

SIDNEY CHART ROBERTS

1890 – 1918

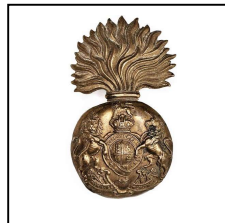
8th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers Regiment.



Surname/Christian name: Roberts, Sidney Chart.

Rank/Service No: Pte. 9740.

Regiment/Unit: 1st, 2nd and 8th Battalions, Royal Scots Fusiliers Regiment.



Date of Death: 19th September 1918

Age: 28

Type of Casualty: Killed in action

Theatre of War: Western Front and Bulgaria

Born/Year/Location: 3rd quarter of 1890 in Paddock Wood, Kent.

Enlisted/Attestation: Canterbury, Kent.

Son of/Address: Son of Charles and Harriett Roberts of 5 Station Cottages, Horsmonden, Kent.

Buried/Commemorated/Memorial: SARIGOL MILITARY CEMETERY

Personal inscription on Sidney's headstone from his parents.

"He died that we might live"

Other Family History:

Parents, Charles Edward Roberts and Harriett Sinden married 16 April 1882 at St Michael and All Angels Church, Marden and lived at Paddock Wood where Charles worked as a Porter for South East. Rail. He worked as a labourer for S.E. Rail when the Hawkhurst Branch Line was being built and then a platelayer at newly erected Horsmonden Station until 1927 when he retired. He travelled by train from Paddock Wood to Horsmonden to work before moving into 5, Station Cottages around 1897 where he lived until he died in 1936.

Sidney's father

The following article appeared in the Kent & Sussex Courier, issue Friday 14 Aug. 1936.

HORSMONDEN. "HE HELPED BUILD THE RAILWAY"

Mr. Charles Roberts, of 5 Station Cottages, Horsmonden, who died on Saturday, aged 75, helped to build the railway line at Horsmonden, and was employed as plate-layer at the same station for 45 years. He had been retired from that position about nine years.

The Methodist Church too, will have good cause to miss him, for not only did he fulfil his official duties in his usual thorough way, but his devotion to his church was an outstanding example to others.

Although Mr. Roberts had been ill off and on for the past year, he was walking about till a short time before his death, and was in good spirits when he went to bed on Friday night. His death came as a great shock to his many friends in the village and elsewhere, for his lovable personality and upright character made him one of the most popular of men.

His wife died nine years ago, and a family of four sons and four daughters are bereaved.

Three brothers are on active service – Charles and Harry being in France and William on a destroyer.

Prior Occupation: Sidney worked for Messrs. Smith and Manwaring, farmers at Hale Farm, Horsmonden until he was old enough to join the Army.

Siblings/Name & birth year: This list of his siblings shows baptism dates, all baptised at St. Andrews, Church Rd. Paddock Wood, (except Ransom Henry who was baptised at St Margaret's Church, Horsmonden, **Charles Edward**, 16 July 1882, **Daisy Charlotte**, 6 July 1884, **Ellen Catherine**, 5 Feb. 1887, **Sarah Agnes Kate**, 3 June 1888, **Sidney Chart**, 1890, **William John**, 24 April 1892, **Nelson James**, 1894, Mercy, 27 December 1896, **Ransom Henry ("Harry")** 27 Aug 1899

Daughters of Charles and Harriet

Mrs. Daisy Honess

Mrs. Agnes Wheatley

Mrs. Nellie Underdown & Mr. Underdown (Nellie Roberts/Judge/Underdown)?? Ellen??

Mrs. Mercy Woodcock

Sons of Charles and Harriet

Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Roberts (nee Butchers)

Sidney Roberts

Mr. & Mrs. William Roberts (nee Woodcock)

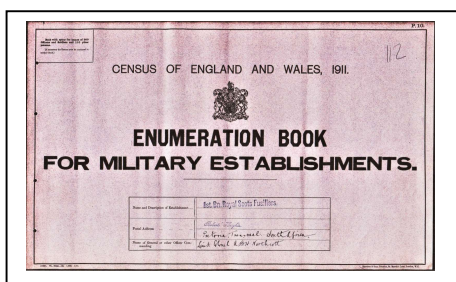
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Roberts (nee Billson)

Service Records: The Service Records for Private Roberts were destroyed by fire when the Army repository in Wandsworth was hit during a German air raid in 1940 when approximately two thirds of the records were destroyed.

