Liversedge Cemetery, Spenborough, West Yorkshire, England War Grave



World War 1



22154 SAPPER

S. W. SHEARD

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS
29TH OCTOBER, 1919

Samuel Wallace SHEARD

Samuel Wallace Sheard was born on 16th January, 1898 at Marrickville, Sydney, New South Wales to parents Samuel & Mary (May) Sheard (nee Simpson).

Samuel Wallace Sheard was a 19 year old, single, Fitter from Burnbank, Balmoral Beach, Mosman, NSW when he enlisted in Sydney, NSW on 12th November, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 22154 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Sheard, Burnbank, Balmoral Beach, Mosman, NSW. Samuel Wallace Sheard stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been apprenticed with Government Railways Sydney for 3 years.

As Samuel Sheard was under the age of 21 years – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for active service abroad. Samuel was aged 19 years & ten months when he enlisted & his mother – Mary Sheard signed her consent. On the "Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force" form – in the "Consent of Parents or Guardians" section – Mary Sheard wrote to in answer to "Statement regarding Death or Absence of either of both Parents" – "Mother separated from Husband."

Private Samuel Wallace Sheard was posted to Recruits on 19th November, 1917 at Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW. He was transferred to Recruit M. & D. Depot at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 26th November, 1917. On 10th December, 1917 Private Sheard was transferred to "A" Company, Technical Battalion. An entry on his Statement of Service form shows "26th Reinforcements, 2nd Battalion" but no date recorded. Private Sheard was transferred to "B" Company of Technical Battalion on 16th December, 1917 then to Pioneers on 21st December, 1917.

Private Samuel Wallace Sheard was granted Final Leave from 29th December, 1917 to 3rd January, 1918. He was transferred back to "A" Company of Technical Battalion on 4th January, 1918. Private Sheard was transferred to Engineer Reinforcements, 2nd Military District on 19th February, 1918 with the rank of Sapper.

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Persic (A34)* on 21st March, 1918 with the Field Companies Engineers, 2nd Draft Reinforcements & disembarked at London, England on 24th May, 1918.

Australian Engineers in the First World War

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

(Description of Engineers Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard was marched in to No. 3 Camp, Parkhouse, Wiltshire from Australia on 24th May, 1918. He was marched out to Engineers Training Depot at Brightlingsea on 31st May, 1918 from Details, No. 3 Camp, Parkhouse.

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.

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from Engineers Training Depot on 4th October, 1918. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 5th October, 1918. Sapper Sheard was marched out of A.G.B.D. on 8th October, 1918 & was taken on strength of 3rd Field Company Engineers in France from Reinforcements on 14th October, 1918.

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard was appointed Driver on 6th December, 1918.

Driver Samuel Wallace Sheard was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 18th January, 1919 with Bronchitis. He was transferred to Rest Station on 18th January, 1919 & discharged to his Unit on 3rd February, 1919. Driver Sheard rejoined his Unit on 3rd February, 1919.

Driver Samuel Wallace Sheard reverted to the rank of Sapper on 17th March, 1919 (A.I.F. Order 785).

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard was detached to 1st Division Memorial Working Party at Pozieres from 30th April, 1919. He was detached to Graves Registration Detachment in France from 1st May, 1919. Sapper Sheard was reported to be with Monumental Working Party at Pozieres on 20th May, 1919

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard was on Leave to UK from France from 16th June, 1919 & returned to France on 30th June, 1919.

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard was detached to 3rd Field Company Engineers on 20th August, 1919. He was reported as "still attached to 1st Division Monumental Party" at Pozieres on 8th September, 1919.

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard was granted Leave & reported to London from France on furlo from 30th September, 1919 to 14th October, 1919. He was then to report to Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 15th October, 1919. The balance of his Leave to make up – 21 days was to be granted in Australia (ex Graves Services).

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard was written up for an Offence on 15th October, 1919 – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 10 am on 15th October, 1919 to 10 am on 18th October, 1919. Award – admonished by Major C. H. Howard on 18th October, 1919. He forfeited 3 days' pay.

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard was instructed to report to Millbank Hospital (The Queen Alexandra Military Hospital) for admission on 20th October, 1919. He was reported to be dangerously ill on 22nd October, 1919.

