

**Shorncliffe Military Cemetery,  
Folkestone, Kent  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**986 PRIVATE**

**E. ROBINSON**

**8TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**11TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 28**

## Edward (Ted) ROBINSON

Edward Robinson was born at Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria in 1890 to parents Henry and Agnes Robinson (nee Newill).

Edward Robinson attended the State School at Fitzroy, Victoria.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Traralgon, Victoria listed Edward Robinson, Farm Labourer, of Traralgon.

Edward Robinson was a 26 year old, single, Farm Labourer from Traralgon, Victoria when he enlisted on 18th February, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 39th Infantry Battalion "C" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 955 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Agnes Robinson, 14 King William Street, Fitzroy, Victoria.

Edward Robinson was posted to 39th Battalion at Ballarat on 18th February, 1916 for recruit training.

Private Edward Robinson embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 27th May, 1916.

Private Edward Robinson was transferred to 8th Battalion from No. 7 Camp, Larkhill, Wiltshire on 9th September, 1916 & his service number changed to 986. He proceeded overseas from England on 15th September, 1916 & was taken on strength of 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 17th September, 1916. Pte Robinson was struck off strength of 1st A.D.B.D. on 30th September, 1916 & joined 8th Battalion in the field on 2nd October, 1916.

Private Edward Robinson was wounded in action in Belgium on 20th September, 1917. He was taken to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 20th September, 1917 with gunshot wounds to left leg. Pte Robinson was transferred to 32nd Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to Ambulance Train on 20th September, 1917. Pte Robinson was admitted to 2nd Stationary Hospital at Abbeville on 21st September, 1917 then transferred to Convalescent Depot at Cayeux on 6th October, 1917. He was discharged from Convalescent Depot on 19th October, 1917 & marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples at 20th October, 1917.

### War Diary – 8th Battalion

*15th September, 1917 to 22nd September, 1917 – Move to CHATEAU SEGARD BUND DUGOUTS In action.*

CASUALTIES -	Officers	Other Ranks
<i>Killed</i>	4	40
<i>Wounded</i>	6	160
<i>Missing</i>		13
<i>D. of W.</i>		6

(Extract of War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Edward Robinson re-joined 8th Battalion in the field on 1st November, 1917.

Private Edward Robinson was on leave from 28th December, 1917 & rejoined 8th Battalion from leave on 11th January, 1918.

Private Edward Robinson was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 31st March, 1918. He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 31st March, 1918 with gunshot wounds to right shoulder then transferred to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Robinson was transferred to Ambulance Train 12 on 3rd April, 1918 & admitted to 32nd Stationary Hospital at Wimereaux. Pte Robinson was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 13th April, 1918.

Private Edward Robinson was admitted to Central Military Hospital at Chatham, England on 13th April, 1918 with gunshot wounds to right shoulder. He was discharged to furlough from 26th April, 1918 to 10th May, 1918 & was then to report to Sutton Veny.

Private Edward Robinson was marched in from Australian Headquarters, London to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 9th May, 1918 & medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 to 3 weeks).

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Edward Robinson was sent sick to Group Hospital at Sutton Veny, on 22nd May, 1918 with Scabies. He was given routine treatment & cured. Pte Robinson was passed as dentally fit on 22nd May, 1918. He was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot from Hospital on 28th May, 1918 & medically classified as A3 (fit for Overseas Training Camp – to which transferred for hardening, prior to rejoining Unit overseas).

Private Edward Robinson was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 30th May, 1918.

Private Edward Robinson proceeded overseas to France from Longbridge Deverill via Folkestone on 26th June, 1918.

Private Edward Robinson was marched in to A.I.B.D (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 28th June, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 2nd July, 1918 & rejoined his Unit with 8th Battalion in France on 5th July, 1918.

Private Edward Robinson was wounded in action (3rd occasion) on 9th August, 1918. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 10th August, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to left knee. Pte Robinson was transferred to 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Outreau, France on 11th August, 1918. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* on 13th August, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to left knee.

#### War Diary – 8th Battalion

*9th, 10th & 11th August, 1918 – HARBONNIERES*

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*Total Casualties during 9, 10, 11th August inclusive – Killed 3 Off 46 Other Ranks Wounded 11 Off 222 Other Ranks.*

(Extract of War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Edward Robinson was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone, Kent, England on 13th August, 1918 severely ill.

