

**St. John's Churchyard,  
Warminster, Wiltshire, England**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3462A PRIVATE**

**O. ROBINSON**

**1ST AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS**

**8TH FEBRUARY, 1919**

## Osborne ROBINSON

Osborne Robinson was born at Stranton, West Hartlepool, in the county of Durhamshire (now County Durham), England in 1891 to parents Edward Osborne Robinson & Edith Robinson (nee Denyer). His birth was registered in the December quarter, 1891 in the district of Hartlepool, Durham. Osborne Robinson was baptised at Stranton, Durham on 29th October, 1891.

The 1901 England Census recorded Osborne Robinson as a 9 year old living with his family at Stockton Road (Bon Accord) West Hartlepool, Durham. His parents were listed as Edward Robinson (Merchant – Foreign Produce, aged 41, born West Hartlepool, Durham) & Edith Robinson (aged 32, born Wakefield, Yorkshire). Osborne was one of three children listed on this Census (all born West Hartlepool, Durham) – Mary Robinson (aged 10), then Osborne & Elsie Robinson (aged 2). Also listed were two servants – Ethel Sutton (Nurse, housemaid, aged 17) & Sarah Harper (Cook, aged 36).

Edward Osborne Robinson, father of Osborne Robinson, died on 12th December, 1905.

The 1911 England Census recorded Osborne Robinson as a 19 year old Grazing Farmer (Employer) living with his mother – Edith Robinson (widow, aged 42, Living on own means) in a 6 roomed dwelling at Swale Farm, Ellerston Abbey, Richmond, Yorks. Osborne & Edith were the only occupants listed on the Census. Edith Robinson listed that she had 3 children, all still living.

Mr Osborne Robinson, Farm Labourer, aged 22, was a passenger on *Norseman* which departed London on 30th January, 1914 bound for Brisbane, Australia. Mr Osborne had contracted to land at Sydney, Australia & his country of intended future residence was listed as Australia.

Osborne Robinson was a 23 year old, single, Farmer when he enlisted at Cootamundra, NSW on 25th July, 1915 with the 1st Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3462 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Robinson, Reith, Richmond, Yorkshire, England.

Private Osborne Robinson embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 5th October, 1915 & disembarked at Egypt.

Private Robinson was taken on strength with 1st Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 14th February, 1916.

Private Robinson was transferred to Pioneer Battalion at Serapeum on 10th March, 1916 & taken on strength with 1st Pioneer Battalion the same day.

Private Robinson embarked from Alexandria on 16th March, 1916 to join the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 12th April, 1916.

Private Robinson was wounded in action & sent to 17th Casualty Clearing Station in France on 3rd September with a gunshot wound to hand. He was transferred to No. 31 Ambulance train & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 4th September, 1916 with a gunshot wound to left hand. Private Robinson was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* on 6th September, 1916.

Private Robinson was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road Section, Birmingham on 7th September, 1916.

Private Robinson was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 6th October, 1916. He was granted furlo on 7th October, 1916. Pte Robinson reported back from furlo & was medically classified B 1 A (Fit for light duty – 4 weeks).

Private Robinson was transferred to 61st Battalion & taken on strength with 61st Battalion at Wareham on 23rd March, 1917.

Private Robinson was transferred to Australian Pioneer Training Battalion on 24th April, 1917 & marched in to No. 4 Camp at Fovant, Wiltshire.

Private Robinson proceeded overseas via Southampton to Reinforcements 1st Pioneer Battalion in France on 18th October, 1917.

Private Robinson was marched in from England to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 19th October, 1917. He proceeded to join his Unit on 21st October, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the field on 23rd October, 1917.

Private Robinson was re-allotted the Regimental number of 3462A – no date recorded (between the end of October, 1917 & the end of April, 1918).

Private Robinson proceeded on leave to Paris on 27th February, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion from leave on 7th March, 1918.

