Holl, Robert Randolph.

A.S.C 1912

Rank: #303 Private

Date of embarkation: 20 October 1914, Sydney. HMAT Euripides

Unit: 3rd Bn and 1 Coy Machine Gun Corps. K.I.A. 6/11/1916

Cemetery or memorial details: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France

The great honour has been brought, about by the boys themselves. Though old established, the College was comparatively small yet, 130 of its past students had enlisted for active service. Of these, five had paid the supreme sacrifice, since the last speech day. They were Captain Middleton, Lieutenant A. R. Blackett, Corporal Robert Holl, Privates Stewart McPhillamy and R. G. Munckton.

National Advocate, 16/12/16 ASC Prize Day.
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

Name: HOLL, Robert Randolph
Unit: "B" Coy 3rd Battalion
Joined on: 17-8-14

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... Robert Randolph HOLL

2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of Dubbo, N.S.W.
in the County of


4. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... 

5. What is your age? ... 21 Years

6. What is your trade or calling? ... Shepherd

7. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No

8. Are you married? ... No

9. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... "Rod" Holl

10. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No

11. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ... No

12. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... No

13. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes

14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—

Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would not exceed eight shillings per day? ... No

15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ... Yes

I, Robert Randolf HOLL, do solemnly declare that the above answers made to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service the support of my wife and children.

Robert Randolf Holl

Signature

Date: 17-8-14
Summary of service from original cards below:


(Original sources rather indistinct.)
### Casualty Form—Active Service

**Regiment or Corps:** 16/5th Batt. 1st Aust. Machine Gun Coy.

**Rank:** Private

**Surname:** HOLL

**Christian Name:** Robert Randolph

**Religion:** C of E

**Age on Enlistment:** 20 years 6 months

**Enlisted:** 22-3-14

**Terms of Service:** War & 4 months

**Service reckons from:** 22-3-14

**Date of promotion to present rank:**

**Extended:**

**Re-engaged:**

**Qualification (Q):**

**or Corps Trade and Rate:**

**Occupation:**

**Signature of Officer:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>From whom received</th>
<th>Place of Casualty</th>
<th>Date of Casualty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-6-16</td>
<td>0.0. Troops &quot;Nakarini&quot;</td>
<td>Embarked Sydney</td>
<td>1-4-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-6-16</td>
<td>1st Tng. Bn.</td>
<td>Drunk whilst on Sentry</td>
<td>24-6-16 E3069 PT</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-3-17</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Disembarked Suez</td>
<td>3-5-16</td>
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**Do 16-3-17:** Appointed A/Cpl without Pay Durrington 10-7-16 B.R.0.33

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-3-17</td>
<td>do</td>
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<tr>
<td>7&amp;8 Camps</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30-7-16</td>
<td>do</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1) Absent without leave from 0900 20-7-16 to 0600 27-7-16</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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(2) Evading draft whilst under orders from C.O.

Reverts to Private and forfeits 8 days pay under R.W.

England

1-8-16 1st A.D.B.D. Marched in from England Etaples
Correction, to Bathurstian entry below. He was not at Gallipoli and was not wounded,

CORPORAL ROBERT H. HOLL.

As we go to press the news of another old boy, who has given his life for his country and his King, comes to hand. Robert Holl, after long successful service on the shot-swept slopes of Gallipoli, at last was wounded and returned home to recuperate. As soon as he was well enough off he went once more, this time to France as a member of a machine gun section. Here, on November 6th, he fell beside his gun. As the list of the boys of the school who have given their lives steadily rises, so does the idea become more and more insistent that all is well with them. In that life beyond the grave whither they have passed, are at peace, and among friends who are teaching them the great lessons of the wider life.

Death of a Hero.

GUNNER B. HOLL.

Gunner Robert Holl, of the Australian machine gun section, who was killed in action, in France last month, was the only son of Mrs. R. Holl, of Dubbo. Gunner Holl was a native of Dubbo, and was 21 years of age at the time of his death. He enlisted when only 19 years of age.

The text below, might be today, viewed as inaccurate propaganda and rather," over the top!"
On every side could be heard expressions of regret and condolence for the bereaved mother and sisters when it became known in Dubbo that Gunner Robert Holl, Machine Gun Section, had been killed in action. The sad news was cabled to the Anglican minister at Randwick, who forwarded the message to the Rev. L. Dawson Thomas, and that gentleman broke the sad news to the bereaved mother.

