

Blackley Jewish Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1613 PRIVATE

H. ROLBIN

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 28

Sadly Missed By

His Mother,

Brother & Sisters

Harris ROLBIN

Harris Rolbin was born in February, 1890 at Redbank, Manchester, Lancashire, England to parents Hyman and Yetta Rolbin.

The Admission Register for Manchester Southall St. School records that Harris Rolbin was admitted to the school in April, 1899 & left on 25th August, 1902. In May, 1891 a Jewish Mixed department was opened at Southall Street School.

The 1901 England Census recorded Harris Rolbin as a 10 year old living with his family at 7 Moreton St, Cheetham, North Manchester, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Hyman Rolbin (Horse Dealer – Employer, aged 36, born Russia) & Yetta Rolbin (aged 37, born Russia). Harris was one of six children listed on this Census – Annie Rolbin (aged 15, born Russia), Nathan Rolbin (aged 13, born Russia), then Harris, Eva Rolbin (aged 8, born Manchester, Lancashire), Carrie Rolbin (aged 3, born Manchester, Lancashire) & Florrie Rolbin (aged 12 months, born Manchester, Lancashire). Also listed was Sam Servin, a cousin (Groom, aged 21, born Russia) & also Hannah Morris (General Domestic Servant, aged 50, born Furness Abbey, Lancashire).

Mr H. Rolbin, Farmer, aged 18, was listed as a passenger on *Moravian* which departed from London, England on 19th January, 1909 & was contracted to land at Sydney, NSW, Australia.

[The 1911 England Census listed the Rolbin family living at Bowlee Farm, Bowlee, Middleton, Lancashire, in a 9 roomed dwelling. The family consisted of Hyman Rolbin (Farmer & Horse dealer, aged 46, born Minsk, Russia), Gertrude Rolbin (aged 47, born Minsk, Russia) - wife of Hyman – married 28 years & had 12 children, 4 having died. There were five children listed on this Census – Eva Rolbin (Dressmaker, aged 19, born Salford, Lancashire), Teresa Rolbin (Weaver, aged 14, born Salford, Lancashire), Florence Rolbin (School, aged 11, born Manchester, Lancashire), Minnie Rolbin (School, aged 9, born Manchester, Lancashire) & Celia Rolbin (School, aged 9, born Manchester, Lancashire). Also listed were 3 servants – Emily Hartland (General Servant, aged 51, widow, born Cookfield, London), James Evans (Farm Labourer, aged 68, born Winnington, Shropshire) & John Wilkinson (Farm Labourer, aged 18, born Salford, Lancashire).]

The 1913 Australian Electoral for the division of Hartley, subdivision of Portland, NSW listed Harris Rolbin, Engine Cleaner of Portland.

Harris Rolbin was a 24 year old, single, Locomotive Fireman from Elizabeth Street, Picton, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, NSW on 7th December, 1914 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1613 & his religion was Church of England*. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs T. Robbin of Bowlee Farm, Middleton, Lancashire, England. (Note: Harris Rolbin listed his religion as Church of England but his CWGC headstone is inscribed with the Star of David symbol which represents the Jewish faith).

Private Harris Rolbin embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Seang Choon (A49)* on 11th February, 1915.

