

# Warminster War Graves

## St. John's Churchyard



*Lest We Forget*

### World War 1



3462A PRIVATE

**O. ROBINSON**

1ST AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

8TH FEBRUARY, 1919

## Osborne ROBINSON

Osborne Robinson was born at Stranton, West Hartlepool, Durhamshire, England in 1891 to parents Edward Osborne Robinson & Edith Robinson (nee Denyer). His birth was registered in the December quarter, 1891 in the district of Hartlepool, Durham. Osborne Robinson was baptised at Stranton, Durham on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1891.

The 1901 England Census recorded Osborne Robinson as a 9 year old living with his family at Stockton Road (Bon Accord) West Hartlepool, Durham. His parents were listed as Edward Robinson (Merchant – Foreign Produce, aged 41, born West Hartlepool, Durham) & Edith Robinson (aged 32, born Wakefield, Yorkshire). Osborne was one of three children listed on this Census (all born West Hartlepool, Durham) – Mary Robinson (aged 10), then Osborne & Elsie Robinson (aged 2). Also listed were two servants – Ethel Sutton (Nurse, housemaid, aged 17) & Sarah Harper (Cook, aged 36).

Edward Osborne Robinson died on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1905.

The 1911 England Census recorded Osborne Robinson as a 19 year old Grazing Farmer (Employer) living with his mother – Edith Robinson (widow, aged 42, Living on own means) in a 6 roomed dwelling at Swale Farm, Ellerston Abbey, Richmond, Yorks. Osborne & Edith were the only occupants listed on the Census. Edith Robinson listed that she had 3 children, all still living.

Mr Osborne Robinson, Farm Labourer, aged 22, was a passenger on *Norseman* which departed London on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1914 bound for Brisbane, Australia. Mr Osborne had contracted to land at Sydney, Australia & his country of intended future residence was listed as Australia.

Osborne Robinson was a 23 year old, single, Farmer when he enlisted at Cootamundra, NSW on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1915 with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3462 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Robinson, Reith, Richmond, Yorkshire, England.

Pte Osborne Robinson embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 5th October, 1915 & disembarked at Egypt.

Pte Robinson was taken on strength with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1916.

Pte Robinson was transferred to Pioneer Battalion at Serapeum on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 & taken on strength with 1<sup>st</sup> Pioneer Battalion the same day.

Pte Robinson embarked from Alexandria on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 to join the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1916.

Pte Robinson was wounded in action & sent to 17<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station in France on 3<sup>rd</sup> September with a gunshot wound to hand. He was transferred to No. 31 Ambulance train & admitted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 with a gunshot wound to left hand. Pte Robinson was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1916.

Pte Robinson was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road Section, Birmingham on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1916.

Pte Robinson was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. He was granted furlo on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. Pte Robinson reported back from furlo & was medically classified B 1 A (Fit for light duty – 4 weeks).

Pte Robinson was transferred to 61<sup>st</sup> Battalion & taken on strength with 61<sup>st</sup> Battalion at Wareham on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917.

Pte Robinson was transferred to Australian Pioneer Training Battalion on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1917 & marched in to No. 4 Camp at Fovant, Wiltshire.

Pte Robinson proceeded overseas via Southampton to Reinforcements 1<sup>st</sup> Pioneer Battalion in France on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.

Pte Robinson was marched in from England to 1<sup>st</sup> A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. He proceeded to join his Unit on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the field on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1917.

Pte Robinson was re-allotted the Regimental number of 3462A – no date recorded (between the end of October, 1917 & the end of April, 1918).

Pte Robinson proceeded on leave to Paris on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion from leave on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1918.

Pte Robinson was granted leave to UK on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion from leave on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1918.

Pte Robinson was marched out ready for return to Australia from France on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1919. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1919 & marched out for England on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1919.

Pte Robinson was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade in England on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1919.

Private Osborne Robinson died on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 at 6 Smallbrock Lane, Warminster from Pneumonia following Influenza.

A death for Osborne Robinson, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The next-of-kin for Pte Osborne Robinson was listed as his mother – Mrs Edith Robinson of Osborne Cottage, Reith, Richmond, Yorkshire, England. Special notification – Guardian – Mr W. V. Starr, J.P., 12 Victoria St., Nottingham.

Private Osborne Robinson was buried at east end of Church in St. John's Churchyard, Warminster, Wiltshire – Grave No. 481 on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 and he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Robinson - *Coffin was Polished Elm. Private Funeral*. Several forms in Pte Robinson's Service Record file record incorrectly that he was buried in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire

A report into the death of Pte Osborne Robinson was made by Capt. M. C. Blackett, Staff Officer for Colonel, C. O. A.I.F. Troops, Sutton Veny Depots. Captain Blackett visited Pte Robinson's home at 6 Smallbrook Lane, Boreham, after his death and obtained particulars from the late Pte Robinson's mother – Mrs Edith Robinson. Mrs Robinson home address was Osborne Cottage, Reith, Richmond, Yorkshire but she was residing in Boreham with her two daughters in order to provide a home for Pte Robinson when he was on leave. Capt. Blackett described Mrs Robinson as "appears well-to-do". The rest of the report reads: "*Pte Robinson arrived from France with No. 1 quota, which reported to the Overseas Training Brigade on 25.1.19. During the four days in camp prior to his embarkation leave, he went home each evening, and although apparently suffering from a cold, he did not give his mother to understand that he reported to the R.M.O., and as he had been suffering for some time past from the effects of gas, she did not think anything serious was amiss with him*".

*"As the pass herewith shows he was granted his embarkation leave on 30.1.19, and that evening complained of feeling unwell and retired to bed in his home early. He did not get up the next day, but it was not until Monday, 3.2.19 that Dr McDonald, a civilian doctor at Warminster, was called in."*

*"Neither Mrs Robinson nor her daughter who nursed Pte Robinson can recall the doctor suggesting that he should be removed to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, which is within a quarter of a mile from the house. The doctor told them he was suffering from pneumonia supervening on influenza."*

*"Pte Robinson died in the house on 8.2.19 and up to that time, no intimation, directly or indirectly, of his illness had been made to the military authorities."*

*“Similarly, he was buried at St. John’s Cemetery, Boreham, without the authorities having had notice, on the 11th his mother’s wish being that the funeral should be a private description.”*

*“..... Mrs Robinson stated that she is not making any claim from the A.I.F. in respect of medical attendance or funeral expenses.”*

Pte Osborne Robinson stated that his Will, which was made before he left Australia on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1915, was made out by Messes Taylor & Mackenzie Solicitors, Tumut, NSW. The Will was at the Solicitor’s Office & a copy was also held by his mother in Yorkshire, England.

Private O. 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 172.



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

Pte Osborne Robinson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Robinson’s mother – Mrs E. Robinson, in England (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Osborne Robinson – service number 3462A as being 27 years old & served with 1st Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Mrs Edith Robinson, of Osborne Cottage, Reith, Richmond, Yorkshire, England.

(37 pages of Pte Osborne 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) & National Archives*



### 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)*

Pte Osborne Robinson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



**St. John's Churchyard, Warminster** *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Pte O. Robinson's Headstone at St. John's Churchyard, Warminster, Wiltshire.



*(Photo by Michelle Young )*