

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,  
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**196 SERGEANT**

**T. REGAN**

**8TH AUST LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT**

**2ND JULY, 1916    Age 27**

## Thomas REGAN

Thomas Regan was born at Camperdown, Victoria in January, 1889 to parents William & Mary Ann Regan (nee Skales).

The 1912, 1913, 1914 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Corangamite, Camperdown, Victoria listed Thomas Regan, Labourer from Camperdown. His parents – Mary Ann Regan, Home Duties & William Regan, Labourer were also listed at Camperdown.

Thomas Regan was a 25 year old, single, Labourer from Wilson Street, Camperdown, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 26th September, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 196 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Regan, Wilson Street, Camperdown, Victoria. Thomas Regan stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served in the Colonial Forces. Thomas Regan had a tattoo mark (flower) on his left forearm.

Private Thomas Regan was posted to 8th Light Horse Regiment – “B” Squadron on 26th September, 1914 for recruit training. He was promoted to Corporal on 3rd October, 1914 & then Sergeant (provisional) on 1st December, 1914.

Sergeant Thomas Regan embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Star of Victoria (A16)* on 25th February, 1915 with the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, 8th Light Horse Regiment – “B” Squadron.

Sergeant Thomas Regan embarked from Alexandria on 16th May, 1915 on Troopship *Menominee* for Gallipoli.

### 8th Light Horse Regiment

The regiment that would eventually become the 8th Light Horse Regiment was formed at Broadmeadows camp in Victoria on 23 September 1914 as the 6th Light Horse Regiment. A reorganisation of the rapidly expanding AIF in early October resulted in the 6th being renumbered the 8th, and it became part of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. It sailed from Melbourne on 24 February 1914 and arrived in Egypt on 14 March 1915.

The light horse were considered unsuitable for the initial operations at Gallipoli, but were subsequently deployed without their horses. The 3rd Light Horse Brigade landed in late May 1915 and was attached to the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 8th formed the first two waves for the Brigade's disastrous attack on the Nek on 7 August and suffered heavily. Exhausted and under-strength, the regiment then played a defensive role until it finally left the peninsula on 20 December 1915.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Sergeant Thomas Regan was admitted to Hospital at Gaba Tepe on 6th July, 1915 with Debility.

Sergeant Thomas Regan arrived at Malta on 13th July, 1915 from Hospital Ship *Clan McGillivray* with Debility. He was admitted to Imtarfa Military Hospital, Malta on 14th July, 1915.



Base Records advised Mr W. Regan, Wilson Street, Camperdown, Victoria, on 2nd August, 1915 that his son – Sergeant T. Regan was slightly sick & had disembarked at Malta between 14th & 20th July. Mr Regan was again advised by Base Records on 30th August, 1915 that Sergeant T. Regan was on Hospital Ship *Clan McGillvray* with Dysentery.

Sergeant Thomas Regan was discharged from Imtarfa Military Hospital & embarked for England on 23rd September, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Dover Castle*.

Sergeant Thomas Regan was admitted to Military Hospital at Lewisham, London, England on 23rd September, 1915.

Base Records advised Mr W. Regan, Wilson Street, Camperdown, Victoria, on 11th October, 1915 that his son, Sergeant T. Regan, was in Hospital in London.

Base Records advised Mr W. Regan, Wilson Street, Camperdown, Victoria, on 7th December, 1915 that his son – Sergeant Thomas Regan was seriously ill with Pneumonia in Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, England.

Mr W. Regan sent a telegram on 8th December, 1916 to Officer Commanding, Base Records, Melbourne enquiring on the progress of Sergeant Thomas Regan. Another telegram was sent by Mr Regan on 18th December, 1915 *“Please enquire further progress of Sgt Thomas Regan.”*

Base Records had sent advice on 17th December, 1915 to Mr W. Regan, Wilson Street, Camperdown, Victoria, reporting that his son – Sergeant T. Regan was progressing satisfactorily. Another advice was sent on 20th or 30th December, 1915 advising that Sergeant T. Regan was *“still seriously ill but slight improvement.”*

Mr W. Regan sent a telegram on 31st December, 1916 to Officer Commanding, Base Records, Melbourne – *“Please inquire further progress Sgt Thomas Regan”*.

Base Records advised Mr W. Regan, Wilson Street, Camperdown, Victoria, on 12th January, 1916 that his son – Sergeant T. Regan was *“rather better. Free Cable ceases.”*

Sergeant Thomas Regan was admitted to No. 1 Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, England on 5th June, 1916 with Tubercle Lung.

Sergeant Thomas Regan died on 2nd July, 1916 at No. 1 Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, England from Phthisis.

