

Frederick "Fritz" Wilfred Robinson



Rank: Captain

Branch: 1st Battalion

Years Served: 1915

Summary: Fritz Robinson was the son of the rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Strathroy, Rev. Samuel Robinson and his wife Blanche Davis. Born in Huron County in 1886 his family lived in Walkerton before moving to Strathroy in 1905. Fritz joined the 26th Regiment in Strathroy along with his father. He worked at the Bank of Commerce in Strathroy and Dunnville before moving onto Toronto to work as an accountant for Clarkson and Cross.

In September 1914 he was commissioned at Valcartier Camp Quebec. He was promoted to temporary Captain 24 April 1915. He was killed in action on the 15 June 1915 at Givenchy France (The Second Action of Givenchy). Of note the 1st Battalion had just been

equipped with the short Lee-Enfield rifle which replaced the Ross rifle only two days prior to this battle. This was the third phase during the Second Battle of Artois that lasted from 9 May to 18 June 1915. He lies in Beuvry Communal Cemetery Beuvry France. Other soldiers from Strathroy-Caradoc to die in this battle include Archibald McMurphy and Arthur Holderness.

Biography:

Name: Frederick "Fritz" Wilfred Robinson

Birth Date: May 23, 1886

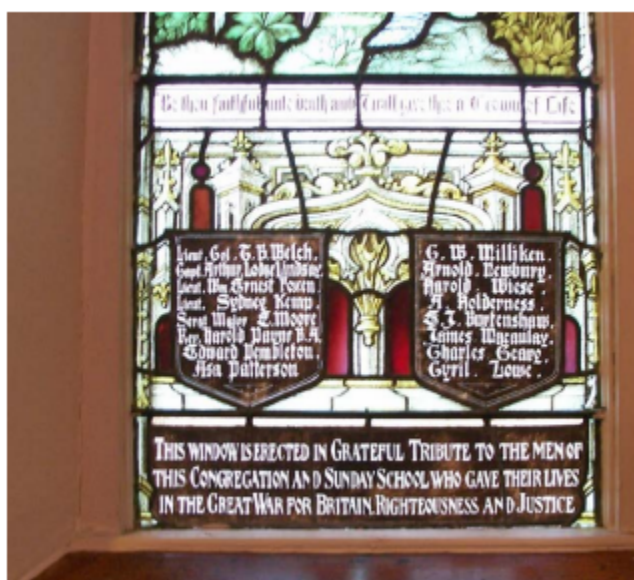
Relatives: Father - Reverend Samuel F. Robinson. Mother - L. Blanche (nee Davis) Robinson

Address: Strathroy, ON

Attestation Date: September 17, 1914

Death Date: June 15, 1915

Burial Site: Beuvry Communal Cemetery, Beuvry, France



Date	Particulars
17 Sep 1914	Accountant from Strathroy ON, born 23 May 1886, attested in Valcartier PQ, no previous military experience, single, Next of kin Rev S. F. Robinson Strathroy On 5' 8" fair complexion, blue eyes, light brown hair, Church of England. Clear medical
23 Sep 1914	1 st Btn, Temp Captain, next of kin noted, Note in red ink 'Promoted Temp Capt 7 Apr 1915 by Gen Alderson (<i>Commander of the Canadian Corps</i>)
1 Apr 1915	On strength 1 st Btn France
24 Apr 1915	To be temporary Captain London Gazette 17 July 1915
15 Jun 1915	Killed in Action in the attack at Givenchy France
15 Jun 1915	Buried in Cemetery Beuvry Church Rev A.M. Gordon
15 Jun 1915	Burial Report – by Rev. A. M. Gordon, buried cemetery near Beuvry Church in the village of Beuvry France
17 Jun 1920	Medal Card – eligible for 14/15 Star, Ltn 1 st Btn, medals and decorations , plaque and scroll, sent to Rev S. F. Robinson (father) Memorial Cross sent to mother Mrs. L Blanche Robinson
Card	Capt F. W. Robinson, Theatre of War – France, Father Rev S F Robinson, The Rectory, Strathroy On – stamped D

No.

Folio.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your name? Frederic Wileed Robinson
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Exeter - Canada
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Rev. S. F. Robinson - 1882
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Strathroy Ont.
5. What is the date of your birth? May 25 1886
6. What is your Trade or Calling? Accountant
7. Are you married? no
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? yes
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? no
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? yes
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? yes

Frank Robinson (Signature of Man).

