

SERGEANT EDWARD GILMORE DODD
4209 – Aust Electrical & Mechanical Mining & Boring Company



Edward Hughie Dodd (seated)
Photo courtesy Keith Dodd

Edward Gilmore “Hughie” Dodd was born in Broken Hill, New South Wales in 1894 the son of Jabez Edward and Florence Wilson Dodd. His family went to the goldfields of Western Australia. In 1913 the following article appeared in:

The West Australian Wednesday May 7, 1913:

PERTH POLICE COURT

Tuesday May 6.

(Before Mr A.S. Roe, P.M.)

Evading Military Service—E.G. Dodd, a member of the citizens forces, pleaded guilty to having, without lawful excuse, evaded the personal service required by the Defence Act. He was committed to the custody of the military authorities to undergo 16 days training in camp, commencing to-day at Fremantle Fort. Walter Gibson was similarly dealt with on a similar charge, and was in addition ordered to pay £1 8s 6d costs.

He served an apprenticeship in Boulder, W.A. with Hoskins & Co., as an Iron Turner.

Private 1604 E.G. Dodd of Quota 94 of the 88th Infantry presented a certificate to the Recruiting Depot in Perth stating he was free to join the A.I.F. and had handed back all his equipment on January 4, 1916. At the same time the twenty-one-year-old applied to enlist for active service abroad. Passing the preliminary medical examination personal particulars from his Application reveal he was unmarried, 175cms (5ft 9ins) tall with a chest measurement of 79-87cms (31-34ins) and resided at 125 Raglan Street, North Perth, W.A. His application was accepted by the Recruiting Officer the same day.

Attestation Forms were completed adding further particulars of weight 55kgs (121lbs) with a fresh complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair. A scar on his forehead was a distinctive mark and Methodist noted as religious faith. Next-of-kin nominated was his father James Edward Dodd of 125 Raglan Street, North Perth. He signed and took the ‘Oath of Enlistment’ on January 10, 1916.

Basic training commenced with the 44th Depot Battalion on January 17, 1916. Recruiting for the No. 6 Tunnelling Company had commenced on March 7, 1916 by Captain Lawson and his four officers. Instruction classes were formed of officers and N.C.O.’s as there was insufficient time to attend the Engineer’s School in Sydney. Recruits were forthcoming in abundant numbers and the aim was to have good physical types of skilled W.A. Miners.

On March 18, 1916 he was to be assigned to the No. 6 Tunnelling Company in the rank of Sapper with the regimental number 4209.

At Blackboy Hill camp the new company paraded daily with sister companies until March 27 when the Company moved camp to Belmont camp. Three days later Sapper Dodd arrived at the camp where four sections were created and training continued through April and May. The remainder of May was occupied in the usual training: musketry, trench work and night work while equipment was also in progress. Here a difficulty was met in that the general size of the men was considerably above the average and some little trouble was experienced in getting all accurately fitted.

Early in May, 1916 the No. 4 Tunnelling Company consisting of six officers and 152 other ranks together with the 1st Reinforcements of fifteen other ranks making up two sections, embarked from Brisbane, Qld aboard HMAA A69 *Warilda* for Sydney, NSW.

The West Australian Wednesday May 31, 1916:

THE TUNNELLING COMPANY PARADE THROUGH CITY STREETS

Although the numerical strength of the troops which paraded the city streets yesterday morning was considerably less than that of previous parades, and despite the fact that citizens have become accustomed to the sight of khaki-clad warriors, the men of the No.6 Tunnelling Company and the Claremont N.C.O. school met with a hearty reception as they swung along to the inspiring music of the Blackboy Hill band. The line of route was freely bedecked with flags, whilst the large crowds, if somewhat undemonstrated denoted none the less by their presence their keen appreciation of that sense of patriotism which found its highest expression in the long line of soldiers answering to the call of Empire. In physique and general bearing the men were equal to their comrades who have gone before. Leaving James-street well on appointed time, the column swung into Beaufort-street and over the bridge in to Barrack-street. The members of the N.C.O. school, about 113 strong, under Captain Thompson, followed the band, the No.6 Tunnelling Company, with its first reinforcements, totalling nearly 400 men, under Captain Lawson, bringing up the rear. At the head of the Tunnellers was borne the flag recently presented to the company.