A death for Thomas Regan, aged 27, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Sergeant Thomas Regan was buried in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number Aust. 2 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – *The Colac Herald*, Victoria – 13 September, 1916:

### **CAMPERDOWN**

*The relatives of Sergeant Thomas Regan, who died in London, have received some photographs of his grave, small and enlarged, which his comrades had taken. The Anzacs subscribed amongst themselves and placed a beautiful scroll of marble over the grave, which is also covered with wreaths. The following inscription is on the tomb:- “Sgt T. Regan, 8th Light Horse, A.I.F., ‘Anzac’. Aged 27. Died July 2, 1916, at Harefield Hospital. As a token of respect from his comrades in Hospital.” Numbers of people have also written their condolences. Following are some extracts from a letter from English people residing in Peckham;- “It will be a source of comfort to you to know he received the full rites of his Church both before and after his death. The funeral was a most impressive one. Hundreds of soldiers followed the gun carriage and firing party. Nearly all the mourners were Anzacs. The colonel in command of the hospital asked me to convey to you his personal appreciation of the bravery shown by Sergt. Regan while in hospital (the bravery in the field of a member of the 8th A.L.H. doesn’t require mentioning): never a complaint, a grouse, or a sigh escaped him, not even when told he was too ill to go by the hospital ship, a thing on which he had set his mind, just to see his parents and family, for he could not tell us enough of his father and mother. I shall send you a photo of*

*the funeral procession. His grave was completely lined with ivy, and the bottom was placed a thick carpet of marguerites, not a speck of earth showing, all the hard work of his fellow comrades. We feel that we have lost a friend, a white man, who never suffered from or knew the meaning of 'cold feet' and one who we honestly believe was straight as a die, a son of whom any mother might be proud, and only one of the many of his kind serving with the Australian forces. The more we see and understand our colonials the more we appreciate their value. I am afraid we have terribly underrated them in the past. It was Colonel Haywood who gave me the message to send you. If there is anything we can do for you in any way we shall count it a please to help you."*

Mr Leslie Cohen, c/- Woolwich Convalescent Home, Lane Cove River, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 9th September, 1918 stating he was writing again to ask for the "*whereabouts of Sergeant Regan's people who live in Eastern Melbourne.... Their soldier enlisted in Victoria in the 6th Australian Light Horse. As he died in England in Harefield Park Convalescent Home in 1916. I am a Returned Soldier myself and I am in search of his people as I have photos of his funeral...*" Base Records replied on 17th September, 1918 stating the address details of the next-of-kin of the late Sergeant T. Regan was Mr W. Regan (father), Wilson Street, Camperdown, Victoria.

Mr J. F. Hull, Department of Lands & Survey, Melbourne, wrote to Base Records on 2nd September, 1921 stating that he had in his possession a photo of a portion of the Anzac Cemetery at Harefield, England showing very clearly the headstone of Sergeant T. Regan, 8th Light Horse Regiment & would like to forward the card on to the next-of-kin & requested the address. Base Records replied on 10th September, 1921 stating the address details of the next-of-kin of the late Sergeant T. Regan was Mr W. Regan (father), Wilson Street, Camperdown, Victoria.

Sergeant Thomas Regan was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Regan's father – Mr W. Regan, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Thomas Regan – service number 196, aged 27, of 8th Australian Light Horse. He was the son of Mr William Regan, of Wilson St., Camperdown, Victoria, Australia.

Sergeant T. Regan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 6.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*



T. Regan is remembered on the Terang & Camperdown Roll of Honour, located in Camperdown RSL, 14 Pile Street, Camperdown, Victoria.



