Nottingham Road Cemetery, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire War Grave



World War 1



4207 LANCE SERGEANT

S. RENSHAW

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH MAY, 1918 Age 21

Samuel RENSHAW

Samuel Renshaw was born at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England in 1897 to parents Samuel and Ann Renshaw (nee Warsop). His birth was registered in the September quarter, 1897 in the district of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

The 1901 England Census recorded Samuel Renshaw as a 3 year old, living with his family at 7 Thompson's Alley, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. His parents were listed as Samuel Renshaw (Marine(?) Store Dealer (Employer), aged 30, born Mansfield, Nottinghamshire) & Ann Renshaw (aged 28, born Mansfield, Nottinghamshire). Usually the Census records children in the order of eldest to youngest, however the children of Samuel & Ann Renshaw were listed in the following order – Harold Renshaw (Son, aged 6, born Mansfield, Nottinghamshire), Edward Baden Renshaw (Son, aged 11 months, born Mansfield, Nottinghamshire), John H. Renshaw (Nephew, aged 15, born Mansfield, Nottinghamshire) and Samuel Renshaw (Son, aged 3, born Mansfield, Nottinghamshire).

Samuel's father – Samuel Renshaw (senior) died on 25th May, 1903. Probate details – Samuel Renshaw, of Rosemary Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, General Dealer, died 25th May, 1903. Administration (with Will) – Nottingham, 24th November, to Annie Renshaw, widow. Effects £149 16s. 2d.

<u>Inquest report in Sheffield Daily Telegraph – 27 May, 1903</u>:

DETERMINED SUICIDE OF A MANSFIELD MAN.

The Deputy District Coroner (Mr E. Williams) held an inquest at Mansfield yesterday touching the death if Samuel Renshaw, aged 34, marine store dealer, whose dead body was found in a field off Windmill Lane, Mansfield the previous night. The widow said that the deceased had been drinking heavily of late, and when on drink had several times threatened to take his life. The gun produced was not, so far as she knew, the property of the deceased. He had been troubled since he and his brother dissolved partnership. John Beastall, a carter, deposed to finding the body in Mr John Renshaw's field on Monday night. The head was shockingly mutilated, part of the skull being blown away. There was an empty bottle labelled laudanum lying near the body. Inspector Rodgers said he had ascertained that deceased was seen to enter the field in the afternoon, and two shots were heard fired about half-past three. The laudanum was purchased on Saturday, under the pretext that it was required for a horse. "Suicide whilst temporarily insane" was the verdict.

Samuel Renshaw attended St. John's School, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England.

Annie Renshaw married Sidney James Heath in the September quarter, 1906 in the district of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England.

According to information provided by his brother for the Roll of Honour - Samuel Renshaw came to Australia when he was 12 years old. Mrs A. Heath & three children – Samuel Renshaw, Edward Renshaw & Thomas Renshaw were passengers on the *Orient* which departed from London for Australia on 23rd July, 1909 & they departed at the port of Fremantle, Western Australia.

Ann Heath, aged 42, mother of Samuel Renshaw, died at Fremantle Hospital, Fremantle, Western Australia on 6th March, 1914. She was buried in Fremantle Cemetery, Western Australian but is named on her deceased husband's headstone in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Samuel Renshaw was a Cigar Maker, apprenticed to H. Schmidt of Perth, Western Australia.

Samuel Renshaw stated he was aged 19 year & 2 months, single and a Cigar Maker's apprentice from 202 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 7th September, 1915 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4207 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr B. Renshaw, 79 Union Street, Mansfield, Notts., England as both parents were deceased. Samuel Renshaw stated on his Attestation Papers that he had belonged to 88th Infantry for 13 months & was still serving. As Samuel Renshaw was under the age of 21, his Guardian (Stepfather) – Sidney James Heath signed his permission for Samuel to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad.

Private Samuel Renshaw was posted to No. 3 Depot Battalion "B" Company on 28th September, 1915. He was transferred to 22nd Depot N.C.O. School from 11th November, 1915 to 8th December, 1915.

Private Samuel Renshaw was promoted to Corporal on 8th December, 1915.

Private Samuel Renshaw embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 29th January, 1916.

Private (Corporal) Samuel Renshaw embarked from Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) aboard *Transylvania*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th April, 1916.