After traversing Barrack and Hay streets the column entered St George's-terrace via Victoria-avenue. Opposite Government House his Excellency (Sir Harry Barron), with whom were the State Commandant (Colonel J.H. Bruche), Major P.H. Meeks and Major Wilkinson, A.D.C., took the salute. Passing along the Terrace the route was via William and Wellington streets to the station. The men paraded in full fighting equipment.



The No.6 Tunnelling Company - - Photograph taken at the W.A.T.C. Course, Belmont, where the men have been in training

The West Australian June 1, 1916:

THE WESTERN MAIL

The war pictures appearing in this week's issue of the Western Mail:

In addition, the "Mail" contains a fine photograph of the No 6 Tunnelling Company, as well as an illustration of their march through the streets of the city on Tuesday last, and a photograph of the officers who have been appointed to command the men.



Tuesday's parade of troops. The No.6 Tunnelling Company and the members of the N.C.O. School, Claremont, marching through the city.

At Rosebery Park, Sydney, NSW they joined their Headquarters and two sections (8 officers & 153 O.Rs.) plus 1st Reinforcements consisting of one officer and seventeen other ranks for final training.

The 7713-ton transport *Warilda* departed Sydney, NSW on May 22, 1916 and collected in Melbourne, Victoria the No. 5 Company recruited from Victoria, South Aust. & Tasmania made up of Headquarters and 2 Sections (8 officers & 173 men) (3 M.D.). One Section from Tasmania (3 officers & 76 O.Rs); also 1st Reinforcements for No. 5 Company (17 men from Vic. & 8 men Tas.) The ship departed on May 25, 1916 for Adelaide, S.A. to collect one Section of 3 officers & 76 O.Rs with 1st Reinforcements of 8 O.Rs.

On May 3, 1916 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

The No. 6 Company paraded through the city of Perth where the fine physique of the men, who marched with arms bare to the elbow excited universal admiration.

The transport arrived in port at Fremantle, W.A. on June 1, 1916. The whole company consisting of 14 officers and 325 O.Rs along with 1st Reinforcements of 1 officer and 32 O.Rs entrained at Belmont at 2 p.m., every man physically fit being present and boarded *Warilda* which left the harbour the same evening.

Durban, South Africa was reached on June 16, 1916 and Cape Town on June 21, 1916 while St Vincent completed the African ports of call on July 7, 1916. Discipline was fairly good except at intermediate ports where Away without Leave caused concern. The fifty-eight-day voyage experienced remarkably pleasant weather terminating at Plymouth, England on July 18, 1916. Four, Five and Six Companies comprising of 1064 officers and other ranks were detrained to Amesbury and Tidworth to begin training for the front at Perham Downs.

Sergeant Dodd was admitted to the Brigade Hospital on August 7 and discharged on August 10, 1916.

On August 28, 1916 the Reinforcements proceeded to France marching in to the 2nd Aust Divisional Base Depot two days later.

Having the trade of Iron Turner was beneficial to the Aust Electrical & Mechanical Mining and Boring Company therefore Sergeant Dodd was attached on September 28, 1916 and taken on Supernumeracy Strength on October 7, 1916.

He entered the 12th Casualty Clearing Station on November 22, 1916 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) Uncertain Origin) later noted as Trench Fever and rejoined his unit on November 29. He was admitted to hospital again on December 21, 1916 and the following are extracts from his War Diary:

December 21

Woke up with a beautiful sore throat and had to parade sick this afternoon and left shop for billet. Shall certainly parade sick to hospital if no better in the morning. Just my luck to get crook right on Christmas. Had temperature of 103. Not bad to be at work with.

December 22

Came into No. 12 CCS. Temperature at 10 pm had risen to 103. Down this morning to 99.

