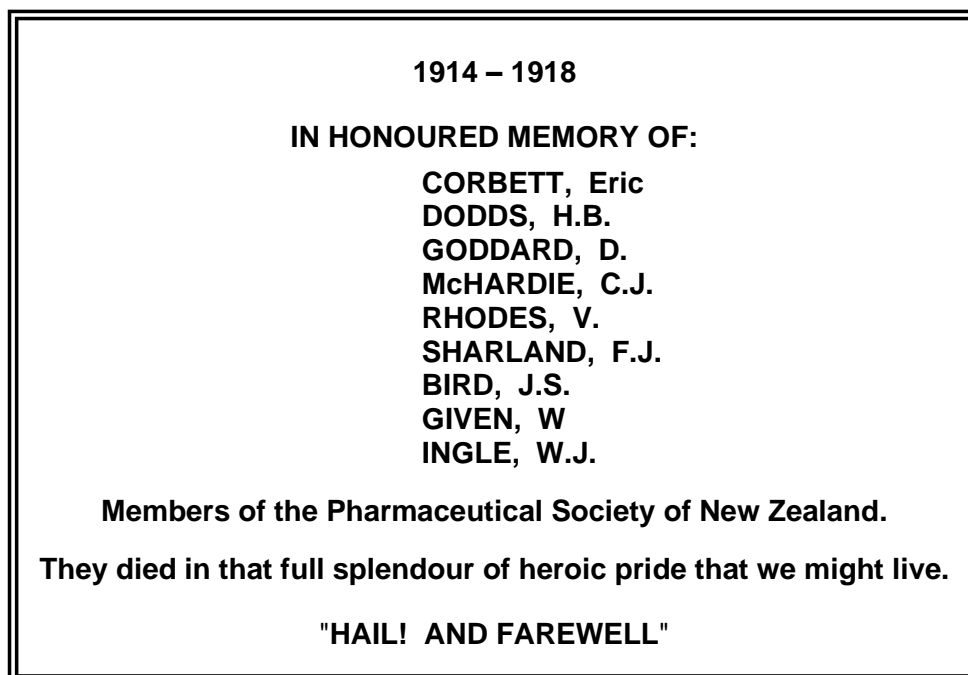


**Harold Dodds, Pharmacist**  
**Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand**  
**Killed in World War 1**

*This update was prepared by Euan Galloway in January 2024. euan.galloway@a.co.nz*



This brass plaque currently hanging on the wall of the Board Room of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand office, 16 Willis Street, Wellington reads:



The quotation "*Hail! And farewell to those who died in that full splendour of heroic pride, that we might live*" comes from John Oxenham's book of poems *All's Well!*

The 1921 Annual Report of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand records:

**Honours Board**

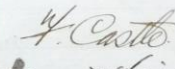
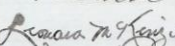
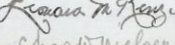
"A handsome brass plate on an oak mount was erected in the Board Room of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand at 41 Ballance Street, Wellington giving the names of the ten registered chemists who lost their lives on War Service during World War 1. The unveiling ceremony was performed by Mr R.R. Parnham, a member of the Board and himself a returned soldier. The unveiling was done in the presence of a gathering of Chemists from all parts of the Dominion."

## HAROLD DODDS


**Harold Binnie DODDS** of Port Chalmers, Dunedin commenced a 4-year apprenticeship on 1 June 1906, indentured to his pharmacist father Nicholas Dodds at 6 George Street.

THE REGISTER OF ARTICLES OF APPRENTICESHIP.							
Date of Articles	APPRENTICE	MASTER	Parent or Guardian of Apprentice	Date of Commencement of Term	Duration of Term	Date of Entry of Apprenticeship	Signature of Registrar of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand (bearing Particulars)
1906 June 1	Dodds Harold	Dodds Nicholas of Port Chalmers Chemist	Dodds Nicholas of Port Chalmers	1906 June 1	4 years	1909 April 1	Chas. Melrose

Harold sat and passed the 49<sup>th</sup> standard examination of the Pharmacy Board in October 1909 and after reaching the required age of 21 years registered as a pharmacist on 10 February 1911, registration number 925.

