

Stories from the Honour Boards

Stories of those who served and are remembered on the Honour Boards in the Merrington Anzac Memorial Peace Chapel at Saint Andrew's Uniting Church

Booklet Number 7

JOSEPH ESPIE

DODS

1874 - 1930



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Corner Ann and Creek Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000
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Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Espie Dods DSO MC

Dr Joseph Espie Dods, DSO MC, was born in Kensington, London on 29 June, 1874 to Elizabeth Gray Stodart and her first husband Robert Smith Dods, Joseph or Espie Dods, as he was known, studied medicine in Edinburgh and Public Health in Dublin, before coming to Brisbane where his mother resided in 1899.

He joined the Army Medical Corps in Brisbane, serving in the Boer War as a Captain. He was awarded the Queen's Medal with four clasps. On his return to Queensland, he was appointed Queensland Government Medical Officer in 1905 and was living at 101 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane. In 1906 he married Anna Ruth Walker in Victoria and they lived most of their lives at Callender House on Wickham Terrace, Brisbane which was designed by his brother.

At the outbreak of World War I, he signed up for military service in the Army Medical Corps attached to the 5th Light Horse Regiment. Dods served at Gallipoli from May to August 1915, when he was badly wounded by shrapnel. He returned to the lines of battle a couple of months later. He was awarded the Military Cross, with the citation reading:

'Since his arrival on the Peninsula on the 20th May until his departure (wounded) on the 29th August, he has carried out his duties as Medical Officer with conspicuous gallantry. Our reserve camp has been shelled on many occasions, resulting in casualties. Captain Dods has never waited for these to be brought to him, but has gone into the open to attend to them at personal risk from continued shelling.'

On 28th June, when the Regiment had many casualties, Captain Dods attended to all the wounded, himself being under heavy shell fire the whole of the time. On 29th August when our camp was being heavily shelled, Captain Dods left cover to attend to a wounded man and was immediately struck down with shrapnel.'



He later served in France at Pozieres in the Battle of the Somme in 1916. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and by the end of the war was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. The notes from the citation for the DSO read:

'In the Battle of the Somme. During the period the 1st Australian Division was in action at Pozieres between 22/7/16 and 28/7/16. As DADMS was indefatigable in the collection of wounded and meeting the heavy demands on the bearers at Divisions.

The clearance of wounded from the collecting zone was attended with great difficulties and was always carried out under fire. An excellent organiser. This Officer's services deserve bringing to notice.'



He returned to Australia on 12 April 1917 on the *Ulysses* and resumed work in general practice. He was president of the Queensland branch of the AMA, the Medical Defence Society, and the Queensland Club.

Despite his successful career and for unknown reasons he tragically ended his own life in 1930, at the age of 56. He was buried at the Dutton Park Cemetery, Brisbane.

He was survived by his wife, Anna Ruth Dods (a talented singer who was a frequent soloist at Saint Andrew's Church), a daughter, Margaret (Peggy) Ruth Espie Dods (born 1907), and three sons - William Stodard Espie Dods (born 1909), J. Dods and Robin Espie Dods (died in 1988).

Joseph Espie Dods' brother, Robin Dods 1868-1920 (Robert Smith Dods) was a well-known and highly respected Australian Architect who began his practice in Brisbane. There are many journal articles and books written about his work which included St Bridgid's Church at Red Hill, the TC Beirne building at Fortitude Valley, the old Mater Misericordiae Hospital at South Brisbane, as well as the house (below) which he designed for his brother, Espie Dods as a surgery and residence at 97 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane.





*Joseph Espie Dods
In the uniform
of the Brisbane Grammar
School Junior Cadets.
About 1885.*

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Miriam King, April 2014.



Lest we forget