

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



506 CORPORAL

DAVID ROBERTS

8TH LIGHT HORSE, A.I.F.

28TH SEPTEMBER , 1915 Age 25

To Live In Hearts We Leave Behind Is Not To Die

David ROBERTS

David Roberts was born at North Mirboo, Victoria in 1889 to parents Stephen and Margaret Roberts (nee Tracy).

David Roberts was a 25 year old, single, Farmer from Berwick, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 15th September, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 506 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father - Mr S. Roberts, of Berwick, Victoria.

Private David Roberts was posted to 8th Light Horse Regiment on 15th September, 1914 for recruit training. He was transferred to Machine Gun Section on 1st November, 1914.

Private David Roberts embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Star of Victoria* (A16) on 25th February, 1915 with the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, 8th Light Horse Regiment – Machine Gun Section.

Private David Roberts embarked from Alexandria on 10th May, 1915 for Gallipoli.

Private David Roberts was appointed Lance Corporal with 8th Light Horse Regiment on 3rd June, 1915. Lance Corporal David Roberts was appointed Corporal on 1st June, 1915 (date as per Statement of Service form).

Corporal David Roberts was sent sick to Hospital at Gallipoli on 12th September, 1915 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) & "Typhoid?". He was admitted to 13th Casualty Clearing Station on 13th September, 1915 then transferred to 25th Casualty Clearing Station at Imbros on 15th September, 1915. Corporal Roberts embarked from Mudros for England on Hospital Ship *Aquitania* on 18th September, 1915.

8th Light Horse Regiment

The regiment that would eventually become the 8th Light Horse Regiment was formed at Broadmeadows camp in Victoria on 23 September 1914 as the 6th Light Horse Regiment. A reorganisation of the rapidly expanding AIF in early October resulted in the 6th being renumbered the 8th, and it became part of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. It sailed from Melbourne on 24 February 1914 and arrived in Egypt on 14 March 1915.

The light horse were considered unsuitable for the initial operations at Gallipoli, but were subsequently deployed without their horses. The 3rd Light Horse Brigade landed in late May 1915 and was attached to the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 8th formed the first two waves for the Brigade's disastrous attack on the Nek on 7 August and suffered heavily. Exhausted and under-strength, the regiment then played a defensive role until it finally left the peninsula on 20 December 1915.

(Extract of Regiment information from the Australian War Memorial)

Corporal David Roberts was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 26th September, 1915 with Enteric Fever. He was reported to be dangerously ill with Enteric Fever on 27th September, 1915.



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Corporal David Roberts died on 28th September, 1915 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from Enteric Fever, contracted whilst on active service.

A death for David Roberts, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1915 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Corporal David Roberts was buried on 30th September, 1915 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number C.E. 1730 and has a Private headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Corporal David Roberts – “... the burial, which was attended by Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. Lee, as representing the High Commissioner, the Rites of the Church of England were observed. A gun-carriage was provided and the coffin was enshrouded in the Union Jack. A party of the Royal Army Medical Corps acted as pallbearers and mourners.”

Corporal David Roberts was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Roberts' father – Mr S. Roberts, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal David Roberts – service number 506, aged 26, of 8th Australian Light Horse. He was the son of Stephen and Margaret Roberts.

D. Roberts is remembered on the Mirboo North State School Honour Roll, located in Mirboo North High School, Strzelecki & Balook Streets, Mirboo North, Victoria.



Mirboo North State School Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

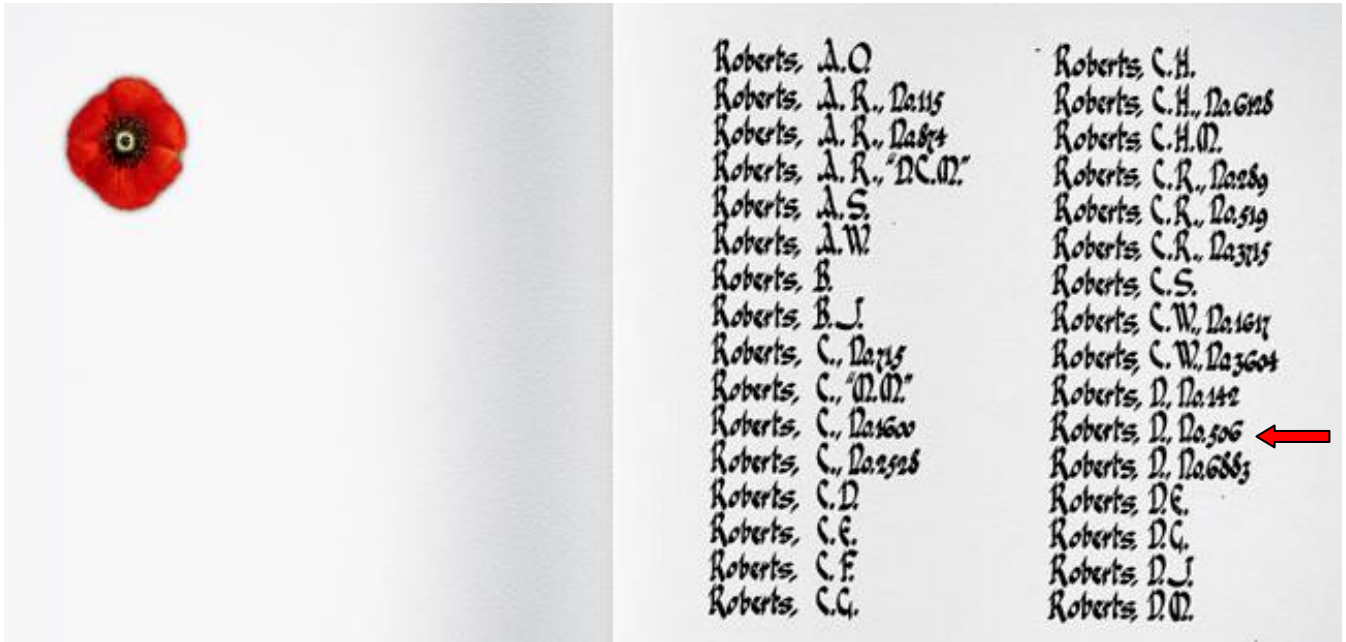
D. Roberts is remembered on the Berwick War Memorial, located at High Street & Clyde Road, Berwick, Victoria.