At the time of his death the gallant lad was only 21 years of age. He was a native of Dubbo, and had spent the greater part of his life here. When only 19 years of age, and just after leaving school, he answered the call of the Empire, and left for the scene of hostilities. He was with the gallant Anzacs who made the name of Australia ring throughout the whole world by their heroic deeds at the landing at Gallipoli. For some time he was in the trenches opposing the Turkish hordes, until he was blown up by shell fire. After being in hospital for some time he was invalided to Australia.

He had not been long back in the land of his birth before a desire to again go forth and fight the Empire's battle of Freedom and Justice seized him. The call was insistent, and his patriotic nature gained the mastery, and although he had done his bit he felt that his help was wanted and he could do more, and once again the brave lad found himself on board a troopship. This was about twelve months ago, and this time his destination proved to be France. Again he fought with the bravest of the brave the Australians-and in France, as on the shell-swept shores of Gallipoli, he displayed that heroism for which the Australian soldier has been applauded by the veterans of the world. He proved himself a true son of Australia and of the great British Empire. He is one of those heroes whose glory will never die, who raised the name of our gallant sons as soldiers to the topmost pinnacle of fame. Their deeds will go down in history, and be spoken of in centuries to come as the heroes of the Great War against German dominance and Prussian militarism. These are the heroes whom their mothers must feel proud to have borne, and whom Australia and the Allies will revere for all time. Brave Gunner Holl and his comrades sleep in heroes graves in France, and while his family and the Commonwealth mourn his loss, it is of the greatest satisfaction and condolence to know that they were amongst the brave and true who gave their lives for the protection of the land of their birth, and for the Empire which is every true man's boast and pride. The blow to his bereaved mother is a hard one) and she has the sympathy of every citizen of Dubbo and district, but she has the gratification of knowing that her hero son will always be remembered as a soldier and a man.

The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate P.4 8/12/16

**Extract from unit War Diary the day Holl was killed:**

“6th Visited the front line system at early morning-recommended position for guns in the major operation in No-Mans-Land. Found the country extremely boggy. Casualties for previous 24 hours 1 O.R. (Holl?) killed by shell fire. Also one gun completely demolished by a 5.9 shell. Relief of front line teams completed by 6 A.M.”
Killed in Action 6/11/16.

Holl was in 1st Machine Gun Co., with me at Fleurs. On either 5th or 6th November 1916 he came up to the trenches to take the place of a wounded man. A shell burst and killed him immediately. I had to go further along the trench and do not know where he was buried.

Informant: Sheridan, D.D.R. 2797
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RAIDWICK.

Machine Gun Companies
Holl, R. 303, 4820
1st Coy

(K. Nov. 6th/16. Det D & B)

"I saw Holl killed by a shell instantaneously. It was about Nov. 12th/16 at Fleurs, we were manning the trenches".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Rather dark, good sized fellow, was one of the first lot to leave Australia, an "original" man as it is termed

Informant: Coy Sgt Major Thomas Kennedy, 75,
M.G.C. 1st Coy,
Graylingwell Hospital,
Chichester.

Home address:
164, Boarmont Rd,
Bournville,
Birmingham.

24th Oct. 1917.
Jones.
AUST. M.G.C. No.1 COY. R. HOLL, 303.

Killed 6.11.16. Det. E/B.

He was killed at Flers in Nov. I did not see the Casualty but was quite close and heard the details within 2 hours. My Informants were Pte. E. Cox and Pte. "Scotty" McNeil both now killed. They said they were in a ration party bringing rations up to the front line when a shell landed near them and Holl got a splinter through the head and was killed instantly. I know nothing about his burial. Holl lived at Woolahra a year before the war and after that was away in the country. He was tall and thick-set, dark complexion, and aged about 22. He was my tent mate in a Militia Camp at Liverpool in 1912.

Reference: C.H. Hinde, 1754, No.1 COY. A.M.G.C.

No.11 Con.Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 13.8.17.

The above mentioned soldier was killed on the 6-11-16 having come up to replace casualties & calling on my gun on his way, expressed the wish to stay, but circumstances not permitting he left for his own gun, which he never reached, having been hit by a shell, which blew him to pieces, and there was no hope of saving him. The said soldier was rather tall, broad shoulders, & of a very dark appearance.

Informant - R. Cumming

"Ashbourne"
8 Aspley Rd, Wandsworth

London 11-3-19
KILLED IN ACTION, 6/11/16.

I knew Holl well. He had been in 1st Battalion, his number was 4820, then 303 is his Machine Gun number I think. His initials were 'R.K.' He was with me for a week behind the line at Montanbar in the Fricourt Sector before he was killed, up to a couple of hours before his death. I was Acting Post-Corporal at the time, and he was reserve man at the time when he was sent for. This was in November, 1916, and I think the real date was the 4th November, 1916. I was told the day it happened by D.W. Ackland that Holl had been killed outright by shrapnel as he was going up with rations. Ackland was I think with him at the time, as I knew Ackland was one of the ration party. Ackland knew Holl, and seemed quite certain of what he told me. Holl was buried in Delville Wood, and I have seen his grave there with a cross on it with his name. It was a single grave.

Holl was fairly short, thick-set, darkish.

Informant: - KENNEDWELL, P., 744,
1st Machine Gun Co.
No. 4 Aust. General Hospital,
R.A.S.C.
18/9/17. Note: A most careful, reliable witness.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.T.E. 1st H.C. Bn

"E. Nov: 6/16"

Lt. R. Cumming "D.C.M." now in England on 75 days leave. (Address, Ashbourne, 8 Apsley Rd, Wandsworth, London, S.W. 18) would be the only one who could give information about Holl.

Informant: - Sgt. Mjr. R. Rosangreen 2782
1st H.C.
1st M.C. Bn.

H. J. Cowan
London

J. E. A.
Note: Written Lt. R. Cumming 4-2-19.
Note above date, information still being received almost 4 months after the war's end.

February 13th, 1919.

A.J. Gould, Esq.
Sec. Y.H.C.A.
Officers' Mess, Camp 11, Hurstott.
Salisbury Plain.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry made by you on behalf of Miss Holl on 2.7.17, for particulars of the death of her brother - 3002 Pte. H. Holl, 1st Machine Gun Coy., A.I.F. We beg to inform you that we have at last received the following unofficial report from Lieut. Guling on the same unit.

"The above mentioned soldier was killed on the 6.11.16 having come up to replace casualties and calling on my gun on his way expressed the wish to stay, but circumstances not permitting he left for his own gun, which he never reached, having been hit by a shell which killed him instantly and there was no hope of burying him. The said soldier was rather tall, broad shoulders, and of a very dark appearance."

We regret that we should have been able to obtain so little information, and trust it may be of comfort to Miss Holl to learn that her brother was killed instantaneously.
1 MAR 1922

DESPATCHED

28th February, 1922.

Dear Madam,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication concerning your son, the late No. 503, Private R.P. Holl, 1st Machine Gun Company.

It is regretted that no burial report has been received at this office in respect of the late soldier, and in the absence of such advice it is assumed that his grave has not yet been discovered by the Graves Services. However, as you propose to go to France, it would be as well before proceeding there to call at the Commonwealth Offices, Australia House, Strand, London, as later information may have been received in the mean time.

I enclose herewith a pamphlet, which explains the facilities afforded by the Y.M.C.A. in connection with the visitation of soldiers' graves.

[Signature]

W I L L.

In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to my Mother Hettie Holl.

R.P. Holl,
Private No. 503.

Mother Hettie Holl,
Blaikowrie,
19/11/14.
Aberon St.,
Randwick.
Dear Madam,

I shall be much obliged if you will advise me whether a communication addressed as hereunder will reach you as I desire to dispose of the Victory Medal issuable on account of the service of your son, the late No. 303 Private R.R. Holl, 1st Machine Gun Company.

Thanking you in anticipation of the favour of an early reply.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. H. Holl,
"Sajandra",
110 Darlinghurst Road,
Darlinghurst, N.S.W.

Children of Robert James HOLL and Henrietta Peters are:

Hetty Iris E Holl was born 1895 in Dubbo. Veral was born 1891 in Dubbo and died 1958 in Chatswood. Robert Randolph Holl was born 1893 in Dubbo and died 06 NOV 1916 in France.

HOLL. —in loving memory of Corporal R. R. Holl (Bob), who was killed in action in France 6th November, 1916.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister, H. and I. Holl.

HOLL — In loving memory of Corporal R. R. Holl (Bob), who was killed in action in France 6th November, 1916.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law and children. V. and J. Houlanhan and family.
In Memory of
Private ROBERT RANDOLPH HOLL
303, 1st Coy. Australian Machine Gun Corps
who died on 06 November 1916
Remembered with honour
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX MEMORIAL

Dubbo Memorial Drive and Rose Garden
Victoria Park Dubbo

Dubbo Book of Remembrance the Dubbo and District Book of Remembrance was created to honour those who were killed in the Great War. The book was written in 1921 and the original is kept within the Dubbo War Memorial Cenotaph.