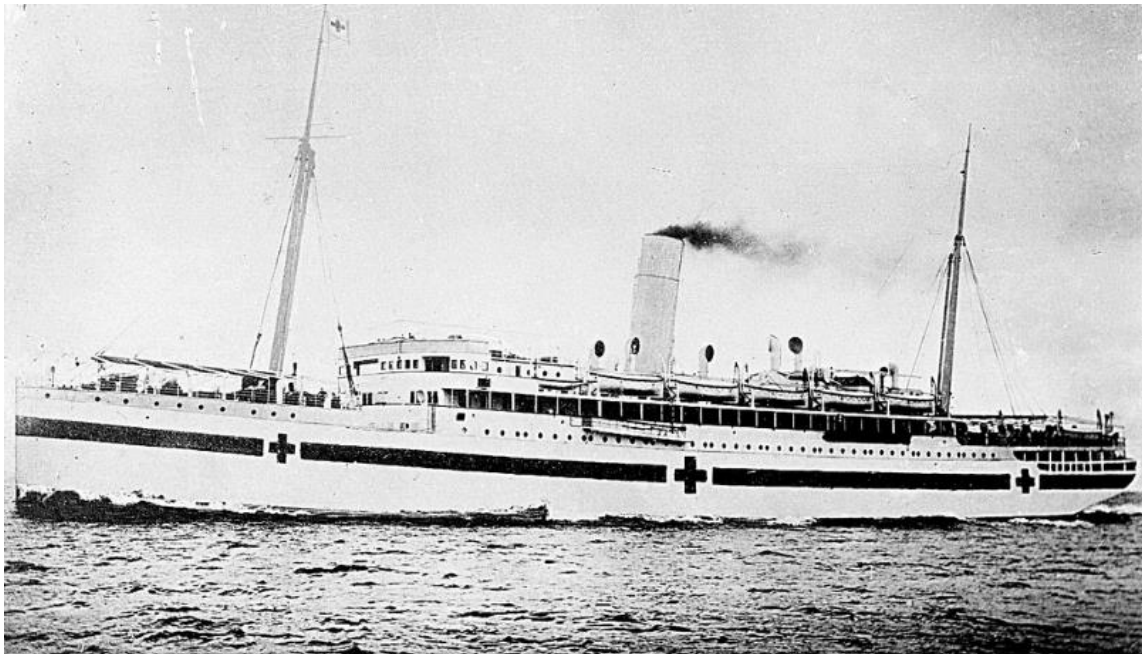
Private Harris Rolbin embarked on *Derflinger* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on 5th April, 1915.

Private Harris Rolbin was wounded in action at Gallipoli between 25th April & 2nd May, 1915 (Dates as recorded on Pte Rolbin's Casualty Form – Active Service). He was admitted to Alexandria Government Hospital on 30th April, 1915. Pte Rolbin was transferred to Convalescent Camp at Mustapha on 20th May, 1915. He was admitted to Egypt Government Hospital on 24th May, 1915 with a Fever. Pte Rolbin was admitted to No. 17 General Hospital at Alexandria on 18th June, 1915 then transferred to Convalescent Camp at Mustapha on 29th June, 1915 with Rheumatic Fever.

A Medical Report was completed on 5th July, 1915 at Mustapha on Pte Harris Rolbin regarding his Rheumatic Fever "*Date of origin of disability – 1st June, 1915 at Mustapha Convalescent Depot. Patient states that he commenced with great pain & swelling of both knees which afterwards fled to the shoulders and wrists. He was removed to Hospital & admitted with a temperature of 103". He was detained there a fortnight and has had a slight relapse here.*

The cause of the disability was given as a) damp & b) aggravated by climatic conditions. His present condition was listed as – unable to walk without the use of a stick. He complains of great weakness and breathlessness upon exertion. He has a very faint systolic murmur of myocardial origin. He is still having joint pain and swellings. Endocarditis was contracted in Convalescent Depot while recovering from wounds received in action resulting in mitral incompetence. It was recommended that Pte Rolbin be discharged as permanently unfit. Patient wishes to be discharged to England as all relatives are there.

Pte Rolbin was transferred to Convalescent Camp at Cairo on 29th July, 1915. Pte Rolbin was marked for transfer to England on 21st September, 1915 & transferred to New Zealand & Australian Convalescent Depot at Helouan on 22nd September, 1915. He embarked for England on 23rd September, 1915 from Alexandria on Hospital Ship *Karoola*.



Hospital Ship *Karoola*

Private Harris Rolbin was admitted to Reading War Hospital on 5th October, 1915 with a gunshot wound to left shoulder & Rheumatic fever. He was discharged on 11th October, 1915. (Records do not shown any other details until 27th October, 1915).

Private Harris Rolbin was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester on 27th October, 1915 with Cardiac Neurosis. He was discharged on 3rd November, 1915. (Records do not shown any other details until 4th March, 1916).

Private Harris Rolbin was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester on 4th March, 1916 suffering from Dementia. The Hospital Admissions form has the following remarks on Pte Rolbin's condition: "*This patient has had several attacks of violence, two yesterday and again today from two to five o'clock, and with his fists broke to large windows. He held attendants at bay armed with a piece of wood. There is no doubt of his unsound state of mind, He is now fixed in a straight-jacket.*" Pte Rolbin was discharged for transfer on 10th March, 1916.

