Bowling Cemetery, Bradford, Yorkshire, England War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3309 L. CPL

C. A. ROBINSON

30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

17TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 25

Until The Day Break

And The Shadows Flee Away

Colin Alexander/Allan ROBINSON

Colin A. Robinson was born at Inverell, NSW in 1893 to parents James Robert and Mary Ann Elizabeth Robinson (nee O'Donohue). (The Service and Casualty Form –Army Form B103 Part 1 lists the place of birth as Nullamanna, New South Wales.)

Colin Alexander Robinson attended District School at Inverell, NSW.

Colin Alexander Robinson had served an Apprenticeship for 5 years at Inverell with W. Webster.

Colin Alexander Robinson was a 22 year old, single, Plumber & Gas Fitter from Wood Street, Inverell, NSW when he enlisted on 26th October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) as "Colin Allan Robinson". His service number was 3309 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – James R. Robinson, Wood Street, Inverell, NSW.

(Note: The Roll of Honour – Australian War Memorial & the Australian Red Cross Wounded & Missing file & information submitted for the Roll of Honour all have the name middle name of "Alexander", however the Embarkation Roll has the middle name as "Allen" while the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website & the Service Record file (National Archives of Australia) all have "Allan" as the middle name for Colin Robinson. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission forms (Grave Registration & Concentration) have his middle name as Alexander. Throughout the research below I will be referring to the soldier as "Colin A. Robinson")

Private Colin A. Robinson was posted to "D" Company on 26th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 31st Battalion (no date) then transferred to "C" Company of 30th Battalion.

Colin A. Robinson married Alice M. Edwards in the district of Petersham, NSW in 1916.

(Note: Base Records advised Mrs A. M. Robinson on 8th January, 1919 that her name had been entered on the records of the late Lance Corporal C. A. Robinson, 30th Battalion having sighted the Marriage Certificate. Her previous letter dated 2nd January, 1919 stated they had "only married a few days prior to Embarkation" however Private Robinson had listed himself as single on his Attestation Papers.)

Private Colin Allen Robinson (middle name as per Embarkation/Nominal Roll) embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Hororata (A20)* on 2nd May, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez.

Private Colin A. Robinson embarked from Alexandria for Overseas on 2nd August, 1916 on Franconia.

Private Colin A. Robinson was admitted to Stationary Hospital at Marseilles, France with Pneumonia on 15th August, 1916. He was discharged on 21st August, 1916 & marched in to 5th Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 24th August, 1916.

Private Colin A. Robinson written up on 13th October, 1916 while posted at 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples – Neglect of duty on 12th October, 1916. He was awarded 8 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private Colin A. Robinson was marched out from 5th A.D.B.D. to join his Unit on 29th December, 1916 & was taken on strength of 30th Battalion the same day in France.

Private Colin A. Robinson was sent to hospital sick on 7th February, 1917. He was admitted 15th Australian Field Ambulance in France on 7th February, 1917 with Bronchitis then transferred & admitted to 45th Casualty Clearing Station on 8th February, 1917. Private Robinson was transferred & admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 10th February, 1917. He embarked for England on 15th February, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. George*.

Private Colin A. Robinson was admitted to County of Middlesex War Hospital at Napsbury on 16th February, 1917 with Bronchitis (slight). He was discharged to Furlough from 9th March – 24th March, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs.

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.

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Private Colin A. Robinson was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire & was medically classified as B1 A (fit for overseas training camp in a few weeks).

Private Colin A. Robinson was sent sick to Brigade Hospital on 27th March, 1917 with a sore throat. He returned to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 16th April, 1917 & was again medically classified as B1 A.

Private Colin A. Robinson was transferred to 62nd Battalion on 25th April, 1917. He was marched out to Windmill Hill Camp on 26th April, 1917 & taken on strength of 62nd Battalion.

Private Colin A. Robinson was on Command at Lewis Machine Gun School at Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 24th June, 1917. He was marched back in to 62nd Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 30th June, 1917 from Lewis Machine Gun School at Tidworth.

Private Colin A. Robinson was appointed Acting Lance Corporal on 18th July, 1917 while posted with 62nd Battalion at Fovant.

Acting Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson was promoted to Lance Corporal on 18th July, 1917 as per R.O. 220.

Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson was transferred back to 30th Battalion on 19th September, 1917 on marching out to 69th Draft Battalion.

Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 11th October, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson was marched in to No. 3 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Le Havre, France on 15th October, 1917 from England. He was marched out to his Unit on 18th October, 1917 & was taken on strength of 30th Battalion in the Field on 26th October, 1917.

Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson was to be Temporary Corporal from 28th August, 1918 (vice Corporal 2602 Funnel killed in action).

Temporary Corporal Colin A. Robinson was wounded in action on 30th September, 1918. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 30th September, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to both legs. Temporary Corporal Robinson reverted to rank of Lance Corporal on being evacuated wounded on 30th September, 1918. Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson was transferred & admitted to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station on 30th September, 1918 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 1st October, 1918. Lance Corporal Robinson was admitted to 73rd (23rd?) General Hospital at Trounville, France 2nd October, 1918. He was listed for transfer to England on 10th October, 1918 & embarked for England on 11th October, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle* with G.S.W. legs.

30th Battalion

The 30th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Liverpool in New South Wales on 5 August 1915. Most of its recruits hailed from the Newcastle region and other parts of country New South Wales, but almost an entire company was composed of former RAN ratings from Victoria.....

In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line. During the general advance that followed, the 30th Battalion had the honour of occupying Bapaume, one of the original objectives for the Somme Offensive of 1916. The 30th missed much of the heavy fighting of 1917, being employed in flank protection and reserve roles at the second battle of Bullecourt and the battle of Polygon Wood.

Unlike many AIF battalions, the 30th also had a relatively quiet time during the German Spring Offensive of 1918 as the 5th Division was in reserve for much of the time. When the Allies took to the offensive again, the 30th fought in a minor attack at Morlancourt on 29 July, after having conducted several large raids in the area in June. The 30th was heavily engaged when it lead the 5th Division's advance down the Morcourt Valley, during the battle of Amiens on 8 and 9 August. It followed up success there with an active role in the great advance that followed through August and into September. The 30th fought its last major action of the war between 27 September and 1 October when the 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions, and two American divisions attacked the Hindenburg Line across the top of the 6-kilometre-long St Quentin Canal tunnel; the canal was a major obstacle in the German defensive scheme. The 30th Battalion disbanded on 21 March 1919. (Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

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War Diary - 30th Battalion

Brigade Reserve - Bellicourt

30th September, 1918 – The Battalion remained in Brigade reserve during the day "B" Coy being in the front line between 29th and 31st Bns.

The enemy continued shelling the area throughout the day but did not cause any casualties, to the reserve troops. "B" Coy in the line, however, had a very trying period, as the position they occupied was under direct observation by the enemy, and the slightest movement was heavily shelled by Field guns, Throughout the whole day, the enemy continued shoots on the area, and owing to the poor cover available, several casualties were caused. During the day, Lieut. H. Doust, M.C. was sniped and died a few minutes later.

At 4 pm the 29th and 31st Bns were to have carried out a minor operation with a view to capturing the sugar-factory on the outskirts of MAUROY, but the artillery barrage did not silence the enemy machine-guns and the attacking troops were held up and unable to approach the objective. During the day, a squadron of 8 enemy planes dropped bombs on NAUROY and in the area occupied by the Coy. in G.12.C. and G.18.a. but caused no casualties.

The Lewis guns of the Coy. were very active during the morning, engaging good targets, and inflicting at least six casualties.

The dispositions of the unit, were still the same at midnight. Heavy harassing fire was carried out by the enemy on the reserve area throughout the night, causing a few casualties to personnel.

The total casualties up to date were 3 Officers and 75 other ranks.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson was admitted to Bath War Hospital on 12th October, 1918 with G.S.W. to both legs. He was discharged to furlo from 7th November to 21st November, 1918 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot.

Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson died on 17th November, 1918 at 9 Lodgefield, Cullingworth, Yorkshire, England from Influenza & Pneumonia. (Note: the Burial Report & letter to Mrs A. M. Robinson, advising of the death & burial of Lance Corporal C. A. Robinson both have listed "Lodgefield" however a summary sheet listing all the details of Lance Corporal Colin Allen Robinson has the place of death listed as 9 Lodge Street, also "Allan" has been corrected to show "Alexander".)

A death for Colin A. Robinson, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Keighley, West Riding of Yorkshire, England.

Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson was buried on 22nd November, 1918 in Wesleyan Cemetery, Cullingworth, Yorkshire, England in Family Grave (CEM 2989, Middle South Middle Row 385). From the burial report of Lance Corporal Colin Allan Robinson - Coffin was pine, good polished, brass mounts. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. He was interred in a private family grave and a large number of relatives attended the funeral. Beautiful wreaths were sent by:- COUSINS. Emily, Ada, Helen, Emma. AUNTS. Mrs Peacock and Mrs Smith. FRIENDS. Mrs Woodriss and Mrs Wilson also a china wreath from the villagers. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev: Brush of Bradford. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral: - Aunts - Mrs Peacock, Mrs J. Briggs, Mrs H. Holmes. Cousins – Miss E. A. L. and F. Briggs, Mrs W. Leighton, Mrs F. Hird and many other personal friends.

