

**Caterham Burial Ground,
Caterham and Warlingham, Surrey**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



CAPTAIN

R. ROBERTSON

10TH BN. HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY

13TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 31

Ronald ROBERTSON

Ronald Robertson was born in St. Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria on 10th November, 1885 to parents George & Nora Robertson (nee Crocker).

George Robertson, father of Ronald Robertson, died in 1898.

Nora Robertson married William Forbes in 1899 in the district of Kensington, Middlesex, England.

Ronald Robertson attended Tonbridge School, Tonbridge, Kent, England from 1900 to 1903 (Parkside). He then attended Trinity College, Cambridge.

At the outbreak of World War 1, Ronald Robertson applied for a temporary commission through the Cambridge University – O.T.C. (Officers' Training Corps).

The London Gazette – 25 August, 1914:

The undermentioned Cadets and ex-Cadets of the Officers Training Corps to be temporary Second Lieutenants.

Dated 26th August, 1914

GENERAL LIST

Infantry

Ronald Robertson

Temporary 2nd Lieutenant Ronald Robertson was attached to the 10th/11th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry.

Highland Light Infantry

The Highland Light Infantry (HLI) was a light infantry regiment of the British Army formed in 1881. It recruited mainly from Glasgow and the surrounding lowlands. The regiment was nicknamed 'Hell's Last Issue'.

Motto - Montis insignia Calpe (Badge of the Rock of Gibraltar)

Mascot - Elephant

First World War - Both regular battalions served on the Western Front during the First World War (1914-18). Additionally, 1st Battalion fought in Mesopotamia from 1916. The regiment also raised 14 Territorial battalions and 11 Reserve and Service battalions. Three of the Territorial battalions were sent to Gallipoli in 1915.

The 10th and 11th (Service) Battalions landed at Boulogne-sur-Mer as part of the 28th Brigade in the 9th (Scottish) Division in May 1915 for service on the Western Front. The Medal Index Card for 2nd Lieutenant Ronald Robertson confirms he first entered a Theatre of War in France on 12th May, 1915.

Supplement to The London Gazette – 26 July, 1915:

The undermentioned temporary Second Lieutenants to be temporary Lieutenants:

Dated 10th June, 1915

Ronald Robertson

The 10th/11th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry were in action at The Battle of Loos in 1915. IN spring 1916, they were involved in the German gas attacks near Hulluch and the defence of the Kink position. They were in action during the Battles of the Somme, including The Battle of Pozieres, The Battle of Flers-Courcelette and the capture of

Martinpuich, The Battle of Le Transloy and the attacks on the Butte de Warlencourt. In 1917 they were in action in the First and Second Battle of the Scarpe, including the capture of Guemappe during the Arras Offensive.

(Information from War Time Memories Project)

Temporary Lieutenant Ronald Robertson was promoted to Captain in April, 1916.

Captain Ronald Robertson was invalided to England in August, 1917.

Captain Ronald Robertson died on 13th September, 1917 at Princess Christian's Hospital for Officers, London, England following an operation.

A death for Ronald Robertson, aged 31, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of St. George Hanover Square, London, England.

Captain Ronald Robertson was buried on 18th September, 1917 in Caterham Burial Ground, Caterham and Warlingham, Surrey, England – Plot number E. 260 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Probate Details:

Robertson, Ronald, of the Conservative Club, St. James Street, Middlesex and Kilmarnock, Caterham Valley, Surrey, died 13 September, 1917 at the Princess Christian's Hospital, 6 Grosvenor Place, Middlesex from wounds. Administration (with Will) London 18 January to Nora Forbes, widow. Effects £518 4s. 11d.

Obituary – Tonbridge School and the Great War pf 1914-1919:

CAPT. RONALD ROBERTSON

10TH BATTN. HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY

DIED SEPTEMBER 13TH, 1917, AFTER BEING INVALIDED FROM FRANCE. AGED 31.

At the School 1900-3 (Parkside)

Capt. Ronald Robertson was the fifth son of the late George Robertson, of Melbourne, Australia, and his mother, now Mrs Forces, is living at Marlows, Caterham, Surrey. Entering the School in September 1900, from Wootton Court near Canterbury, he was in the Cadet Corps, as it then was, and left from the Modern Fifth in July, 1903. He subsequently proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, rowed in one of his college boats, and took his degree in 1908. After travelling to the West Indies, he went to Australia with the intention of eventually settling there, but came home to England on a visit in 1914. ON the outbreak of war he at once applied, through the Cambridge University O.T.C., for a temporary commission in the New Armies, and was gazetted to the 10th Battn. of the Highland L.I. on August 26th, 1914.

