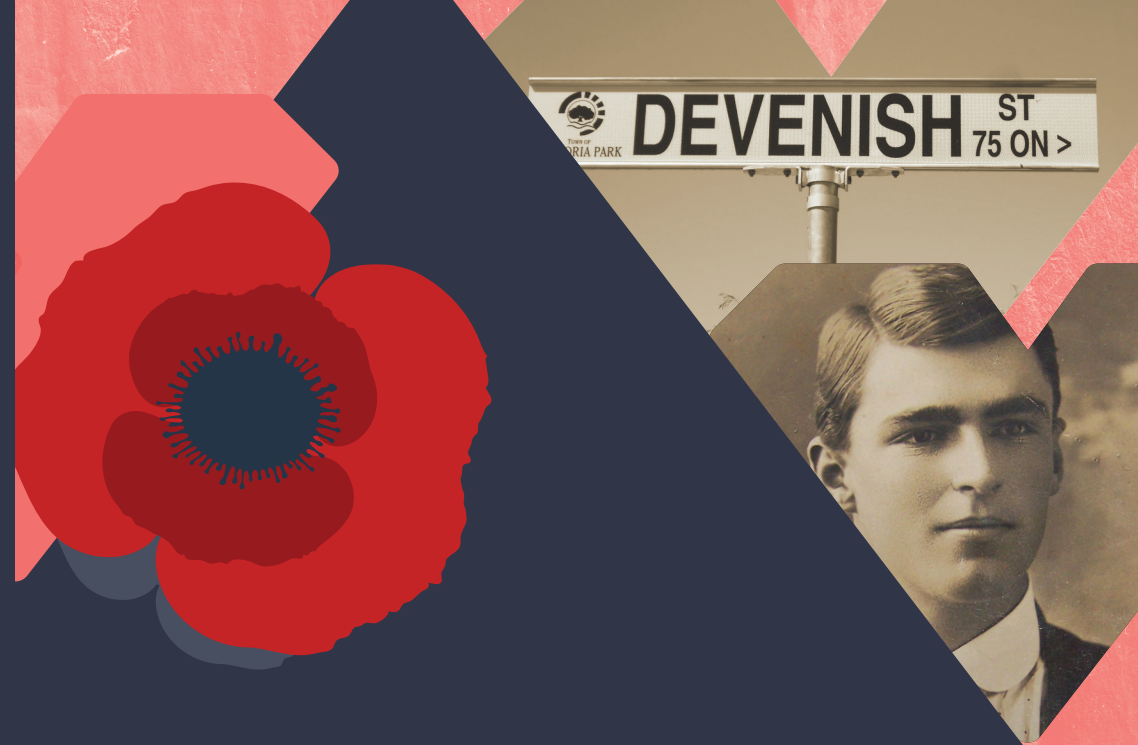


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# ARTHUR LANCELOT "LANCE" DEVENISH (1893–1915)

Warehouseman, Singer, Hero

## Birth and Family

Arthur Lancelot "Lance" DEVENISH was born on the 3 December 1893 in Northam, WA to Arthur DEVENISH and Edith Alice SANDERSON. Lance, as he was affectionately known, was the only living son as one was sadly stillborn in 1887. Lance had two older sisters, Edith Maycock and Muriel. Sadly, their mother Edith Alice died a few short weeks after Lance's birth. The three children were placed in an orphanage until their father Arthur could find a suitable place to live in Perth.

## Life in Victoria Park

By 1903 Lance along with his sisters, father, and his father's new wife Caroline Elizabeth, were living at 48 Leonard Street, Victoria Park.

Lance was known locally as a soloist of some note although professionally he studied agriculture and was working as a warehouseman upon his enlistment in the 11th Battalion at Blackboy Hill on 22 August 1914. Lance was six-foot tall, had dark eyes and black hair and was just four months shy of his 21st birthday when he enlisted.

## War Service

One of the first to enlist following the declaration of war, Lance had a short two weeks preliminary training at Blackboy Hill in the 11th Battalion, and was part of the first convoy of Western Australian troops to leave from Fremantle on 31 October 1914. Lance arrived in Egypt in early December 1914 and continued his training.

Throughout this period, Lance frequently wrote home to his family, telling them of his experiences. In mid-1915 they received a letter from him stating that he was on the island of Lemnos and that he thought great events were about to occur.

Days after writing the letter in the early hours of the morning of the 25th of April 1915 [Lance] and the 11th battalion were amongst the first wave of troops to land on Gallipoli. Many men of that company, including Lance, were never seen again.

In early April 1916 nearly a year after the Anzac landing, Lance was officially reported to have been killed in action. He was 21 years old. His name is recorded on the Lone Pine Memorial on Gallipoli which commemorates nearly 5,000 Australian and New Zealand servicemen who have no known grave.

## Legacy

In 1918 the Perth City Council renamed many streets in honour of fallen war heroes. They renamed Chapman Street to Devenish Street in honour of Arthur Lancelot "Lance" DEVENISH. In 2014 a tree in Kings Park was also dedicate to Lance's honour by one of his great-great nieces.

Private Arthur Lancelot "Lance" Devenish (Service Number: 423) of the famed 11th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force, whom was indeed as official World War I historian C. E. W. Bean would later pen, one "of the flower[s] of Western Australia's youth" who laid down his life for his friends.

***Lest We Forget***