An exhumation order was made & the body of the late Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson was exhumed on 3rd November, 2009 from Cullingworth Methodist Cemetery & re-interred in Bowling Cemetery, Bradford, Yorkshire, England – Plot number P. 773 on the same day. Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Colin Alexander Robinson contains a letter from Miss Emily Briggs, 9 Lodge Street, Cullingworth, Yorkshire which reads: "Re 3309. Pte Colin Allen Robinson. 30th Battalion. A.I.F. The above named soldier was our Cousin and it was our first opportunity of seeing him. I wrote to tell his Mother when he commenced to be ill. At first he came on the Sunday. He commenced being ill on the Tuesday, © Cathy Sedgwick 2019

but he had the Influenza and a very bad cough when he came. He got worse on the Friday. It turned to pneumonia, and on the Sunday he died. We had our own Family doctor to him and we nursed him well. He was never left after he took to his bed but our Doctor said his lungs were completely gone. We buried him with full Military honours and we laid him to his last resting place in our own family grave at the Cullingworth Wesleyan Cemetery. Now I wrote to his mother and I told her everything on the 18th November. The day after he died, so she will have received my letter I hope by this. The cause of death on the certificate was Influenza, and pneumonia priory to wounds. I think this will perhaps satisfy his relatives for the village people lined the grave with evergreens and flowers. His grave was decked with flowers and we had a photograph taken of the grave the day after the funeral and we have sent a photo on to his Mother. She will have received that also, for it was posted on the 28th November."

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Colin Alexander Robinson also contains a letter from Corporal G. E. Weiley, 2480, A. Coy. 30th Battalion A.I.F. which reads: "Died of Wounds 12.11.18 (the 12 has been crossed out & replaced with 17). Robinson's name was "Colin"; he was a Lance-Corporal in A Company and his number was 3309.

He was wounded in the thigh about the end of September 1918, near Bellcourt and was in Bath War Hospital with me in October, 1918 and seemed quite alright and was convalescent and billeted out of the hospital in the town. He was evacuated to Dartford Hospital about two days before I left Bath Hospital, I left Bath Hospital on 14th November, 1918 and had he died on the 12th, I would certainly have been at his funeral. Private Bert O'Brien, of 30th Battalion, was also at this Hospital at the time and knew Colin Robinson. I feel certain that he did not die on the 12.11.18, as he then seemed perfectly right and was actually billeted down the town and was attending dances and other entertainments."

Lance Corporal Colin A. Robinson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Robinson's widow – Mrs A. M. Robinson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Colin <u>Allan</u> Robinson – service number 3309, aged 25, of 30th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James Robert and Mary Ann Elizabeth Robinson; husband of Alice M. Robinson, of Forbes St., Deepwater, New South Wales. (*CWGC were advised in November, 2022 when this research was revised that the middle name should be "Alexander" as per CWGC Graves Registration & Concentration forms & The Roll of Honour on The Australian War Memorial).*

Lance Corporal C. A. 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 117.

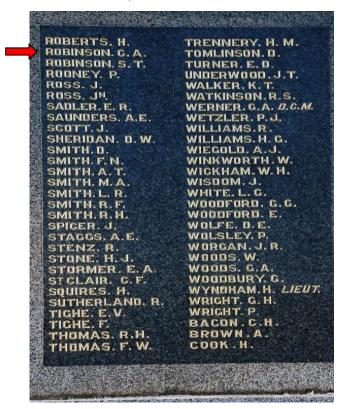


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. A. Robinson is remembered on the Inverell War Memorial, located at Evans & Lawrence Streets, Inverell, NSW.



Inverell War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)



(68 pages of Lance Corporal Colin <u>Allan</u> 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

ROLL OF HONOUR

PRIVATE C. A. ROBINSON

Miss N. Robinson has received a letter from her brother, Private C. A. Robinson (late of W. R. Webster), under date 4/3/17. Private Robinson had recovered from his illness, and expected to be out of hospital in a few days, and was then going to spend a fortnight's furlough in Edinbergh, Scotland. He had several Inverell boys with him, viz. Joe Bottom (E. K. Pepper and Co.), Stan Robinson (Burge Bros.) and G. McCarthy (B. Wade's sawmill). The two last mentioned were in his battalion, but in C Company. He had quite enjoyed his stay, everything being very comfortable. After his holiday eh expects to go into camp on Salisbury Plain and then return to France.

