

**Bonhill Parish Churchyard,
Dunbartonshire, Scotland**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



21 DRIVER

R. STRACHAN

7TH AUSTRALIAN BDE. H. Q.

25TH DECEMBER, 1919 Age 39

Responsive
To His Empire's Call
He Gave His Life
He Gave His All

Robinson STRACHAN

Robinson Strachan was born at Bonhill, Dunbartonshire, Scotland in 1880 to parents Duncan and Margaret Walker Thomson Strachan.

The 1881 Scotland Census recorded Robinson Strachan as a 6 month old, living with his family at 239 Main Street, Bonhill, Dunbartonshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Duncan Strachan (Printfield Worker, aged 39, born Bonhill, Dunbartonshire) & Margaret Strachan (aged 35, born Bonhill, Dunbartonshire). Robinson was the youngest of six children listed on this Census, all born Bonhill, Dunbartonshire – Charles Strachan (Printfield Worker, aged 13), John Strachan (Scholar, aged 11), James Strachan (Scholar, aged 6), Duncan Strachan, aged 4), Elizabeth Strachan (aged 2) then Robinson.

Robinson Strachan attended Public School at Bonhill, Dunbartonshire, Scotland.

The 1891 Scotland Census recorded Robinson Strachan as a 10 year old Scholar, living with his family at 127 Main Street, Bonhill, Dunbartonshire, Scotland. His mother – Margaret Strachan was listed as Head of the household (aged 45). Robinson was one of eight children listed on this Census – James Strachan (Printfield Worker, aged 16). Duncan Strachan (Printfield Worker, aged 14), Elizabeth Strachan (Scholar, aged 12), then Robinson, Alexander Strachan (Scholar, aged 8), Peter Strachan (Scholar, aged 6), Norman Strachan (aged 4) & Joseph Strachan (aged 3).

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded Robertson Strachan as a 20 year old, Cabinet Shop Hand, living with his family at 127 Main Street, Bonhill, Dunbartonshire, Scotland. His mother – Margaret Strachan was listed as Head of the household (aged 51). Robinson was one of six children listed on this Census – James Strachan (Cloth Capper (Printfield), aged 26), Bessie Strachan (Printfield Hand, aged 22), then Robinson, Alexander Strachan (Ship Yard Riestter (app), aged 18), Peter Strachan Shoemaker (app), aged 16) & Norman Strachan (Stable Boy, aged 14).

Robinson Strachan, Machinist, aged 27 was a passenger on the *Laurieton* which sailed from Glasgow on 4th October, 1907. His nearest relative was listed as James Strachan, 107 Main Street, Bonhill & his final destination was Lowell, Massachusetts

A "Robinson Strachan", Stone-worker, aged 27, was listed as a passenger on the *Baltic* which had departed from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States & arrived at the port of Liverpool, England on 17th June, 1908.

Robinson Strachan, Farmer, aged 31, was listed as a passenger on *Whakatane* which had departed from London on 27th November, 1909 & arrived in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia on 21st January, 1910. Also listed were Robinson's brothers – Jas. T. Strachan, Farmer, aged 34, Peter Strachan, Farmer, aged 28 & Norman Strachan, Farmer, aged 25.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Tamworth, subdivision of Werris Creek, listed Robinson Strachan, Labourer from Werris Creek, NSW.

Robinson Strachan was a 34 year old, Grocer & Engineer from corner of Logan Road & Desha Street, South Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 10th May, 1915 with the Army Service Corps, Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6739 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his brother - Mr J. T. Strachan, Grocer and Fruiterer corner of Logan Road & Desha Street, South Brisbane, Queensland. Robinson Strachan served for four years in Volunteer Service of Territorials at Dunbartonshire, Scotland.

Driver Robinson Strachan was posted to 17th Company, Australian Army Service Corps on 25th April, 1915. He was transferred to 7th Infantry Brigade, Headquarters Staff on 16th May, 1915 & reissued a Service number of 21.

Driver Robinson Strachan was written up for being absent without leave on 8th June, 1915 while posted to Greenhill Camp, Alderley, Queensland. He forfeited 2 days' pay & 1 day detention.

Driver Robinson Strachan embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 29th June, 1915 with 7th Infantry Brigade, Headquarters Staff.

