Lieutenant Theodore Wrigley (XC 1900-02)

AWM ~ Roll of Honour
Theodore Hoddle Wrigley

On the Roll of Honour as Theodore HODDLE-WRIGLEY
Rank: Second Lieutenant
Rank on Enlistment: Corporal
Unit: 14th Australian Machine Gun Company
Date of death: 20 July 1916
Age at death: 21
Place of death: France
Cause of death: Killed in action
Place of burial: No known grave
Place of association: Pakenham, Victoria
Cemetery or memorial details: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Picardie, France

From “The Xaverian” 1914 p. 45
Theo. Hoddle-Wrigley, mildest mannered of boys, developed the martial spirit the moment war loomed up, volunteered, joined the 5th Battalion. He received his corporal’s stripes in examination, and holds non-commissioned rank in H Coy. Theo came out to be farewelled by the O.X.A., and only wanted one form of presentation on arrival—a bath. After a day’s field work and a hurried journey he was fearsome and war-grimed enough to stand for a soldier artist’s model.

From “The Xaverian” 1915 p. 27
Theodore Wrigley, Corporal in D Company, 5th Battalion, also took part in and survived that eventful day. After considerable experience of Gallipoli, he was invalided to Egypt—the climate of which seems to agreed with him.

From “The Xaverian” 1915 p. 53
Theodore Wrigley, better known as “Humpty-Dumpty,” is a good correspondent, and sends us very interesting accounts of his doings in and around Cairo. Only in his last letter—of four large sheets closely packed with news, and dated September 13th—does he make any reference to the war, and that unimportant subordinate clause. “After nineteen weeks, “ says “Humpty,” “of strenuous fighting in the firing-line with the

From Theodore Hoddle-Wrigley’s Red Cross Files
Statement, Red Cross File No 3050307, 4789 Pte W. Duckett, 14th Machine Gun Company (patient, No 9 General Hospital, Rouen), 24 May 1917: ‘At Fromelles on the 20th July/16 we were in trenches and went over the top at 5.45 p.m. on that day, our objective being the German trenches about 300 yards to our front. Lt. Wrigley got into the German trench with the others and was shot about 6 p.m. He had got out of the trench to select a position to emplace a M.G. and was then shot through the head and killed instantaneously. We were driven back next morning and his body had to be left there and I never heard of it being recovered.’
machine-gun section.” That’s all he has to say about nineteen weeks of crowded life and hair-raising experience. Having thus satisfied his conscience by dragging in the subject at all, he positively expands and enthuses over boats, harbours, hospitals, scenery, and the water-chute at Luna Park. He met Father Hearn on the Peninsula, and refers, en passant, to several Old Xaverians. He congratulates himself on the good grounding he got in French at the college, as now he can jabber away in that lingo as fluently as in any other, and schoolmates of his will remember that, in English at least, he could talk “some.”

From *The Xaverian* 1916 p. 68

**Theodore Wrigley** — Second Lieutenant, Machine Gun Company, 5th Division, A.I.F. Poor old Theodore was killed in action on July 20th, at the young age of 21 years. He left Australia as a Corporal with the 5th Battalion, but on the call for volunteers to man the machine guns at Gallipoli, Theodore gave up his stripes and enlisted anew as a private. His knowledge of the work, however, soon raised him from the ranks, and a few months later he was a Corporal in the machine-gun section, later appointed Instructor at the Zeitoun Camp at Cairo, and finally made Second Lieutenant. Life gave him back his honours even when he had put them aside, and then death gave him one he could not resign—the honour of sacrificing his life for the good of others. May he rest in peace.