Private Harris Rolbin was admitted to at Dykebar War Hospital, Paisley, Scotland on 10th March, 1916 suffering from Dementia praecox. The Hospital Admissions form has the following remarks on Pte Rolbin's condition: "*Remained in an acutely hallucinated state for some months, and dementia then set in and has been gradually deepening with signs of general cerebral atrophy.*"

The following was listed in Private Harris Rolbin's records but based on the comments above for the Hospitals in Manchester & Paisley – it appears the following is an error "*was taken on strength at No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 27th April, 1916. Taken on strength at No. 1 Command Depot at Salisbury Base Depot on Routine orders on 17th July, 1916.*"

A death was registered in the district of Oldham, Lancashire, in the June quarter, 1916 for Hyman Rolbin, aged 51.

Private Harris Rolbin died at 2.35 am on 18th January, 1917 at Dykebar War Hospital, Paisley, Scotland from General Cerebro Atrophy.

Private Harris Rolbin's body was sent to 32 Bellcote Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester from Dykebar War Hospital, Paisley, Scotland on 19th January, 1917. He was buried with a private funeral on 19th January, 1917 in Blackley Jewish Cemetery, Blackley, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number 2856 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Probate details for Harris Rolbin of 32 Bellcote Street, Cheetham, Manchester, a Private in the 3rd Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force, died 18th January, 1917 at Dykebar War Hospital, Paisley, Scotland. Administration Manchester 22 October 1917 to Yenti Rolbin, widow. Effects £155 6s. 1d.

Pte Harris Rolbin was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Rolbin's mother in England - Mrs Y. Rolbin, as the closest next-of-kin. (Plaque sent November, 1921).

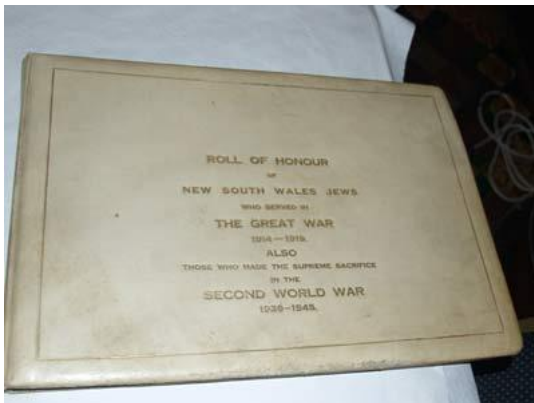
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harris Rolbin – service number 1613, aged 28, of 3rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Hyman and Yetta Rolbin, of 39 Bellcote St., Cheetham, Manchester.

Private H. Rolbin is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 38.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

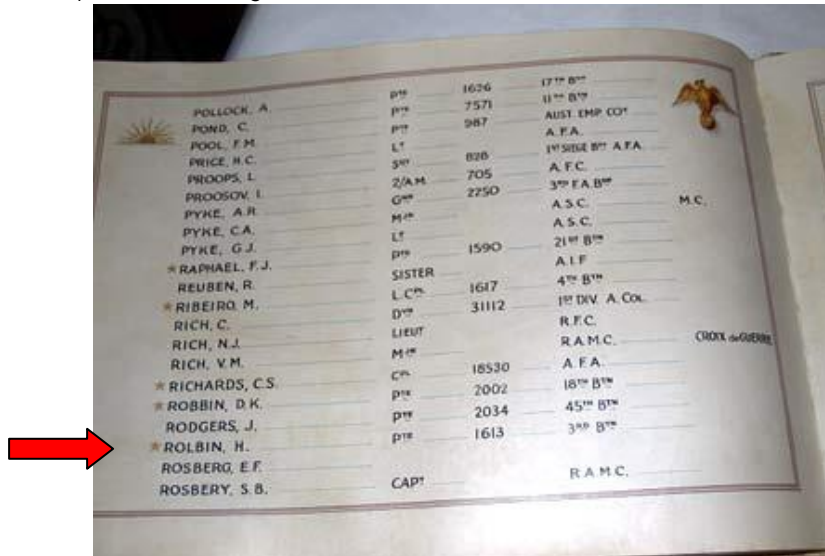
H. Rolbin is remembered in The Great Synagogue Roll of Honour Book located at The Great Synagogue, 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW.