Driver Robinson Strachan was admitted to 6th Field Ambulance on 3rd February, 1916 then transferred the same day to No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir with haemorrhoids. He was discharged to duty on 29th February, 1916.

Driver Robinson Strachan returned from Hospital to his Brigade on 29th February, 1916 at Ismalia. He was reported to be in hospital on 3rd February, 1916.

Driver Robinson Strachan proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 14th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 19th March, 1916.

Driver Robinson Strachan was admitted to 7th Field Ambulance on 17th December, 1916 with Rheumatism & discharged to his Unit on 26th December, 1916.

Driver Robinson Strachan was reported with his Unit – 7th Brigade Headquarters on 10th December, 1918.

Driver Robinson Strachan was on leave from France to England from 12th December, 1918 to 26th December, 1918. Another line on the Casualty Form – Active Service for Driver Strachan states he was on leave to UK from 11th December, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from Leave on 2nd January, 1919.

Driver Robinson Strachan was marked for transfer to England on 24th January, 1919 ready for return to Australia.

Driver Robinson Strachan was marched in to A.I.B.D (Australian Infantry Base Depot) on 27th January, 1919 & marched out to England on 29th January, 1919. Driver Robinson Strachan disembarked from France on 30th January, 1919 at Weymouth & marched in to 3rd Training Brigade in England the same day.

Driver Robinson Strachan was written up for an Offence while posted at Hurdcott, Wiltshire – Absent without leave from 09.30 hrs on 4th March, 1919 to 17.00 hrs on 31st March, 1919. He was awarded a forfeiture of 28 days pay with a total forfeiture of 56 days on 1st April, 1919.

Driver Robinson Strachan was admitted to 3rd Western General Hospital at Neath, England on 11th April, 1919 suffering from Debility.

Driver Robinson Strachan was transferred to St. John's Hospital, Barry Island, Barry on 31st August, 1919.

Driver Robinson Strachan was reported as dangerously ill at Cardiff Military Hospital, Wales on 29th October, 1919. He was reported as still dangerously ill on 29th November, 1919.

Driver Robinson Strachan was reported as still a patient a Military Hospital Cardiff on 3rd December, 1919 with Diabetes.

Driver Robinson Strachan died at 3.10 pm on 25th December, 1919 at Barracks Hospital, Cardiff, Wales from Diabetes.

A death for Robertson Strachan, aged 38, was registered in the December quarter, 1919 in the district of Cardiff, Wales.

Driver Robinson Strachan was buried in Bonhill Parish Churchyard, Dumbarton, Scotland – Plot number 24A and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Driver Robinson Strachan - *Coffin was Elm with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral. The funeral left the residence of his brother Mr D. Strachan, 16 Smollett Street, Alexandria, where a service had previously been held. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Members of the Discharged Soldiers and Sailors Association acted as pallbearers whilst a number also marched in front of the hearse. A number of relatives and friends were also present. A Piper from the Argyle Regiment was also in attendance and played en route to the cemetery and also at the graveside. The Last Post was sounded at the graveside by a bugler from the Discharged Soldiers and Sailors Association. Wreaths were sent on behalf of: Mr & Mrs Duncan Strachan, Mr & Mrs John Kennedy, His Brothers in Australia. A representative of these Headquarters was present.*

Relatives in Attendance at the funeral – Brothers & Sisters – Mr & Mrs D. Strachan & Family, Cpl & Mrs J. Kennedy, 16 Smallett Street, Alexandria, Dumbartonshire, Scotland. Uncle & Aunt – Mr & Mrs J. McCallum – Balloch. Uncle – Mr John Parlance. Cousins – Mrs John Robertson & Mr Joseph McCallum.

Mr James Strachan, Fletcher's Siding, Queensland, wrote to Base Records in March, 1920 with the following letter: *"I am in receipt of your letter of 3rd March, informing me of the details of the final disposal of the remains of my brother, the late No. 21 Driver R. Strachan, 7th Inf. Brigade. I feel my thanks are due to you and the Department which you represent for the consideration and courtesy shown in this matter and I thank you personally for the sympathetic manner in which you carry out your duties."*

Base Records contacted Mr J. Strachan, c/o J. B. Kennedy, Esq. Bay Terrace, Wynnum, Queensland, in June, 1921 as the registered next-of-kin of the late Driver R. Strachan & were enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than himself due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mr James Strachan replied that both parents were deceased and buried in Scotland & that he was the eldest living son of the family. As a result of the enquiry the War Medals in respect of the service of the late Driver Robinson Strachan were awarded to his eldest brother – Mr James Strachan.