Personal and military notes

He enlisted at Canterbury in 1907 and served in Scotland, Ireland, South Africa and Gibraltar up until 1914 with the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Royal Scots Fusiliers.

The 1911 Census for Military Establishments shows that Sidney was at the aptly named Roberts Heights Garrison, Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa with the 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers under the command of Lt. Col. A B H Northcott. (*I below)



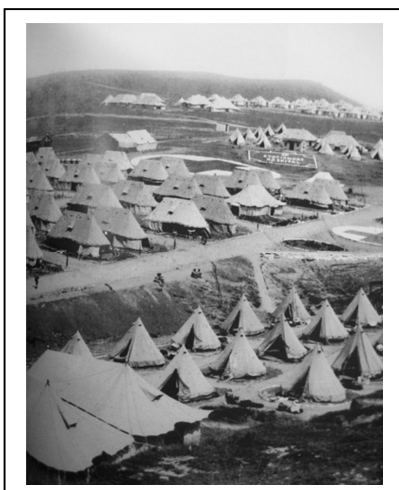
Enumeration Book (*i)

After his spell with the 1st Bn. RSF in Pretoria, Sid went to Gibraltar with the 2nd Bn. The 2nd Bn. returned to England in Sept 1914

The Regiment left Gibraltar for England in September 1914 before landing at Zeebrugge 6th October 1914. Pte Roberts saw action on the Western Front and in November 1915 he transferred to the 8th Service Battalion and sent to Salonika (Thessaloniki) where he fought in the Balkan Theatre.

Pte Roberts received a gunshot wound in the abdomen during the disastrous frontal attack against a strongly fortified Bulgarian position known as Pip Ridge in the 3rd Battle of Doiran on the Macedonian front, 18th & 19th September 1918.

He was sent by light rail to Salonika to the 21st Stationary Hospital immediately where on the 19th Sept, he died and was buried the following day.



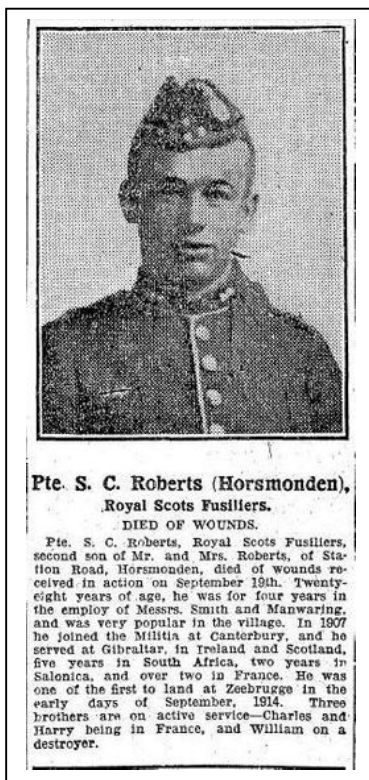
The 21st Stationary Hospital in Salonika

Newspaper report September 1918:

**Pte. S. C. Roberts (Horsmonden).
Royal Scots Fusiliers**

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte. S. C. Roberts, Royal Scots Fusiliers, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, of Station Road, Horsmonden, died of wounds received in action on September 19th. Twenty-eight years of age, he was for four years in the employ of Messrs. Smith and Manwaring and was very popular in the village. In 1907 he joined the Militia at Canterbury, and served in Gibraltar, in Ireland and Scotland, five years in South Africa, two years in Salonica, and over two years in France. He was one of the first to land at Zeebrugge in the early days of September, 1914. Three brothers are on active service – Charles and Harry being in France and William on a destroyer.



Other Relevant Documents

Note: Separate Returns must be made out for each Cemetery or Place of Burial, and in accordance with G.R.O.1475 d/12-7 16 such reports will be made out in duplicate one being sent to D.A.G., 3rd Echelon, Salonika Army, and the other to H.Q., Graves Registration Unit, Salonika.

C O P Y.
BURIAL REPORT.

TO: **3RD ECHELON, G.H.Q., SALONIKA.**

Graves Registration Unit
Date: 23-9-18
B.S.P. of C.

