

Robert Paterson



Woosang War Memorial

Corporal 103 Robert Paterson enlisted in the 38th Infantry Battalion in the 10th Infantry Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division at Bendigo on 16 February 1916. Allocated to the Lewis Gun Section, he embarked overseas on 20 June and disembarked in Plymouth, England on 10 August, where he joined the 10th (Brigade) Training Battalion in Wiltshire.

He proceeded overseas to France on 22 November however contracted mumps and was hospitalised at the 2nd General Hospital at le Havre until 12 December. He then spent a couple of weeks at the 3rd Australian Division Base Depot at Etaples, before re-joining the 38th Battalion, then in the field at Houplines, on 4 January 1917.

The 38th Battalion moved into the front line at Bois Grenier and, on the morning of 27 February 1917, conducted a large-scale trench raid on the German lines, under the cover of artillery fire.

At 12.30 am, the force of 650 Australians left their trenches and, in the words of the 38th Battalion diary, “...*the raiding battalion attacked the German line preceded by a heavy barrage. They penetrated to the third line and completed the destruction caused by the artillery, inflicting heavy casualties and bringing back one Machine Gun, one Searchlight and seventeen prisoners. Enemy dead were estimated at about 200. 38th casualties consisted of 16 O.R’s (other ranks) killed or missing, 3 Officers and 42 O.R. wounded.*”

One of those killed was Corporal 103 Robert Paterson.

His body was subsequently recovered, and he was buried in the Citi Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, France on 14 April 1917.

Name: Paterson, Robert	
Service Number	103
Date enlisted	16 February 1916
Place enlisted	Bendigo, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Corporal
Initial Unit	38 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	20 June 1916 HMAS A54 <i>Runic</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	21 years 3 months
Place of birth	Buckrabunyule, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Farmer
Religion	Presbyterian
Next of kin and address	Paterson, Mr John, father, Buckrabunyule, Victoria
Permanent address in Australia	Buckranbunyule, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, fair hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 9 ½ inches, weight – 11 stone, chest measurement – 37 Inches
Final Rank	Corporal
Final Unit	38 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Killed in action
Date and place died	27 February 1917 Bois Grenier, France
Cemetery details	Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, France. Plot IV, Row F, Grave 18
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Attended Woosang East State School