

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5533 PRIVATE

R. H. ANDERSON

26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST DECEMBER, 1918 Age 35

Robert Hutchison ANDERSON

Robert Hutchison Anderson was born on 7th March, 1883 at Kingsborough, Queensland to parents Robert Hutchison Anderson & Christina Anderson (nee Martin).

Robert Hutchison Anderson, father of Robert Hutchison Anderson (jnr), died on 31st October, 1892 at Newellton (Silver Valley), Queensland.

Christina Anderson, mother of Robert Hutchison Anderson (jnr), died on 15th November, 1904 in Queensland.

The 1917 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kennedy, subdivision of Thornborough, Queensland recorded Robert Hutchison Anderson, Labourer from Wolfram.

Robert Hutchison Anderson was a 33 year old, single, Labourer from Wolfram, North Queensland when he enlisted at Cairns, Queensland on 29th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5533 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Lily Ahing, Cairns, North Queensland.

Private Robert Hutchison Anderson was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 6th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 15th Reinforcements of 26th Battalion on 7th June, 1916.

Private Robert Hutchison Anderson (Hutchison - as listed on Embarkation Roll) embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 7th September, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd November, 1916.

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 Robert Anderson was marched in to 7th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire, England on 21st November, 1916.

Private Robert Anderson proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 13th December, 1916 on S.S. *Victoria*. He was marched in to 2nd Divisional Base at Etaples, France on 14th December, 1916 from England. Private Anderson proceeded to join his Unit on 17th December, 1916 & was taken on strength of 26th Battalion in France on 19th December, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private Robert Anderson was written up on 4th January, 1917 at Bussy Les Daours, France for neglecting to obey an order. He was awarded 24 hours Field Punishment No. 2 by C. O, 2nd Australian Divisional Training Depot.

Private Robert Anderson was sent sick to Hospital on 22nd March, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 22nd March, 1917 with Influenza then transferred & admitted the same day to 2nd D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station). Private Anderson was discharged to duty on 5th April, 1917 & rejoined 26th Battalion in France on 6th April, 1917.

Private Robert Anderson proceeded on "*English Leave*" from Belgium on 2nd December, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion from Leave on 26th December, 1917.

Private Robert Anderson was wounded in action in France on 16th April, 1918 (Casualty Form – Active Service recorded "3rd Occ." (3rd occasion) but there is no other record of him being wounded). He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 17th April, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to back. Private Anderson was transferred & admitted to 20th Casualty Clearing Station on 17th April, 1918 then transferred to Abbeville on 18th April, 1918 where he was admitted to 1st SA General Hospital at Abbeville, France the same day with GSW (gunshot wound/s) to back. Private Anderson was listed for embarkation to England on 1st May, 1917. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* on 2nd May, 1918.

Base Records contacted Mrs L. Ahing, Cairns, Queensland on 30th April, 1918 to advise that Private R. H. Anderson had been wounded. She was advised again on 25th May, 1918 that Private R. H. Anderson had been admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, England on 3rd May, 1918 suffering from gunshot wound/s to back.

26th Battalion

The 26th Battalion was raised at Enoggera, Queensland, in April 1915 from recruits enlisted in Queensland and Tasmania, and formed part of the 7th Brigade.....

In early 1917, the 26th Battalion joined the follow-up of the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line and attacked at Warlencourt (1-2 March) and Lagincourt (26 March)..... On 3 May, the Battalion was also involved in the second attempt to breach the Hindenburg Line defences around Bullecourt. Later that year the focus of the AIF's operations switched to Belgium. There, the 26th battalion fought in the battle of Menin Road on 20 September, and participated in the capture of Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October.

Like most AIF battalions, the 26th fought to turn back the German spring offensive in April 1918, and in the lull that followed mounted "peaceful penetration" operations to snatch portions of the German front line.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 26th Battalion

16th April, 1918:

Normal hostile artillery was active on front and rear area during the day & 4 O.R. were killed & 4 O.R. wounded by shell fire. Enemy sniping was still very active and during the night of 16/17 Capt. J. C. Herbert M.C. was hit by a sniper and died of wounds a few hours later.