He served in France as Transport Officer to this Battalion, in the 14th Division, from February, 1915, was promoted Lieutenant, June 10th, 1915, and was present at much fighting, including the Battle of Loos in September that year. After Loos the survivors of the 10th and 11th Battalions, both of which had suffered very heavily, were incorporated into one Battalion. He received his Captaincy on April 23rd, 1916, but in the following August was invalided home as the result of all that he had been through. An operation was found to be necessary, and, after it had been performed, he died in hospital in London on September 13th, 1917.

Captain Ronald Robertson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Captain Ronald Robertson, aged 31, of 10th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry. He was the son of Mrs Nora Forbes (formerly Robertson) of Marlows, Caterham, and the late George Robertson, of Australia.

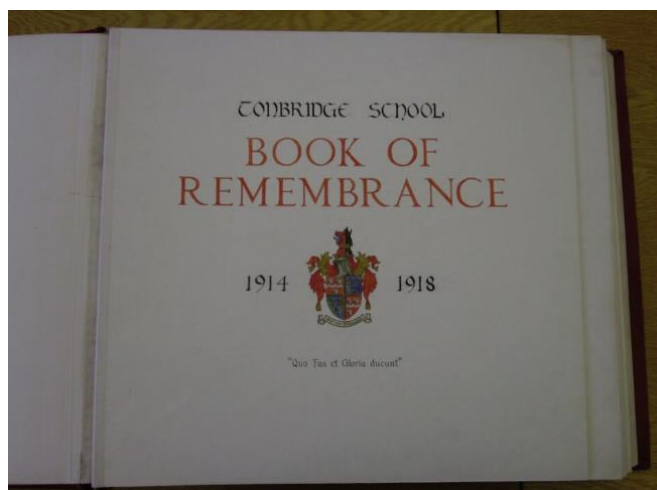
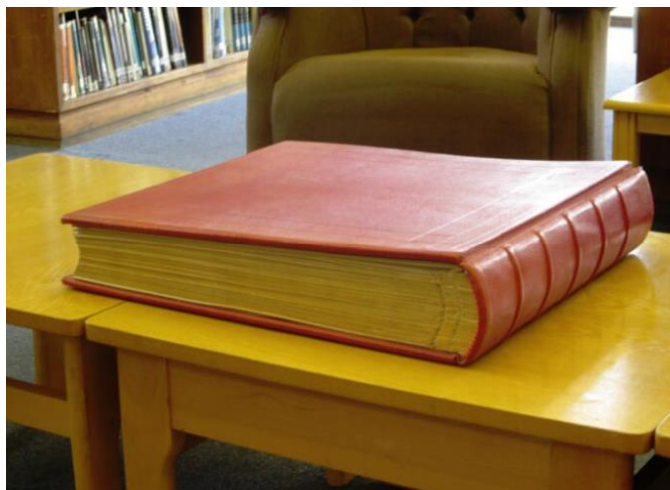
Ronald Robertson is remembered on the Tonbridge School Gate of Remembrance – WW1 and WW2, located in Tonbridge School Chapel, High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, England.



Tonbridge School Gate of Remembrance (Photos from War Memorials Online – Susan Featherstone)



Captain Ronald Robertson is remembered in the Tonbridge School Book of Remembrance.



(Photos from War Memorials Online – Susan Featherstone)

Ronald Robertson is remembered on the Trinity College Chapel War Memorial, Cambridge, England.



Trinity College Chapel

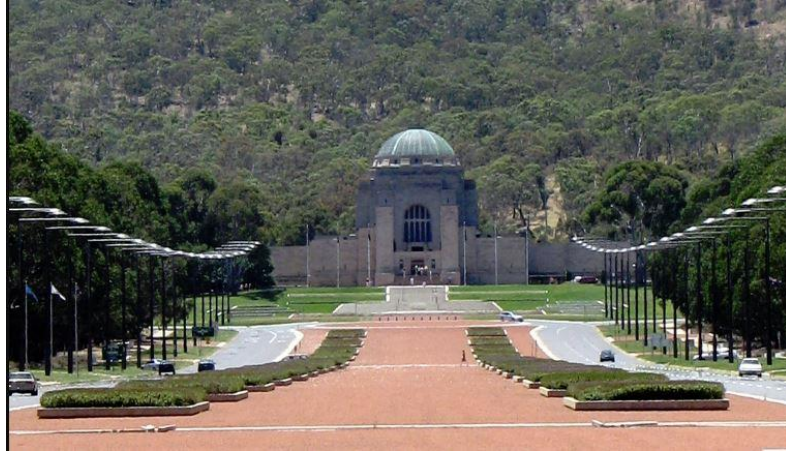


Trinity College Chapel War Memorial

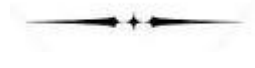
Captain Ronald Robertson is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving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



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



Ronald Robertson



Newspaper Notices

News has been received of the death of Captain Ronald Robertson, Highland Light Infantry, which occurred in London on September 13, 1917, after an operation. Captain Robertson, who was only 31 years of age, was a son of the late Mr George Robertson, of Melbourne, and of Mrs Forbes, Queen's Park, Caterham, Surrey, England. He was gazetted to the Highland Light Infantry during the first month of the war, received promotion in June, 1915, and was appointed captain in April, 1916.

