

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7303 L. CPL

C. T. ROBINSON

6TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH APRIL, 1919 Age 23

*Tho' In A Distant Land
We Ever Think Of You
Our Loved Son & Brother*

Cyril Thomas ROBINSON

Thomas Cyril Robinson (name as per Victorian B.D. & M.'s website) was born at Dutson, near Sale Victoria in 1896 to parents Thomas Alfred & Clara Eliza Alberta Robinson (nee Paten). (His birth was registered in the district of Sale, Victoria, however his Attestation Papers recorded he was born near Berwick, Victoria.)

Cyril Thomas Robinson attended Agricultural High School at Sale, Gippsland, Victoria.

Cyril Thomas Robinson was a 20 year old, single, Farmer from Sale, Victoria when he enlisted on 10th October, 1916 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. T. Robinson, "Armidale", Dutson, via Sale, Victoria.

As Cyril Thomas Robinson was under the age of 21, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for active service abroad. Thomas A. Robinson & Clara Robinson both signed their names as consent.

Private Cyril Thomas Robinson was posted to "C" Company Reserves at Domain on 24th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "D" Company Reserves on 1st December, 1916. On 10th January, 1917 Private Robinson was transferred to 1st Depot Battalion, A.I.F. at Royal Park. He was transferred to 24th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion on 27th January, 1917,

Private Cyril Thomas Robinson, Service number 7303, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ballarat* (A70) on 19th February, 1917 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 24th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 25th April, 1917.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Clara E. A. Robinson stated that her son "was on the torpedoed boat *Ballarat*."



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART13329

The sinking of troopship SS 'Ballarat' which took place on 25 April 1917 in the English Channel. A submarine torpedoed the 'Ballarat', which was carrying Australian troops from Melbourne to England. Efforts made to tow the ship to shallow water failed and she sank off The Lizard the following morning. No lives were lost of the 1752 souls on board.

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 Cyril Thomas Robinson was marched in to 2nd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 26th April, 1917 from Australia.

Private Cyril Thomas Robinson proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 27th December, 1917 from No. 2 & 5 Camps, 2nd Training Battalion, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. He was marched in to A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 28th December, 1917. Private Robinson was taken on strength of 6th Battalion in the Field on 2nd January, 1918 from Reinforcements.

Private Cyril Thomas Robinson was with his Unit on 20th August, 1918. (This was usually reported when there had been no record of movements being made for a period of time.)

Private Cyril Thomas Robinson was promoted to Lance Corporal on 30th September, 1918.

Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson commenced his transfer for Leave to UK on 7th January, 1919. He was on Leave to England from France from 10th January, 1919 to 24th January, 1919.

Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson reported sick from Leave to UK on 2nd February, 1919. He was admitted to No. 2 Australian Field Ambulance on 6th February, 1919 with suspected Chancre then transferred the same day to 55th Casualty Clearing Station. Lance Corporal Robinson was transferred to 14 Ambulance Train on 11th February, 1919 & was admitted to No. 8 Stationary Hospital with V.D.S. on 13th February, 1919. He was transferred to England on 25th February, 1919 on Hospital Ship *Golden Eagle*.

6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

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In March and April 1918 the battalion helped stop the German spring offensive and later participated in the Allies' own offensive, launched near Amiens on 8 August 1918. The advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919.

In November 1918 members of the AIF began to return to Australia for demobilisation and discharge. In March the battalion was so reduced that it and the 7th Battalion were amalgamated to form a composite battalion. This battalion subsequently merged with another, formed from the 5th and 8th Battalions, to form the 2nd Brigade Battalion.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire, England on 25th February, 1919 with "VD 42." The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Syphilis. Had treatment at Le Havre. To continue course.*" He was discharged to Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 26th February, 1919. Total V.D. Period 21 days.

Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson was admitted to No. 3 General ____ Hospital at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 31st March, 1919 with Arsein (?) Dermatitis & Broncho Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "To Delhi Hospital for further treatment. He was transferred on 15th April, 1919.

Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson was admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital on 15th April, 1919 & was reported to be seriously ill with Broncho Pneumonia on 19th April, 1919.

Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson died at 22.50 hrs on 24th April, 1919 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Cyril T. Robinson, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Andover, Hampshire/Wiltshire, England.

Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson was buried on 28th April, 1919 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 385 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson - Coffin was Elm with brass mounts. Deceased was buried with full Military honors the coffin draped with the Australian flag being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party from Headquarters A.I.F Depots in United Kingdom. Six Australians supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A number of Australians followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.

Alfred Robinson, "Armidale", Dutsen, father of the late Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson, was advised by Base Records on 29th April, 1919 that Lance Corporal Cyril Robinson had been admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, England on 19th April with Broncho Pneumonia.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson contains a letter from K. A. Allsop for Matron, Military Hospital, Tidworth regarding Robinson, C.T, 7303, 6th Battalion, A.I.F., which reads: *"The Sisters have written full accounts of Pte C. E. Robinson's illness, and death to the Mother. He was ill for some time with Broncho pneumonia and in spite of all our efforts he eventually succumbed. He was very cheery and was full of smiles even to the day of his death. The Chaplain was frequently with him. He was buried in the Little Cemetery attached to the Military Hpl. Just the day before he died the Australia General Commanding came to see him which pleased him very much."*

Cyril Thomas Robinson requested in his Will, dated 5th January, 1917, that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Clara Eliza Alberta Robinson.

Clara Robinson, of "Armidale", Dutsen, Sale, wrote to Base Records in June, 1919 requesting a certificate of Death of her son Cyril Thomas Robinson, 6th Battalion, B Company.

Clara Robinson, of "Armidale", Dutsen, Sale, wrote to Base Records on several occasions – May, 1919 & September, 1919 asking when she would receive her son's belongings. On each occasion a reply was sent by Base Records advising that they had not yet been included in the consignments & once they came to hand they would be promptly transmitted to her husband *"in the absence of testamentary instructions prescribing otherwise."*

Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Robinson's father – Mr A. T. Robinson (as listed on the Memorial Scroll & Plaque Stamps in Service Record file), as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

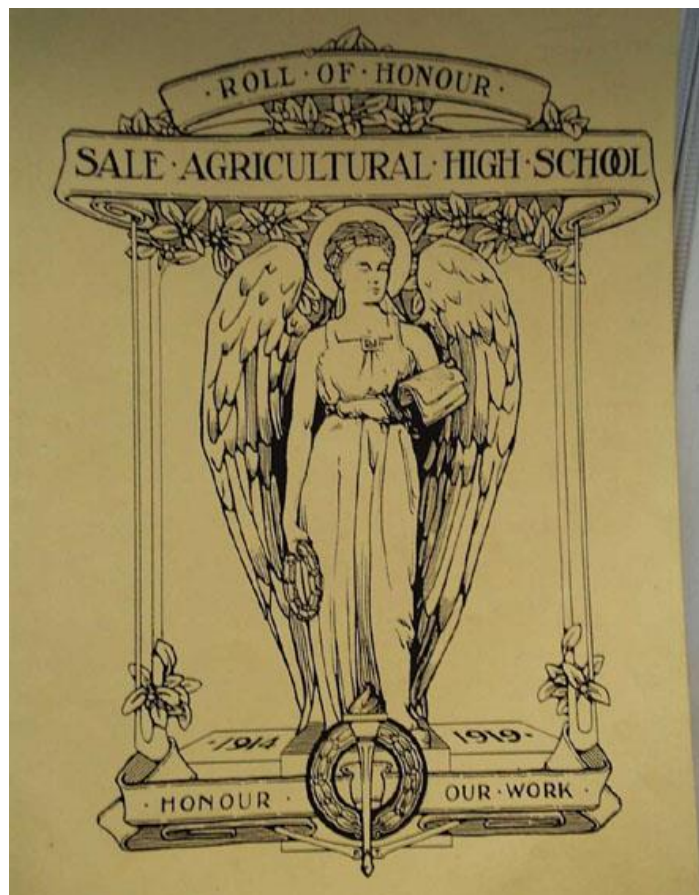
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson – service number 7303, aged 23, of 6th Battalion, Australian Infantry. Son of Thomas Alfred & Clara Eliza Robinson, of "Armidale", Dutsen, Sale, Victoria.