December 23

Feel pretty good. Only have a diggins of a throat. Shall probably get up tomorrow. Have decorated the ward up very nice for the coming festivity. Holly leaves and pink artificial. By the tone of the papers this morning I somehow think a lot will come of this peace talk. Jim Carlton was knocked yesterday will get a Blighty out of it. Wigzell brought up *Sunday Times* last night. The nurse gave us a tin from the Australian Red Cross. It contained pipe, tin Havelock Tobacco, tin Havelock Cigarettes, thin Wades Butterscotch, pack of cards, envelopes. It's nice to know our troops get what Australians sent or donate to buy and send them. The No. 2 Divisional CCS was blown in yesterday at Steenwerck and most of troops were sent to this station.

December 24

The nurses and orderlies came in to the ward last night and sang three carols, "The Shepherd Watches", "There is No Hell" and "Come All Ye Faithful". It sounded very nice indeed! Got out of bed yesterday.

December 25

On waking up this morning found that the old Father Christmas still visits people. Was thinking last night of last Christmas Eve how Mum was kept waiting on the wrong corner and also her coming into the town with us in the evening. It seems rather strange to feel cold and see rain on Christmas day. Shall send a couple of cards received in gift parcels home. Went up to No. 6 Ward for dinner. Had a good meal and Christmas pudding. Went down to billet this afternoon and found majority drunk. They had some fine music. Brought Hector Mood from trenches, when in this state he can nearly make violin talk!

December 26

Wrote to Lam. The boys in the ward had a sort of impromptu concert last night, did not go off too bad. Ward put into quarantine for four days. Do not know what for.

December 30

Came out of hospital today and reported back for duty.

December 31

Sunday and had to go to shop and work. Hard luck to go in on Sunday, also last day in the year.

He rejoined his unit on December 30, 1916. Blue Chevrons were issued to wear on his uniform for serving twelve months abroad.

There are no entries on his service documents after 30 June 1916 until February 1918.

On February 5, 1918 he proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom and returned to duty on February 19.

He entered the 8th Casualty Clearing Station on June 15, 1918 with P.U.O. and his entries are as follows:

June 11

Shall report sick tomorrow morning as I'm not feeling, or have not been too good for somewhere near three months. What with Johnny's artillery preparation and the gas he was sending over at the time, I got a mouth full or two of it.

June 12

In hospital today. Not so bad. The doctor gave me a good overhauling.

June 24

Been in bed up 'till today. Shall try and get out tomorrow. The papers are full of the Austrian offensive and the way we our people have held him up. The Austrian food situation seems to be very critical, but I'm sceptical of the most part of it.

June 25

Reported back for duty this morning.

On August 1, 1918 Sergeant was taken on strength with the Company and remained with this unit until peace was declared.

Leave was granted to the United Kingdom from December 28, 1918 until he rejoined on January 11, 1919. Leave to Paris was taken from March 21 until March 30, 1919.

He marched out to the Aust Infantry Base Depot on April 20, 1919 and crossed the English Channel then marched into the Reserve Brigade Aust Artillery No. 1 Group camp at Heytesbury two days later.

Sergeant Dodd was granted leave for Non-Military Employment with pay, subsistence and fees of £7 12s 4d to attend a course of Motor Engineering at the Mausions Motor Training Garage, 78 York Street,

Westminster, London from June 28 until September 28, 1919. His pay was ten shillings and six pence per diem with six shillings for subsistence allowance. He was issued with overalls, cap and a suit. He marched out to the No. 1 Group at Longbridge, Deverill on June 23 and then left for London where he was taken on strength with the A.I.F. Headquarters.

News was sent to his father and reported in the:

Western Argus Tuesday June 17, 1919:

Mr J.E. Dodd, M.L.C., has received a cablegram from his son, Sergt E.G. Dodd, who has been three years in France with the Electrical, Mechanical, Mining and Boring Unit, stating that he has accepted a position in England, and will not be home for some time.

The course was completed on September 28 and Mausions Motor Training Garage stated that:

“Sergeant Dodd made very good progress on his course of Motor Driving and Mechanism.”

He was retransferred to the A.E.M.M.B. Company the same day and marched out to the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General for arrangements for his return home.

