St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England War Graves



World War 1



6315 PRIVATE

FREDERICK BERTRAM MENZIE

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 22

Frederick Bertram MENZIE

Frederick Bertram Menzie was born at New Norfolk, near Lachlan, Tasmania on 14th September, 1894 to parents Frederick & Martha Jane Menzie (nee Cordwell). He was baptised on 2nd October, 1894 at New Norfolk, Tasmania.

Frederick Joshua Menzie, father of Frederick Bertram Menzie, died at Lachlan, Tasmania on 17th April, 1909.

Martha Jane Menzie, mother of Frederick Bertram Menzie died at New Norfolk, Tasmania on 3rd January, 1910.

Frederick Bertram Menzie was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from New Norfolk, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 12th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6315 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr G. Menzie, New Norfolk, Tasmania. Frederick Menzie had tips of 2nd & 3rd fingers on right hand missing.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie was posted to 20th Reinforcements of 12th Battalion on 12th June, 1916 for recruit training.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Botanist (A59)* on 24th August, 1916 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 20th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 19th October, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire, England on 10th December, 1916 from Fovant, Wiltshire.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie was admitted to Fargo Hospital, Wiltshire on 20th December, 1916 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) from 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington. He was later diagnosed with Bronchitis & was discharged to duty on 30th December, 1916. Private Menzie was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion, No. _ Camp, Durrington on 30th December, 1916.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 23rd March, 1917 from 3rd Training Battalion, Durrington Camp. He was posted to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 29th March, 1917. Private Menzie was marched out of 1st A.D.B.D on 31st March, 1917 & joined 12th Battalion in France on 2nd April, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie was sent sick to 2nd Field Ambulance on 12th May, 1917. He was admitted with Gastritis then transferred & admitted to 9th Casualty Clearing Station on 13th May, 1917. Private Menzie was transferred & admitted to No. 10 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 18th May, 1917 with Indigestion. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship "West Australia" on 13th June, 1917.

12th Battalion

The 12th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie was admitted to Military Hospital, Lewisham, England on 14th June, 1917 with Appendicitis. His condition was reported as severe on 15th June, 1917.

Mr George Menzie, New Norfolk, Tasmania, brother of Private Frederick Bertram Menzie, was advised by Base Records on 5th June, 1917 that Private Frederick Menzie had been admitted to Hospital on 22nd May with Appendicitis – severe.

Mr George Menzie was advised again on 7th July, 1917 that Private F. B. Menzie had been admitted to Lewisham Military Hospital on 15th June, 1917 suffering from Appendicitis – severe.

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Mrs Thomas Cushion, Rocks, New Norfolk, Tasmania, wrote to Base Records on 11th July, 1917: "Would you kindly advise me if you possibly can how my Brother Pte F. B. Menzie, No. 6315 is C Company 3rd Brigade. My eldest brother got a cable to say he had Pendicitis and was very seriously ill. We have had no further report and truly speaking my eldest brother didn't trouble about my two young brothers at the front and didn't bother to try to find out how he was getting on we having no mother or father alive my other sisters & brothers and myself would be most grateful and thankful to you, of you could send us any information regarding how he is."

Base Records replied to Mrs Cushion on 18th July, 1917 stating the "your brother is now reported as having been transferred on 15.6.17 to the Lewisham Military Hospital, England from appendicitis, severe. He was previously an inmate of the 10th General Hospital. No further information has been received regarding his condition, and the absence of further reports may be accepted as indicative of satisfactory progress, the practice of the Overseas Authorities being to notify this Office should any change for the worse take place in a soldier's condition..." Base Records advised Mrs Cushion of an address where letters for her brother could be sent.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie was transferred to Harefield Hospital on 13th July, 1917.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie was tested for TB on 21st July, 1917

Base Records advised Mr George Menzie on 25th July, 1917 that Private Frederick Menzie was convalescent. A further notification on 27th July, 1917 stated that Private Frederick Menzie was progressing favourably.

Mr George Menzie was advised by Base Records on 2nd August, 1917 that Private Frederick Menzie was now dangerously ill. He was advised on 6th September, 1917 that Private Frederick Menzie was still dangerously ill.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie died at 8.15 am on 7th September, 1917 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from Tuberculosis of Lungs.

A death for Frederick _. Menzie, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie was buried at 10 am on 10th September, 1917 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number Aust. 33 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Frederick Bertram Menzie - Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. Firing Party was supplied by Administrative Headquarters Australian Imperial Force, London, Bearers by Harefield Hospital and Gun Carriage by Hounslow Barracks. A service was conducted in the Harefield Church and at the graveside by Chaplain Rev. T. Terry (Chaplain 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital Harefield.) The "Last Post" was sounded by a bugler of the Australian Imperial Force, Headquarters, London. No relatives were present at the funeral. A wreath from My Billyard Leake of Harefield was placed on the grave. A memorial will be erected by the local Committee at Harefield.