Lance Corporal C. T. 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 48.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Robinson is remembered in the Sale Agricultural High School Honour Roll Book for World War 1. This was last known to be located in Sale College – Macalister Campus, York Street, Sale, Victoria.



(Photo from Victorian Heritage Database)

C. Robinson is remembered on the Dutson Honour Roll, located in Sale Historical Museum, 130 Foster Street, Sale, Victoria.



Dutson Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia)

C. Robinson is remembered on the Sale Cenotaph, located in front of Memorial Hall, 82 Macalister Street, Sale, Victoria.

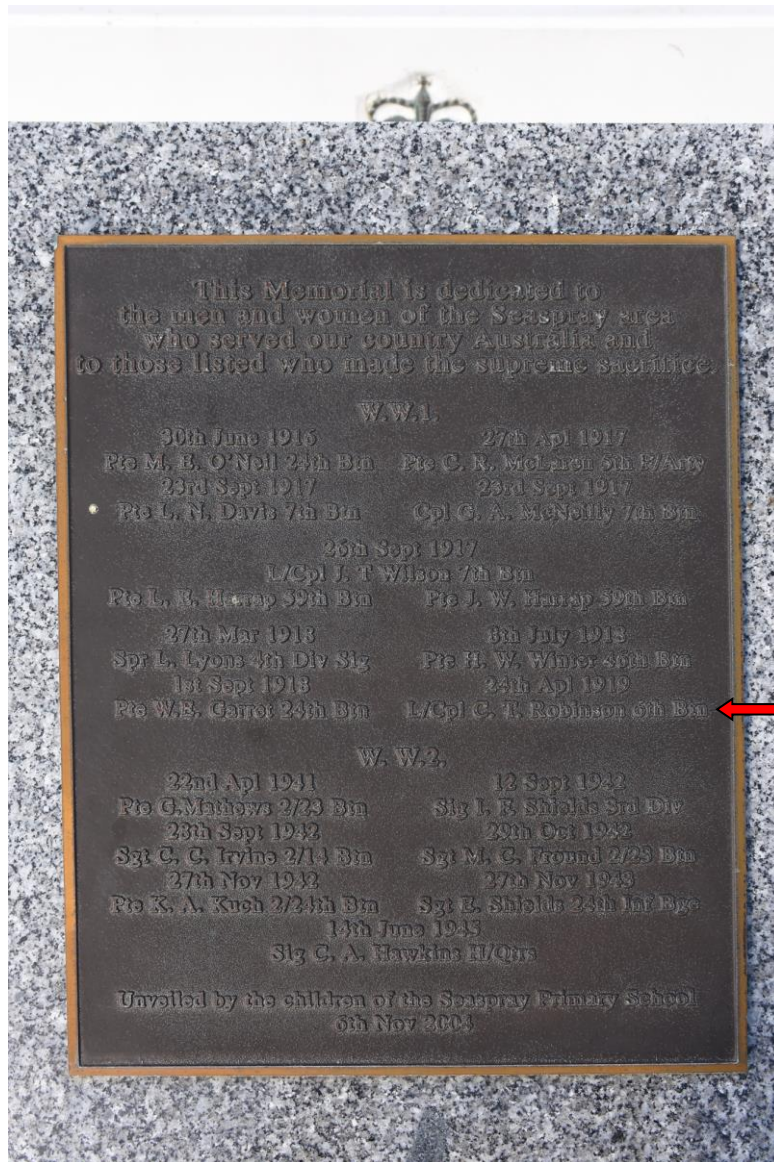




Sale Cenotaph (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

L. Cpl C. T. Robinson is remembered on the Seaspray War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, Beaurup Street, Seaspray, Victoria.