On October 6, 1919 Sergeant Dodd embarked for Australia from Southampton on board H.T. *Pakeha*. His father was advised by Base Records on October 27, 1919 that he was on his way. The vessel arrived at Fremantle, W.A. (5th M.D.) on November 16, 1919.

News of his return was published in the:

Western Argus Tuesday November 25, 1919:

Sgt E.G. Dodd, son of J.E. Dodd, M.L.C. recently returned home after lengthy war service with the A.I.F. Another son came back wounded in the present year.

Military Discharge was issued in Perth, W.A. (5th M.D.) on termination of his period of enlistment on January 8, 1920.

He married in 1921 to Alma Bona Whiskin with their union registered in Perth, W.A. In 1925 they were residing at 23 Albert Street, West Fremantle with his occupation as a fitter.

For service for his country Sergeant 4209 Edward Gilmore Dodd, Aust Electrical & Mechanical Mining & Boring Company received the British War Medal (11103) and the Victory Medal (10976).

A Statement of Service was issued to the Repatriation Commission in Perth, W.A. on June 6, 1930. The former member of the A.I.F. had worked in many areas affected by gas shell attacks and would suffer from these effects for the remainder of his life. On June 24, 1930 in the Outpatient department of the Perth Hospital received an X-ray and Chest Screen in connection with his repatriated health.

Their residence in 1937 at 15 View Terrace and he was a civil servant who worked for the Fremantle Water Supply becoming Engineer-in-charge of Fremantle Water. They were at the same address in 1954.

Edward Gilmore Dodd passed away on November 27, 1957 aged 63.

His ashes were taken by the War Graves at Karrakatta Cemetery and a plaque commemorates his service in the Garden of Remembrance, Perth War Cemetery, Karrakatta, W.A. at 7 Wall: 7 Row: B Panel.

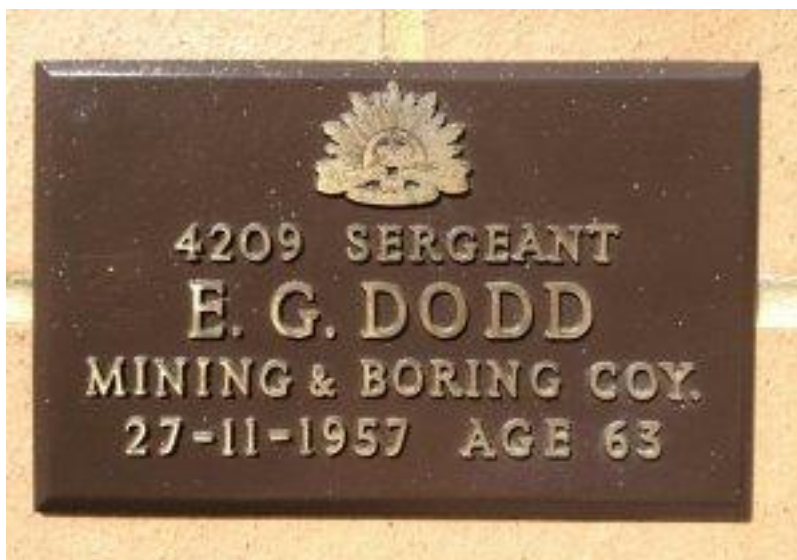


Photo supplied by Dept. of Veteran's Affairs and used with permission

Note: Hughie kept a diary almost from his first day of service. His family have transcribed the diary and made it widely available.

The importance of Hughie's diary to our project is immeasurable. His recording of every-day events and the names of those around him have greatly enhanced the profiles we have written for other members of the Alphabets. We greatly appreciate the work involved transcribing his diary and thank his family for making it available on the internet.

His brother, Norman also served.

**PRIVATE NORMAN DODD
7726 -16th Battalion**



Norman Walter Gilmour Dodd was born at Coolgardie, Western Australia in 1899 the son of Jabez and Florence Wilson Dodd.

