

Nicholas was born at Balmain on 25th November 1886, the son of Alfred James Hobbs and his wife Margaret, nee Johnson. On 29th July 1902 Nicholas joined the Department of Education as a Probationary Teacher at Teralba Public School. He was confirmed in his position on 22nd November and moved to the TUGGERAH Public School on 30th April 1903. On 1st July 1903 he was promoted Teacher Class 111, on 1st July 1904 to Teacher Class 11 and on 1st July 1905 to Teacher Class 1. On 14th March he transferred to Cabramatta, then to Yarrari on 21st March 1907 and then Manobali on 24th Feb 1908.

On 11th August 1914 he enlisted as the Orderly Room Sergeant in the AN&MEF stating that he was single and gave his father at Gosford NSW as his next of kin. Nicholas returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 5th March 1915 he joined the 20th Battalion, regimental number 243, and was promoted Sergeant on 21st May and allocated to B Company. He left Sydney on 26th June 1915 aboard the BERRIMA and was promoted Colour Sergeant Major on 30th June. With his battalion he landed on Gallipoli on 22nd August. Whilst on Gallipoli, on 1st October he was appointed 2Lt and was transferred to hospital on Mudros on 16th Dec suffering from Synovitis of the right knee. He was then transferred to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis and was discharged back to his unit on 1st Jan 1916.

On 2nd June, at Bois Grenier France, he received a gunshot wound to the left shoulder and was promoted Lt on 9th August. For his action at Bois Grenier he was awarded the Military Cross – “For conspicuous gallantry during the consolidation of the captured enemy trenches. He took charge when his company commander had been wounded, and, by his courage and cheery manner kept his men at work through a heavy bombardment.”

Nichols was promoted Captain on 29th December 1916 and was again wounded, this time at Bullecourt where he received a gunshot wound to the left hand. He was evacuated from Calais on the JAN BREYDEL. He was returned to Australia aboard the hospital ship KAROOOLA arriving home on 29th August 1917 where he was placed on the Seconded List of Officers.

He returned to duty on 7th Feb 1918 and left for England on 28th Feb aboard the NESTOR, arriving on 29th April where he was seconded for duty as Adjutant, Australian Corps School where he remained until his return to Australia on 20th June 1919 aboard the KONIG FREDERICK AUGUST.

On 10th Feb 1923 Nicholas married Lucy Alma Carpenter and established a business in Bemboka, NSW where he died on 31st July 1963.

Nicholas' brother, Ronald Stanley served in the 36th battalion and also received the Military Cross. He was killed in action at Villers- Bretonneux.

Nicholas' son, Ronald Henry served in WW2 in the RAAF, service number 424297 and was shot down over France and was killed on 4th May 1944.