Seaspray War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



(71 pages of Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

Death

On Active Service

ROBINSON – On the 24th April, in Tidworth Military Hospital, England, of bronco-pneumonia, Lance-Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson, No. 7303, late 6th Battalion, B Company (H.M.S. Ballarat), the beloved son of Alfred and Clara Robinson, "Armidale," Dutson, Sale.

So loved, so deeply mourned.

Worthy of a Soldier's Grave

ROBINSON – On the 24th April, in Tidworth Military Hospital, England, of bronco-pneumonia, Lance-Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson, No. 7303, late 6th Battalion, B Company (H.M.S. Ballarat), the beloved brother of Hubert, Adelaide, Gertrude, Alyssia, and May Robinson, "Armidale," Dutson, Sale.

Our bright and loving brother.

(Gippsland Times, Victoria – 15 May, 1919)

DIED ON SERVICE

ROBINSON – On the 24th April, in Tidworth Military Hospital, England, of bronco-pneumonia, Lance-Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson, No. 7303, late 6th Battalion, B Company (H.M.S. Ballarat), the beloved son of Alfred and Clara Robinson, "Armidale," Dutson, Sale.

Worthy of a soldier's grave.

So loved, so deeply mourned

Till we Meet.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 May, 1919) & (The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 May, 1919)

Price of Peace

CASUALTY LIST NO. 465

VICTORIANS INCLUDED

DIED OTHER CAUSES

L.-Cpl C. T. ROBINSON, Dutson, 24/4/19, illness

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 May, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ROBINSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-Corporal Cyril Robinson, late 6th Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Tidworth Military Hospital, England, April 24, 1919.

Sweet memories and pride

Of a noble son, brother and soldier.

Our earthly comfort.

Till we meet

-(Inserted by his loving mother, father, brother, and sisters, "Armidale," Sale)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 April, 1920)

In Memoriam

ROBINSON – In sad and loving memory of my dear Pal, Lance-Corpl. Cyril T. Robinson, late 6th Battalion, who died in Hospital, England, 24th April, 1919.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for another."

One of the best.

-Inserted by his loving Pal. Frank

(*Gippsland Times*, Victoria – 26 April, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ROBINSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson (late 6th Battalion), who died in Tidworth Military Hospital, April 24, 1919.

Loved by all.

-(Inserted by his loving father, mother, brother and sisters)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 April, 1922)

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 29th July, 1921, to Mr A. T. Robinson, "Armidale", Dulson, via Sale, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 7303 Lance-Corporal C. T. Robinson, 6th Battalion, 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.

Base Records replied to Mrs C. E. A. Robinson, "Armidale", Dutson, via Sale, Victoria on 25th August, 1921 regarding her communication of the 4th August relative to the permanent headstone of her son & advised "...in reply to state as space is only reserved for 66 letters (less the number of spaces between words – each space counting as a letter), it would not be possible to added the words "Till we meet" to the other inscription. With reference to the emblem on the headstone, it is noted you do not desire to have the Cross inscribed, but as our son was a member of the Church of England, it is thought you would desire to have the Christian Cross. Kindly advise if this is so. It is regretted that your son's regimental number was incorrectly shown on circular form "A", but you are advised that number "7303" will be inscribed on the permanent headstone."

Clara Robinson wrote to Base Records on 2nd September, 1921 with the following: "Your letter to hand of August 25th. Yes certainly I would like the Christian cross on the headstone. I thought I said to have it & to have "Till we meet" inscribed on the cross of it was allowed to be inscribed on. I know only 55 words can be put on Headstone. Thank you very much for writing again to be sure these things open the heart sorrow of a mother & so must have made a mistake re the cross. I hope I will get a photo of my dear boys grave when completed."

Lance Corporal Cyril Thomas Robinson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Tho' In A Distant Land We Ever Think Of You Our Loved Son & Brother

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)



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.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919



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



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of *John Prestidge*)



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



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Lance Corporal C. T. Robinson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

