

PRIVATE DAVID ROBERTSON 20609

9th Battalion Leicester Regiment

Died of wounds Thursday 13th July 1916

Age 29

Born in Dull, Perthshire, Scotland

Enlisted in Leicester, Living in Burbage

Communal Cemetery Extension, Merricourt L'Abbe, France

Plot 2 Row D Grave 13

Son of Peter and Nellie Robertson, Scotland

Husband of Mrs Hilda Louise Robertson, one Daughter

15 Hinckley Road, Burbage

Burbage War Memorial

St Catherine's Church War Memorial

David Robertson was born in Dull, Perthshire a small rural village with a population of 140. By the time David had enlisted he was married with a small daughter and living at 15 Hinckley Road in a house next to the Cross Keys Inn, across the road from St Catherine's Church and the National School. The house was rented off the Paul family, builders whose yard was next to the house. David may have come to work in Burbage on the Church Tower in 1912. It is believed a Scottish firm were engaged to undertake the work.



Church Street opposite St Catherine's Church

The Hinckley Times, 12th August 1916, which reported David's death, appears to have two soldiers obituary is confused. A David MacDonald same age and date of death who is not on the Burbage Memorial.

If it is presumed, the obituary is of David Robertson it was reported - "News has been received in Burbage that Pte David Robertson has been killed in action in the great push. Both his legs were blown off by a bomb, death resulting shortly afterwards.

Deceased's remains were interred somewhere in France. Prior to enlisting Macdonald was engaged on the Burbage Waterworks Scheme. He enlisted 12 months ago in the 9th Leicester's. After 5 months training; he was sent over to France and after participating in several engagements, fell on July 13th, at the age of 28 years. He leaves a widow and one child".

The Burbage Waterworks Scheme was completed and opened by Edward Crump the Borough Engineer on the 30th July 1915, 12 months before David was killed, which probably was the time he enlisted after finishing working on the scheme.

The big push mentioned in the report was the Battle for the Somme, which started on 1st July 1916 when the British Army sustained the largest loses in one day in history.

Thirteen divisions launched an attack north of Maricourt despite heavy bombardment the German lines remained unbroken and in the following weeks vast resources were deployed, but it was not until the end of September that some success was gained, but at a cost of many thousand of lives including David Robertson's.

ANOTHER BURBAGE SOLDIER
KILLED.

News has been received in Burbage that Pte. David Roberston has been killed in action in the great push. Both his legs were blown off by a bomb, death resulting shortly afterwards.

Deceased's remains were interred somewhere in France. Prior to enlisting Macdonald was engaged on the Burbage water-



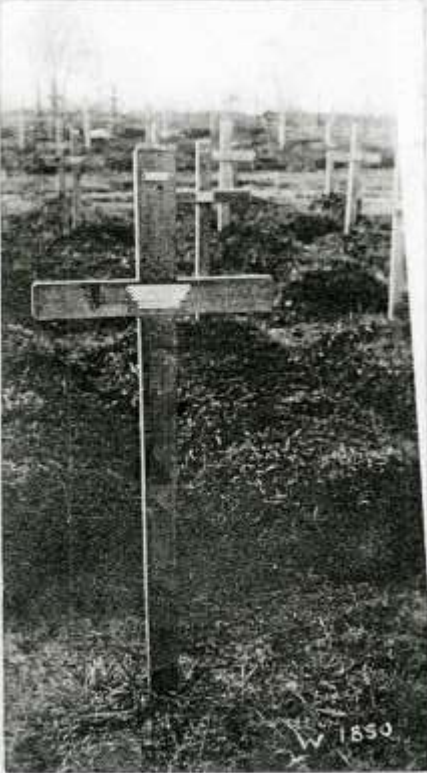
THE LATE PRIVATE DAVID ROBERTSON.

works scheme. He enlisted 12 months ago in the 9th Leicesters. After 5 months' training he was sent over to France, and after participating in several engagements, fell on July 13th, at the age of 28 years. He leaves a widow and one child.

David perhaps survived a few hours and was taken by field ambulance to the clearing medical railway station, where the injured could be moved out of the battle area quite quickly and dispatched to Nettle Hospital at Southampton. The men who died here were buried at Mericourt-L'abbe.

David's widow Hilda received a letter from David's commanding officer saying he was severely wounded in action on 13th July and was taken to the field ambulance where he died of his wounds later that day.

He was buried at 6pm on 14th July with military honours in the British Cemetery at Mericourt L'abbe. A temporary wooden cross was erected over his grave and later the War Graves Commission set a Portland stone. His wife paid the extra three pence halfpenny a letter for a private inscription- 'He died that we might live.'



Director of Graves Registration & Enquiries.

Begs to forward as requested a Photograph of
the Grave of :—

Name *Robertson*

Rank and Initials *Pte D.*

Regiment *9/Leicester Regiment*

Position of Grave *Mericourt L'Abbe*
Communal Cemetery Extension

Nearest Railway Station *Mericourt L'Abbe*

All communications respecting this Photograph should quote
the number *22/11601*) and be addressed to :—
Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries,
War Office,
Winchester House,
St. James's Square,
London, S.W., 1.

Owing to the circumstances in which the photographic work is carried
on, the Director regrets that in some cases only rough Photographs can
be obtained.

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110th Inf. Brigade.
B&F.

7. Aug. 1916.

Dear Mr^s Robertson.

You will already have heard the very sad news of the death of your husband.

Pte D. Robertson (20609) was ~~seriously~~ wounded in Action on July 13th, at the beginning of the great & victorious Battle, which the Commander-in-Chief speaks of as the greatest battle ever fought. He was taken to the Field Ambulance, where he died of his wounds later in the same day.

He was buried at 6. ~~am~~ pm. on July 14th, - with military honours, in the British Military Cemetery at Mericourt L'abbé, by the side of the graves of other brave men who have given their lives for their country. A little wooden Cross, bearing his name & Regiment & date of his death, has been set up over his grave.

We out here all understand that the greatest share of Sacrifice in this tremendous time of Sacrifice is being made

David's widow and daughter never visited his grave but in 2000, his two grandsons finally made the pilgrimage.