Driver Robinson Strachan was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver R. Strachan's eldest brother - Mr James Strachan, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Robinson Strachan – service number 21, aged 39, of 7th Australian Infantry Brigade. He was the son of Duncan and Margaret Walker Thomson Strachan. Born at Bonhill.

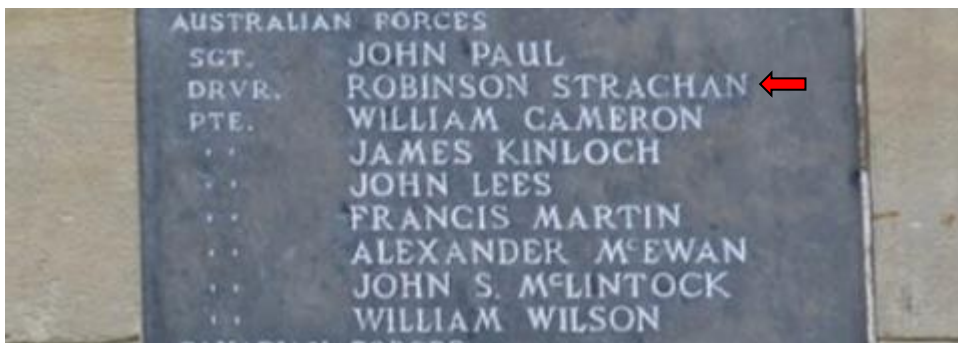
Robinson Strachan is remembered on the Bonhill Parish War Memorial (north side of Cenotaph) which lies in Christie Park, Alexandria.



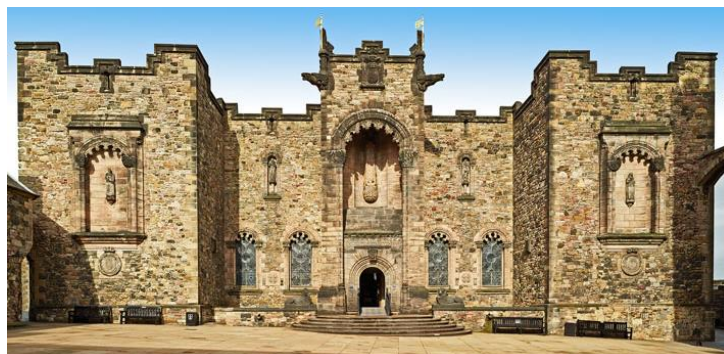
(Photos J. M. Briscoe)



Alexandria / Bonhill/ Vale of Leven Parish War Memorial



Robinson Strachan is remembered in the Roll of Honour Books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial



The Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour Books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



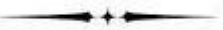
Driver R. Strachan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 2.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(85 pages of Driver Robinson Strachan'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

PERSONAL NOTES

Mr Strachan, Fletcher, late Logan road, Brisbane, has been advised by cable that his brother Driver Robinson Strachan, Headquarters 7th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F., died in Australian Military Hospital on Christmas Day. Driver Strachan joined the A.I.F. at Enoggera early in 1915. He went to Egypt and from to France. He was in France when the armistice was declared, and contracted the fatal illness while being drafted to England on a 36-hour leave.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 3 January, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – At Australian Military Hospital, Cardiff, Wales, Driver Robinson Strachan, headquarters, 7th Inf. Brigade, A.I.F., after a lingering illness, on Christmas Day, 25th December, 1919. By Cable.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 3 January, 1920)

CASUALTY LIST NO. 478

A casualty List, No. 478, has been issued by the military authorities.

Dvr Robinson Strachan, 7th I.B. Hq., died 25/12/19, of illness (previously reported ill), Fletcher's Siding.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 16 January, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, No. 21, 7th Brigade, Headquarters, A.I.F., who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, after 4 ½ years active service and interred in Bonhill, Scotland.