Private Robinson was granted leave to UK on 16th October, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion from leave on 1st November, 1918.

Private Robinson was marched out ready for return to Australia from France on 19th January, 1919. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) on 20th January, 1919 & marched out for England on 24th January, 1919.

Private Robinson was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade in England on 25th January, 1919.

Private Osborne Robinson died on 8th February, 1919 at 6 Smallbrock Lane, Warminster from Pneumonia following Influenza.

A death for Osborne Robinson, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The next-of-kin for Private Osborne Robinson was listed as his mother – Mrs Edith Robinson of Osborne Cottage, Reith, Richmond, Yorkshire, England. Special notification – Guardian – Mr W. V. Starr, J.P., 12 Victoria St., Nottingham.

Private Osborne Robinson was buried at east end of Church in St. John's Churchyard, Warminster, Wiltshire – Grave No. 481 on 11th February, 1919 and he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Robinson - *Coffin was Polished Elm. Private Funeral.* Several forms in Private Robinson's Service Record file record incorrectly that he was buried in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire

A report into the death of Private Osborne Robinson was made by Capt. M. C. Blackett, Staff Officer for Colonel, C. O. A.I.F. Troops, Sutton Veny Depots. Captain Blackett visited Private Robinson's home at 6 Smallbrook Lane, Boreham, after his death and obtained particulars from the late Private Robinson's mother – Mrs Edith Robinson. Mrs Robinson home address was Osborne Cottage, Reith, Richmond, Yorkshire but she was residing in Boreham with her two daughters in order to provide a home for Private Robinson when he was on leave. Capt. Blackett described Mrs Robinson as "appears well-to-do". The rest of the report reads: "*Pte Robinson arrived from France with No. 1 quota, which reported to the Overseas Training Brigade on 25.1.19. During the four days in camp prior to his embarkation leave, he went home each evening, and although apparently suffering from a cold, he did not give his mother to understand that he reported to the R.M.O., and as he had been suffering for some time past from the effects of gas, she did not think anything serious was amiss with him.*"

*"As the pass herewith shows he was granted his embarkation leave on 30.1.19, and that evening complained of feeling unwell and retired to bed in his home early. He did not get up the next day, but it was not until Monday, 3.2.19 that Dr McDonald, a civilian doctor at Warminster, was called in."*

*"Neither Mrs Robinson nor her daughter who nursed Pte Robinson can recall the doctor suggesting that he should be removed to the 1st Australian General Hospital, which is within a quarter of a mile from the house. The doctor told them he was suffering from pneumonia supervening on influenza."*

*“Pte Robinson died in the house on 8.2.19 and up to that time, no intimation, directly or indirectly, of his illness had been made to the military authorities.”*

*“Similarly, he was buried at St. John’s Cemetery, Boreham, without the authorities having had notice, on the 11th his mother’s wish being that the funeral should be a private description.”*

*“..... Mrs Robinson stated that she is not making any claim from the A.I.F. in respect of medical attendance or funeral expenses.”*

Private Osborne Robinson stated that his Will, which was made before he left Australia on 5th October, 1915, was made out by Messes Taylor & Mackenzie Solicitors, Tumut, NSW. The Will was at the Solicitor’s Office & a copy was also held by his mother in Yorkshire, England.

Private Osborne Robinson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Robinson’s mother – Mrs E. Robinson, in England (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Osborne Robinson – service number 3462A as being 27 years old & served with 1st Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Mrs Edith Robinson, of Osborne Cottage, Reith, Richmond, Yorkshire, England.

Private O. 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 172.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(37 pages of Private Osborne 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) & National Archives*



## 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)*

Private Osborne Robinson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



**St. John's Churchyard, Warminster** *(Photo above from CWGC; below Basher Eyre)*



Photo of Private O. Robinson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. John's Churchyard, Warminster, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Helen Smith – CWGC Volunteer – Eyes On Hands On)*



*(Photo by Michelle Young)*