(The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 March, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

ROBERTSON – On the 13th September, 1917, at Princess Christian's Hospital, London (after an operation), Captain Ronald Robertson, son of the late Mr George Robertson (bookseller and publisher), of Melbourne, and Mrs Forbes, of Queen's Park, Caterham, Surrey, England, aged 31 years. The late Captain was gazetted to the Highland Light Infantry during the first month of the war, received promotion in June, 1915, and was appointed captain in April, 1916.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 April, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

ROBERTSON – On the 13th September, 1917, at Princess Christian's Hospital, London (after an operation), Captain Ronald Robertson, son of the late Mr George Robertson (bookseller and publisher), of Melbourne, and Mrs Forbes, of Queen's Park, Caterham, Surrey, England, aged 31 years. The late Captain was gazetted to the Highland Light Infantry during the first month of the war, received promotion in June, 1915, and was appointed captain in April, 1916.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 April, 1918)

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.

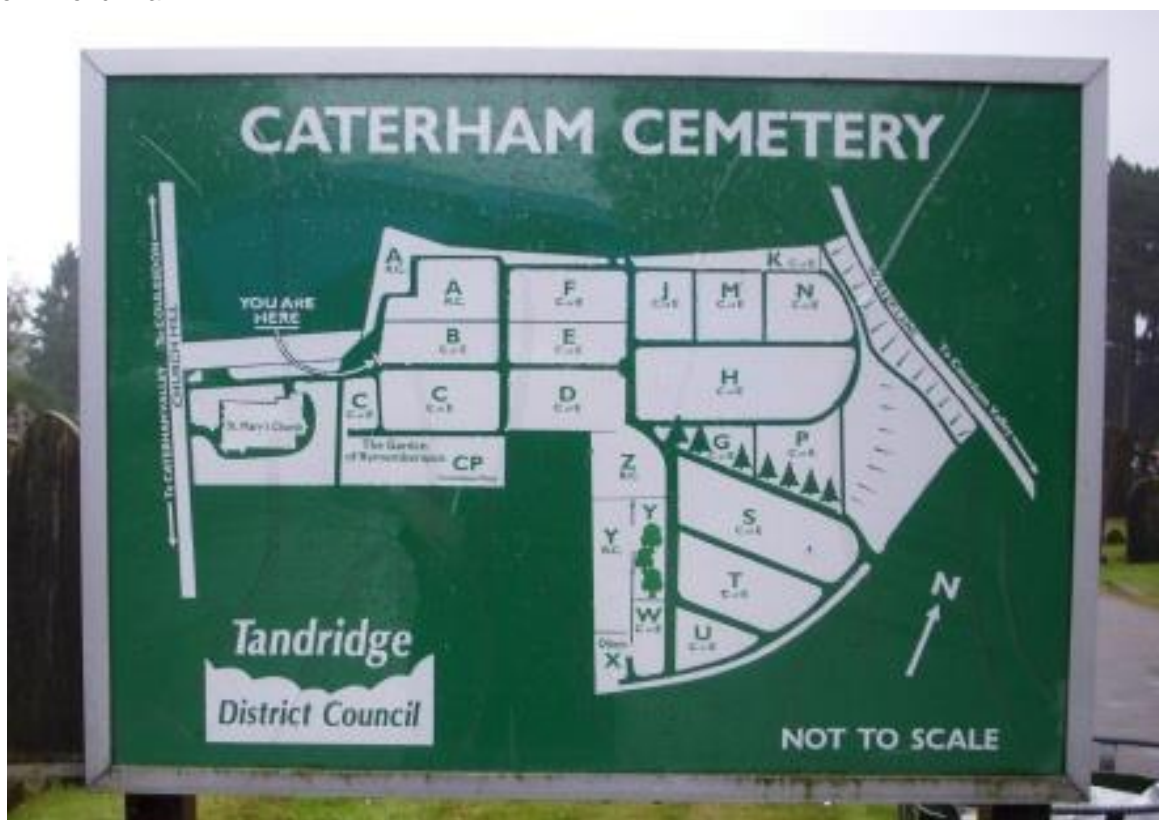
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly 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.