Mrs Mary Sheard, Burbank, Balmoral Beach, Mosman, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 27th October, 1919 that Sapper Samuel Sheard had been admitted to Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, Millbank, England on 22nd October with Pneumonia. A second communication dated 27th October, 1919 advised that Sapper Samuel Sheard was dangerously ill.

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard died at 4 am on 29th October, 1919 at The Queen Alexandra Military Hospital (Census Section), Millbank, London, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Samuel W. Sheard, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1919 in the district of St. George Hanover Square, London, England.

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard was buried on 1st November, 1919 in Liversedge Cemetery, Spenborough, West Yorkshire, England in Family Grave – Plot number D. "C". 153 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sapper Sheard - Coffin was Elm with brass mountings. The funeral left the residence of his cousin, Mr Same Sheard for Liversedge Cemetery where the deceased was buried in the family grave. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. The funeral service both in the Cemetery Chapel and at the Graveside was conducted by Rev. A. J. Eley. Wreaths sent bore the following inscriptions:- "With deepest sympathy from Uncle and Aunt, Mr & Mrs Tom Priestly, Hightown."; "With deepest sympathy from Cousins Cam, Sarah Jane, James and Alfred Sheard's, Hartshead." "With deepest sympathy from Aunt Ann and Cousins Sarah and Lizzie, Hartshead."; "With deepest sympathy from all his cousins Joe, Same, Wright, Charles, Amy and Mary Jane Priestly." "With deepest sympathy from Mr & Mrs J. T. Sheard and family."; "With deepest sympathy from Elizabeth, Ann Evelyn, Emma & Nellie."

A representative of these headquarters was present. The usual wooden cross was erected over the grave.

Names of Family and Friends present at the Funeral: (Cousins) Mr & Mrs Sam Sheard & family – Hartshead; (Aunt) Mrs Priestly & family – Liversedge; (Uncle) Mr Richard Walker & family – Roberttown; (Aunt) Mrs Ann Sheard & family – Liversedge; (Cousin) Miss Thewlis – Roberttown; (Cousin) Mr Bedford – Roberttown; (Cousins) Mr & Mrs J. T. Sheard & family – Liversedge & Friend Mr Joseph Hayes – Sydney, Australia.

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard stated (no date recorded) that his Will was lodged with his mother – Mary Sheard, "Burnbank" Balmoral Beach, Mosman, NSW. Samuel Wallace Sheard requested in his Will, dated 26th January, 1918 "being in sound heath of Body and Mind hereby Will and bequeath to my dear Mother Mary Sheard in consideration of the love and affection which I have for her all monies, Land and other personal effects which are

belonging to me at my demise and in the event of her death before this will can take effect the same monies Land and other properties to revert to my sister Marjorie Alice Sheard."

Russell & Russell Solicitors, George Street, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 24th May, 1920 requesting a Certificate of Death for "No. 2<u>5</u>154 Sapper Samuel <u>William</u> Sheard, of 3rd Field Engineers, A.I.F., who, we understand, died at <u>Portsmouth</u>, England on 29th October, 1919."

Base Records replied on 28th May, 1920 enclosing a Certificate of report of death of the late No. 22154, Sapper S. W. Sheard, 3rd Field Company Engineers.

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. Sheard, "Burnbank", Mandelong Rd, Mosman, NSW, on 19th May, 1920 regarding their communication to her on 27th March "I have to state the personal effects of your son, the late No. 22154 Sapper S. W. Sheard, 3rd Field Company Engineers, referred to therein, have now been received at this branch, but before same can be disposed of, it will be necessary for you to forward the Will executed by the late soldier."

Mrs M. Sheard replied to Base Records on 27th May, 1920, stating "The Officer in Charge of Deceased Soldiers Estate, Victoria Barracks, Sydney requested me to bring in my son's Will which I did & it has been there since 27th March, 1920. I called today and saw the Officer in Charge & he promised me he would forward it on."

Base Records replied to Mrs M. Sheard on 2nd June, 1920 stating "I have to acknowledge receipt of your communications dated 24th and 27th May and in reply to state copy of a Will executed by your son, the late No. 22154 Sapper S. W. Sheard, 3rd Field Company Engineers, has now been forwarded to this Office by the District Finance Officer, Victoria Barracks, Sydney. Your son's personal effects will be forwarded to you with as little delay as possible."