E. N. G. Herbert Line (Signature of Witness)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Lewis Robinson, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

For Reimbursement (Signature of Recruit)

Date Sept 17th 1914. E. N. Glesham Lind (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Thomas W. Robinson, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Franklin (Signature of Recruit)

Date Sept. 17 1914. E. N. Chesley Lind (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act. The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understood the questions and answers.

before me, at Waco, Tex. this 23 day of SEP, 1914.

this _____ day of _____ 1914.

(Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

[Signature] (Approving Officer)

Description of J. W. Robinson on E

Apparent Age 28 years 4 months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating peculiarities or previous disease.

Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit, before he will, unless the case acknowledges to any service, attach a slip to this effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.

Height 5 ft. 5 ins.

Girth when fully expanded 24 1/2 ins.
Range of expansion 2 1/2 ins.

Complexion Fair

Eyes Blue

Hair Dark Brown

Church of England ☒

Presbyterian

Wesleyan

Baptist or Congregationalist

Other Protestants (Denomination to be stated)

Roman Catholic

Jewish

a Vacc. P. arm

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him Fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date 21 August 1914.

Place Valcartier Camp

"Insert here 'Fit' or 'Unfit'."

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been selected, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

J. W. Robinson
Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

J. W. Robinson having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

SEP 23 1914

Date 23 1914.

Thornie (Signature of Officer)
O.C. 1st Bn

Newspaper Articles:

Two Strathroy Officers Killed In Action in Flanders

Capt. F. W. Robinson and Lieut. E. N. Chesham, Volunteers from the 26th Regt., fall at Festubert on June 15th.

During the terrible fighting in Flanders the past fortnight, two Strathroy boys gave their lives "for England Home and Duty" and two more names are added to the long "Roll of Honor."

To-day Strathroy mourns the loss of Capt. Frederic Wilfred Robinson and Lieut. Ernest Nelson Chesham, of the 26th Middlesex Regiment, which make the first breaks in the quota of volunteers that left the old town for the front last October. Both officers fell on the bloody field at Festubert on June 15th.



CAPT. F. W. ROBINSON,
Killed.

LIEUT. E. N. CHESHAM,
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Capt. Robinson, who received a promotion to the rank just a few days before and who had always shown a marked degree of valor during the hot engagements in which the Canadians had played such an important part, was a most popular and highly esteemed young man. He was born in Exeter twenty nine years ago, second son of Rev. S. F. Robinson, who about ten years ago, became rector of St. John's Church here. He was educated at Trinity College School at Port Hope.

During his residence here "Fritz" as he was familiarly known to his numerous friends, took an active interest in athletic sports and was one of the best lacrosse players in this section. In all his activities on the campus, he was always known as a clean and fair player.

For some years he was in the employ of the Bank of Commerce at Strathroy and Dunaville but later, took up the work of accountant, with Clarkson and Cross Tor-

onto. When the call came for volunteers in Canada, Captain Robinson immediately offered his services, holding the rank of Captain of G. Company, 26th Middlesex Regt. Light Infantry, at the time.

He leaves besides his mourning parents, two brothers:—George S., of Oshawa, and Lieut. Bernard S., who accompanied the first contingent, and is now serving with the 9th Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry which is still in England.

Memorial services were conducted in St. John's Church last Sunday by Rev. W. H. Hawkins, of London, for the late Capt. Robinson, whose father was unable to officiate on account of recent illness.

Another of the officers in the list of killed, as given out at Ottawa on Saturday, was Lieut. Ernest Nelson Chesham, with Standstead England, as the address. Lieut. Chesham was also an officer of the 26th Middlesex Regiment and resided in Strathroy for some years before the outbreak of the war. He was employed as an upholsterer. He left Strathroy a couple of years ago and lived for a time in Woodstock. Later he returned, and became musketry instructor of the 26th Regiment. His home was in England and as far as can be learned, had no relatives in this country. Friends of Lieut. Chesham in Strathroy hope that he is still alive, and believe they have reason because of the receipt of a cablegram on Friday by a friend of Chesham in Kerwood to the effect that he was wounded and suffering seriously from shock but that he expected to pull through. Whether or not this message antedated official word to the militia department is not known, and until a confirmation of the casualty is received his wide circle of friends hope that he is still alive, though wounded.

Lieut. Colonel Robson, of the 26th Regt., on learning the sad news paid both young officers splendid tributes as to their work and worth as enthusiastic military men. "They were both very fine fellows and their deaths are greatly deplored" said the commanding officer.

