

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



434 PRIVATE

T. S. ROBINSON

27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH JULY, 1918

Thomas Shipley ROBINSON

Thomas Shipley Robinson was born at Paradise, South Australia in 1894 to parents Thomas Shipley Robinson & Katherine Mary Robinson (nee Fox).

Thomas Shipley Robinson, father of Thomas Shipley Robinson (jnr), died on 7th December, 1909 in the district of Nairne, South Australia.

Thomas Shipley Robinson was a 20 year old, single, Baker's Assistant from Oakbank, South Australia when he enlisted on 25th January, 1915 at Oaklands, South Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs C. Robinson, Oakbank, South Australia.

As Thomas Shipley 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. Mrs Kate Mary Robinson signed her name to a letter dated 22nd January, 1915 which reads: "*Sir, I hear by agree my son Th's Robinson to go into Camp.*"

[Note: All the forms in the Service Record file for Private Thomas Robinson have the middle name as "Shipley", except for the War Gratuity Schedule form which recorded the middle name as "Stepney".]

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was posted to "G" Company, Infantry Base Depot at Oaklands, South Australia on 25th January, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to B Company, 27th Battalion on 16th March, 1915.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson, Service number 434, embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Geelong (A2)* on 31st May, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 27th Infantry Battalion "B" Company.

(Note: His middle name is listed as Stepney on the First World War Embarkation Roll on The Australian War Memorial website).

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson embarked from Alexandria on 4th September, 1915 to join M.E.F. at Gallipoli (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force).

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was admitted to 13th Casualty Clearing Hospital at Anzac on 23rd September, 1915 with Diarrhoea. He was discharged to duty on 28th September, 1915 & rejoined his Unit from 7th Field Ambulance* (*as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service) at Gallipoli on 30th September, 1915

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson reported sick to 5th Field Ambulance on 12th November, 1915. He was admitted with Jaundice & discharged to duty on 14th November, 1915.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was written up for Disobedience of Orders on 27th December, 1915 while posted at Mudros. He was awarded 14 days No. 2 Field Punishment. (Statement of Service form recorded 27th January, 1916)

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson disembarked at Alexandria on 10th January, 1916 ex Mudros (after the evacuation of Gallipoli).

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson proceeded from Alexandria on 15th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 21st March, 1916.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson reported sick to 6th Field Ambulance at Rue Marle on 15th April, 1916. He rejoined his Unit at Armentieres on the same day.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson reported sick to 6th Field Ambulance on 31st May, 1916. He was transferred the same day & admitted to 2nd Divisional Rest Station with Influenza. Private Robinson was discharged to his Unit on 4th June, 1916 & rejoined 27th Battalion in France on the same day.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson reported sick on 27th June, 1916. He was admitted to 73rd Field Ambulance with Pyrexia (fever) then transferred to 24th Divisional Rest Station on 28th June, 1916. Private Robinson was transferred & admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance on 2nd July, 1916 then transferred on 3rd July, 1916 to No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station with Bronchitis. He was transferred & admitted to No. 2 Australian General Hospital at Wimereux on 3rd July, 1916 & embarked for England on 4th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis*.

27th Battalion

The 27th Battalion was raised in South Australia in March 1915, from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, a large number of whom hailed from the suburbs of Adelaide. The battalion left Australia in June, and, after two months spent training in Egypt, landed at Gallipoli on 12 September.

At Gallipoli, the 7th Brigade, which included the 27th Battalion, reinforced the weary New Zealand and Australian Division. The 27th had a relatively quiet time at Gallipoli and the battalion departed the peninsula in December, having suffered only light casualties.

After another stint in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France as part of the 2nd Australian Division. The 27th Battalion entered the front-line trenches for the first time on 7 April 1916 and took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 28 July and 5 August.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was admitted to 3rd Northern General Hospital at Sheffield, England on 4th July, 1916 with Bronchitis.

Mrs K. M. Robinson, Oakbank, South Australia, mother of Private Thomas Shipley Robinson, was advised by Base Records on 18th July, 1916 that Private T. S. Robinson had been admitted to 3rd Northern General Hospital on 4th July, 1916 suffering from Bronchitis – mild.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was transferred from 3rd Northern General Hospital & admitted to Australian Convalescent Hospital, England on 21st July, 1916 with Bronchitis.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson reported to No. 1 Command Depot, England on 1st September, 1916 & was medically classified "A" (medical fit). He was granted Furlough on 2nd September, 1916.

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 & Dorset. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was transferred to Command Depot at Wareham on 27th October, 1916. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Command Depot No. 4 – admitted 27th October, 1916 Bronchitis.*" "*Bronchitis – July 16. Slight cough in morning. B1A4.*" (B1A4 – Fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit.)