The personal effects of the late Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard were forwarded to his mother – Mrs M. Sheard on 11th June, 1920.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Sheard, "Burnbank", Mandelong Rd, Mosman, NSW, mother of the late Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard, on 10th June, 1921 stating she was registered on the records as the next-of-kin of the late Sapper Sheard but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 2nd District Base on 21st December, 1922 advising that a communication had been forwarded to Mrs M. Sheard, "Burbank", Mandelong Road, Mosman, NSW, mother of the late No. 22154 Sapper S. W. Sheard, in June, 1921 requesting information is the late soldier's father still survives but no answer had been received. The letter continues with a request for a later address for Mrs M. Sheard so that the War Medals etc issuable on account of the late Sapper S. W. Sheard could be properly disposed of.

Base Records wrote to District Finance Officer, 2nd Military District, on 5th May, 1923 asking to whom the War Gratuity of the late Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard had been allotted to & asked if there was a later address than "Burnbank" Mandelong Road, Mosman, NSW for Mrs Mary Sheard, the late soldier's mother. The letter continued with "I should also be glad to learn whether your files disclose the existence of the deceased soldier's father, if so, are there any good and sufficient reasons as to why his claims should be ignored in the distribution of war medals, etc."

The District Finance Officer, 2nd Military District, replied to Base Records on 14th May, 1923 to advise that the Gratuity of Sapper S. W. Sheard, No. 22154 was paid to the mother Mrs M. Sheard at the address quoted. "The Mother made a Declaration to the effect that she had not heard of the Father for over 10 years."

Base Records wrote to Mrs Mary Sheard of "Burnbank" Madelong Road, Mosman, NSW on 21st May, 1923 advising "It is proposed to hand the War Medals, etc., issuable on account of the service of the late No. 22154 Sapper S. W. Sheard, 3rd Field Company Engineers, over to you, but this can only be done on the distinct understanding that they will be preserved with due care as memorials of deceased and returned to the Department at any time upon receipt of its demand in writing. If you are agreeable to accept them under these conditions I shall be obliged if you will

complete the attached Declaration before a Justice of the Peace and return same to me at your earliest convenience."

Wright Albert Sheard, "Burnbank" Mandelong Road, Mosman, wrote to Base Records on 15th June, 1923: "Re War Medals of my brother the late No. 22154, Sapper S. W. Sheard, 3rd Field Company Engineers. I am in receipt of your memo dated May 21st, addressed to my mother in reference to the above. At the present time mother is touring the East and it is doubtful if she will be back in Australia for at least five months. As I am the next nearest next of kin doubtless it would be satisfactory under the circumstances for me to receive the medals and give them to mother when she returns. If this is quite satisfactory would you forward me an amended form and I will complete and return same immediately."

Base Records replied to Mr W. A. Sheard on 7th July, 1923 stating "I am enclosing herewith a Declaration embodying the facts that any War Medals etc., forwarded to you on account of the service of the late No. 22154 Sapper S. W. SHEARD, 3rd Field Company Engineers, will be preserved by you with due car e until your mother, Mrs M. Sheard, returns to Australia, when the mementoes will be handed over to her, also that, should the occasion arise, your will return the items to this Department at any time upon receipt of its demand in writing. Upon receipt of the documents duly completed by you before a Justice of the Peace the Medals will be despatched. I shall be glad if, when handing the Medals over to Mrs Sheard, you will request her to complete the Bond forwarded under cover of my communication of the 21st May Last as requested herein and return same to this Office."

A Statutory Declaration was completed my Mrs Mary Sheard of "Burnbank" Madelong Road, Mosman, Sydney, New South Wales in which she declared "I will preserve with due care any War Medals or any other items, given into y custody on account of the service of the late No. 22154 Sergeant S. W. SHEARD, 3rd Field Company Engineers, Australian Imperial Force, and will return same to the Department of Defence at any time upon receipt of its demand in writing."

Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. Mary Sheard signed as receipt of these two medals on 23rd August, 1923. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Sheard's mother – Mrs M. Sheard, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent August, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper S. W. Sheard – service number 22154, of 3rd F.C.E., Australian Engineers. No family details are listed.

Sapper S. W. Sheard is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 24.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

S. W. Sheard is remembered on the Mosman War Memorial, located at Alan Bord Oval, Myahgah Road & The Crescent, Mosman, NSW.



