



Private Ben Robinson 142254



21st Battalion Machine Gun Corps formerly
Leicestershire Regiment

Killed in action Sunday 25th August 1918

Born in Burbage Enlisted Hinckley
Living in Burbage, Age 22

Adnac Military Cemetery, Miraumont & Pys
France, Plot 3 row K Grave 1

Burbage War memorial

St Catherine's Church memorial, Dedicated
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 Road. It was here Ben was born on the 19th 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 Road.

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

On November 19th 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.

Pls P 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

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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 ^{em} me to all at home.

From your loving Son

Ben xxxxxxxx

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Give these to Kate and Willie xxxxxxxx

I have these between the girls
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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Mr J Robinson
39 Lutterworth Rd
Burbage
No Hinckley



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!

On Active Service
Y.M.C.A. WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE Y.M.C.A.

Dear May, 6th 20th 1916

Just a few lines to answer to your most welcome letter and to let you know that I am well on the best of health and spirits and I hope like will find you all the same. Well May I see you had all well. I see to see you and I see he has calling again so they will have a bit of news for you. I see he has been in hospital some when against London I don't expect he wants to come back here much and he is the right of it. I got to England I should not want to come back much. Dear May we are having some very nice weather now it was a sharp frost last night and I think it will be another tonight. I see you are having it rough & many ways. I see Will is still in hospital at Southport and I bet he won't mind of to stop in all winter it will a lot better than being out here. I have not seen anything of Arthur but I shall be on the look out for him as well as close against the front. Success a little while back but I did not get down because we were very busy. I see the losses in Ireland an awful one. I think they are lucky. Dear May I see Arthur & Anne Smith are getting married I

Granddad Robinson & Granddad to being kept fairly well. I heard about George how he getting wounded. I can't say I had fully heard the other day you know who I mean. I had that worked down the cooling and he worked to be remembered to all of you and just tell about Kate that I have seen her and worked to be remembered to her just remember to be Daisy. I have not seen anything of Will Wrightman. I see little Emily after talks about me. I expect she has altered a lot since I saw her last. I don't remember me to all of Aunt Annie and Uncle Willie. Dear May I think I have told you all the time and I will now close with my very best love to all at home. From your ever loving brother

Roxie x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

A letter home in 1916

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, set out on the headings of the Columns. The returns should be written in ink.

The contents of this Schedule will be treated as confidential. Great care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE	OCCUPATION OR DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE		BIRTHPLACE	NATIONALITY	INFERRENT
						Personal Occupation	Industry or Service with which he is connected			
1. James Robinson	Head	M	42	Married	1869	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
2. Emma Maria Robinson	Wife	F	38	Married	1873			Worcester	English	Burbage
3. Joseph Robinson	Son	M	20	Single	1891	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
4. Mary Robinson	Daughter	F	18	Single	1893	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
5. Edith Emma Robinson	Daughter	F	16	Single	1895	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
6. Ben Robinson	Son	M	15	Single	1896	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
7. Agnes Robinson	Daughter	F	13	Single	1898	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
8. Clara Robinson	Daughter	F	11	Single	1900	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
9. Annie Robinson	Daughter	F	10	Single	1901	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
10. James Robinson	Son	M	8	Single	1903	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
11. Thomas Robinson	Son	M	5	Single	1906	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
12. Catherine Margaret Robinson	Daughter	F	2	Single	1909	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage
13. William Robinson	Son	M	1	Single	1910	Housey Machine Maker	Housey Trade	Worcester	English	Burbage

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in connection, or in charge, of the dwelling)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: James Robinson
 Printed Address: 39 Lutterworth Road, Burbage, Leicestershire

1911 Census for 39 Lutterworth Road

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 25th August 1918 age 22.



Bel & Elaine at Ben Robinsons Grave, Adanac Cemetery.



Ben Robinsons grave in Adanac Cemetery.

Even as early as the 1920s members of the Robinson family had 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.



Back: Ben & fiancé Kate, Jerry & wife, Front: Clara, Lizzie, May, Annie, Edith Robinson