Private Edward Robinson died at 9.30 am on 11th September, 1918 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone, Kent, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wound to left knee. The Admission to Hospital form reads: "*Swelling of lower leg & thigh. Haemorrhage from wound behind knee. Amputation \_\_\_ thigh. Septic Pneumonia & septicaemia.*"

A death for Edward Robinson, aged 28, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Elham, Kent, England.

Private Edward Robinson was buried on 13th September, 1918 in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England – Plot number N. 668. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Edward Robinson - *Coffin was good, polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral. Firing Party, Pallbearers, Band and Bugler were in attendance, supplied by a Canadian Depot. Pte Gale, who is an old acquaintance of deceased, attended the funeral as chief mourner. Several nice*

wreaths were placed on the coffin. The officiating clergyman was the Rev: F. Williams C.F. of the Canadians. He is an Australian gentleman, and was please to be able to officiate at the funeral. The funeral was most impressive and several present were visably affected. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Pte G. Gale was from 14th Battalion, A.I.F.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Edward Robinson contains letter from the Matron, Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone which reads: *"Pte Edward Robinson, 986, 8th Battn., A.I.F. was badly wounded in the left leg. There was a good deal of septic poisoning and it was necessary that his leg should be amputated, but unfortunately, in spite of this, and every possible care, he died at our Hospital on Sept 11th and was buried 2 days after at Shorncliffe Cemetery. The Military Funeral was attended by all his Australian colleagues and by several friends who were interested in him. A lovely wreath was sent by all our Australian Patients – also on from "the Matron, House Surgeon and Nursing Staff of this Hospital." His Colleagues have collected money which they intend to erect a memorial stone by his grave. I may mention that I have written to his Mother in Australia two or three times and have given her as minute details of his illness as possible."*

### **8th Battalion**

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

After Pozieres, the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917, the battalion participated in the operations that followed-up the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, and then returned to Belgium to join the great offensive launched to the east of Ypres.

In March and April 1918 helped to stop the German spring offensive. The battalion subsequently participated in the allies' own offensive, launched near Amiens on 8 August 1918. The advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as, "the black day of the German Army in this war".

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Edward Robinson requested in his Will, dated 9th August, 1917, that his Allotment moneys be given to Miss Amy Bertha Morris, Selwood, Lock Park, Traralgon, Gippsland, Victoria. All his other personal estate he requested be given to his mother – Mrs A. Robinson of 14 King William St, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria.

An "A. Morris" wrote a letter to The Repatriation Office at St. Kilda, Melbourne on 21st July, 1938 which reads *"Seeing by last Saturdays Herald of so many unclaimed war medals, I would like to know if there are any medals unclaimed of No. 986 Private Edward Robinson, 8th Battalion., deceased, served with the A.I.F. in France for two years 1916-1918."* A reply was sent stating that *"all War Medals issuable on account of the services of the late No. 986 Private Edward Robinson, 8th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, have been disposed of in favour of the deceased's Mother."* (From information in the death notices (below) – Amy Morris was Edward Robinson's fiancée.)

Private Edward Robinson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Robinson's mother - Mrs A. Robinson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent June, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edward Robinson - service number 986, aged 28, of 8th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Agnes Robinson. Born at Fitzroy, Victoria.

E. Robinson is remembered on the Traralgon Honour Roll, which is located in the Traralgon RSL Club, 109-115 Grey Street, Traralgon, Victoria.



Traralgon Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)





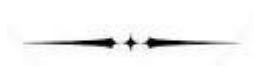
Private E. Robinson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 54.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(43 pages of Pte Edward Robinson's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **LIST 360**

##### **WOUNDED**

Pte E. Robinson, Fitzroy

*(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 1 December, 1917)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **VICTORIAN LIST**

##### **WOUNDED**

Pte E. Robinson, Fitzroy (3rd occ.)

*(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 September, 1918)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

### VICTORIAN LIST

#### WOUNDED

Pte E. Robinson, Fitzroy (2nd occ.)