Captain Ronald Robertson does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Caterham Burial Ground, Caterham and Warlingham, Surrey, England

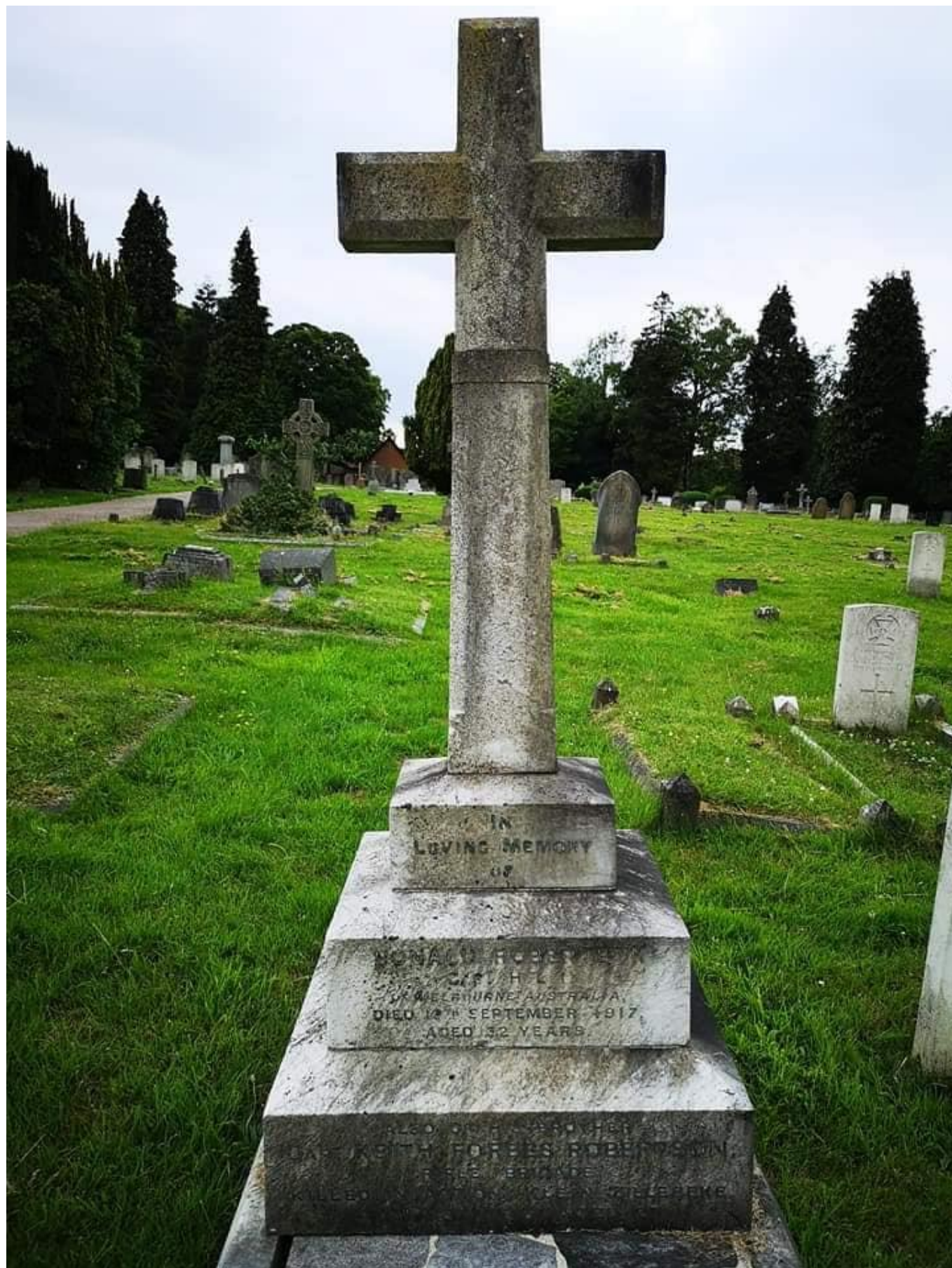
Caterham Burial Ground, Caterham and Warlingham contains 65 Commonwealth War Graves – 46 from World War 1 & 19 from World War 2.



Caterham Burial Ground (Photos by js – Find a Grave)



Photo of Captain Ronald Robertson's Private Headstone in Caterham Burial Ground, Caterham and Warlingham, Surrey, England.



(Photo by Selena Hardie)



(Photo by Jim from London – Find a Grave)

*In
Loving Memory
Of*

RONALD ROBERTSON
Capt. H. L. I.
Of Melbourne Australia,
Died 13TH September 1917,
Aged 32 Years

Also Of His Brother
Capt. KEITH FORBES ROBERTSON,
Rifle Brigade,
Killed In Action, Klein, Zillebeke,
Aug. 26TH 1916, Aged 27.