The Great Synagogue Roll of Honour Book

List of those that died (above) & those that served (below)

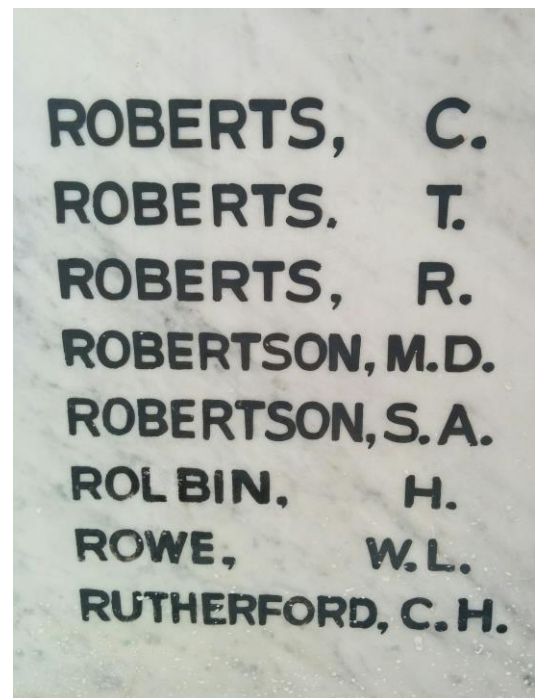
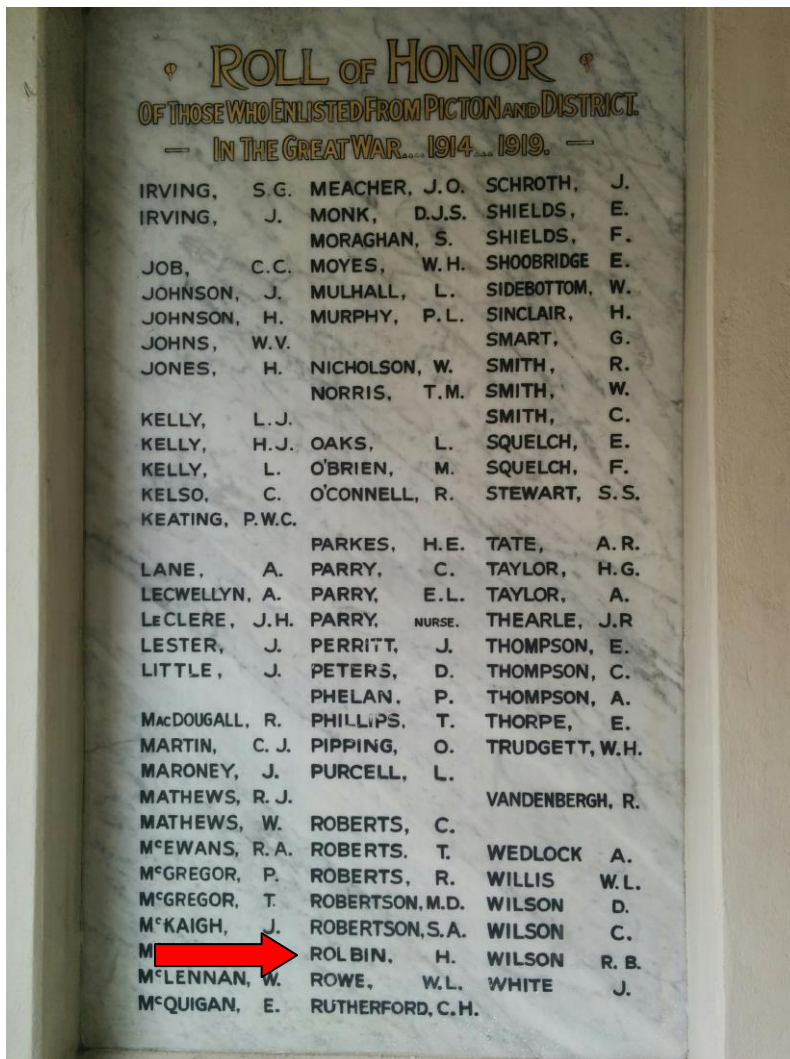
(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Peter Levarre-Waters)



H. Rolbin is remembered on the Picton and District Roll of Honour located at the entrance to the Soldiers Memorial School of Arts, 65 Menangle Street, Picton, NSW.



Picton and District Roll of Honour at Soldiers Memorial School of Arts (Photos by Michael Sedgwick)



(Note: Private H. Rolbin was originally recorded on the Picton and District Roll of Honour as H. Robbin. I advised Wollondilly Council at the time of researching – 2016 & they corrected the mistake.)