Terang & Camperdown Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



T. Regan is remembered on the Camperdown War Memorial, located at Manifold & Cressy Streets, Camperdown, Victoria.



**Camperdown War Memorial** (Photos from Carol's Headstones)

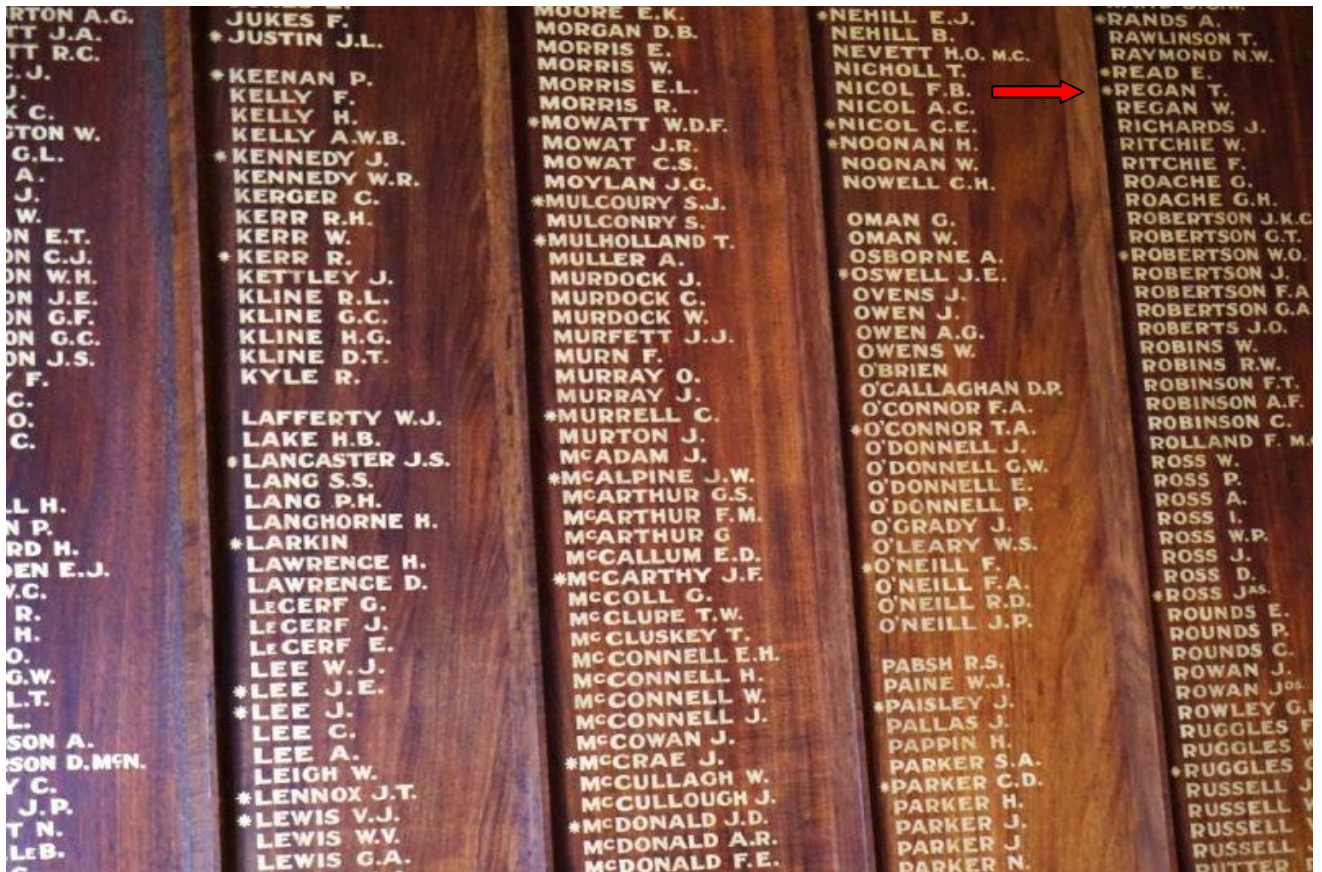




T. Regan is remembered on the Shire of Hampden Honour Roll, located in Corangamite Shire Offices, 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown, Victoria.



Shire of Hampden Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)







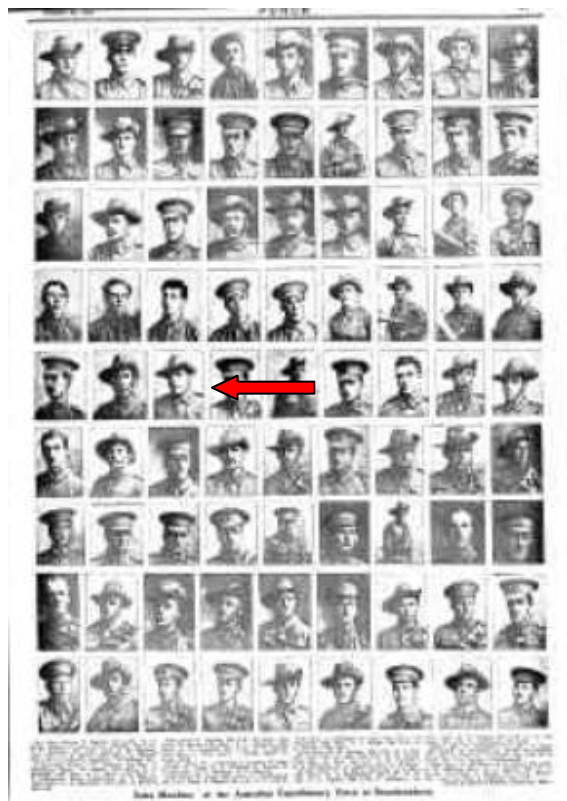




**Sergeant Thomas Regan**



## Newspaper Notices



Fifth Row – R. Pond, 9th L.H.; F. Weatherhead, 8th L.H.; Sergt. T. Regan, 8th L.H.; T. P. Collins

### **Some Members of the Australian Expeditionary Force at Broadmeadows**

(*Punch*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 March, 1915)

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### **WOUNDED DISTRICT SOLDIERS**

Private W. Regan, of Camperdown, who has been wounded at the Dardanelles, is a brother of Mrs A. O'Dowd, of Colac. Another relative in Private Skeyhill, of Hamilton, also appeared amongst the names in the same list of casualties. By a coincidence Private Regan, who enlisted at Yarrowonga, met his brother (an officer in the Light Horse) in Egypt just prior to going into the fighting line, the latter having landed, just previously, with the Light Horse.

