

ROBERTO

Claudius Aloysius

Service No: 109

Killed in Action



CORPORAL C. A. ROBERTO

Original 44th. Battalion. Enlisted January 11, 1916; sailed June 6th, 1916; killed in action October 10, 1917, aged 19 years 4 months; dearly beloved and only son of Mrs. A. Roberto, late 24 Vincent-street, North Perth; ex-pupil of C.B. College, Perth. May his soul rest in peace.

Courtesy

National Archives of
Australia

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Claudius Aloysius Roberto

Service number: 109

Date of enlistment: 11/1/1916

Age at Enlistment: 18 years 7 months

Civil Occupation: Hairdresser

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal
and the Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 feet 7 ½ inches

Weight: 124 pounds

Chest measurement: 32 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Black

Father: Benedict Roberto

Mother: Alice White

Siblings: Juanita Mary (1894), Olive Assumpta (1895-1895), Leo Joseph (1897-1898), Ivy Veronica (1899), Carmencita Mary (1903), Ena Monica (1906).



COPL. CLAUDE ROBERTO.

(Wounded. Mother resides
at Greenhills.)

Courtesy

National Archives of Australia

Family History:

Benedict Roberto/Roberts was born in Spain in 1852, the son of Martin Roberto. He married Alice White on the 2nd May 1893 in the Roman Catholic Church at York. Alice was the daughter of Michael White and Mary Ann Conway, which made their son, Claudius, a cousin of fellow ANZAC, Clarence James Samuel White.

In 1897, Benedict was known to be running the Madrid Restaurant in Howick Street, York.

Three years' later, he was mentioned as a guest at an "At Home" held by Lady Forrest, to meet Professor Ives, a Professor of Music at Adelaide University.

By 1903, Benedict and Alice were living in James Street, Perth, and Benedict was earning his living as a musician.

From 1906, he operated a shop and wine bar at the corner of Lake and James Street, in Perth. Benedict also had another shop in James Street, which was rented out. Unfortunately, he had to sue his tenants as they owed over twenty-five pounds in rent and had done a "midnight flit"

By 1909, the family had moved to Lake street, where Benedict listed his occupation as Confectioner.

Benedict died in 1912. After his death, Alice remained in Perth until after the death of her son, in 1917, when she moved to "Glenrowan," near Greenhills, with her daughters. At some point after that, Alice and her daughters moved to South Australia, where she died in 1937.

Life Story

Claudius Aloysius Roberto (Roberts on his birth certificate) was born in Perth in 1898. He was educated at Christian Brothers' College in Perth, where he received awards for his achievements in 1907.

Claudius enlisted on the 11th January 1916, stating that he was currently a serving member of the 88th Battalion in North Perth. Claudius was attached to the 44th Battalion and embarked from Fremantle for Plymouth aboard the *Suevic* on the 6th June 1916.

From England, Claudius proceeded overseas to France on the 25th November 1916.

On the 22nd March 1917, he failed to appear at the place of parade in the Field and was fined five days' pay.

Claudius was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 11th April and made temporary Corporal on the 10th June. However, he was briefly admitted to hospital suffering from trench feet on the 3rd August and reverted to Lance Corporal on his discharge.

On the 1st September, Claudius re-joined his Battalion and, on the 11th September, he was promoted to Corporal.

Claudius was reported Wounded and Missing on the 10th October 1917.

A Court of Inquiry, held in May 1918, confirmed him Killed in Action.

Private F. Cook of the 44th gave the following statement:

I was a stretcher bearer of the 44th Battalion, and on the evening of the 10.10.17 we were going up to the front line. I was dressing a wounded man and Corporal Roberto Claude of the 44th Battalion was assisting me. He was already slightly wounded while assisting me and went back. He could walk alright and was not seriously wounded at that time. That was the last I saw of him, and it was about ½ mile from the front line, not far from Zonnebeke.

Claudius is remembered at the Menin Gate Memorial.

Acknowledgements

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