On April 7, 1917 giving his age as twenty-two years the labourer applied to enlist for active service abroad at the Perth Recruiting Depot. After passing the preliminary medical examination personal particulars taken show he was 173cms (5ft 8ins) tall and weighed 59kgs (130lbs) with a chest measurement of 79-85cms (31-33½ins). Residence was 125 Raglan Street, North Perth and his application was accepted by the recruiting officer.

Forms of Attestation were completed giving further details having a fresh complexion with brown eyes and brown hair. Distinctive mark was a scar on his chest. Religious faith was Church of England and gave his mother Florence Wilson Dodd as next-of-kin but this changed to Jabez Edward Dodd of 125 Raglan Street, North Perth, W.A.

He was sworn in the same day.

Basic training commenced on May 7, 1917 with 26th Reinforcement to the 16th Battalion with the regimental number 7726. Embarkation was from Sydney, NSW on August 1, 1917.

News of his departure was published in the:

Western Mail Friday July 27, 1917:

Among those who have recently left for the front was Private Norman Dodd, son of Mr J.E. Dodd, M.L.C. Before leaving Private Dodd was presented with a wristlet watch by his fellow employees on the staff of the Temperance and General Assurance Society. Another of Mr Dodd's sons "Hughie" has been at the front for some considerable time.

At Halifax, Nova Scotia on September 21, 1917 was transhipped to the transport *Orita* and disembarked at Liverpool on October 3, 1917.

The Reinforcements proceeded to France on April 26, 1918 after training in England arriving at the New Zealand Infantry Base at Etaples and was taken on strength in the field on April 30 with the 16th Battalion.

On August 8, 1918 he was wounded in action with a shell wound to his side and taken to the 13th Aust Field Ambulance. The following day was transferred to the 20th Casualty Clearing Station then conveyed on A.T.24 to the 22nd General Hospital. Four days later was evacuated to England on the hospital ship *Newhaven* entering the Fort Pitt Hospital at Chatham with bullet wound left side. Next-of-kin were advised on August 26 and September 3, 1918.

Moved to the Convalescent Hospital at Hurdcott on August 19 remained a patient until September 9, 1918 then moved to the No. 2 Convalescent Depot at Weymouth where he was classified with B1A2 disability. He was there when Peace was declared and transferred on November 28 to the Overseas Training Brigade at Sutton Veny.

While at Sandhill camp the following was dealt with:

Crime:	12/12/18 A.W.L. from 23.59 to 20.30 17/12/18 Losing a military document To wit a leave pass
Award:	5 days F.P. No. 2 [Field Punishment] 21/12/18
Total forfeiture:	10 day's pay

Private Dodd embarked for Australia on the H.T. *Orsova* on January 8, 1919. Base Records advised his next-of-kin on January 24, 1919.

News of his impending arrival was reported in the:

Kalgoorlie Miner Saturday February 1, 1919:

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Pte Norman Dodd, son of Mr J.E. Dodd M.L.C. is returning to Australia by the troopship *Orsova*, after serving in France, where he was wounded. Another son, Sgt H. Dodd is still on service in France.

The transport docked on February 11, 1919 at Fremantle, W.A. (5th M.D.)

Military Discharge was issued in Perth, W.A. (5th M.D.) on March 15, 1919.

A copy of his Will was sent to the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General's office 5th Military District on October 27, 1919.

The British War Medal (20309) and the Victory Medal (19380) were issued to Private 7726 Norman Dodd, 16th Battalion for service for his country.

He married Dorothy Irene in 1921 in Perth, W.A. and they were residing in 1925 at 7 Olive Street, Guildford where he worked as a clerk. In 1936 he was at Norseman, W.A. also working as a clerk. Norman was mentioned in the:

Sunday Times Sunday June 9, 1940:

NORSEMAN MAKES A COMEBACK

Interested in everything having for its object the advancement of Norseman is Norman Dodd, who is accountant at the Central Norseman mine. He is a son of the late Jabez Dodd, one of the finest characters ever to sit in our State Legislature.