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was transferred to 70th Battalion on 23rd March, 1917 from 27th Battalion while posted at Wareham, Dorset.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was written up for an Offence on 9th April, 1917 – Overstaying Leave from 9pm on 8th April, 1917 until 11 pm on 8th April, 1917. Award – admonished.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was transferred back to 27th Battalion on 19th September, 1917. He was declared medically fit on 11th October, 1917 & was marched out to 69th Draft Battalion on 21st September, 1917. He proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 14th October, 1917 from Hurdcott. Private Robinson was admitted to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 15th October, 1917. He proceeded from 2nd A.D.B.D. on 18th October, 1917 to rejoin his Unit & was taken on strength of 27th Battalion in Belgium on 20th October, 1917.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was wounded in action in France on 10th June, 1918. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head then transferred & admitted to 20th Casualty Clearing Station on 11th June, 1918. Private Robinson was transferred to Ambulance Train & admitted to 53rd General Hospital in France on 12th June, 1918. He embarked for England on 16th June, 1918 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew*.

27th Battalion

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Although it participated in minor attacks during the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line in early 1917, the 27th Battalion did not carry out a major attack again until 20 September 1917. On this occasion, it was part of the 2nd Division's first wave at the battle of Menin Road. Victory here was followed up with the capture of Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October, in which the 27th Battalion also played a role.

Like most AIF battalions, the 27th fought to turn back the German spring offensive in April 1918, and later in the year participated in a string of offensive battles as Germany was pushed ever closer to defeat. It attacked around Morlancourt on the night of 10 June; acted in a supporting role during the battle of Hamel on 4 July; and was in the first wave at the battle of Amiens on 8 August.

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(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary of 27th Battalion for 10th June, 1918:

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
SAILLY-LE-SEC REF MAP. 62° NE. 20000	June	10 th	<p>June Continued - Fine Day. Enemy attitude fairly quiet. Slight decrease in enemy shelling of rear line areas. Working parties completed jumping off trench forward of present line, early morning. 2nd Divisional Pioneers laid line to Battalion H.Q.s. for use in reporting progress in digging C.T.s at a ZERO time after an advance upon enemy lines. Our artillery extremely active during the day, Registration & Calibration. Very little retaliation by enemy batteries. Battalion received SECRET orders re. an attack to be carried out by the 7th A.I. B. de upon enemy positions, with a view of improving our positions between MORLANCOURT & SAILLY-LE-SEC. Extreme precautions were taken in keeping down movement, in our forward & support positions during the day. The C.O. Lt. Col. J. R. Chalmers ordered an assembly of Coy Commanders, held a consultation re. the intended attack. The question of rationing the troops engaged was specially dealt with, & extra rations were carried. At 8.30. P.M. all Companies reported everything in readiness. At 8.35. P.M. a very intense shelling was carried out by the enemy principally upon the support & in rear of front line positions extending along the 7th A.I. B. de front, & was sustained for some ten minutes. Several slight casualties from shrapnel, 5.9. 1.06 fuse being used. Special preparations were taken & reports were communicated by wire & drummers from O.P. J. 23. d. 12.60. Situation Report covering period of operations attached as Appendix, also Special narrative by Intelligence Officer. The morale of the Unit was splendid, & all Officers & N.C.O.s & men displayed very keen interest to all preparatory arrangements. The attack was very successful, & at 10.44 P.M. (i.e.) + 55 minutes on ZERO hour. "RED" flares extending along the whole of the front, denoted the consolidation of our newly captured positions.</p>
"	"	"	
"	"	"	

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was admitted to Military Hospital, Frensham Hill, Farnham, Surrey, England on 17th June, 1918 with shrapnel wound/s to Head. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "Wounded 11.4.18 scalp wd only. Shell ____ sutured. Acute bronchitis developed...." The Hospital Admissions form recorded he developed Bronchitis on 1st July, 1918.

The Medical Case Sheet for Private T. S. Robinson recorded the following information: "G.S.W. Scalp (acute Bronchitis).

<u>Wounded</u>	11.6.18
<u>Missile</u>	Shell
<u>1st dressing</u>	immediate
<u>A.T. Serum</u>	11.6.18 500 units
	19.6.18 " "
	1.7.18 " "

Notes from F.M.C.

Glancing wound of scalp. Wd incised. No fracture

Wound sutured.

....

Condition on admission

Patient is very pale. Probably lost considerable amount of blood. Wound on scalp clean & sutures still in situ. Has some headache. Otherwise feels fairly well.

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30.6.18 Wound nearly healed.

1.7.18 Pat has a rise of temp: with some cough. P.S. rales to be heard over the whole of both lungs.... (Note: "Pat" – Patient)

4.7.18 Pat: is not so well. Considerable difficulty in bringing up the phlegm. Respiration 36. Pulse 100 & not so good. Stimulants.

8.7.18 Pat losing ground. Cough still very troublesome. Temp still raised. No improvements in the physical signs. Heart failing.

