St. Anne's Churchyard,

Stanley, Lancashire, England

War Grave

Lest We Forget

World War 1

50   CPL. OF HORSE

H. J. PROBERT

HOUSEHOLD BATTALION

27TH JUNE, 1920   Age 30

Harry Jesse PROBERT

Harry Jesse Probert was born at Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia in 1892 to parents Arthur and Eleanor Probert (nee Carter).

The 1911 England Census recorded Harry Jesse Probert as a 19 year old, single, Railway Clerk living with his mother & brother at 2 Watts Cottages, Wood End Green, Hayes, Middlesex, England, which was a 4 roomed dwelling. His mother was listed as Tamar Eleanor Probert (aged 48, married, born Hayes, Middlesex, England) & his brother was listed as Arthur Sidney Herbert Probert (Engineers Twiner, aged 22, born Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia). Harry's mother listed she had been married for 25 years & had 3 children, one who had since died.

Harry Jesse Probert married Winifred H. Carter in the March quarter, 1913 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

A birth was registered in March quarter, 1914 for Geoffrey H. Probert in the district of Brentford, Middlesex, England with mother's maiden name of Carter. Geoffrey Harry Probert was born on 14th January, 1914 to parents Harry Jesse and Winifred Harriet Probert. Geoffrey Harry Probert was baptised on 3rd February, 1915. The family lived at 6 North Road & Harry Jesse Probert was listed as an Accountant on the Baptism records.

A birth was registered in June quarter, 1916 for Betty M. Probert in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England with mother's maiden name of Carter. A death was registered in March quarter, 1917 for Betty M. Probert in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Harry Jesse Probert enlisted in Reserve Household Battalion, British Army on 9th June, 1915. He was issued a Service number of 50 & his rank was Corporal of Horse.

Household Battalion

The Household Battalion was an infantry battalion of the British army during the Great War. It was formed in September 1916 from the reserves of the Household Cavalry regiments (the 1st Life Guards, 2nd Life Guards and the Royal Horse Guards) to help fill the every-increasing demands for infantry on the Western Front. Considerable effort was expended in the conversion of cavalrymen into footsoldiers trained and equipped for trench warfare. The battalion spent its entire existence on the Western Front as part of the 4th Infantry Division, arriving as the Battle of the Somme was ending in early December 1916. It fought in the Battle of Arras and later at Third Ypres, suffering severely in the assault on Poelcappelle. Its last major engagement was the defence of Bourlon Ridge during the Battle of Cambrai in late 1917. By this time, it had become apparent that there were insufficient reserves to support all the Household Cavalry regiments that had been converted to infantry (in particular, the Guards Machine Gun Regiments) and it was disbanded as part of a general reorganization in February 1918.

Men of the battalion were paid cavalry rates of pay (a little more than infantry) and wore cavalry uniforms while on leave. The battalion was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Wyndham Portal throughout the 14 months of its existence.

(Wikipedia)

Corporal of Horse Harry Jesse Probert was discharged on 12th February, 1917 due to Para 392 XVI Kings Regulations – sickness.

Ex- Corporal of Horse Harry Jesse Probert was issued a War Badge & certificate No. 151,342 on 10th March, 1917.

Silver War Badge

The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom and the British Empire to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from military service in World War I. The badge, sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", was first issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement.

The large sterling silver lapel badge was intended to be worn on civilian clothes. The decoration was introduced as an award of "King's silver" for having received wounds or injury during loyal war service to the Crown's authority. A secondary causation for its introduction was that a practice had developed in the early years of the war in the United Kingdom where some women took it upon themselves to confront and publicly embarrass men of fighting age they saw in public places who were not in military uniform, by ostentatiously presenting them with white feathers, as a suggestion of cowardice. As the war had developed substantial numbers of servicemen who had been discharged from His Majesty's Forces with wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance, found themselves being harassed in such a manner and the badge, to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress, was a means of discouraging such incidents being directed at ex-forces' personnel. It was forbidden to wear the badge on a military uniform.

(Information from Wikipedia)

Silver War Badge

The 1918 Register of Voters recorded Harry Jesse Probert living at 8 Cowper Road, Liverpool, West Derby & Fairfield divisions – Parish of West Derby.

