

Robert Samuel FOUNTAIN

Regimental No. 6273
Religion Church of England
Occupation Labourer
Address Ferntree Gully, Victoria.
Marital status Single
Age at embarkation 34
Next of kin Father, Mr Robert Thomas Fountain,
Ferntree Gully, Victoria, later of Monbulk.
Enlistment date 12th June, 1916 at Claremont, Tasmania.
Rank on enlistment Private
Unit name 12th Battalion, 20th Reinforcement

AWM Embarkation Roll No. 23/29/4
Embarkation details Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A59 *Botanist* on 24th August 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll Private
Unit from Nominal Roll 12th Battalion
1916 19th October Disembarked Plymouth
1917 15th March Proceeded overseas from Folkestone, England to France taking on strength on 19th March.
1917 15th April Taken P.O.W. from No. 1 outpost at Lagnicourt. Remained in the P.O.W. camp in Germany until November 1918.

An extract from a postcard from Robert while prisoner of war sent by postal censor. "*Prisoner, in hospital, my legs are the trouble*" Addressed to Mr W. Samuels of Cornwall UK. Sent on the 31st October 1917.

Fate Returned to Australia 2nd March 1919 per *Derbyshire* from England

Other details Discharged - June 1919 (Service 1099 days: abroad 776).
Medals: 1914 - 15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Described as 5 ft., 8 in., 138 lb., fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair.
Robert was born in a Splitter's Camp above Upwey in Dandenong Forest - "At or near Fern Tree Gully" the old record reads. His mother, Elizabeth Hannah Fountain *nee* Sandalls was the daughter of a Splitter in the forest there. His father was a Splitter in the same camp.
Died 1955 - Warrnambool, Vic. Aged 73.

