

PRIVATE BEN ROBINSON 142254

21<sup>st</sup> Battalion Machine Gun Corps formerly

Leicestershire Regiment

Killed in action Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 1918

Born in Burbage Enlisted Hinckley

Living in Burbage, Age 22

Adnac Military Cemetery, Miraumont & Pys France

Plot 3 row K Grave 1

Son of Mr James and Mrs Emma Robinson of 39 Lutterworth Rd, Burbage

Burbage War memorial

St Catherine's Church memorial

Bible, St Catherine's Church.

Former Ancient Order of Forester's memorial.



Ben Robinson was the fourth of the thirteen children of James and Emma Robinson. The family lived in a small seven-room cottage, at 39 Lutterworth Rd. It was here Ben was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 1895.



James & Emma Robinson



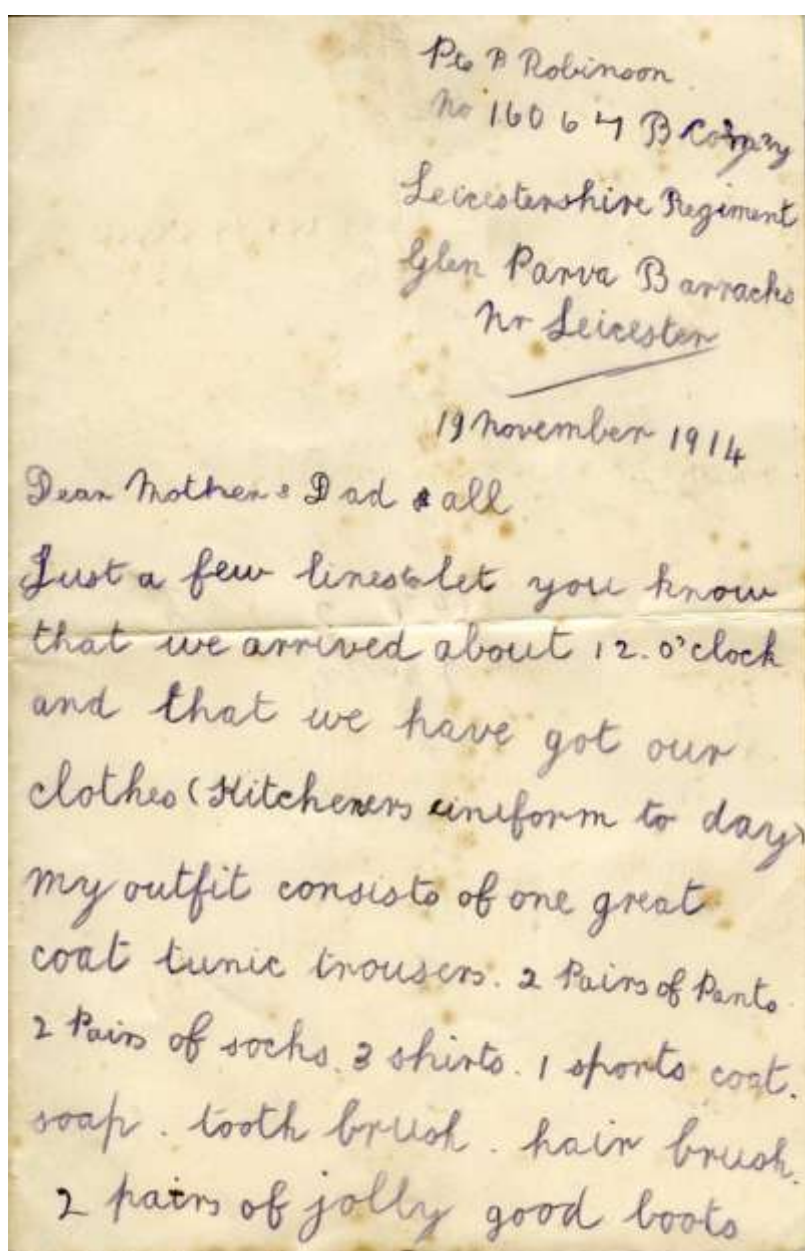
Lutterworth Road

Following his elder siblings, Ben started at the Burbage National School under the headship of Charles Higham at the age of three, leaving at the age of thirteen to follow the rest of the family into the hosiery trade at Robinsons Hosiery factory near their home on Lutterworth Rd.

