1914.

He was aged 38 years, married and living at 164 St Kilda-street Brighton, Victoria. He had married Rebecca Jane AEDY in 1907.

Born 22nd August 1876, [Birth cert. 1876 14249 Beaufort Vic] he had been educated at Flinders School, Geelong, Victoria & Melbourne University (B.A.) & State Teacher Training College, Carlton, Victoria.

He was a schoolmaster at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School.

He embarked with the 14th Infantry Battalion on 22 December 1914 on HMAT *Ulysses* A38 from Melbourne and was killed in action on 27 Apr 1915 at Quinn's Post, Gallipoli, Turkey, aged 38 years, two days after landing at Gallipoli.

He is buried at the Quinn's Post cemetery (Special Memorial, II).

He is commemorated on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (Panel 72); on the Warrnambool Honour Roll; on the Brighton Honour Roll; and on the Memorial Plaque to Bayside's Fallen at Green Point, Brighton Beach, Victoria.

CAPTAIN HOGGARTS DEATH.

Captain F.H. Wright of the 14th Battalion of the Australian Expeditionary Force, has written from a hospital ship telling of the death of Captain W R Hoggart of the same battalion. He says:

"It was our first day of really strenuous fighting and Captain Hoggart had part of his company up with ours when we rushed and occupied an important forward position. The enemy was pressing us very strongly and our casualties were pretty numerous, but we were holding on well. Suddenly a machine-gun opened fire on our flank grazing the fingers of my left hand and smashing my rifle. Our senior subaltern was hit in the chest, and it is doubtful whether he will recover, while several men went down. It was impossible to locate the gun, and another burst of fire played havoc in our hastily constructed trenches. Captain Hoggart then most bravely ran round to see if he could find out where the fire was coming from, and was immediately fired on and killed instantly. The date was April 27, I think, but as I am myself suffering from concussion from a shell-burst my head is not quite clear. He was given a proper burial, and our chaplain (Captain Gillison) read the service. In the meantime we can only mark his resting-place with a cairn of stones and a rough wooden cross. This has been done."

proper burial, and our chaplain (Captain Gillison) read the service. In the meantime we can only mark his resting place with a cairn of stones and a rough wooden cross. This has been done."



---(Alice Mills, Photo.)
CAPT. W. R. HOGGART
(Killed.)

---(Dargie, Photo.)
CAPT. J. E. SERGEANT
(Killed.)

"EVEN IF I GIVE MY LIFE."

In a letter received by his wife in Moonee Ponds from Sergeant Major Hughes, 14th Battalion, then in hospital at Alexandria, he writes:—

"My company defended a ridge. A machine-gun was turned on us. We stayed all night and the next day and night, and out of a company of 206 we lost 10 killed, 36 wounded, and 6 missing. On May 1 we took up another position, and No. 3 Company were losing very heavily. We were supports, when it was noticed that the Marine Light Infantry, who were on our right, were firing very dangerously close to us. Someone had to go and tell them to stop, and, as no volunteers were forthcoming, I asked two men to come with me, knowing it was my duty to save my men, even if I gave my life. We had got near to their trenches when a shrapnel shell burst just behind me, and I was struck just at the bottom of the back, and as I lay there a sharpshooter put an explosive bullet through my thigh for luck, so I rolled halfway down a bank until picked up by the stretcher-bearers. . . . I tell you candidly, I have gone through the mill. I have now had a fortnight in bed, and am heartily sick of the sight of it. When at the front I thought I would give anything for a week's sleep. I have had two weeks, and another six to look forward to. I saw Corporal Howart shot in our first engagement, also Captain Hoggart, my captain when in B Company."

"EVEN IF I GIVE MY LIFE."

In a letter received by his wife in Moonee Ponds from Sergeant Major Hughes, 14th Battalion, then in hospital at Alexandria, he writes -

"My company defended ridge. A machine gun was turned on us. We stayed all night and the next day and night and out of a company of 206 we lost 10 killed 36 wounded and 6 missing, On May 1 we took up another position and No 3 Company were losing very heavily. We were supports, when it was noticed that the Marine Light Infantry, who were on our right were firing very dangerously close to us. Someone had to go and tell them to stop; and as no volunteers were forth coming, I asked two men to come with me, knowing it was my duty to save my men, even if I gave my life. We had got near to their trenches when a shrapnel shell burst just behind me and I was struck just at the bottom of the back, and as I lay there a sharpshooter put an explosive bullet through my thigh for luck, so I rolled halfway down a bank until picked up by the stretcher bearers I tell you candidly, I have gone through the mill. I have now had a fortnight in bed, and am heartily sick of the sight of it. When at the front I thought I would give anything for a week's sleep. I have had two weeks, and another six to look forward to. I saw Corporal Howart shot in our first engagement, also Captain Hoggart, my captain when in B Company".

Descendants of Alexander HOGGART