Base Records wrote to Mr George Menzie, New Norfolk, Tasmania on 1st August, 1924 asking if "communications addressed as this is will find you, as I desire to forward to you the British War Medal issuable on account of the service of your brother, the late No, 6315 Private F. B. MENZIE, 12th Battalion."

Mr G. Menzie replied to Base Records on 11th August, 1924 advising his address was c/o C. J. Plunkett, New Norfolk, Tasmania.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Menzie's eldest brother – Mr G. Menzie, as the closest next-of-kin - both parents deceased. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frederick Bertram Menzie – service number 6315, aged 22, of 12th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Fredrick and Martha Menzie.

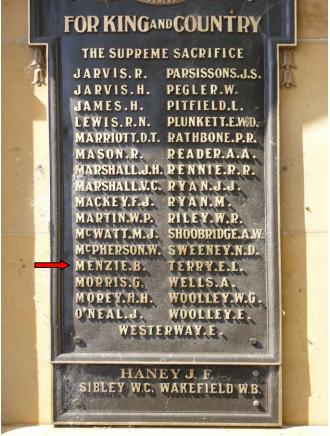
Private F. B. Menzie is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 66.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

B. Menzie is remembered on the New Norfolk Cenotaph, located at Circle & High Streets, New Norfolk, Tasmania.





New Norfolk Cenotaph (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

Bert Menzie is remembered on the New Norfolk Roll of Honor, located in RSL Club, 30 George Street, New Norfolk, Tasmania.



New Norfolk Roll of Honor (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

Frederick Bertram Menzie is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever."



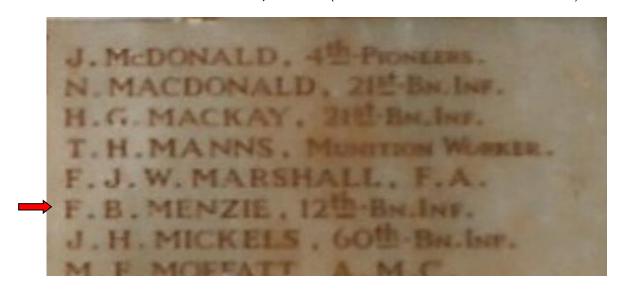
Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride - Henry Moulds)



F. B. Menzie is remembered on the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



(77 pages of Private Frederick Bertram Menzie's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

RECRUITING

RECRUITING AT NEW NORFOLK

The monthly medical examination for recruits took place at the council-chambers, New Norfolk, yesterday Twelve were examined, and nine passed for active service and three for home service. Those for active service are F. B. Menzie.....

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 25 May, 1916)

Roll of Honour

Casualty List No. 312

HOSPITAL CASES

Private Frederick Bertram MENZIE, New Norfolk, seriously ill

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania - 19 June, 1917) & (Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania - 19 June, 1917)

Roll of Honour

Casualty List No. 339

Tasmanian Casualties

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte F. B. Menzie, New Norfolk, 7/9/17

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 25 September, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

MENZIE – Died of illness in England on September 7, 1917, Private F. B. Menzie, dearly beloved third surviving son of the late Frederick and Martha Menzie, of Lachlan, aged 23 years.

Far from the home of his childhood,

Away over the ocean deep.

In a foreign land our loved one

Is sleeping his last long sleep.

His King and Country called him,

The call was not in vain;

On Australia's Roll of Honour,

Your will find our hero's name.

Inserted by his loving and sorrowing brothers and sisters and sisters-in-law, and also his brother Rufus (on Active Service).

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 September, 1917)

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Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

A letter from Base Records, dated 22nd July, 1921, to Mr C. Menzie, New Norfolk, Tasmania, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his brother, the late Private F. B. Menzie, 12th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private Frederick Bertram Menzie does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





War Graves in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex



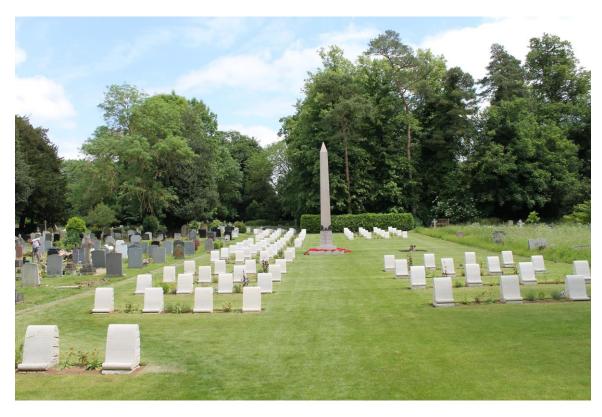
Photo of Private Frederick Bertram Menzie's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)