From Ben's letters it appears he enlisted at Hinckley on or near his eighteenth birthday in November 1914.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> 1914, he was sent to join the B Company Leicestershire Regiment at Glen Parva Barracks for basic training. In the first of his letters home, he mentions being issued with his 'Kitchener's uniform' –

One great coat, tunic trousers, 2 pairs of pants, 2 pairs of socks, 3 shirts, 1 sports coat, soap, toothbrush, hair brush and 2 pairs of jolly good boots.



P.O. Robinson  
No 16064 B Company  
Leicestershire Regiment  
Glen Parva Barracks  
No Leicester

19 November 1914

Dear Mother & Dad & all

Just a few lines to let you know  
that we arrived about 12.0'clock  
and that we have got our  
clothes (Kitchener's uniform to day)  
my outfit consists of one great  
coat tunic trousers. 2 Pairs of Pants.  
2 Pairs of socks. 3 shirts. 1 sports coat.  
soap. tooth brush. hair brush.  
2 pairs of jolly good boots

and several other little things  
I dont have any body to call  
me now. We have to get  
up at six o'clock and drill at  
seven o'clock. We have cocoa  
first thing in the morning  
I think I have told you  
about all this time I dont  
know whether we shall get  
home on Saturday or not  
just remember <sup>em</sup> me to all at  
home.  
From your loving Son  
Ben x x x x x x x x x x

Page 2

Give these to Kate and  
Willie x x x x x x x x x x x x x x  

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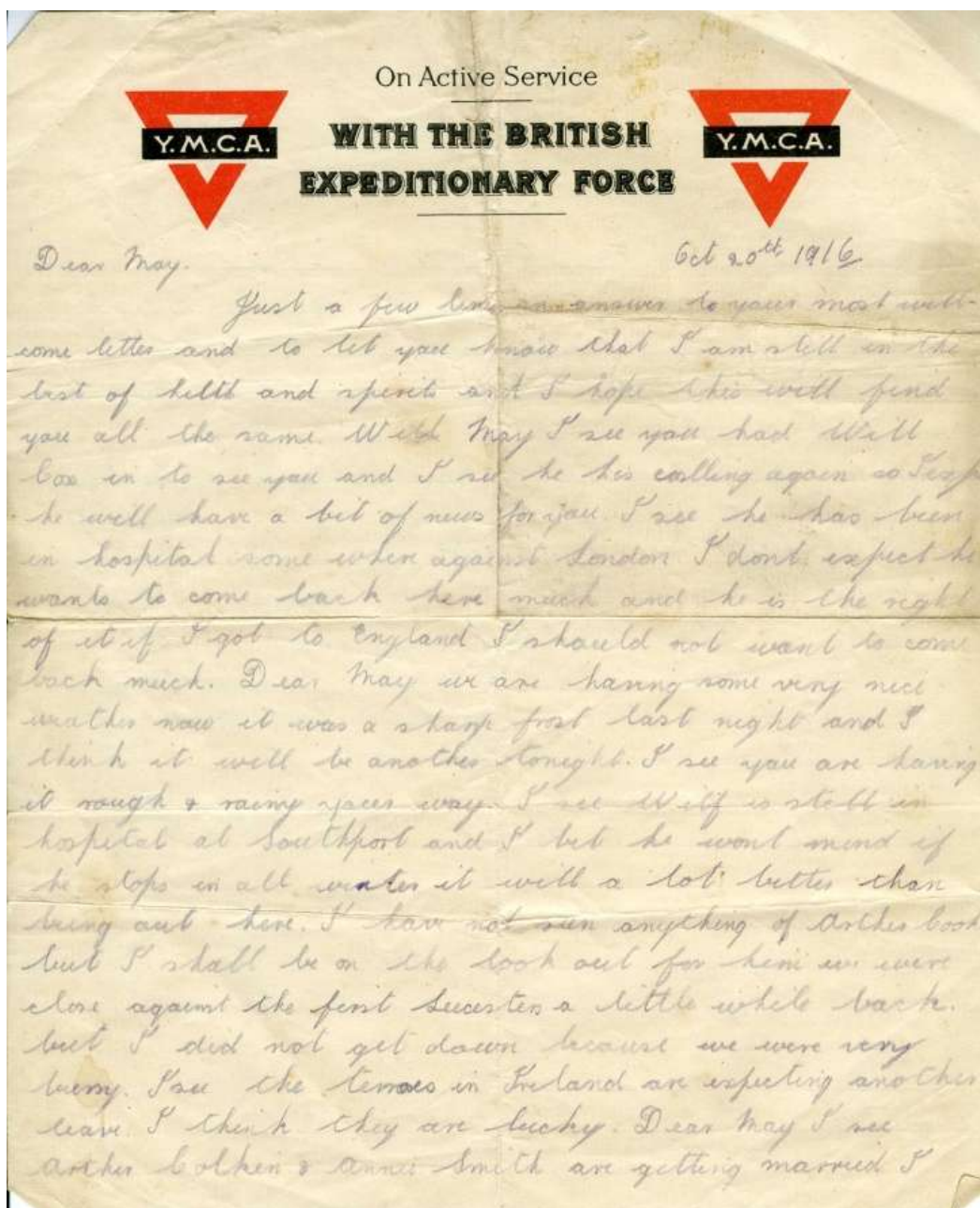
I have these between the girls  
x x