Cases had occurred in which aeroplanes with Allied markings on them had been suspected of being hostile machines. This made the work of A.A. gunners rather uncertain and Bn. was advised that all allied machines would fly a black streamer from the right wing. So many machines showing the red white and blue circles hit out for our back areas when fired upon by our A.A. gunners proved that British machines were not all using the black streamers so the A.A.C. gunners once more lapsed into a state of uncertainty.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Robert Anderson was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich, England on 3rd May, 1918. He was transferred 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent on 28th October, 1918. Private Anderson was discharged to furlo from 31st October, 1918 until 14th November, 1918 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Private Robert Anderson was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 15th November, 1918 from furlo. The report from No. 1 Command Depot stated – “*S.W. Back leg – Dartford. Complains back feels weak. Cannot bend. Heart & lungs clear. Headache.*” Private Anderson was medically classified as B1 A1 (fit for light duty only – 4 weeks).

Private Robert Anderson was sent sick then admitted to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 16th November, 1918 with Influenza & later reported to be seriously ill with Influenza & Pneumonia.

Base Records contacted Mrs L. Ahing, Cairns, Queensland on 27th November, 1918 to advise that Private Robert Anderson had been admitted to Sutton Veny Military Hospital, England on 16th November, 1916 with Influenza & Pneumonia. Mrs L. Ahing was advised in another report on 27th November, 1918 that Private Robert Anderson was seriously ill.

Private Robert Hutchison Anderson died at 09.00 hours on 1st December, 1918 at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Robert H. Anderson, aged 35, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Robert Hutchison Anderson was buried on 6th December, 1918 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 348 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Robert Hutchison Anderson - *Coffin was polished Elm, brass fittings. Deceased was buried with*

full Military honors, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing party and the band of the "Royal Scots Greys". Six Australians acted as Pall bearers and a number of N.C.O.'s and Men attended as mourners. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.

Base Records contacted Mrs L. Ahing, Cairns, Queensland in March, 1921 stating that it was noted that she was registered as the next-of-kin of the late Private R. H. Anderson & requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & in particular asked if his father and mother were still living & if not did he have any brothers due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Base Records contacted Mrs L. Ahing, Cairns, Queensland in December, 1922 stating that they had contacted her in March, 1921 but had no reply. They again asked if the parents of the late Private R. H. Anderson were alive, of if there were any brothers or older sisters. Base Records stated "*....I am holding the matter open for 30 days from this date, when, if no reply is to hand, these mementos will be placed upon the untraceables list, and possibly eventually broken up.*"

Mrs Lily Ahing, Kenny Street, Cairns, Queensland replied to Base Records on 15th December, 1922 listing the names & address of 3 sisters & a brother.

Base Records then wrote to the brother listed in the letter – Mr J. A. Anderson, c/o Imperial Hotel, Macrossan Street, Ravenswood, Queensland, in January, 1923 asking him if there were any surviving brothers older than himself. "*If you are the eldest brother, do you desire the late soldier's war medals, etc, transmitted to you as the person entitled to receive in keeping with the instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918, or would you care to authorise me to hand them over to your sister, Mrs L. Ahing, who was nominated as next-of-kin?*"

Mr J. A. Anderson, Imperial Hotel, Macrossan Street, Ravenswood, Queensland, replied to Base Records on 20th February, 1922 stating that he was the eldest brother of the late Private R. H. Anderson "*& would be much obliged if you would forward on to me any medals etc, belonging to my deceased brother....*"

Private Robert Hutchison Anderson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Anderson's brother – Mr J. A. Anderson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent March, 1923).