Norman Dodd died November 23, 1942 with the following notices appearing in the newspaper:

The West Australian Tuesday November 24, 1942:

DEATHS

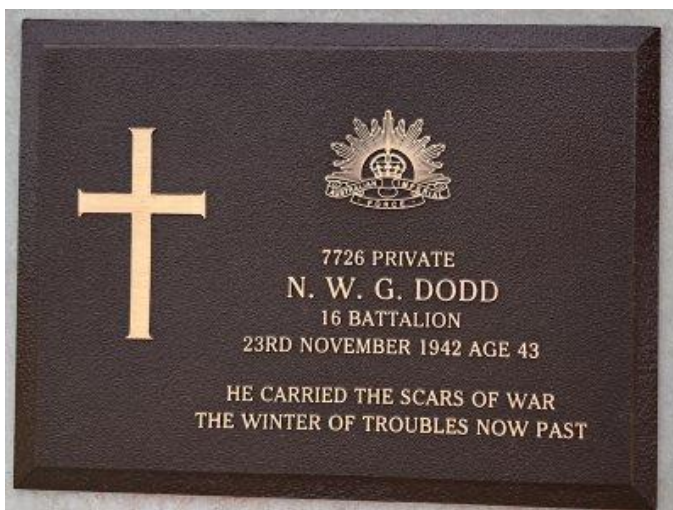
DODD—On November 23, 1942, suddenly, at Gwalia, Norman Walter Gilmour Dodd, late Accountant Central Norseman Gold Mine, Norseman and late of 26/16 Btn, AIF, dearly loved husband of Dorothy, of 20 James-street, Bassendean, and loved father of Norma and Bob; aged 44 years.

Loved by all.

DODD—On November 23, 1942, suddenly, at Gwalia, Norman Walter Gilmour Dodd, loving son of the late Hon Jabez and Florence Dodd, fond brother of Leslie (Norseman), Hughie (East Fremantle), Jabe (Mosman Park), Lindsay (AIF), and Annie Rickard.

His death was registered at Mount Margaret, W.A.

He was buried on 24 November in Leonora Cemetery in the Methodist Area, grave 75. He was accorded a Commonwealth War Grave.



Photos sourced from www.findagrave.com
Photos added by Jacqui Andrew

The following reports appeared in connection with a coronial inquiry into his death:

Kalgoorlie Miner, WA – Thursday 17 December 1942:

Leonora Inquest
SELF-INFLICTED GUNSHOT
WOUND
CORONER'S FINDING

The death of Norman Walter Gilmore Dodd (42), married, time-keeper, employed by the Sons of Gwalia mine, who was found dead by a mine employee at his residence at Gwalia shortly before mid-day on November 23, was the subject of an inquiry at the Coroner's Court, Leonora, last week before the coroner, Mr. T. Ansell, who was assisted by Constable R. V. Summers. The coroner's finding was that deceased came to his death at the mine house, Gwalia, on November 23, by a gunshot wound, self-inflicted.

Evidence was given that a mine employee spoke to Dodd at 11.30a.m. on November 23, when he seemed in good spirits. Another employee went into the house 15 minutes later and saw Dodd lying on his left side on the bed with blood oozing from his head, and a gun on the floor. In a note written by deceased to a man on the morning of November 23, which was read in court, Dodd said: "As I told you, there are many ways of being 'pooled.' After Detective Hagan's visit yesterday, although I am clear, I would have a job to get out of it." Dodd also stated in the note that he had been let down by other "jokers."

Detective Hagan gave evidence of having interviewed Dodd at 2 p.m. on the previous day, November 22, in connection with a theft from the Central Norseman Gold Corporation. Dodd asked witness if a man named Joseph had said anything. Witness showed deceased a copy of the statement made by Joseph, which alleged that Dodd was the chief offender in the theft and that he (Joseph) had acted under duress from Dodd. Dodd gave a statement denying any implication in the stealing. Before witness left, Dodd wanted to know what was going to happen to him as he was taking over the position of accountant on the mine on the following Tuesday. Constable Summers gave evidence of the positions of the body and the gun, which were consistent with suicide. A spent bullet was found in deceased's head, and the shell of a bullet was found in the bedclothes.