One of the unreturning heroes.

“Memories”

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

STRACHAN – To the honour and in loving memory of our dear brother, No. 21, Driver Robinson Strachan, 7th Inf. Brigade, H.Q., A.I.F., who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, after 4 ½ years active service. Interred in Bonhill churchyard, Scotland.

Responsive to his Empire's call

He gave his life, he gave his all.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 24 December, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – To the honour and loving memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, No. 21 Headquarters, A.I.F., who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, after 4 ½ years active service.

“Passed out of the sight of man through the pathway of duty.”

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

STRACHAN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, No. 21 Headquarters, A.I.F., who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, after 4 ½ years active service.

“One of the unreturned heroes.”

Inserted by his loving brothers, James and Peter, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

STRACHAN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Driver R. Strachan, late 7th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F., who died of illness at Cardiff Military Hospital, Wales, England, on Christmas Day, 1919.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, N. and J. Strachan

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 24 December, 1921)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – To the honour and in loving memory of Driver Robinson Strachan, A.I.F., who died at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, on Christmas Day, 1919, after 4 ½ years active service.

Remembrance

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 23 December, 1922)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – To the honour and loving memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, A.I.F., who died , on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, after 4 ½ years active service. Interred at Bonhill, Dumbartonshire, Scotland.

“Remembrance.”

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

STRACHAN – In loving memory of Driver Robinson Strachan, No. 21, 7th Infantry Brigade, H.Q., Australian Imperial Forces, who died at Cardiff Military Hospital, on 25th December, 1919.

Inserted by Mr and Mrs Peter Strachan, “Glenwood” Palmwoods.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 24 December, 1923)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – To the honour and loving memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, No. 21, Headquarters, 7th Infantry Brigade, who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, after 4 ½ years active service.

“Memories”

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

STRACHAN – To the honour and loving memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, No. 21, Headquarters, 7th Infantry Brigade, who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, after 4 ½ years active service.

“To memory dear”

Inserted by Mr and Mrs Norman G. Strachan, Ashby-street, Fairfield.

STRACHAN – To the honour and loving memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, No. 21, Headquarters, 7th Infantry Brigade, who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, after 4 ½ years active service.

“Remembrance”

Inserted by Jim.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 24 December, 1924)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – To the honour and in loving memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, 7th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F., who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, after 4 ½ years active service.

“*Remembrance*”

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 26 December, 1925)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – A tribute of love to the memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, Headquarters, 7th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F., who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, after 4 ½ years active service. Interred at Bonhill, Scotland.

We hold you still in memory,

As the years may come and go.

Inserted by Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy and James Strachan, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 24 December, 1926)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – To the honour and loving memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, 7th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F., who died at the military hospital, Cardiff, England, on Christmas Day, 1919, after 4 ½ years active service.

“Remembrance”

Inserted by Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy, and James Strachan, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 24 December, 1927)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – A tribute of love to the memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, No. 21 Headquarters, 7th Brigade, A.I.F., who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at Cardiff Military Hospital, England.

“Remembrance”

Inserted by Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy, and James Strachan, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 24 December, 1928)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – A tribute of love to the memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, A.I.F., who passed away at Cardiff Military Hospital, England, on Christmas Day, 1919.

“His duty nobly done”

Inserted by Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy and James Strachan, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 24 December, 1929)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STRACHAN – A tribute of love to the memory of our dear brother, Driver Robinson Strachan, 7th Brigade Headquarters, A.I.F., who died on Christmas Day, 1919, at the Military Hospital, Cardiff, England. Interred at Bonhill, Scotland.

“His memory kept green”

Inserted by Mr and Mrs John B. Kennedy, and James Strachan, Bay-terrace, Wynnum South.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 24 December, 1930)

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)

Driver R. Strachan does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Responsive To His Empire's Call He Gave His Life He Gave His All

Bonhill Parish Churchyard, Dunbartonshire, Scotland

Bonhill Parish Churchyard, Dunbartonshire contains 4 Commonwealth War Graves – 3 relating to World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



Bonhill Parish Church (Photo by Lairich Rig & below by Steven Sweeney)



Photo of Driver R. Strachan's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bonhill Parish Churchyard, Dunbartonshire, Scotland.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Jim Dallas)