(The Inverell Times, NSW – 11 May, 1917)

SOLDIERS OF THE NORTH

Mrs C. A. Robinson, of Inverell, received further news last week from the Defence Department to the effect that her husband, Lance-Corp. C. A. Robinson, a son of Mr J. R. Robinson, Wood-street, Inverell, had been transferred to Bath War Hospital, suffering from gunshot wounds in both legs.

(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW - 22 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CORPORAL C. A. ROBINSON

Mrs. Robinson, of Tenterfield, received the sad news yesterday that her husband, Lance-Corporal Colin A. Robinson, died of wounds on 12th inst. A couple of weeks ago Mrs. Robinson was advised by the Base Records that the deceased had been admitted to Bath War Hospital, England, suffering from gunshot wounds in both legs, but she little thought that the end was so near. A sad feature about the occurrence is that Mrs. Robinson is at present an inmate of the Tenterfield hospital, suffering from appendicitis. The fallen soldier was a son of Mr. J. R. Robinson, of Wood-street. Belgravia. Deceased, who enlisted over three years ago, was but 25 years of age. He leaves a wife and a little boy of three years.

(The Inverell Times, NSW - 29 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

ROBINSON – Died of wounds, November 11, 1918, Lance-corporal Colin A. Robinson, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robinson, Belgravia, Inverell.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW - 7 December, 1918) & (The Sun, Sydney, NSW - 8 December, 1918)

450th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

L.cpl. COLIN ALLEN ROBINSON, Deepwater

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 December, 1918)

THE TOLL OF WAR

INVERELL'S SACRIFICE

PLANTING OF KURRAJONG PARADE

Inverell and district's sacrifice on the altar of duty amounted to nearly 200 of the cream of her manhood, who are lying in soldiers' graves in foreign lands. To perpetuate the memory of those gallant men the Municipal Council decided, some time ago, to plant an avenue of kurrajongs from the Tingha Crossing to The Knoll. The proposal was to plant a tree for each fallen soldier. The ceremony took place on Saturday afternoon last in the presence of a large gathering.

Prior to the planting an address was delivered by the Mayor (Ald. G. B. Ring). He remarked that it was the mothers who had felt the loss of their dear boys the most, but nevertheless they felt pride in the knowledge that they had died in such a glorious cause. Referring to the avenue about to be planted, the Mayor said it was pro- posed to provide a tablet for every tree, such tablet to be inscribed with the name of the soldier and the unit to which he belonged, and also the locality of his death. It was decided by the Council that the tablets should be of uniform design— (applause)— and there would be no distinction whatever between the tablet for the rich man's, son or the poor widow's boy — all would be alike. The council was not in a position to pay for the cost of the tablets, as the amount would run into over £200.

Ald. McIlveen, who was then called upon by the Mayor, said that to many, if not all it all of the relatives of their brave dead it would be an impossible task to visit the soldiers graves in the far off lands. It seemed therefore to the Council that there should be something established locally which would keep green the memory of those who had fallen. What, therefore, could be more appropriate than an avenue of kurrajong trees. This beautiful and evergreen Australian tree was as casual as many of the Australian soldiers. It could be lopped and hacked about, but nothing could stop its inclination to grow. The trees they were about to plant that day would grow none the less vigorously because many of them would be watered by the tears of the bereaved. It would take a few years before the trees developed into great size, but it was only 11 years since the first kurrajongs had been planted in the streets, and some of them now had barrels more than a foot thick. On the higher land, where they were planting them to-day, they should grow still more quickly, and in a short space be a source of pride to the town, as well as to the relatives who had planted them. The Council would undertake to see that they were watered, and all the friends were asked to do — and he knew that they would take pride in doing it — was to see that weeds were kept down. At that moment they had over 170 names of soldiers who had paid the penalty of war, and it was probable that the list was not yet full. It seemed a great number for a small community. A number of families had lost two sons. Fortunate, indeed, therefore, were those who had had several sons go forth to fight and had lost none. He wished to thank the committee of the P. & A. Association for the resolution it had carried that the President plant a tree to his brother Frank 's memory. As only one tree felt sure that the committee would agree that the sad rite should be carried out by the dead soldier's brother. Whilst they were doing honor to the dead they must not forget the living. He said this to remind them that the Federal Government was asking them to subscribe to the Peace Loan. He hoped it would be the last 'war' loan they would ever have to subscribe to. (Applause.)