H. Rolbin is remembered on the “Entrance of Honour” at Picton Memorial Park, Argyle Street, Picton, NSW, however his name has been recorded as H. Robbin.

(Note: at the time of researching (February, 2020) Wollondilly Council was advised of the error)



“Entrance of Honour” at Picton Memorial Park (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



(4th Column)

(59 pages of Pte Harris Rolbin'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 Notices

PTE H. HOLBIN

(From our Portland Correspondent.)

Pte H. Rolbin, reported wounded, was a resident of the town for about 2 years, being employed as a cleaner in the loco department of the cement works. He had previously been engaged by the Commonwealth Oil Corporation at Newnes, in the loco department. His relatives reside in England.

(Lithgow Mercury, NSW – 4 June, 1915)

Our Wounded Soldiers



PTE H. ROLBIN

Wounded in the Dardanelles, was a resident of Portland for about two years. He was employed at the cement works, and is a native of England.

(Lithgow Mercury, NSW – 16 June, 1915)

Local Volunteers

Following are the names of those who have volunteered from Picton and District since the war started:-

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H. Rolbin

(The Picton Post, NSW – 15 November, 1916)

CASUALTIES

270th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Pte H. Rolbin, England

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 9 February, 1917)

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.

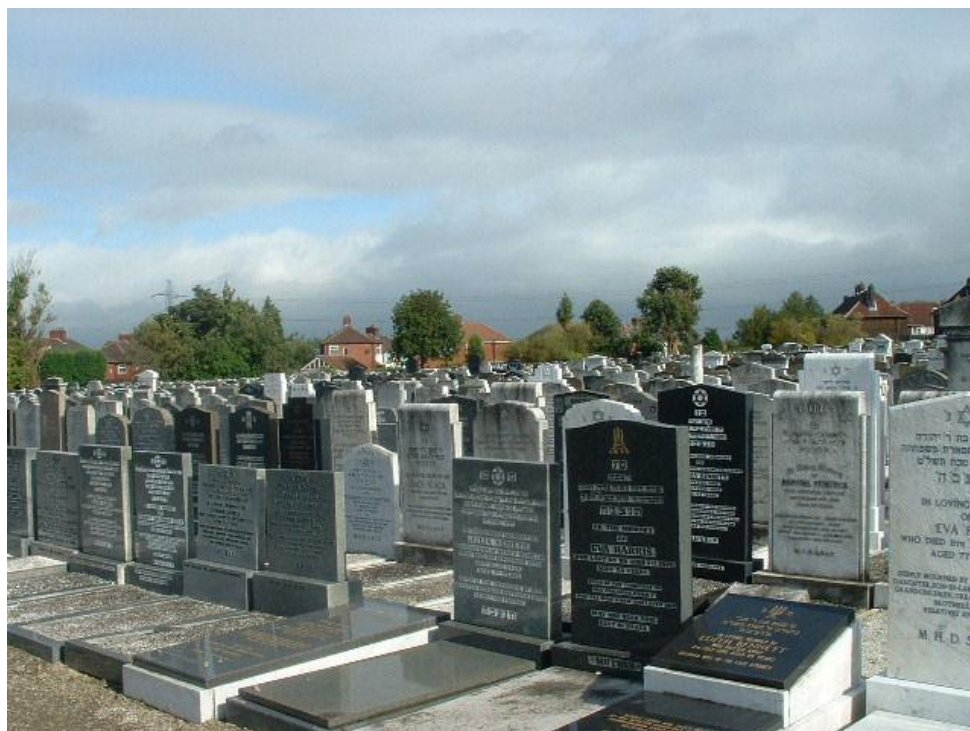
(*Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921*)

Pte H. Rolbin does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Sadly Missed By His Mother, Brother & Sisters

Blackley Jewish Cemetery, Blackley, Manchester, Lancashire, England

Blackley Jewish Cemetery, Blackley, Manchester, Lancashire contains 22 Commonwealth War Graves. 14 are from World War 1 with only 1 Australian Forces burial & 8 from World War 2. There is also 1 American Foreign National burial.



(Photo courtesy of Mike Berrell)

Photo of Pte H. Rolbin's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Blackley Jewish Cemetery, Blackley, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Mike Berrell)