Mr J Robinson  
39 Sutterworth Rd  
Burbage  
Mr Stinchley  




By December 1914, he was in Aldershot 'being given plenty of drill'. He mentions many of the village lads including his brother Jerry who had enlisted at the same time.

In early 1915, he was with the British Expeditionary Force in France. It is unclear where he was stationed. He often mentions hopes of leave home and did get to visit Burbage at some point. His letters to his sisters are a fascinating but sad insight into what a young man would write from the front line. When his sister mentions they had seen four planes over Burbage, he replied they are quite commonplace here!



A letter home in 1916 – Page 1

Granddad Robinson & Granddad to Henry keep fairly well.  
 I heard about George Smith getting wounded. Dear May  
 that Billy Hurst the other day you know who I mean  
 him that worked down the quarry and he worked to be  
 remembered to all of you and just tell Aunt Kate that  
 I have seen him and worked to be remembered to her just  
 remember me to Daisy Bishop I have not seen anything  
 of Will Wigglesman. Pass little Emily often talks about  
 us. I expect she has a hard time I saw her last. Post  
 remembers me to all at Aunt Annie and Uncle Willie.  
 Dear May I think I have told you all the time in I  
 will now close with my very best love to all at  
 home. From your ever loving  
 brother  
 Ben x x x x x x x x x x

A letter home in 1916 – Page 2



Back, Ben & Fiance' Kate, Jerry & Wife, Front, Clara, Lizzie, May, Annie, Edith, Robinson.

By the summer of 1918, Ben and his brother Jerry who became a Sergeant had survived quite well.

In August 1918 Ben was on the Somme near Miraumont and Pys where the East Lancs had retaken the area on the 24th August. Along with forces from Canada and New Zealand, it was successfully held and was one of the final turning points in the War, the Germans had retreated to the Hindenburg line. In the first few days, the fighting was fierce and it was here Ben was killed on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 1918 age 22



Bet & Elaine at Ben Robinsons Grave. Adanac Cemetry.

Even as early as the 1920's members of the Robinson family have visited his grave at the Adanac Military Cemetery at Miraumont.

Three generations of the family have named a son Ben in his honour. In 1921, the Robinson family gave a bible to St Catherine's Church in his memory.



Ben Robinsons grave in Adanac Cemetry.