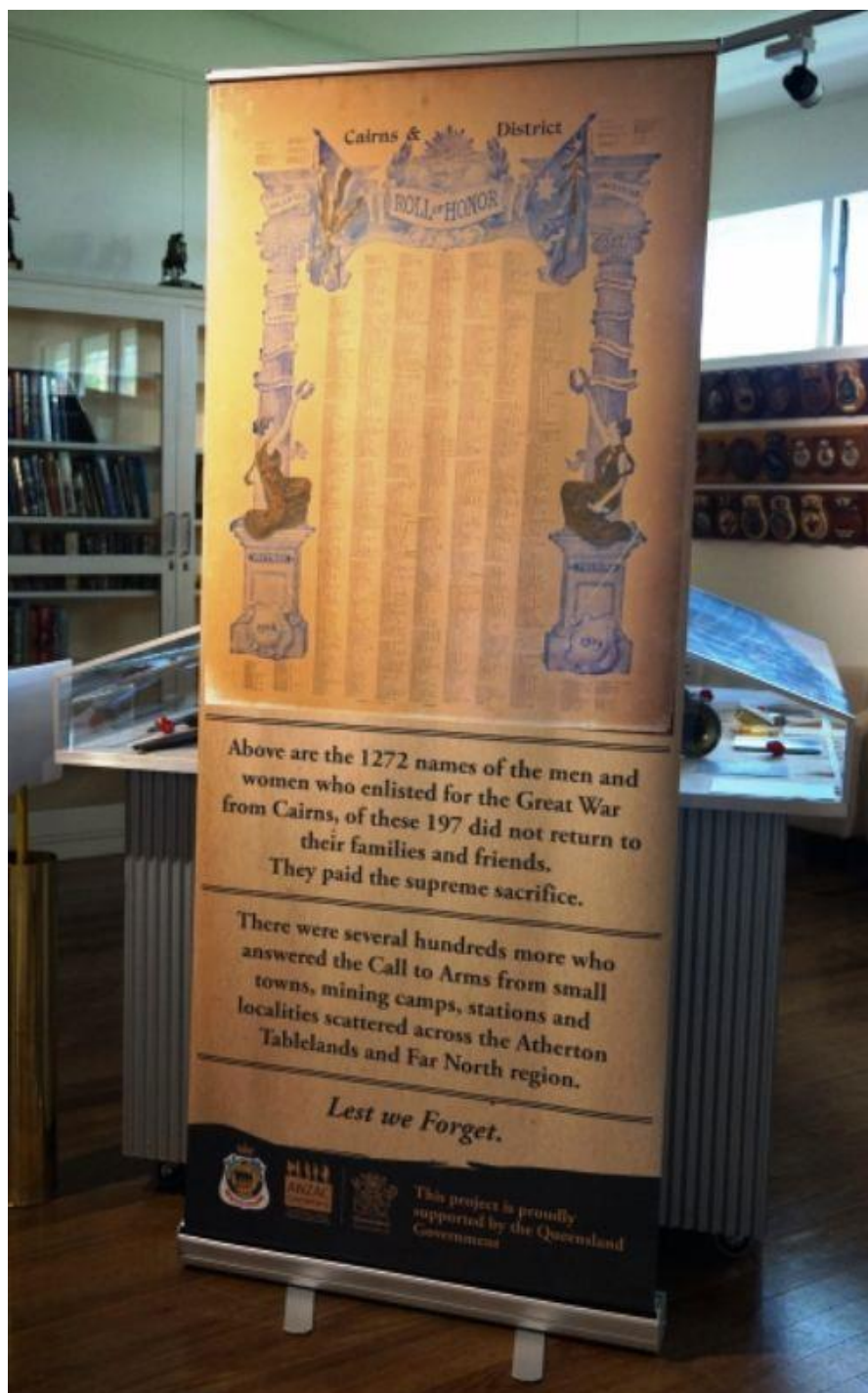
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private R. H. Anderson – service number 5533, aged 35, of 26th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private R. H. Anderson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 106.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. H. Anderson is remembered on the Cairns and District Roll of Honour, located in Cairns RSL, 115 Esplanade, Cairns, Queensland.



Cairns and District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)

(55 pages of Private Robert Hutchison Anderson'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





(Photo provided by Great Great Niece, Catherine Dawe (née Paige))



(Queenslander Pictorial – 18 November, 1916)

Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOR

THE 400th LIST OF CASUALTIES

WOUNDED

Robert Hutchison Anderson, Cairns

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 18 May, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Australian casualty list No. 453 was issued this morning...

Died from Other Causes

Private R. H, Anderson (Cairns – illness)

(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 4 January, 1919)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 1st July, 1921, to Mrs L. Ahing, Cairns, Queensland, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her brother, the late Private R. H. Anderson, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private R. H. Anderson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)*



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Private R. H. Anderson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)



(Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)

