

Benjamin Robinson

Corporal, 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Enlisted August 4th, 1914. Sent to France with B.E.F., 1914. Served at Battle of Mons; buried in trenches at Hooge. Killed in action September 25th, 1915. Mons Medal, Victory Medal.



BENJAMIN ROBINSON was born in Ludgershall in Wiltshire in 1885. His parents were Benjamin and Annie. His father was a police constable who originally came from Northumberland but had obviously settled in Wiltshire. The family included Benjamin's brothers Samuel (born in Corsham), John, Guy and Victor, and a sister Mary. By 1901 they had moved to Sutton Veny, and Benjamin's father was still a police constable.

By 1911 Benjamin's parents were living in Pound Pill in Corsham. His father had now retired from the police and was described as a general labourer. The younger Benjamin was not however living in Corsham at the time of the 1911 census; he seems to have been a patient at the London Lock Hospital – his occupation at the time was recorded as farm labourer.

War Records of Corsham details that he enlisted for the Army in August 1914 and was appointed to the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, which was mobilized immediately and sent to France. Benjamin saw early action at the Battle of Mons and subsequent actions, but it is also known that his next of kin was his wife Mabel (née Mizen) from Corsham. They were married in the summer of 1915, presumably

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during a short period of leave. Tragically, soon afterwards he was killed in action by a bursting shell, at Hooge on 25th September 1915 – a day when more than 4,000 troops lost their lives in a planned attempt to capture German trenches. Benjamin had achieved the rank of Acting Corporal. He is remembered at the Menin Gate Memorial.

Mabel Robinson was living at Cross Keys, Corsham at the time of her husband's death and it appears that she continued to live locally until she died in 1951.