Mr. E. M. Heenan, who watched the interests of deceased's wife, addressed the bench on the completion of evidence and before the finding was given. He stated that Dodd went to the last war at the early age of 16, and was shot through the chest, which affected his lung. He was prematurely aged by war injuries and it was considered that this condition was contributory to the state of mind of deceased when death occurred.

The Daily News Friday December 18, 1942:

"LET DOWN," KILLS HIMSELF

"As I told you, there are many ways of being pooled. After Hagan's visit yesterday I am satisfied that, although I am clear, I will have a job getting out of it. I have been let down by others." This note, written by Norman Walter Gilmore Dodd, clerk of the sons of Gwalia mine, was addressed to a friend shortly before his dead body was found in the mine house at Gwalia on Monday, November 23.

Evidence at the inquest into his death, conducted by the Coroner T. Ansell, R.M. revealed that at 11.30 on Monday morning an employee of the mine had spoken to Dodd who then appeared to be in his usual good spirits. A quarter of an hour later another employee found him lying on his side bleeding from a wound in the head. A rifle was lying beside him.

Detective Hagan told the Coroner that on the day before Dodd died he interviewed him regarding the misappropriation of moneys belonging to the Central Norseman Gold Corporation at Norseman while Dodd was employed there as accountant. Dodd asked of the timekeeper, Joseph, who had been arrested in Melbourne and returned to Kalgoorlie in connection with the matter, had said anything. Hagan showed him a copy of the statement signed by Joseph stating that, although he had falsified the pay sheets he had done it under instructions from Dodd and feared dismissal if he refused. Joseph's statement claimed that Dodd was the principal offender and the only one to benefit.

After reading this Dodd's comment was "What a beauty he is." Dodd then made a statement in which he denied being implicated in any way in the alleged thefts at Norseman.

Mr E.M. Heenan, appearing on behalf of Mrs Dodd, addressing the Coroner before the hearing of evidence said deceased had gone to the last war at the age of 16 years.

He had been shot through the chest and this injury, coupled with war experience on such a young mind had resulted in his being prematurely aged. This may be some indication of his mental condition when he took his life.

The Coroner found that death was caused by a gunshot wound self-inflicted.

The brothers are commemorated on an Honour Roll held by the Army Museum of Western Australia. The origins of the Roll are not known.

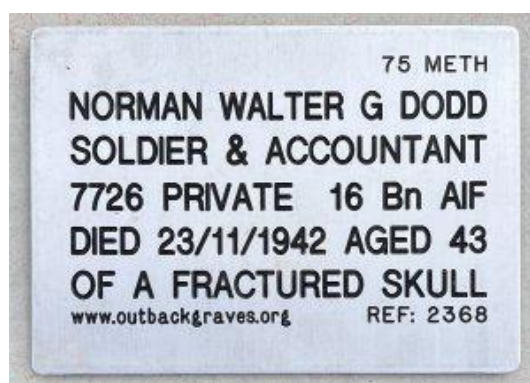


Army Museum of WA, Fremantle - Courtesy of Karen Marr

© Donna Baldey 2012 / 2025
www.tunnellers.org

Normans' story was researched by Gail and Keith Dodd for www.outbackgraves.org:

The family had a war service home at 6 James Street, Bassendean. Norman served in the Australian Imperial Forces as did two of his brothers, Hughie and Mac. All three suffered severe war-caused health issues. Norman enlisted in 1917 at the age of 28 and was subsequently posted to the 16th Battalion. He served one year and 206 days abroad. On 8 August 1918, during the famous Battle of Amiens in France, he was wounded by gunshot to his left side and hospitalised in the United Kingdom. When discharged, Norman received a part-pension for his disability and, until his death, had a long record with various medical practitioners who treated him for regular bouts of acute/chronic bronchitis.



Although awarded a land grant under the Soldiers Land Settlement, and cleared medically fit for a grant, he later withdrew his application stating that 'owing to physical incapacity, it was useless to proceed with the land application'.