Ald. J. F. O'Connor also delivered a touching speech. He said he would like to express the hope that although the avenue of trees they were to plant that afternoon was to be to the memory of our honored dead ,it would not be cherished as a place of mourning, but rather as a place where those who had sustained so great a loss might, in their philosophy, find comfort — might he even say pleasure — in coming there to commune with their brave sons or husbands who lie at rest 'over there,' just as peacefully as if they lay in the crypts of St. Paul's. 'Let it be a place where those not so bereaved may come and gratefully acknowledge the debt they owe to those who made peace

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possible at so great a price,' proceeded Ald. O'Connor. The sentiment which prompted the planting of the kurrajong was a pretty one; there would be no gaunt, bare winter limbs, nor even the autumn leaves so conducive of reflection, but bright, sparkling and evergreen, as should be the memory of their brave soldiers. He was sure it would be always a charge cheerfully accepted by those planting the trees that they would be well cared for. If that were not so he would be willing to do it himself. To the scoffers, if there should be any that day would be but a sentimental one. The most mighty force the world had ever known or would know was the force of ideas. The Union Jack was an idea, and because of that it was the forceful thing which had done its good part in saving the world for liberty and civilisation. 'And let us look upon the trees we plant as representing men who allowed us to rest secure under the sheltering folds of that flag. May their memory be ever green, concluded the speaker, with emotion.

The Trees.

The Mayor then planted the first tree, which was to the memory of Major C. G. Gordon, one of the first to enlist from Inverell and the first soldier to be killed.

The following is a list of the memorial tree numbers: —

......131 Colin A. Robinson....

(The Inverell Times, NSW – 9 September, 1919)

Roll of Honour

ROBINSON – In affectionate remembrance of No. 3309, Lance-Corporal Colin A. Robinson, of 30th Batt., A.I.F., who died Nov. 17th, 1918 at 9 Lodge street, Collingworth, England, aged 25 years.

Gone to his rest through the pathway of duty,

Venturing his life that others might live;

Such are the words on the tablet of beauty,

In letter immortal in honor we give.

Inserted by his mother, father and brothers.

(The Inverell Times, NSW - 18 November, 1919)

Roll of Honour

ROBINSON –In loving memory of a dear husband and father, Lance-Corporal Colin A. Robinson, died of illness, November 18, 1916, at Chillingworth, England.

"Oh for the touch of a vanished hand,

The sound of a voice that is still."

Inserted by his loving wife Alice and little son, Colin.

(The Inverell Times, NSW - 19 November, 1920)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Lance Corporal C. A. Robinson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Until The Day Break And The Shadows Flee Away

Bowling Cemetery, Bradford, Yorkshire, England

Military hospitals were opened in Bradford in both wars and many of the 153 scattered First World War burials in Bradford (Bowling) Cemetery were from the 1,200 bed Bradford War Hospital. The cemetery also contains 106 Second World War burials, mostly scattered, although 23 are grouped together in Section P. A Cross of Sacrifice stands at the junction of two main roads in the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice, Bowling Cemetery (Photo by Betty Longbottom)



Chapel in Bowling Cemetery (Photo by David Spencer)

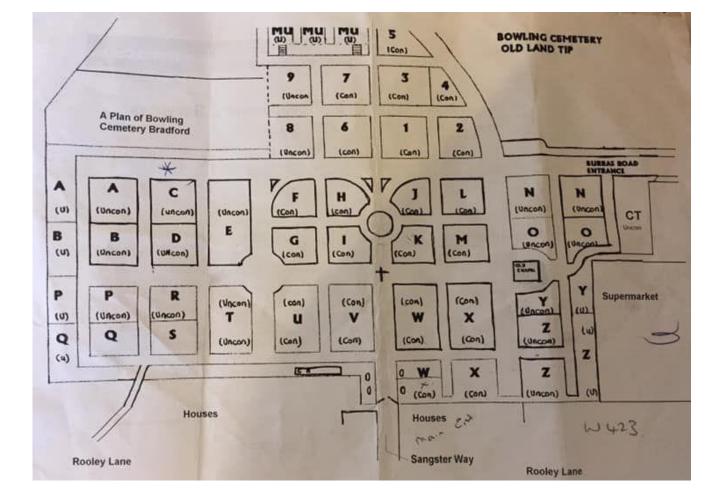


 $\textbf{Lance Corporal C. A. Robinson's CWGC Headstone marked with red arrow \textit{(Photo from CWGC)}}$

Photo of Lance Corporal C. A. Robinson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bowling Cemetery, Bradford, Yorkshire, England.



(Photo Roger Thompson)



(Photo by Alan Silverwood – Find a Grave)