Number	Rank	Full Name	Regiment	Date & Place of Death	Date of Burial.	Cause of Death	Religion	Officiating Chaplain.	Sig
9740	PTE.	ROBERTS, S.	R. SCOTS	19-9-18	20-9-18	GSW.ABDOMEN.	PRES.	G. J. PENNELL	(United Band) MILITARY

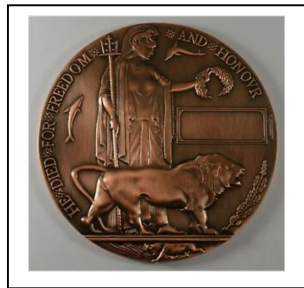
CWGC Burial Cause of Death Form

**Medals/Awards Received: British War and Victory Medals.
Memorial Scroll and Plaque.**

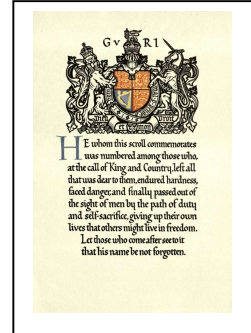
Scots Fusiliers British War and Victory Medals Memorial Plaque and Scroll



British War Medal - Victory Medal



Memorial Plaque
(Death Penny)



Memorial Scroll

...

Horsmonden Memorial Building



1922



Present Day



Oak War Memorial Plaque in Memorial Building

(Pt Sidney Roberts is shown left block, row 3 no. 1)



St Margaret's Church Memorial Scroll

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Entry

CWGC CERTIFICATE


In Memory Of
Private

SIDNEY ROBERTS

Service Number: 9740

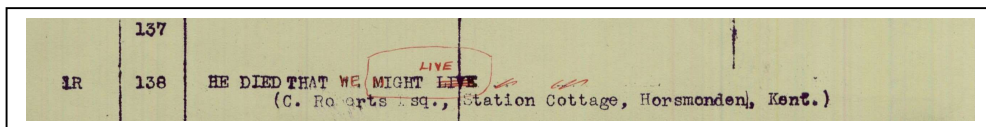
8th Bn., Royal Scots Fusiliers who died on 19 September 1918 Age 28
Son of Charles and Harriett Roberts, of Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.

HE DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE
Remembered with Honour
SARIGOL MILITARY CEMETERY, KRISTON
A. 139.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WARGRAVES COMMISSION



Personal Inscription
"He died that we might live"

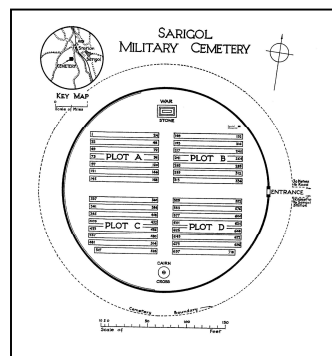
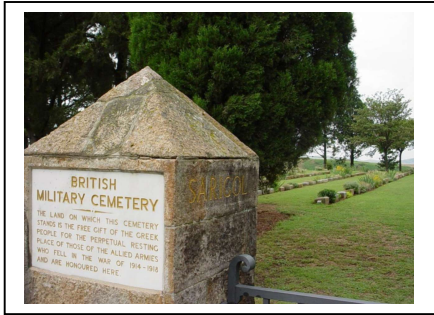
Grave Registration and Headstone Reports Reports.

No.	Serial	Name	Height	Date of Birth	Original Place of Birth	Remarks
13681	13681	ROBERTS, Sidney	5' 6"	1890	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	
13682	13682	ROBERTS, Charles	5' 6"	1862	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	
13683	13683	ROBERTS, Harriett	5' 6"	1862	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	
13684	13684	ROBERTS, Charles	5' 6"	1862	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	
13685	13685	ROBERTS, Harriett	5' 6"	1862	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	
13686	13686	ROBERTS, Sidney	5' 6"	1890	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	
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13688	13688	ROBERTS, Harriett	5' 6"	1862	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	
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13697	13697	ROBERTS, Charles	5' 6"	1862	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	
13698	13698	ROBERTS, Harriett	5' 6"	1862	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	
13699	13699	ROBERTS, Charles	5' 6"	1862	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	
13700	13700	ROBERTS, Harriett	5' 6"	1862	Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent.	