The Soldier's Industrial Committee monitored Norman's efficiency and classified his wages scale as a trainee with Westralian Farmers, then Douglas Jones & Co Ltd, timber and hardware merchants in Guildford. By 1929, Norman was working as the assistant manager at the latter company. He invested in company shares but the Australian economy suffered badly during the Great Depression in the 1920s. Conversely, a gold boom led to a golden age in Norseman. In 1934, Norman won a position as accountant at Central Norseman Gold (CNG was a subsidiary of Western Mining Corporation) and the family lived at Phoenix Mine.

Norseman became virtually a company town, with CNG owning most of the leases, employing most of the workers and investing heavily with infrastructure and community facilities in the town.

But the cost of living at Norseman was very high and by 1938, Norman's debt to Douglas Jones & Co Ltd for shares and perhaps furniture he had purchased from them, had not been cleared. The court ordered the sale of 250 shares. Consequently, Norman suffered a substantial loss, leaving a balance still owing of £194/2/5. He applied for bankruptcy, which he was not granted - but had £3 per week taken from his monthly wages of £39/8/- per month, to repay his debt. He told the courts that he was unable to save any money and that his daughter, Norma, was attending school in Perth, which cost £30 per term.

He was dismissed from CNG in 1942. According to that company's records, 'his insobriety and unsatisfactory performance of his duties during the last 12-18 months of his employment were the reasons for his dismissal'.

Norman was found dead by a mine employee near his residence at Gwalia shortly before mid-day on 23 November 1942. A .22 calibre rifle was lying alongside the body. The coroner was notified and an inquest ordered.

In mid December, an enquiry in the Coroner's Court at Leonora, was held before the Coroner, Mr T Ansell.

Detective Hagan gave evidence of having interviewed Dodd at 2pm on the previous day, November 22, in connection with a theft of over £600 from pay envelopes at the Central Norseman Gold Corporation. Dodd asked Detective Hagan if a man named Joseph had said anything. Hagan showed the deceased a copy of the statement made by Joseph, which alleged that Dodd was the chief offender in the theft and that he, Joseph, had acted under duress from Dodd. Dodd gave a statement denying any implication in the stealing. Before Detective Hagan left, Dodd wanted to know what was going to happen to him as he was taking over the position of accountant on the mine on the following Tuesday.

In a note written by the deceased to a man on the morning of November 23, which was read in court, Dodd said: "As I told you, there are many ways of being 'pooled.' After Detective Hagan's visit yesterday, although I am clear, I would have a job to get out of it." Dodd also stated in the note that he had been let down by other "jokers."

Mr. E. M. Heenan, who watched the interests of the deceased's wife, addressed the bench on the completion of evidence and before the finding was given. He stated that Dodd went to the last war at the early age of 16 (as stated in court) and was shot through the chest, which affected his lung. He was prematurely aged by war injuries and it was considered that this condition was contributory to the state of mind of the deceased when death occurred.

The coroner's finding was that the deceased came to his death at the mine house, Gwalia, on November 23, by a gunshot wound, self-inflicted.

Norman had attempted and threatened suicide many times during his lifetime as he was wracked with ill health. He regularly suffered weeks of very severe headaches, fever, shaking and trembling, an inability to eat and a harsh, dry cough which brought up thick, tenacious phlegm with difficulty. He had prematurely aged from chronic bronchitis. Norman Dodd is buried in Plot 75 of the Methodist Section of the Leonora Cemetery.

Parents: Florence Wilson (nee JOHNSTON) The Honorable Jabez Edward DODD, MLC

Spouse: Dorothy I. FERRES

Marriage Details: 1921, Perth (Marriage Registration 1190/1921, Perth)

Children:

Norma Thelma Herburton born 1922 (Birth Registration 305/1922, Swan)

Robert Edward Herburton born 1925 (Birth Registration 329/1925, Swan)

Birth Details: Born 1899 in Coolgardie, Birth Registration 379/1899

Death Certificate: 24/1942, Mt Margaret

State Records Office: Norman Walter Gilmore Dodd AU WA

S34 cons3403 1943/0741 Item - Part of FILES - PROBATE