No. 925	NAME.	RESIDENCE.	QUALIFICATION.	DATE OF REGISTRATION.	REMARKS.
	Dodds Harold Binnie	Port Chalmers	Passed 49th standard examination October 1909	1911 Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>	Keiled in Action Oct 1917 (according to published General list) "Whitaker Regd 3/11/1917"
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">               V. Castle              President           </div> <div style="margin: 0 10px;">} of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand.</div> <div style="text-align: center;">               George McKeen              Member           </div> <div style="text-align: center;">               Chas. Melrose              Member           </div> </div>					

**"To Look Healthy is Gratifying."**  
**"To Feel Healthy is Satisfying."**



**Will produce both Results.**

They are a true **Nerve and Brain Reviver** and infallible System Tonic. A genuine specific for **Nerve, Brain and Physical Exhaustion**

**Rheumatism or Sciatica**

Loss of Appetite  
Indigestion or Dyspepsia  
Liver Complaint  
Kidney Troubles  
Weak or Lame Back

**Anemia**  
Impoverished Blood  
Heart Weakness  
Spinal Trouble  
Female Ailments  
General Decline

And are especially beneficial in restoring to **perfect health and vigor** those who are **weak and debilitated** from either disease, work, or worry.

**EVREN NERVE & BRAIN TABLETS**

Are guaranteed Free from any Trace of Opium, Morphine, Cocaine, Chloral, or other Narcotic Drugs.

They are obtainable from All Chemists and Storekeepers.  
PRICE, 2/- per Box.  
Or will be sent post free on receipt of price by

**F. A. PETERS, Sole Proprietor,**  
Sydney (N.S.W.) and Auckland (N.Z.).

**"Special Retail":**  
Wilkinson & Son, Chemists, Princes St., Dunedin.  
H. L. Sproun, Chemist, Octagon, Dunedin.  
W. Wardrop, Chemist, South Dunedin.  
N. Dodds, Chemist, Port Chalmers.



**Dodds Pharmacy, 6 George Street, Port Chalmers**

Advertisement published in the Otago Daily Times of 17 December 1906 on behalf of N. Dodds, Chemist of Port Chalmers where Harold was undertaking his apprenticeship.

Harold was born 31 December 1889, the son of Nicholas and Christine Dodds, of Grey Street, and later George Street, Port Chalmers, Dunedin. In some army documents his middle name is misspelt Bennie. Binnie was his mother's maiden name.

He was a cousin of Douglas Scott Dodds who registered in 1924 #1283 and later owned a pharmacy in Merivale, Christchurch, for many years and was a stalwart of the Canterbury pharmacy profession. Their grandfather George Fawcett Dodds was also a pharmacist #222 on the New Zealand Register (emigrating in 1877 to Port Chalmers from Kelso in Scotland) as were their fathers Nicholas #307 and John Scott #384 Dodds.

Harold was a student at Port Chalmers District High School, then in September 1904 at the age of 14 years 9 months he enrolled at Otago Boys High School in Dunedin. He left during the first term of 1906 to commence his apprenticeship in his father's Port Chalmers pharmacy. He was a good shot with the rifle and represented Otago Boys' High in the 1905 New Zealand Secondary Schools of the Empire Match. The team was placed 4<sup>th</sup> behind Wellington College, Auckland Grammar and Rangiora High.

During his apprenticeship Harold served his compulsory military training with the Port Chalmers Naval Artillery Volunteers together with his father, who was a Major in the unit.

After his registration as a pharmacist in February 1911, the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists recorded his address in January 1912 as Port Chalmers, in January 1913 as Wanganui, in January 1914 as Port Chalmers and in January 1915 as Otautau, Southland.