Berwick War Memorial (Photo by Mattinbgn)



D. Roberts is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne



Corporal D. Roberts is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 6.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(27 pages of Corporal David Roberts' 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



[Connected to Corporal David Roberts:](#)

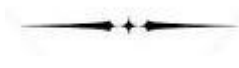
Younger Brother 1505 Corporal Thomas Edwards Roberts - . Enlisted 22nd October, 1914, aged 19. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 2nd February, 1915 on HMAT *Clan McGillivray* with 14th Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements (Service number 1415). Reported missing in action in France on 11th April, 1917 - Prisoner of War in Germany. Repatriated & arrive in England on 26th December, 1918. Returned to Australia 2nd March, 1919. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

[Newspaper item – Gippslander and Mirboo Times – 17 May, 1917:](#)

About our Soldiers

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Mr. and Mrs. S. Roberts, of Berwick, have also been notified that their only remaining son, Edward, has been reported as being missing. This lad, after serving some months in Gallipoli, contracted enteric fever, and was invalided to England, where for over a year he was under treatment in various hospitals. He must have only recently gone to France, as his people had not received word that he had left England. He, and his parents, resided in Mirboo North for many years. Mrs. J. Whitehead and Mrs. W. Hood, of Mirboo North, are sisters of the lad. The only other son, Corporal David Roberts, died in England, after serving many months in the 8th Light Horse in Gallipoli.

There are hopes of the two missing soldiers being alive, as the Germans have no doubt takes many prisoners lately. Such a fate is bad enough, but one consolation is that eventually the boys, if prisoners, will be restored to their homes.



Newspaper Notices

Our Soldiers

Death of Dave Roberts

Another of our lads has given his life for King and country. Word came to hand on Monday that Corporal David Roberts had died from enteric fever in England. The deceased lad was a member of the ill-fated 8th Light Horse, and had spent some time in the trenches at the Dardanelles. He came out of the heavy fighting uninjured, and was promoted on the field to Corporal. He evidently was soon afterwards attacked with fever, as his death is reported to have occurred in England. His parents only recently received a letter from him, which was written in the trenches. His letter, which we published, stated he was in the best of health. Therefore, his parents and friends were greatly shocked on receiving the sad tidings of his death from illness. Dave was a fine strapping lad and had the appearances in regard to build that go to make an ideal soldier. He was a typical Australian— tall, lightly-built, and most active. He spent his childhood and boyhood at Mirboo North. During the past two or three years he has lived in various parts of the State, but principally at Berwick, where his parents now reside. Deceased was 25 years of age. The deepest sympathy is expressed on all sides to Mr and Mrs Roberts in the loss of such a promising son. Mrs J. Whitehead, of Mirboo North, and Mrs W. Hood, recently of Dumbalk, are sisters of the deceased. Ted Roberts, a brother, is on active service, and has been for some time in the Malta Hospital, suffering from pneumonia.

(Gippslander and Mirboo Times, Victoria – 7 October, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CORPORAL D. ROBERTS

News has been received at Mirboo of the death of Corporal David Roberts in England, from enteric fever. The deceased was a member of the 8th Light Horse, and was promoted to corporal while fighting at the Dardanelles. He lived practically the whole of his life in Mirboo North. His parents at present reside at Berwick.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 October, 1915)

THE WAR

NINETY-SECOND CASUALTY LIST

ILL

Corp. D. Roberts, Berwick (dang.)

(The Colac Herald, Victoria - 15 October, 1915)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Ninety-Third List

VICTORIANS

DIED OF ILLNESS

8th Light Horse

Corporal D. Roberts, Berwick

(Colac Reformer, Victoria – 16 October, 1915)

DEATH NOTICE

Died on Active Service

ROBERTS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corporal David Roberts, who departed this life on the 28th September, in the Netley Hospital, England, from enteric fever.