ROBERTS, Pte. Sidney, 9740. 8th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers. Died of wounds 19th Sept., 1918. Age 28. Son of Charles and Harriett Roberts, of Station Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent. A. 139.

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SARIGOL MILITARY CEMETERY - KRISTONI, KILKRIS, GREECE



CEMETERY PLAN

Pte Roberts is buried in Plot A139

Pte. Sidney Chart Roberts.



***Research and compilation L Burgess and J Freeman
Horsmonden History Research Group***

Additional Family Information:

This section has been added as many of Sidney' direct relatives are still alive and it may help research

Sidney's Fathers funeral; was well attended and the chief mourners were listed in the Kent & Sussex Courier of 14th August 1936.

Daughters: Mrs. Daisy Honess, Mrs. Agnes Wheatley Mrs. Nellie Underdown & Mr. Underdown, Mrs. Mercy Woodcock.

Sons: Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Roberts (nee Butchers), Mr. & Mrs. William Roberts (nee Woodcock), Mr. & Mrs. Harry Roberts (nee Billson).

Mrs. Sinden (sister-in-law), Mr. & Mrs. Jenner (brother-in-law & sister-in-law), Mr. Walter Sinden, Maidstone (brother-in-law), Mr. & Mrs. J. Hickmott (nephew & niece), Mr. & Mrs. T. Hickmott

Wreaths were sent from ...

Charlie & Nellie ,Daisy, Nellie & Bill, Agnes, Mercy, and Daisy & friends (Chatham), Bill & Ede and family, Harry & Nellie, Little Peter, Jim & May (Ramsgate), Nellie & Bob (Ramsgate), Betty, Louie, Jack & family (Cranbrook), Aunt Fanny (Tonbridge), Fred Roberts, grand-child (Deal), Nelson, Gordon, Sheila, Kath, grand-children (Horsmonden), Uncle Wally & Aunt Eliza, (Maidstone), All at Rams Hill, Mrs Pucknell & Percy, Mr. Edward Ashdown, Mr. Tom Fletcher, Mr. & Mrs. Tomlin, Mr. & Mrs. Relf, Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Button, Mrs. & Miss Botten, From Winnie, Mr. & Mrs. Skinner, Mr. & Mrs. Brooks and family (Schoolhouse), Mr. & Mrs. Norman, Mr. Smith & Miss Wilmshurst, Members & Friends, Methodist Church at Horsmonden, Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Russell, The President, Teachers & Scholars of Horsmonden Methodist Sunday School, Mrs. Hogarth, Mrs. Chantler, Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Harry & Edith, Chas & Ede, Mrs. Jones & Nellie (Goudhurst),

Mr. E. J. Woodgate of Horsmonden was the undertaker.

Sidney's brother Ransom Henry Roberts, was Pte. 20291 3rd Btn. The Buffs, he received British War & Victory Medals.

There is a medal Index card for Driver 58939 Roberts, Charles E. Royal Field Artillery, who went to France on 25 Aug 1915, he received 1915 Star, British War and Victory Medals.

His other brother Nelson James Roberts was disabled and unfit for service, he attended Woolsthorpe House home for crippled boys, Wright's Lane, Kensington, in 1911, training as a bootmaker, Nelson died aged 21 and was buried at St Margaret's Church, Horsmonden 4th September 1915

The 1901 census showed Nelson was at 5, Station Cottages in Horsmonden along with parents and siblings Nellie (Ellen), Kate, Sidney, William, Mercy and Ransom Henry (Harry)

Of Sidney's nephews and nieces.

His sister's married names were; Daisy Charlotte HOLNESS, Ellen Kathleen JUDGE/UNDERDOWN, Mercy WOODCOCK, Sarah Agnes Kate WHEATLEY

His brothers William John married **Edith Mary Woodcock** and **Ransom Henry** married **Nellie Billson**.

Older brother Charles Edward Roberts and **Ellen Butchers**, married at St Margaret's, Horsmonden, 19th May, 1908

"Sidney's two-brothers-in-law George and William Butchers, (brothers of Charles's wife Ellen) also fell in the Great War and are commemorated on the War Memorial