

# Durrington War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**2388 PRIVATE**

**WILLIAM RAZEY ROBINSON**

**43RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**7TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 37**

*Token Of Love*

*To The Memory*

*Of My Dear Husband*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte Robinson is located in Grave Plot # 185  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## William Razey ROBINSON

William Razey Robinson was born at Tallana Station, New South Wales in 1881 to parents Samuel & Elizabeth Jane Robinson (nee Allen).

William Razey Robinson married Amy Ann Jefferies in Perth, Western Australia in 1903. Newspaper Notice – The West Australian, Perth – Wednesday 16th September, 1903:

*ROBINSON-JEFFERIES – At the Cathedral, by Dean Goldsmith, on June 15, 1903, William Razey Robinson, Canning Mills, to Amy Ann Jeffries, second daughter of William Jeffries, Albany. Adelaide and Albany papers please copy.*

William Razey Robinson was a 34 year old, married, Farmer from Manjimup, Western Australia when he enlisted on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1916 with the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2388 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Amy Ann Robinson of Manjimup, W.A. (Later c/- Mrs G. H. Corboy of 22 Woolwich Street, Leederville, Western Australia).

Pte William Razey Robinson embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 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.

Pte William Razey Robinson was marched in to 11<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, Durrington, Wiltshire on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Pte William Razey Robinson was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1917. He was reported with severe pneumonia on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1917. Mrs A. A. Robinson was advised of her husband's illness.

Private William Razey Robinson died at 4.30 p.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pneumonia. Pte William Razey Robinson was one of six soldiers to die in a period of 24 hours - all related to pneumonia, influenza & bronchitis:

(Pte Thomas Dunn 2323; died 4.00 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 / Pte William Razey Robinson 2388; died 4.30 p.m. / Charles Young 6842; died 6.50 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 / Thomas Joseph Desmond 2300; died 7 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 / Henry Walter Sharp 6180; died 4.20 a.m. 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & Herbert Hector Seefeldt 6215; died 11 a.m. 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1917)

A death for William R. Robinson, aged 36, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private William Razey Robinson was buried on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 185 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Pte William Razey Robinson was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Robinson's widow – Mrs A. A. Robinson (sent December, 1921 & July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Rayey Robinson – service number 2388 as being 27 years old & served with 43rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Jane Robinson; husband of Amy Ann Robinson of Gregory Street, Geraldton, Western Australia. Born in New South Wales.

Private W. R. Robinson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 137.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

(55 pages of Pte William Razey 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*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

273<sup>rd</sup> OFFICIAL LIST

ILL

Private W. R. Robinson, Manjimup, seriously.

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – Monday 19 February, 1917)

## **W.A. CASUALTIES**

### ROLL OF HONOUR – 274<sup>th</sup> CASUALTY LIST

#### DEATHS

W. R. ROBINSON, Manjimup, died of illness, previously reported seriously ill.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – Tuesday 27 February, 1917)*

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#### **IN MEMORIAM**

##### ANZAC HEROES

ROBINSON – In fond and loving memory of my dearly beloved husband, Private William Razey Robinson, died February 7, 1917, in England, of pneumonia.

A well-earned rest.

Inserted by his sorrowing wife, Amy Ann Robinson.

*(The West Australian, Perth – Thursday 7 February, 1918)*

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#### **IN MEMORIAM**

ROBINSON – In fond and loving memory of my dearly beloved husband, Private William Razey Robinson, died February 7, 1917, in England, of pneumonia.

One sad year has passed, dear Will

Since you were called away, And left behind your dear ones

To mourn your loss to-day.

While you were spared on earth to us

All life seemed bright and gay,

But sadness fills our hearts and homes,

Since death called you away.

Sleep on dear Will, safe on the bosom of thy

God. As time goes on we miss you more.

Inserted by his sorrowing and lonely wife, Amy Ann Robinson.

*(Western Mail, Perth – Friday 15 February, 1918)*

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#### 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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)*

Pte William Razey Robinson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Token Of Love To The Memory Of My Dear Husband*

Photo of Pte William Razey Robinson's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo © Ian King - with permission)*



**Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire** *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*