Corporal Samuel Renshaw proceeded to join his Unit from Etaples, France on 24th May, 1916 & joined his Battalion in France on 26th May, 1916. His rank reverted to Private on joining his Unit.

Private Samuel Renshaw was appointed Lance Corporal on 26th May, 1917.

Lance Corporal Samuel Renshaw proceeded on leave on 30th July, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from leave on 11th August, 1917.

Lance Corporal Samuel Renshaw was sent to 1st Anzac Corps School in Belgium on 25th October, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 11th November, 1917.

Lance Corporal Samuel Renshaw appointed to Temporary Corporal from 15th November, 1917 vice Whelan reported missing.

Temporary Corporal Samuel Renshaw was promoted to Corporal on 24th January, 1918 vice Corporal P. C. Whelan missing from 6th October, 1917.

Corporal Samuel Renshaw was appointed Lance Sergeant on 1st February, 1918.

Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw was sent to 3rd Brigade N.C.O.'s Class on 17th February, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from School on 21st March, 1918.

Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw was wounded in action in France on 8th May, 1918. He was taken to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 9th May, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to his back. He was then transferred to 15th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital, at Etaples on 12th May, 1918. Lance Sergeant Renshaw was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Pieter de Conick* on 13th May, 1918.

12th Australian Infantry 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.

The 12th served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 12th Battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in bitter trench warfare. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. After Pozieres, the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders and then returned to the Somme for winter.

In 1917 the battalion took part in the brief advance that followed the German Army's retreat to the Hindenburg Line. For their valorous actions near Boursies during this advance, Captain J. E. 'Jim' Newland, commanding A Company, and Sergeant J. W. Whittle were each awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion subsequently returned to Belgium to participate in the offensive that became known as the Third Battle of Ypres.

In March and April 1918 the battalion helped to stop the German spring offensive, and later participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8th August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war". (Information from The Australian War Memorial)

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Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw was admitted to The King George Hospital, London, England on 13th May, 1918 with gunshot wounds to spine (Paraplegia).

Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw died at 7.45 pm (immediately on admission) on 13th May, 1918 at The King George Hospital, London, England from wounds received in action – gunshot wound to spine. The Hospital Report reads in part "... Patient was admitted in a dying condition & died within half an hour. Had complete paraplegia..."

A death for Samuel Renshaw, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth, Surrey/London, England.

Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw was buried at 2 pm on 17th May, 1918 in Nottingham Road Cemetery, Mansfield, – Grave Reference B. 4672. He is included on the family headstone but his death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw - Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by some beautiful wreaths. Prior to the interment a service was conducted at the graveside by the Rev. E. Banting, St. Peter's Church, Mansfield. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Family & friends in attendance at the funeral – (Brother) Mr Baden Renshaw, 79 Union Street, Mansfield, Notts.

Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw requested in his Will dated 12th July, 1917 that his personal estate he bequeathed to Edward Baden Renshaw & Thomas Alfred Renshaw in equal shares (Brothers).

Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to L/Sgt. Renshaw's brother - Mr B. Renshaw, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both sent to England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw – service number 4207, aged 21, of 12th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Samuel and Ann Renshaw. Born at Mansfield, England.

Lance Sergeant S. Renshaw is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 67.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

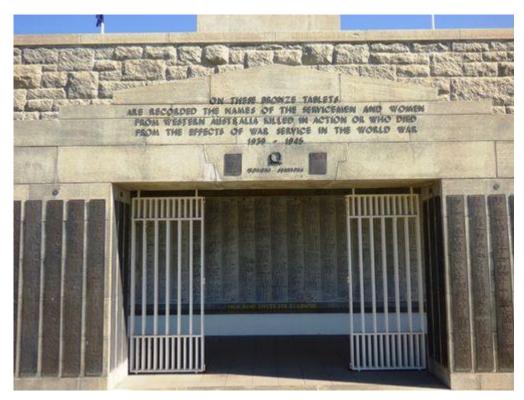
S. Renshaw is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



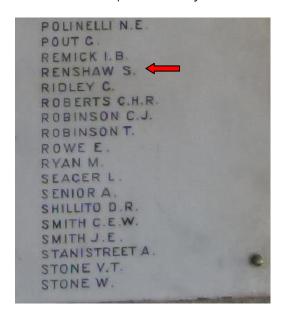
Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