June 24, 1915 Transcription of Age article

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CAPT. FRITZ ROBINSON

The late Capt. F. W. Robinson, before coming to Strathroy, resided in Walkerton, and the following reference to his death is taken from The Bruce Herald and Times of that town:

"Capt. Fritz W. Robinson, a former Walkerton boy, and son of Rev. S. F. Robinson, of Strathroy, at one time rector of St. Thomas' church here, has been killed in action. Official notification of his death was received from Ottawa by his parents on Saturday last.

"Fritz, who was 27 years of age, was raised and educated in Walkerton, and on leaving school joined the staff of the Bank of Commerce. He was of an athletic turn and for several years figured on the local lacrosse team, where he was recognized as one of the most daring and dashing players. Those who have seen him charge down on the opponents' nets will recall that he was unconsciously training for a greater charge in the more serious game of war, for in last week's issue we reproduced a letter from one of his men who told how Fritz advanced boldly at the head of his troops in the terrible battle of Langemarck. Although he went through that battle safely the Germans got him at last, but he fell no doubt 'going in on the nets,' as the lacrosse players would say of a player who was charging the enemy's goal. If British soldiers have been made on the cricket green, as has been said, so have many of Canada's heroes sprung from her lacrosse fields.

"The late Capt. Robinson was, prior to enlisting, a member for several years of the 32nd Bruce Battalion, of which his father was formerly chaplain, and in which he became known as 'The Fighting Parson.'

"After leaving Walkerton Fritz joined the 26th Middlesex Regiment, in which he became Captain. On the outbreak of war he promptly enlisted and went with the First Contingent to the front. His younger brother, Bernard, who was attending Oxford University, England, also enlisted, and is now said to be serving with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

"Having preached duty to his country, Rev. S. F. Robinson has shown faith by works in giving his own two sons in defense of the flag. A report that Rev. Mr. Robinson had a few weeks ago suffered a paralytic stroke in Strathroy was learned here with regret, as was also the sad news of the falling in battle of his gallant son."

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Age July 1, 1915

An Expression of Sympathy

The following resolution passed by the Woodstock City Council on the 23rd day of June, was forwarded to Rev. S. F. Robinson :

Moved by Alderman W. S. West,
Seconded by Alderman Wm. J. Bond,

And resolved, that this Council has learned with regret of the death of Lieutenant F. W. Robinson while in the service of his King and Country.

We desire to convey to the members of the family of Lieutenant Robinson our sympathy in their bereavement, and our appreciation of the sense of duty, patriotism and loyalty shown by the late Lieutenant Robinson.

And that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Lieutenant Robinson.

CLIFFORD KEMP, Mayor.
JOHN MORRISON, City Clerk.

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CLIFFORD KEMP, Mayor
JOHN MORRISON, City Clerk.

July 8, 1915 Age

July 1, 1915 Age

Lieut. Chesham Not Killed

Among the officers of the First Battalion reported killed in Flanders on June 15, was Lieut. E. N. Chesham, of Strathroy.

On Thursday morning his name appeared in the list of wounded, and in hospital at Rouen.

Nothing definite is known of the nature of his injuries. It is hoped that they are not serious, and that his recovery will be speedy.

Further particulars are anxiously awaited.

—Two Strathroy boys wounded Apr. 24th at Ypres, and now convalescing in Munor House Red Cross Hospital at Stokesley, Yorkshire, England, wrote on June 22nd to the "Age" as follows: "We would like you to publish the following letter!—On picking up the "Daily Mail" this morning, we find that the good old town has had the misfortune to lose two of our best men—Lieut. Robinson, (killed) and also Lieut. Chesham (wounded). We can say that up at Ypres on that memorial day, April 23rd, none were more plucky than Lieut. Robinson, who leading his platoon, was always at it, and are sure he died gloriously. He was a sincere friend of all the Strathroy boys, who were in the first contingent, and we owe a lot to him for keeping up our spirits, while at Salisbury and in Flanders. We also lost a most valuable friend in Lt. Col. Beecher—absolutely one of the best. We are going back to the front shortly and hope again to come out lucky. Give our best wishes to St John's S. and A. Club and also our sympathy to Rev. Mr. Robinson and all at home, who are mourning the loss of some brave boy who has fallen. Best of success to your paper!"

