

In Memory of Private Arthur Edward Hoyer

1897 - 1918

(54th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force)

Age: 21

Parents: Edward Albert Hoyer & Laura Louisa Rayner

Conflict: World War I, The Great War

Country Enlisted In: Australia

Country of Death: Péronne, Hauts-de-France, France

Relation: Paternal 4th Cousin 2X Removed



Private Arthur Edward Hoyer was only twenty-one years old when he was killed in the Battle of Mont Saint-Quentin during the final months of the First World War. He had enlisted in Australia, joining the 54th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force, a unit that would go on to play a pivotal role in the great Allied offensive of 1918.

By late summer, the tide of the war had turned. After years of stalemate, the Allies were pressing forward in the Hundred Days Offensive, driving the German Army back across France. The Australians, though exhausted from years of fighting, were given the task of seizing Mont Saint-Quentin, a high position overlooking the Somme River near Péronne. It was a bold and dangerous assignment, demanding the storming of strong German defenses.

On the 31st of August and the 1st of September, 1918, the Australians launched their attack. Under heavy fire, they crossed the Somme and scrambled up the slopes of the hill, fighting through trenches, wire, and machine-gun posts. The battlefield was alive with noise — the crash of artillery, the rattle of rifles, the shouted orders in the din. In the midst of this furious combat, Arthur Hoyer was killed. At only twenty-one, his life ended as the Australians captured one of their most celebrated victories of the war.



*Private in the 54th Battalion
Australian Infantry*

He was buried in the Péronne Communal Cemetery Extension, where his grave lies among those of his comrades who fell in the same struggle. Today, the cemetery stands in quiet dignity, its rows of white headstones set among lawns and flowers, a stark contrast to the chaos of the battlefield where Arthur met his end.

Arthur Edward Hoyer's story is one of youth and sacrifice, bound to the triumph and tragedy of Mont Saint-Quentin. His battalion's victory there was hailed as one of the finest feats of the Australian Corps, but for him it came at the cost of his life. At twenty-one, he gave everything in the service of his country, and his name endures in the soil of France where he rests, remembered as one of those who helped turn the tide of the Great War.



*Péronne Communal Cemetery Extension
Péronne, Département de la
Somme, Picardie, France*