Dave felt it was his duty

To take a noble part;

There was no fear of danger

In his loyal and brave young heart.

In a soldier's grave he is sleeping,

Our loved one, the dearest and best;

In our hearts we will miss him forever,

Though we know he is only at rest.

- Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters

(Berwick Shire News and Pakenham and Cranbourne Gazette, Berwick, Victoria – 27 October, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

CORPORAL DAVID ROBERTS

(died of wounds) was a resident of Berwick, and prior to that lived at Mirboo. His parents, Mr and Mrs Stephen Roberts, reside at Berwick. He was 26 years of age. A brother is at Malta with fever.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 November, 1915)

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERTS – In sad but sweet remembrance of our dearest cousin, Corporal Dave, 8th Light Horse, who died at Netley, September 27, 1915.

Sweet to remember him who once was here,

Who though absent, still is just as dear.

So dearly loved, so sadly missed.

- (Inserted by his loving cousins, Mary and Siss.)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 September, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

ROBERTS – In fond and loving remembrance of our dear brother, David Roberts.

One off the best – a loving son,

A brother kind and true;

So dearly loved, so sadly missed,

By everyone he knew
Afar in a foreign land he slumbers
Till the resurrection day;
He is clad in soldier's khaki,
Soiled by earth and clay.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Eva and Will Hood.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 September, 1916)

In Memoriam

ROBERTS – In loving memory of our dear brother, Dave, who died in Netley Hospital, England, on 28th September, 1915.

One off the best, a loving son,
A brother kind and true;
So dearly loved, so sadly missed,
By everyone he knew.
Only the grave of a hero,
Only a mound of earth,
Far from the land of wattle,
The land that gave him birth.
All who have a brother
Love him while you may;
He will not always linger,
Too soon he'll pass away.

-Inserted by his sister and brother-in-law (Mrs and Mr J. Whitehead) and his brother Ted (on active service).

(*Gippslander and Mirboo Times*, Victoria – 28 September, 1916)

In Memoriam

ROBERTS – In loving memory of our dear brother, Dave, who died in the Netley Hospital, England, on 28th September, 1915.

We bow not our heads in our grief;
We'll rather hold them high with pride.
For you gave your life for your country;
We scorn the shirkers for whom you died.

They would not go to your help Dave,
So you held out till the last breath;
In life our beloved bright brother,
Our brave honoured hero in death.

-Inserted by his sister and brother-in-law (Mrs and Mr J. Whitehead) and his brother Ted (prisoner of war).

(*Gippslander and Mirboo Times*, Victoria – 27 September, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ROBERTS – In sad and loving memory of our dearest cousin, Cpl. Dave Roberts, 8th Light Horse, who died at Netley Hospital, September 28, 1915.

Sow the grand harvest of his country's pride,

And, dying, give Australia strength to live.

Anzac hero.

-(Inserted by his loving cousins, Eileen, Beryl, Gwen Macan, and Bonnie Davies.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 September, 1917)

Mirboo North's Roll of Honour

DIED OF ILLNESS

.....

Corp. David ROBERTS

(*Gippslander and Mirboo Times*, Victoria – 5 September, 1918) & (*Gippslander and Mirboo Times*, Victoria – 12 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ROBERTS – In loving memory of our dear brother, Corporal Dave Roberts, who died on 28th September, 1915 in Netley Hospital, England, of enteric fever. One of the ill-fated 8th Light Horse.

Australia mourns her hero's fate,

Who died to bring her fame;

True to country, King and mate,

Leaving a spotless name.

The hardest part is yet to come,

When the other boys return;

For I miss among the happy throng,

Dear Dave, who will never return.

One of the best gone.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, E. and J, Whitehead.

(*Gippslander and Mirboo Times*, Victoria – 26 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

The Anzac Heroes

ROBERTS – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother, Corporal Dave Roberts, who died on the 28th September, 1915, of enteric fever in Netley Hospital, England. An Anzac hero.

Sadly missed.

'Twas joy for is when one returned,

But still our hearts are sad,

For one we loved will never return,
Our brown eyed soldier boy.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Eva and Will Hood.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 September, 1920)

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(*Information & photos from CWGC*)



Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire



NETLEY MILITARY CEMETERY

This cemetery was used for many years for military burials from the Royal Victoria Hospital. The graves include those of 721 casualties from the First World War and 36 of the Second World War, comprising servicemen and women from the following countries:

United Kingdom	558	Undivided India	5
Australia	49	Belgium	15
Canada	42	Poland	1
New Zealand	12	Austria	1
South Africa	6	Germany	68

The Cross of Sacrifice alongside this plot was erected after the First World War.

THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE
OF THESE GRAVES

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Corporal David Roberts' Private Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.



In
Memory Of
CORPORAL DAVID ROBERTS
8TH Light Horse, A.I.F.
Who Died September 28TH 1915
Aged 25 Years.

“To Live In Hearts We Leave Behind Is Not To Die.”



Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery