

**Hendon Cemetery,
Hendon, Great London, Middlesex
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



CAPTAIN

C. G. ASHTON

ROYAL AIR FORCE

24TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 34

Cecil George ASHTON

Cecil George Ashton was born at Richmond, Victoria, Australia on 4th April, 1885 to parents George Rossi Ashton & Blanche Brooke Ashton (nee Coppin). He was baptised on 21st May, 1885 in St. Stephens Church, Richmond, Victoria, Australia.

[George Rossi Ashton (b.1857) studied at the South Kensington School of Art and became a black-and-white illustrator for the London *Graphic*. In 1877-78 he represented the *Illustrated London News* at the Kaffir war and next year joined Julian Ashton (his brother) on the *Illustrated Australian News* in Melbourne; together they covered the capture of the Kelly gang at Glenrowan. He was among the first sketch-artists of the *Bulletin*, drew also for the *Australasian Sketcher*, the *Illustrated Sydney News* and the *Picturesque Atlas of Australasia*, and was art editor and artist for *Victoria and its Metropolis*. In 1886-88 he was a member of the Art Society of New South Wales and the Australian Artists' Association (Victoria). In 1893 he returned to England where he continued to illustrate for various papers and toured music-halls with a lightning-sketch routine. He published *Australasian Sketches* (London, 1895). He had married Blanche Brooke Coppin, daughter of George Coppin, and settled on the River Dart with his wife and two sons.]

(Information from the Australian Dictionary of Biography)

Newspaper item – *The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 29 July, 1893:

ART NOTES

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It is always a matter for regret when one of the by no means too large circle of artists in Australia decides upon leaving these shores and transferring his ability to other centres. Although Mr G. Rossi Ashton has resided more in Melbourne than in Sydney, his contributions to the local illustrated press have made his name familiar here. Those who have admired his work in the past will not hear of his departure at an early date for London without some feelings of regret. Last week his Melbourne brothers of the brush entertained him at a farewell supper, the president of the Victorian Artists' Society presiding. Mr Ashton, prior to his arrival in these colonies, had some experience in South Africa as a "war art correspondent," and while in Australia contributed many local sketches to the London Graphic.

The 1901 England Census recorded Cecil G. Ashton as a 16 year old Scholar, living with his family at 3 Northcote Mansions, Hampstead, London, England. His parents were listed as Rossi Ashton (Newspaper Artist & Entertainer, aged 45, born Penzance, Cornwall) & Blanche Ashton (aged 43, born Melbourne, Australia). Also listed on this Census was Cecil's younger brother – Gerald R. Ashton (Scholar, aged 13, born Melbourne, Australia).

Cecil George Ashton joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. His Officer's Service record shows that he was a Temporary Sub-Lieutenant on 12th August, 1916 with *H.M.S. President II* with R.N.A.S. (Royal Naval Air Service) – Air Service Constructional Corps. *(Note: one of his record forms has his date of birth as 15th January, 1857).*

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant Cecil George Ashton was transferred to *H.M.S. President* at Crystal Palace (acc), London. (An Accounting Base) on 17th August, 1916.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant Cecil George Ashton was transferred to Pulham on 9th September, 1916 then transferred to Dunkirk Air Station (acc) on 20th November, 1916.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant Cecil George Ashton was appointed Temporary Lieutenant on 26th January, 1917 at Pulham Air Station (acc). He was then transferred to Scapa Air Station (acc) on 6th February, 1917.

Temporary Lieutenant Cecil George Ashton was reappointed on promotion on 1st April, 1917 then transferred to Pulham (acc) on 10th November, 1917.

Lieutenant Cecil George Ashton was "Comn Term on Trnfr RAF" on 1st April, 1918.

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

The Royal Naval Reserve (R.N.R.) is the volunteer reserve force of the Royal Navy in the United Kingdom. The present RNR was formed by merging the original Royal Naval Reserve, created in 1859, and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (R.N.V.R.), created 1903.

Royal Naval Air Service

The Royal Naval Air Service (R.N.A.S.) was the air arm of the Royal Navy, under the direction of the Admiralty's Air Department, and existed formally from 1 July 1914 to 1 April 1918, when it was merged with the British Army's Royal Flying Corps to form a new service, the Royal Air Force, the first of its kind in the world.

During its first year it continued to be the Naval Wing of the joint Royal Flying Corps (that had been set up in 1912), but was administered by the Admiralty's new Air Department, but on 1 August 1915 the R.F.C. became the flying branch of the British Army while the R.N.A.S. became "an integral part of the Royal Navy"

(Information on R.N.V.R. & R.N.A.S. from Wikipedia)

Lieutenant Cecil George Ashton was promoted to Temporary Captain on 1st April, 1918 on transferring to the Royal Air Force.

The British Royal Air Force Officers' Service Record for Cecil George Ashton record that his father was Rossi Ashton, of 31 Temple Gardens, Golders Green. Cecil's permanent home address was listed as "The Mooring", Westleigh Avenue, Leigh, Essex.

Temporary Captain Cecil George Ashton was posted to Strathbeg (Military Seaplane Station on the Loch of Strathbeg, Scotland) on 16th June, 1918. The next entry records that he was transferred from Malahide to Llangefni on 31st October, 1918. Temporary Captain Ashton was transferred to London on 1st November, 1918 then from Mooring Out Station at Malhide to Mooring Out Station at Woseford on 29th November, 1918. He was transferred back to Llangefni on 12th December, 1918 then to Pembroke (Wales) on 14th December, 1918. Temporary Captain Ashton was transferred to Crystal Palace on 10th January, 1919 – Dispersal Centre.

Temporary Captain Cecil George Ashton was transferred to Unemployed List on 11th January, 1919.

Captain Cecil George Ashton died on 24th February, 1919 at 22 St. John's Wood Park from Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Cecil G. Ashton, aged 34, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Marylebone, London, England.

Captain Cecil George Ashton was buried in Hendon Cemetery, Hendon, Middlesex, England – Plot number B. 6. 24831 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Probate details:

Ashton, Cecil George of 13 Park-place St. James'-street, Piccadilly, Middlesex. Captain Royal Air Force, died 24 February, 1919 at 22 St. Johns Wood Park, Middlesex. Administration London 15 April to Rossi Ashton, artist. Effects £224 8s. 1d.

The Royal Navy Officers Medal Roll for 1914-1920 records that Lieut. Cecil G. Ashton, R.N.V.R. received the Victory Medal & the British War Medal which were awarded to his father. (The transcription for the Medal Roll recorded – Cecil G. Ashton died as Captain R.A.F on 24/2/1919 from influenza & pneumonia).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Captain Cecil George Ashton, aged 34, of Royal Air Force. He was the son of Rossi and Blanche Ashton, of Kingsmount, Kingswear, Devon. Born in Australia.

Captain Cecil George Ashton is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

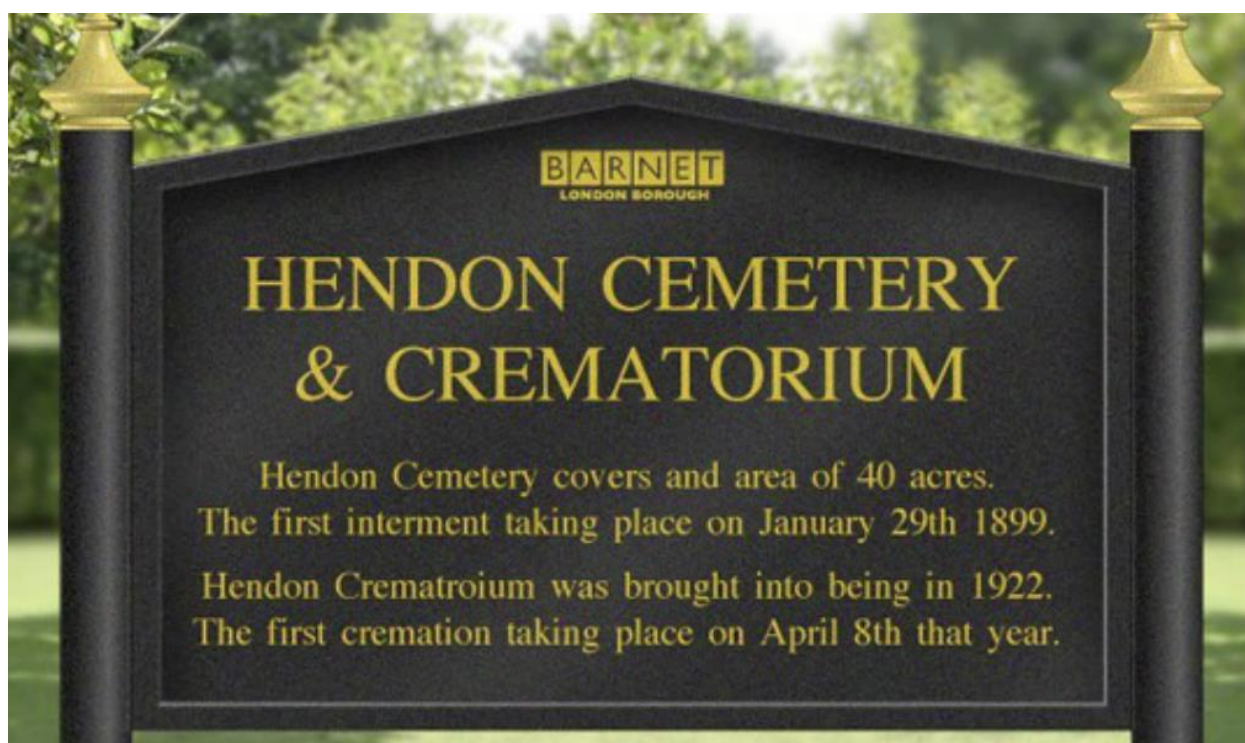


Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)



Hendon Cemetery, Hendon, Middlesex, England

Hendon Cemetery contains 240 Commonwealth War Graves – 70 from World War 1 & 170 from World War 2.





Hendon Cemetery (Photo by Iain MacFarlane – Find a Grave)



Cross of Sacrifice Hendon Cemetery (Photo by Robin Webster)

Photo of Captain C. G. Ashton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hendon Cemetery, Hendon, Middlesex, England.



(Photos by Iain MacFarlane – Find a Grave)

