

## **Private Herbert Edwin Robertson<sup>©</sup>**

**Regimental number: 42427**

**2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment**

**born: probably 1880 - died: 13 May 1918**

Private Herbert Edwin Robertson was honoured by his wife with the following inscription on his gravestone:

WHEN DEATH COMES TO ME  
GOD GIVE YOU THEN  
BACK TO ME  
MY BELOVED<sup>1</sup>

Herbert and his wife, the former Lucy Mary Ann Granham (born on 30 June 1881 in Ipswich),<sup>2</sup> had married in Ipswich in 1902<sup>3</sup> and had five children. They first two children were daughters: Lucy Lilly, born in 1903<sup>4</sup> and Winifred May, born in 1904.<sup>5</sup> Sadly Winifred died a year later,<sup>6</sup> about the same time as their third daughter, Winifred Sybil May, was born.<sup>7</sup> Then they had a son, Jack Herbert, born in 1914,<sup>8</sup> followed by another daughter, Sybil J, born on 15 May 1918.<sup>9</sup> Sybil was born just two days after her father died.

Herbert was the son of Lucy Elizabeth Gray and probably Edwin Horrex Robertson. He was born Herbert Edwin Robertson Gray and his birth was registered in 1881<sup>10</sup> but he was probably born at the end of 1880,<sup>11</sup> before his parents' marriage in 1881.<sup>12</sup> Both Edwin and Lucy were born in about 1851<sup>13</sup> in Ipswich and married in early 1881. After their marriage, they had a daughter, Lucy Muriel Gray, who was born in 1883.<sup>14</sup>

When Herbert was five months old, he and his parents were living with Lucy's mother, Lucy Gray, a widow, at 3 Sallow Road in Ipswich. Edwin was a carpenter and Lucy, a laundress.<sup>15</sup>

In 1891, Herbert was living at 36 Rose Villas family with his parents and Lucy's sister, Jane Gray.<sup>16</sup> Sadly, Herbert's mother died in 1899 at the age of about 38.<sup>17</sup> Two years later, Herbert and Lily were living with their father at 1901 Riverside Terrace on Bramford Road in Ipswich. Herbert was now a barber, working on his own account at home.<sup>18</sup>

The following year, Herbert's father remarried. Edwin married Beatrice Taylor<sup>19</sup> in the same year that Herbert married Lucy. In 1911, Herbert's father and his second wife were living at 140 Norwich Road in Ipswich.<sup>20</sup> Herbert and his young family were living about a mile away at 212 Bramford Road. Herbert was now identified as a hairdresser.<sup>21</sup>

Herbert enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in Ipswich<sup>22</sup> in about September 1916, when he was 36 years old.<sup>23</sup> Just about a year later, his father died; he was still living at 140 Norwich Road when he died on 24 July 1917.<sup>24</sup>

Herbert served first with Essex Regiment (Regimental number: 34967) and then with the Suffolk Regiment. He was serving with the 2nd Battalion when on 13 May 1918 he was wounded and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his left thigh. He died the same day and was buried on 14 May in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row B, Grave 48) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.<sup>25</sup>

As his next of kin, his wife was notified of his death<sup>26</sup> and received the monies owing to him from the army upon this death.<sup>27</sup>

Herbert was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>28</sup>

In 1939, his wife Lucy was still living at 212 Bramford Road with her daughter, Sybil.<sup>29</sup> Lucy probably died in Ipswich in 1972.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 16 January 2018), entry for Robertson. H. E., Service No: 42427

<sup>2</sup> "1939 Register," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 14 February 2018), entry for Lucy Mary Ann Robertson, Ref: RG101/65991/002/17 Letter code: TVAS

<sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 November 2018), entry for William E B Jones, Registration district: Ipswich, Inferred county: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 2002

<sup>4</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 13 February 2018) entry for Robertson, Lucy Lily, Registration district: Ipswich, Volume 04A, Page 1064

<sup>5</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 13 February 2018) entry for Robertson, Winifred May, Registration district: Ipswich, Volume 04A, Page 1034

<sup>6</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 January 2018), entry for Winifred May Robertson, Registration district: Ipswich, Inferred county: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 489

<sup>7</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 13 February 2018) entry for Robertson, Winifred Sybil May, Registration district: Ipswich, Volume 04A, Page 993

<sup>8</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 13 February 2018) entry for Robertson, Jack Herbert, Registration district: Ipswich, Volume 04A, Page 1967

<sup>9</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 January 2018), entry for Sybil J Robertson, Registration district: Ipswich, Inferred county: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 1439; "1939 Register," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 14 February 2018), entry for Lucy Mary Ann Robertson

<sup>10</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 15 February 2018) entry for Gray, Herbert Edwin Robertson, Registration district: Ipswich, Volume 04A, Page 696

<sup>11</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 February 2018), entry for Herbert E. Robertson, Registration district: Ipswich, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 12, Piece: 1870, Folio: 12, Page: 18

<sup>12</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 February 2018), entry for Edwin Horrex Robertson, Registration district: Ipswich, Inferred county: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 794

<sup>13</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 February 2018), entry for Herbert E. Robertson

<sup>14</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 15 February 2018) entry for Robertson, Lucy Muriel Gray, Registration district: Ipswich, Volume 04A, Page 766

<sup>15</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 February 2018), entry for Herbert E. Robertson

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- <sup>16</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 February 2018), entry for Herbert Robertson, Registration district: Ipswich, Sub-registration district: Ipswich Western Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 12, Piece: 1467, Folio: 75
- <sup>17</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Lucy Elizabeth Robertson, Registration district: Ipswich, Inferred county: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 613
- <sup>18</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 February 2018), entry for Herbert Robertson, Registration district: Ipswich, Sub-registration district: Ipswich Western, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 13, Piece: 1774, Folio: 93, Page: 10, Household schedule number: 66
- <sup>19</sup> "England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 February 2018), entry for Edwin Horrex Robertson, FHL film number: 1542066, Reference ID: 2:3CGSGDH
- <sup>20</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 January 2018), entry for Edwin Horser [sic] Robertson [sic], Registration district: Ipswich, Registration district number: 213, Sub-registration district: Ipswich Western, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 5, Household schedule number: 61, Piece: 10803
- <sup>21</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 January 2018), entry for Herbert Robertson, Registration district: Ipswich, Registration district number: 213, Sub-registration district: Ipswich Western, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 10, Household schedule number: 26, Piece: 10808
- <sup>22</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 February 2018), entry for Herbert Edwin Robertson
- <sup>23</sup> Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratiuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2018); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 February 2018), entry for Herbert Edwin Robertson
- <sup>24</sup> "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 February 2018), entry for Edwin Horrex Robertson
- <sup>25</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 16 January 2018), entry for Robertson, H
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 February 2018), entry for Herbert Edwin Robertson
- <sup>28</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 February 2018), entry for Herbert Edwin Robertson
- <sup>29</sup> "1939 Register," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 14 February 2018), entry for Lucy Mary Ann Robertson
- <sup>30</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 February 2018), entry for Lucy Mary A Robertson, Registration district: Ipswich, Inferred county: Suffolk, Volume: 4b, Page: 2184