11.7.18 In spite of injections of ___ & ___ the action of the heart became more feeble. He died this day at 12.10 pm.

Mrs K. M. Robinson, Oakbank, South Australia, mother of Private Thomas S. Robinson, was advised by Base Records on 21st June, 1918 that Private T. S. Robinson had been wounded. A further communication on 3rd July, 1918 from Base Records advised that Private T. S. Robinson had been admitted to the Frensham Hill Military Hospital, England on 17th June, 1918 suffering from a gunshot wound to head.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson died at 12.10 pm on 11th July, 1918 at Military Hospital, Frensham Hill, Farnham, Surrey, England from Bronchitis.

A death for Thomas S. Robinson, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Farnham, Surrey, England.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson was buried at 1.30 pm on 16th July, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 181, 287.

From the burial report of Private Thomas Shipley Robinson - Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Base Records wrote to Mrs K. M. Robinson, Oakbank, South Australia on 3rd April, 1923 stating that the site of her son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row D Grave 21.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. D. 21. Private T. S. Robinson now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson requested in his Will dated 7th July, 1918 that the whole of his estate and effects to be left to his mother Katherine Robinson, Post Office, Oakbank, South Australia. Katherine Robinson was also appointed as Executor of the Will. The Will was witness by Violet Bell, Frensham Hill Military Hospital, Farnham Surrey & Olive A. Keyse, Frensham Hill Military Hospital, Farnham Surrey. Captain E. C. Bowden, R.A.M.C. Military Hospital, Frensham Hill, declared that he was present at the Execution of the Will & that Thomas Shipley Robinson the Testator was "at the time in a fit state of mind to execute the same." (A previous Will had been made on 18th September, 1917 with the same details)

Mrs L. G. Pearson, Oakbank, South Australia, wrote to Base Records in August, 1918, requesting a death certificate for No. 434 Private T. S. Robinson *“so I can get his money from the Royal Onkaparinga Lodge Woodside...”*

(Note: From another letter written to Base Records by Mrs L. G. Pearson (enquiring about the Will for Private Robinson) it was revealed that she was the sister of Private T. S. Robinson)

Base Records replied to Mrs L. G. Pearson on 21st September, 1918, enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 434 Private T. S Robinson, 27th Battalion.

Mrs L. G. Pearson, Oakbank, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 10th November, 1918 requesting another death certificate for 434 Private T. S. Robinson, 27th Battalion *“As I must have two for the lodge before I can get his lodge money....”*

Base Records replied to Mrs L. G. Pearson on 19th November, 1918, enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 434 Private T. S Robinson, 27th Battalion.

Private T.S. Robinson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Robinson’s mother – Mrs K. M. Robinson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Shipley Robinson – service number 434, of 27th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private T. S. 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 111.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. S. Robinson is remembered on the Oakbank Old Scholars Roll of Honour, located in Soldiers Memorial Hall, 210 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Oakbank, South Australia.



Oakbank Soldiers Memorial Hall (Photo from Monument Australia – Bryan Cole)



Oakbank Old Scholars Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Adrian Dormer)

T. Robinson is remembered on the District of Onkaparinga Roll of Honour, located in Woodside Institute, Onkaparinga Valley & Nairne Roads, Woodside, South Australia.



District of Onkaparinga Roll of Honour

(Photo from Monument Australia – Georgina Bliss)

T. S. Robinson is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

(85 pages of Private Thomas Shipley 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



Private T. S. ROBINSON.

Private Thomas Shipley Robinson

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 September, 1918)

Newspaper Notices

THE WAR

187th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SICK

434 Pte T. S. ROBINSON, Oakbank

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 27 July, 1916) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 29 July, 1916)

THE AUSTRALIANS

CASUALTY LIST NO. 415

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WOUNDED

434 - Pte T. S. ROBINSON, Oakbank

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 July, 1918)

CASUALTIES

The latest casualty list contains the names of the following Southern District soldiers:-

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Wounded - Pte T. S. Robinson, Oakbank

(*The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, South Australia – 12 July, 1918)

CASUALTIES

The latest casualty list contains the names of the following Southern District soldiers:-

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Died of illness – Pte T. S. Robinson, Oakbank

(*The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, South Australia – 2 August, 1918)

419th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died Other Causes

434 Pte T. S. ROBINSON, Oakbank, illness, 11/7/18, p.r. wnd

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 3 August, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR: THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR KING AND COUNTRY



(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 September, 1918) ↑

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

ROBINSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private T. S. Robinson, who died in England, 11th July, 1918.

God's way is surely best,
Dear weary one;
Lay down upon His Breast,
God's only Son.

-Inserted by his loving mother and sister and brothers, Oakbank.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 July, 1919) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 July, 1919)

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 T. S. Robinson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

**A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery.
In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)**



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Private T. S. Robinson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