Harry Jesse Probert died on 27th June, 1920 from Phthisis (as listed on Australian War Memorial Commemorative Roll).

A death for Harry J. Probert, aged 30, was registered in the June quarter, 1920 in the district of Toxteth Park, Lancashire, England.
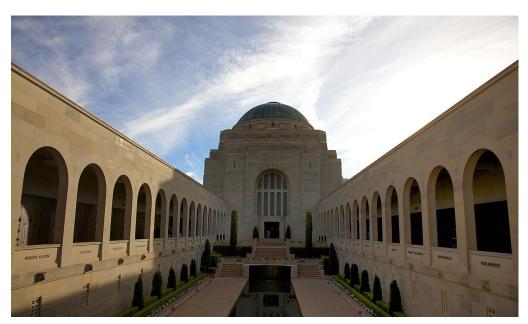
Harry Jesse Probert was buried on 2nd July, 1920 in St. Anne's Churchyard, Stanley, Lancashire, England – Plot number N. 16 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. The Burial Register listed Harry Jesse Probert's address as 28 Cheadle Avenue, Stanley.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal of Horse H. J. Probert – service number 50, aged 30, of Household Battalion, British Army. He was the son of Arthur and Eleanor Probert, of 28 Cheadle Avenue, Stanley, Liverpool.

Corporal of Horse Harry J. Probert is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

Commemorative Roll *(Photo from AWM)*

Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial *(Capital Photographer)*

Information obtained from the CWGC & Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.
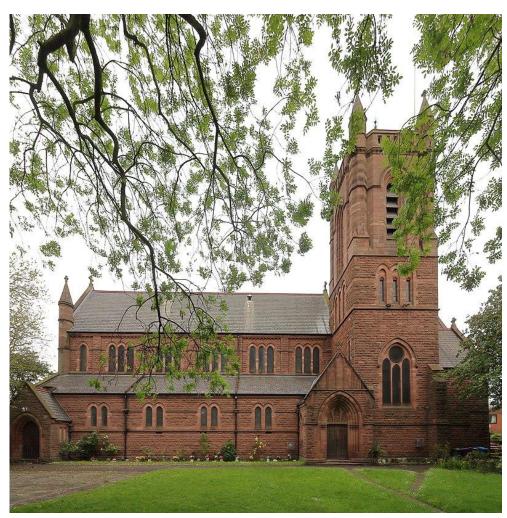
Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

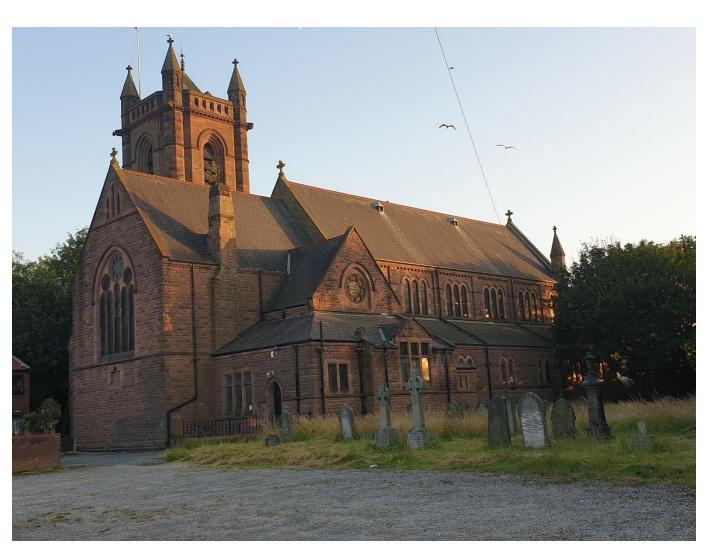Corporal of Horse H. J. Probert has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone

St. Anne's Churchyard, Stanley, Lancashire, England

Stanley is an ecclesiastical parish towards the North of the city. There are 18 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war and 3 of the 1939-45 war here.

(Information from CWGC)

(Photo by Phil Nash)

View of Churchyard at back of Church

(Photo above by Andrew Brough – Find a Grave; below by Rodhullandemu)

Photo of Corporal of Horse H. J. Probert's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Anne's Churchyard, Stanley, Lancashire, England.