The Cross of Sacrifice Is Now in Place

Strathroy's Completed Memorial to "the Boys Who Did Not Return," Will be Unveiled Next Sunday Afternoon—May the Ornamental Lamps at the Foot of the Cross Forever Burn in Loving Remembrance of Strathroy's Fallen Heroes—Work is a Credit to Daughters of the Empire.

At the Soldiers' Memorial Monument in Central Park, the large cross of gray granite has been erected by Hambly Bros., and is receiving much favourable comment. It surmounts the central panel, and bronze lamps embellish the two side panels, where lights will be kept burning. This work was decided on by the Mary Armstrong Chapter, I. O. D. E., some months ago, and has been carried through successfully by the committee in charge, and financed by the Chapter.

The unveiling ceremony will take place Sunday afternoon, August 3, at 2:30, during the Old Boys' Reunion. Miss Ann Wakefield, acting Regent of the Chapter will occupy the chair, and the address of the afternoon will be given by Major the Rev. A. Graham, who was chaplain of the Middlesex Regiment, and served with them overseas during the war. The unveiling will be done by Mrs. S. F. Robinson, of London, wife of the late Rev. Rural Dean Robinson, formerly rector of St. John's Church, Strathroy, who was chaplain of the 126th when war was declared, but was refused, on account of failing health, for overseas service. Rev. and Mrs. Robinson gave their three sons for active service, one of whom, Captain Fritz Robinson, was killed at Givenchy in 1915. Miss Mary Armstrong, the beloved teacher, in honour of who the Chapter was named, is to read the scripture lesson, coming from her home in Windsor for this purpose.

The Middlesex Regiment are in charge of the military part of the program, and the regimental band will lead the music. Local clergymen will also assist in the program. All organizations or individuals desirous of placing flowers at the monument during the ceremony, will be afforded the opportunity to do so.

This addition to the memorial was designed by Major George Hunter, of Simcoe.

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Casualty Form:

Rank and Name **ROBINSON, Fred**
 Regimental No. **1st. T. Capt.**
 Unit **1st Battalion.**
 Date of enlistment **17 Sept. 1914.**
 Place of birth **Canada**
 Married (Yes or No) **No.**
 If in Permanent Force

Name and Address of Next-of-kin
Rev. S.P. Robinson
Starthroy, Ont..

Date and place of discharge
 Reason for discharge **Killed**
 Character on discharge

Promotions or appointments

M

A.F.D. 103

Report	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case	Place	Date	REMARKS Taken from Official Documents
18-6-15	On strength 1st Inf Bt.	France	14/11	A.F. B. 155
1-7-15	Killed		15-6-15	1st Batt. Post numbers 17-20-6-15
	Buried in Cemetery near Church		15-6-15	D.A. & Con Sect K 3-123
	Killed in action		15-6-15	Att B 20902
	6th Temp Capt.		14-11-15	London Gazette 17-7-15

NAME **Robinson, Fred**
 RANK AND CORPS **Lieut. Capt. 1st Batt.**
 CABLE NO. **1141**

H. Q. FILE No. 649.
 REG'TL. NO.

NO.	DATE	NATURE OF CASUALTY
C. 2389	18/6/15	Killed in action.
from file	R-91	Date of death. 16-6-15
A.F. B.	20902	Killed in action. June 15th 1915
Rouen.	16-7-16	

FOLL.

L. I. Job 53225 - M. & D. 5312.
 M. P. W. 12-Sm 7-15.
 H. Q. 1773-29-004.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs. Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(These headings not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
A.M., JUNE 15, 1915, PREOL	Battalion preparing for action.	FINE See narrative by C.O. and Bu. Operations Orders
1:30 P.M., JUNE 15, 1915, "	Battalion marched via N. side of CANAL to front trenches E. of GIVENCHY and took up positions preparatory to advance against enemy's trench.	
3 P.M., JUNE 15, 1915, GIVENCHY	Battalion in position.	FINE 146.
6 P.M., JUNE 15, 1915, GIVENCHY	Advance against German front began. Forward Coy reached German second line trench but owing to exposure of flanks were obliged to fall back before a violent counter-attack to original front-line British trench. This movement was completed by 9:30 P.M. Battalion remained in front line trench (British)	
1:00 A.M., JUNE 16, GIVENCHY	Battalion was withdrawn to OXFORD TERRACE from RATFIELD ROAD eastwards and employed in carrying out wounded and burying dead. When all wounded were evacuated with assistance of 3 rd Canadian Bu. and all dead buried, the Bu. was with-	