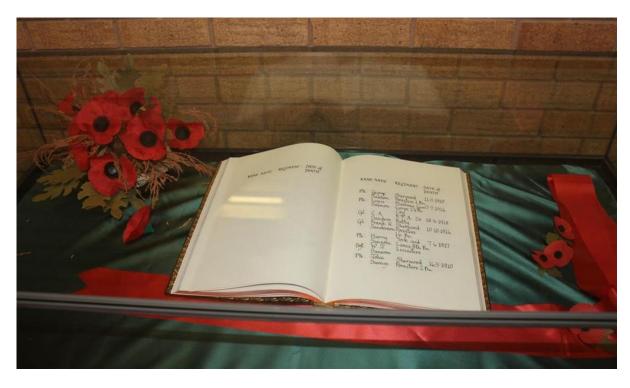
12th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



Samuel Renshaw is commemorated in the Book of Remembrance held by Mansfield District Council. Those that died during the Great War, whose names do not appear on local memorials are commemorated in the Book of Remembrance.



Mansfield Book of Remembrance



(46 pages of Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw'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

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Hereunder is the 407th casualty list issued yesterday morning:-

Killed in Action

Sgt. S. Renshaw (England)

(Sunday Times, Perth, WA - 9 June, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

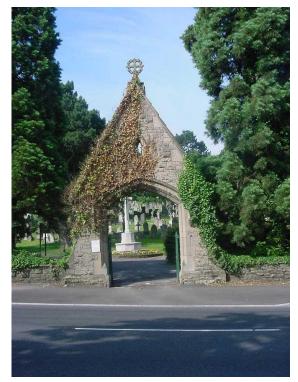
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

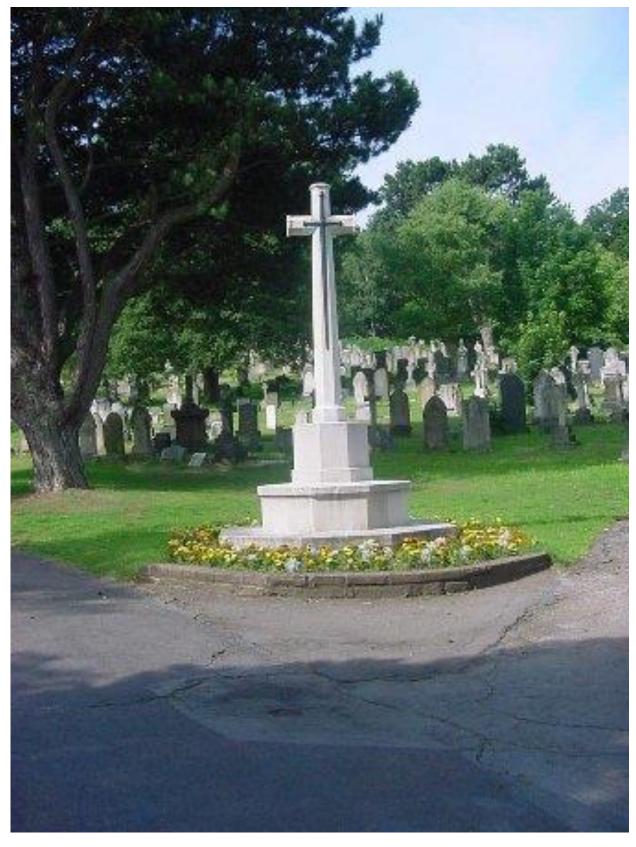
Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw has a Private Headstone.

Nottingham Road Cemetery, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

Nottingham Road Cemetery, Mansfield contains 96 War Graves – 51 from the First World War & 45 from the Second World War.



Entrance to Cemetery (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)



Cross of Sacrifice
(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)

Photo of Lance Sergeant Samuel Renshaw's Private Family Headstone in Nottingham Road Cemetery, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)



In

Loving Memory Of

SAMUEL RENSHAW

Who Died May 25th 1903

Aged 34 Years

Rest In Peace

Also **ANNIE**, Wife Of Above

Who Died At Fremantle

March 8th 1914 Aged 41 Years

Also **HAROLD**, Son Of Above

Killed In Action In France

July 17th 1916 Aged 22 Years

Also **SAMUEL**, Son Of Above

Died Of Wounds

May 13th, 1918. Aged 20 Years

God Is Our Shield