Mosman War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

COOPER C.S. CRANT H.E. COOPER K.J. CREEN J. CREEN J. CREEN J. CREEN J. COUNTS J.W. MAIC-PHILP R.M. CROSS J.S. CROSSMAN W.J.B. CUNNINCHAM J. HEALEY R.A.C. DARCAN W.R. HENLEY A.W. DAVIS R. HILLMAN E.M. DICKSON F.K. HILLYAR A.U. DICKSON F.K. HILLYAR A.U. DICKSON F.K. HILLYAR H.U. DICKINSON R. NSE! HOCUE O. DOHERTY F.J. HOLLINGWORTH R.E. DONALDSON J.K. HOLMES E.C. DORNBUSH E.C. HOLROYD L.P. DOWDING A. HOUNTA A.S. DUFAUR-CLARK H. HUNT A.S. DUFAUR-CLARK H. HUNT C.B.F. DUNKINSON R.V. ELDERSHAW A.C. JAMES C.C. ELLIOTT R.B. JAMES C.C. ELLIOTT R.B. KERNACHAN A. FARMER R.W.B. KERNACHAN A. KERNOT E.W.P. FARMER R.W.B. KERNACHAN A. KER

(82 pages of Sapper Samuel Wallace Sheard'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

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Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

SHEARD – October 29, died of pneumonia at Queen Alexandra Hospital, England, Sapper Wallace Sheard, beloved son of Mr and Mrs S. Sheard, aged 21 years.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 6 November, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SHEARD – October 29, at Queen Alexandra Hospital, England, Sapper Wallace Sheard, beloved friend of Mr and Mrs Grounds.

A beautiful memory left behind,

A duty nobly done.

SHEARD – October 29, in England, my dear friend, Wally. Deeply regretted by Millie. Thy will be done.

SHEARD - October 29, at Queen Alexandra Hospital, England, Sapper Wallace Sheard, beloved friend of Mr and Mrs Butler, Marrickville.

Memories dear.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 8 November, 1919)

A.I.F. CASUALTIES NEW SOUTH WALES LIST

The latest A.I.F. casualty list – No. 476.....

22154 Spr S. W. SHEARD, 3rd F.C.E., died of illness 29/10/19;

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 27 November, 1919)

THE 476TH CASUALTY LIST

KILLED OR DIED

NEW SOUTH WALES

S. W. Sheard (Mosman), illness, p.r.i.;

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 2 December, 1919)

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On Active Service

SHEARD – In memory of my pal, Wally, died of illness, October 29, 1919. Inserted by T. Larkin.

SHEARD – In memory of my pal, Wally, died in Military Hospital, London, October 29, 1919. Inserted b J. Ruthven.

SHEARD – A tribute of love to our dear friend, Sapper Wallace Sheard, who died October 29, 1919. Gone, dear Wallace, but still lovingly remembered by Mrs Grounds and Millie.

SHEARD – In memory of Sapper Wallace Sheard, died in England of illness. Ever remembered by his true pal, Alf. Sawyer.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1920)

On Active Service

SHEARD – In cherished memory of my darling son, Sapper Wallace Sheard, died of illness in Millbank Military Hospital, London, October 29, 1919.

I have lost my soul's companion,

A life linked with my own, The supreme sacrifice.

Inserted by his loving mother, Mrs S. Sheard, Mandalong-road, Mosman.

SHEARD – In loving memory of my darling brother, Wally, died of illness. Millbank Military Hospital, London. Inserted by his loving sisters and brother, Jess, May and Albert.

SHEARD - In loving memory of my friend, Sapper Wallace Sheard, of Mosman, died in England, October 29, 1919.

In the home you are fondly remembered,

Sweet memories cling around your name;

The hearts that held you in deepest affection

Still love you I death just the same.

Inserted by his loving friend, Vera McVey.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1920)

On Active Service

SHEARD – In loving memory of y daring son and our brother, Sapper Wallace Sheard, who died on October 29, 1919. Inserted by his loving mother, brother and sisters.

SHEARD – In loving memory of my old pal, Wallace, died in England, October 29, 1919. Never forgotten by his old pal, Alf.

SHEARD – In loving memory of my dear friend, Sapper Wallace Sheard, of Mosman, died in England, October 29, 1919.

God remembers when the world forgets.

Inserted by his loving friend, Vera McVey.