(*Weekly Times*, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 May, 1918)

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#### DEATHS

##### On Active Service

ROBINSON – Died of wounds on the 11th September, Pte Edward Robinson (Ted), loving brother of Mrs R. McIntosh, 35 Doritt-street, Carlton.

Loved by all who knew him.

-Inserted by his sorrowing sister.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 September, 1918)

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#### DEATHS

##### On Active Service

ROBINSON – Died of wounds on the 11th September, No. 986, Private E. Robinson (Ted), loved brother of Jim, Alick and Benny, all killed on active service, and Harry, still on active service.

Something seems gone from the sunshine, Ted,

Something from the song of the birds;

There's a pain deep down in our heart,

A sorrow too deep for words.

-Inserted by his loving friends, Mrs Morris, Walter and Grace, Loch Park, Traralgon.

ROBINSON – Died of wounds on the 11th September, No. 986, Private Edward Robinson (Ted), loved third son of Mrs A. Robinson, King William-street, Fitzroy, and dearly loved fiancé of Amy Morris.

When my heart is sore for you,

I seem to hear you say,

Break not your heart, dear sweetheart,

We will meet on the eternal day.

Inserted by his broken hearted fiancée, Amy Morris, Loch Park, Traralgon.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 September, 1918)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

ROBINSON – In loving memory of my beloved fiancé, No. 986, Private E. Robinson (Ted), 8th Battalion, died of wounds on the 11th September, 1918.

Gone is the one I loved so dear,  
Silent the voice I longed to hear.  
Anchored by love that death cannot sever,  
Sadly I miss him, and will for ever.

-Inserted by his sorrowing fiancée, Amy Morris, Traralgon.

ROBINSON – In loving memory of our dear loved friend, No. 986, Private E. Robinson (Ted), of the 8th Battalion, who died of wounds on the 11th September, 1918.

He was a friend to many,  
And to his own proved true;  
Unselfish, steadfast, true and kind,  
And the best of soldiers, too.

-Inserted by his sorrowing friends, Mrs Morris, Walter and Grace, Loch Park, Traralgon.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 September, 1919)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

ROBINSON – In loving memory of my beloved fiancé, No. 986, Private E. Robinson (Ted), 8th Battalion, died of wounds on the 11th September, 1918.

Gone is the one I loved so dear,  
Silent the voice I longed to hear.  
Anchored by love that death cannot sever,  
Sadly I miss him, and will for ever.

-(Inserted by his sorrowing fiancée, Amy Morris, Traralgon.)

ROBINSON – In loving memory of my pal, Ted, who died on September 11, 1918.

Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

- (Inserted by Geo. Gladwin)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 September, 1919)

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## **Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England**

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery belongs to the Ministry of Defence and contains war graves of both World Wars. It is close to the military camp at Shorncliffe, 2 miles west of Folkestone

During the First World War a number of Canadian military establishments were centred on Shorncliffe. There were camps and a Machine Gun School which were served by the Shorncliffe Military Hospital (later No. 9 Canadian General), the Moore Barracks Military Hospital (later No. 11 Canadian General), and other Canadian hospitals. The Canadian Army Medical Corps Training Depot was at or near Shorncliffe during almost the whole of the war. On three occasions Canadian soldiers were killed during air raids on Shorncliffe.

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery contains 471 First World War burials, more than 300 of them Canadian. Second World War burials number 81, including 1 unidentified U.K. soldier and 1 Polish Foreign National. The cemetery also contains a screen wall on which are commemorated 18 Belgians originally buried in a mausoleum, now demolished.

There are 11 Australians from World War 1 buried in this Cemetery – 2 with Royal Air Force.

*(Information from the CWGC)*



**Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone** *(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)*





**Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone** (Photo above courtesy of Paul Kendall & below Stephen Summerfield)





Photo of Private E. Robinson's Private Headstone in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)*

*In  
Loving Memory  
of  
PTE. E. ROBINSON  
8<sup>TH</sup> BATT. A.I.F.  
Late Of Traralgon, Gippsland,  
Australia  
Who Died From Wounds Received  
In Action September 11<sup>th</sup> 1918  
Aged 28 Years*



*(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)*





**Cross of Sacrifice** *(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)*