In July 1914 Harold purchased the Otautau Pharmacy from Francis King. His advertisement stated that he had eight years experience (including his apprenticeship) in different businesses in New Zealand – and that gave him sufficient recommendation as to his ability to compound prescriptions properly!

**H. B. DODDS,**  
**Chemist and Druggist,**  
**OTAUTAU.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT.**

I beg to announce to the residents of Otautau and surrounding districts that I have recently taken over the business formerly owned by Mr F. B. King. Eight years' experience in different businesses in New Zealand is sufficient recommendation as to my ability to compound your prescriptions properly.

I will always carry in stock a complete line of Prescription Pharmaceuticals, Sundries, Toilet Articles, Rubber Goods, Medicinal Wines, and all other articles usually found in a first-class Pharmacy.

I will appreciate your patronage, and assure you high-class Drugs at prevailing prices with efficient service and courteous treatment. Hoping to merit your patronage. I am, yours truly,

**HAROLD B. DODDS.**

*Otautau Standard and Wallace County Chronicle*  
28 July 1914 page 4

The last pharmacy he worked in prior to his enlistment in December 1915 was that of his father Mr Nicholas Dodds, Chemist of Port Chalmers.



Private Dodds enlisted on 17 December 1915, service number 23475. His address on enlistment was his parents address Grey Street, Port Chalmers, Dunedin.

He left New Zealand on 27 May 1916 with the 13<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements on board the Troopship Tofua (HMNZT 55).

On 29 July 1916 as an infantry soldier he marched into Sling Camp on the Salisbury Plain, England and was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Otago Infantry Regiment. Two weeks later he left for the NZ Base Depot in Etaples, France and on 24 August 1916 he joined the 8<sup>th</sup> (Southland) Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Otago Battalion at Abbeville, preparing for their participation in the Battle of the Somme beginning 15 September 1916.

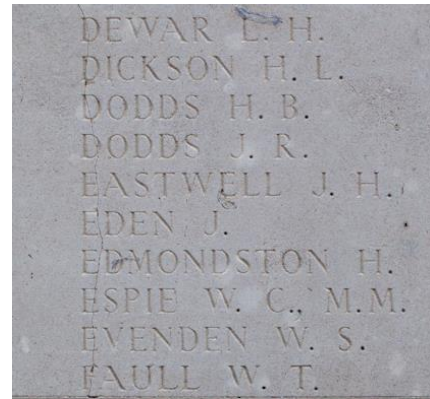
Near the end of Otago's involvement in that battle Harold fell sick with enteritis (inflammation of the intestine, usually accompanied by diarrhoea). He was admitted first to the 15<sup>th</sup> and then to the 38<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on 27 September 1916. From there he was moved by ambulance-train to the No. 6 (British) General Hospital at Rouen, France. A week later he was evacuated on the New Zealand Hospital Ship Maheno to the No. 1 (New Zealand) General Hospital at Brockenhurst near Southampton, England. A month later on 4 November 1916 he was well enough to be transferred to the Convalescent Depot at Codford, near Salisbury.

After two months he was judged fit to return to the war and on 15 January 1917 marched into Sling Camp for further training. On 3 March 1917 he moved on to the NZ Base Depot in Etaples, France and on 25 May 1917 rejoined his unit in time for the Battle of Messines. After this he was detached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Company of the New Zealand Engineers from 21 July to 18 August 1917, then returned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Otago Infantry Regiment.

Aged 24 Private Harold Dodds was killed in action on 12 October 1917 during the battle for Bellevue Spur at Passchendaele, Ypres, Belgium. His unit, the 1<sup>st</sup> Otagos did not fight in the successful preliminary Battle of Broodseinde on 4 October 1917 to seize Gravenstafel Spur, rather they remained behind in the brigade reserve area in case of enemy counter-attack. But a week later they were thrown into the tragic attack on Bellevue Spur to support the capture of the village Passchendaele. It was a disaster. Continual rain and poor drainage had turned the ground into a quagmire, shell holes filled with water and the battlefield degenerated into a muddy bog almost impossible to cross. The artillery guns were unstable in the mud and their fire inaccurate, failing to effectively cut the enemy barbed wire or destroy their concrete pillboxes from where machine guns slaughtered the advancing Kiwis, who failed to reach their objective.