SHEARD - Dear old Wally, still lovingly remembered by Mrs Grounds and Millie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1921)

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IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SHEARD – A tribute of love to the memory of my son, and our brother, Sapper Wallace Sheard, who died of pneumonia in London, October 29, 1919. Inserted by his sorrowing mother, brother and sisters.

SHEARS - A loving tribute to dear old Wallace, from his fond friends, Mrs Grounds and Millie. Remembrance.

SHEARD – In memory of Sapper Wallace Sheard, died in England. Ever remembered by his true pal, Alf. Sawyer.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1922)

On Active Service

SHEARD – In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Wallace, who died at London, from pneumonia, October 29, 1919, aged 21 years. Inserted by his loving mother, brother and sisters.

SHEARD -In memory of Sapper Wallace Sheard, died in England, of illness. Ever remembered by his true pal, Alf Sawyer.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1923)

On Active Service

SHEARD - A loving tribute to dear old Wally. Still lovingly remembered by Auntie Agg and Millie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1923)

On Active Service

SHEARD – In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Sapper Wallace Sheard, who died at Millbank Hospital, London, October 29, 1919, age 21 years. Inserted by his loving mother, Mrs Sheard, Mandalong-road, Mosman, brother and sisters.

SHEARD - In memory of Sapper Wallace Sheard, died in England, of illness. Ever remembered by his true pal, Alf. Sawyer.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1924)

On Active Service

SHEARD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Wallace, who died October 29, 1919. Inserted by his loving mother, brother, Albert, and sisters Marjorie and Jessie.

SHEARD - In memory of Sapper Wallace Sheard, died in England, of illness. Ever remembered by his true pal, Alf Sawyer.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1925)

On Active Service

SHEARD - In memory of Sapper Wallace Sheard, died in England, October 29, 1918. Inserted by his old pal, Alf Sawyer.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 30 October, 1926)

On Active Service

SHEARD – On loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Sapper Wallace Sheard, who died at Millbank Hospital, London, October 29, 1919. Never forgotten by his loving mother, Albert, Jessie and Marjory.

SHEARD – In memory of my pal, Wallace, who died in England, October 29, 1919. Inserted by Alf Sawyer.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1927)

On Active Service

SHEARD – On loving memory of my son and our brother, Sapper Wallace Sheard, who died at Millbank Hospital, London, October 29, 1919. Inserted by his mother, Jessie, Margery, and Albert.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1928)

On Active Service

SHEARD – On loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Wallace, who died Millbank Hospital, London, October 29, 1919. Inserted by his loving mother, Albert, Leslie and Margery.

SHEARD – In loving memory of my old pal, Wallace, who died at Millbank Hospital, London, October 29, 1919. Inserted by Alf Sawyer.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1929)

**Memorial notices were also placed in the newspapers in 1930, 1931, 1932 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946

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.

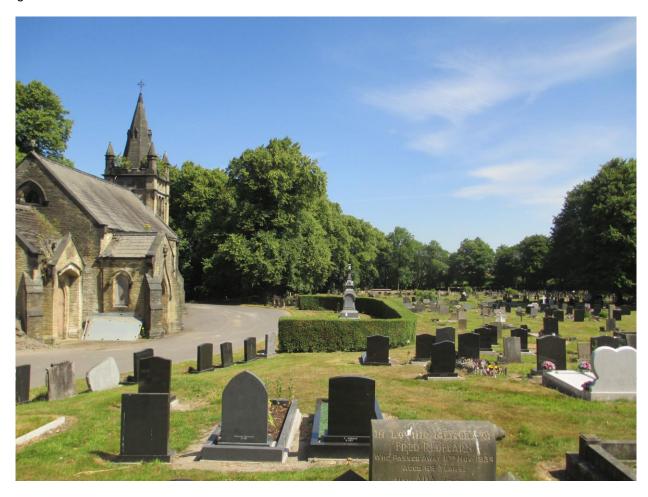
(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Sapper S. W. Sheard has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but no inscription.

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Liversedge Cemetery, Spenborough, West Yorkshire, England

Liversedge Cemetery, Spenborough contains 15 Commonwealth War Graves – 4 relating to World War 1 & 11 relating to World War 2.



(Photos – Find a Grave – Martin Bentley)



Photo of Sapper S. W. Sheard's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Liversedge Cemetery, Spenborough, West Yorkshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)