Harold was one of 846 New Zealand soldiers who were killed on that Flanders field that day. He has no known grave, but his life is commemorated on Panel 3 of the New Zealand Apse of the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing at Zonnebeke, Belgium.





Euan Galloway at the inscription for pharmacist Harold Dodds  
in the New Zealand Apse of the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, Zonnebeke, Belgium April 2015



Tyne Cot Cemetery viewed from the Memorial to the Missing – 11,900 graves, 35,000 names

Private Dodds is remembered on the Port Chalmers War Memorial:



GREAT WAR	
1914 – 1918	
AITKEN W	HAY R M
ANDERSON A	HOCKLEY B C
ANGUS H	HORNBY A
ATHFIELD D	HORNBY W
ATHFIELD E W	HUGHES A
BARKER C	ISBISTER W
BASNAN C	JACK T H
BAUCHOP A	JAMIESON M
BEAGLEY G	JOHNSON J N
BELL T A	JONES A E
BURT A	KAY A
CAMERON J	KAY R W
DIMBLER H	KEENAN J D
DODDS H B	KING H
DOVE J J G	LARKINS A

He is also commemorated on the War Memorial Arch at the entrance to Otago Boys' High School, Dunedin.

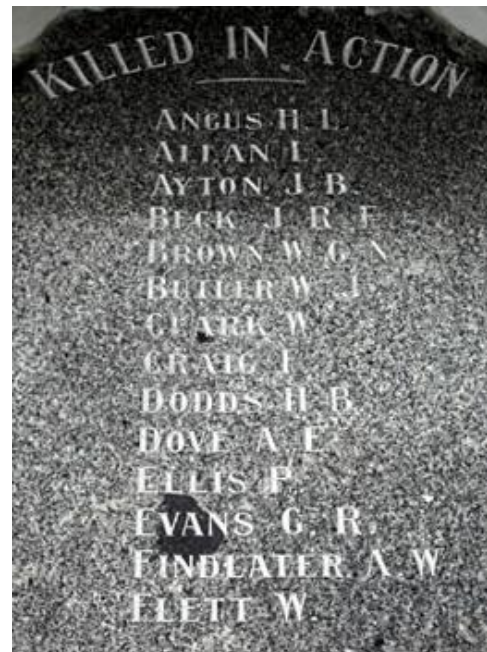






Inscription on the War Memorial Arch at the entrance to Otago Boys' High School

Also commemorated on the Otautau war memorial.



And on the Invercargill Cenotaph.





## **References:**

Pharmacy Board of New Zealand Annual Reports, held by the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand, Wellington

Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists of New Zealand, held by the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand, Wellington

The Register of Articles of Apprenticeship, Pharmacy Board of New Zealand, held by the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington

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Auckland War Memorial Museum Cenotaph entry  
<https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>

New Zealand War Graves Trust entry <https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz>

New Zealand Memorials Register entry  
<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/culture/the-memorials-register>

Dodds' Pharmacies – Three generations of New Zealand chemists and their medicines, by Claire Le Couteur, published by The Cotter Medical History Trust 2021

Otago Boys' High School Museum Curator

Papers Past <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>

Photograph of pharmacy building March 1900 taken by D.A. De Maus and held by Port Chalmers Maritime Museum. See also <https://builtindunedin.com/2014/09/22/dodds-building>

Portrait of Harold Dodds from the Auckland Weekly News 1918

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September 2017. Updated January 2024

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

*John McCrae, May 1915*