(*The Colac Herald*, Victoria - 9 June, 1915)

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### **SICKNESS ON GALLIPOLI**

#### **604 ADDITIONAL CASES**

The sixty-third list of casualties amongst Australians in Gallipoli was issued last night.

Illness

Sgt T. REGAN, Camperdown

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 12 August, 1915)

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## **Late Sergeant Regan**

### **DEATH OF LONG ILLNESS**

The number of local soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice as a result of their laudable determination to play a man's full part in the Empire's present gigantic struggle, is, unfortunately, slowly increasing, and quite a few of our bravest and best are now peacefully resting in other lands, after having done their share in winning imperishable fame for their native land.

Last Friday word was received, through the Rev. Father Shine that Sergeant T. Regan eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. Regan, of Wilson-street, Camperdown, had succumbed to illness in Harefield Hospital, England, on July 2. On receipt of the news the keenest sorrow was expressed on all hands, for Sergeant Regan was a native of this town and had lived all his life here, and was respected and esteemed throughout the community. The late soldier was a fine character and was possessed of qualities that had endeared him to all, and his passing has come as a great shock to his intimate acquaintances. He had a most likable disposition and was a general favorite in Camperdown, and the townspeople mourn his death almost equally with his relatives, for whom widespread and sincere sympathy is felt. Particularly will his former schoolfellows and those who saw him grow from childhood to manhood regret the fact that he will return no more, for they knew best his true worth. Though of a gentle and lovable, nature he was possessed of his share of those qualities that won world fame for Australian soldiers, and when the call came he quickly responded.

The late Sergeant Regan volunteered in September, 1914, and left Australia the following February. He arrived in Egypt as the Australian Infantry were embarking for Gallipoli, and was just in time to have half an hour's conversation with his brother (Corporal W. Regan) before the latter joined his boat en route to the Dardanelles, where the late Sergeant Regan followed later. He spent eight weeks in the trenches at Gallipoli, when he took ill in June, 1915, contracting dysentery. He was sent to Malta Hospital and while there further misfortune overtook him, he being seized with rheumatics. In September, 1915, he was sent to England, and became an inmate of Lewisham Hospital, where he remained till November, then being sent to the No. 2 Australian Rest Camp. He had been at the latter place three weeks when he contracted pneumonia and pleurisy and was taken to Warwick Hospital, where he remained until a month before his death, finally becoming an inmate of Harefield Hospital.

The late Sergeant Regan reached the age of 27 years last January. Prior to enlisting he had displayed military inclinations. When at school he was a member of the Cadets existing before the introduction of the present defence scheme, and later on joined the local Light Horse, of which he was a member for some years, obtaining the rank of Corporal, and he left Australia with the 8th Light Horse, which body subsequently did duty as infantry at Gallipoli.

He was well-known in all circles in Camperdown and besides being a prominent member of St. Patrick's Church Dramatic club, he was an enthusiastic sportsman, and all classes sincerely regret his untimely death.

Corporal W. Regan a brother of the late Sergeant Regan, returned from Gallipoli wounded some time ago. Since then he again volunteered but was not accepted for active service, instead being given a position at Broadmeadows Camp, where he still is.

On Saturday in Camperdown flags were flown at half-mast from public and private buildings as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Sergeant Regan.

*(Camperdown Chronicle, Victoria – 11 July, 1916)*

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### **OBITUARY**

The parents of Sergeant Thomas Regan, Camperdown, on Friday received word of his death in London. He took part in some of the heaviest fighting on Gallipoli, and was one of the few survivors of his company. He contracted rheumatism in the trenches, and was invalided to England, where bronchitis and pneumonia developed. He was ill for 12 months, and his undaunted courage was shown in a letter just received, in which he stated he was feeling better, and expected to be sailing for Australia at any time. The news of his death, just following the letter, was therefore a great shock to his relatives. At Colac on Sunday morning Rev. Fr. Daly referred to the death of Sergeant Regan. He said he had been closely associated with him while in Camperdown, and had found him one of the finest Catholic young men he had ever met. He was prefect for the Sodality of the Sacred Heart, and in other ways was



always a willing and cheerful assistant in Church matters. Fr. Daly said he could not let the opportunity pass without, making special reference to the death of Sergeant Regan, and he asked the congregation to say special prayers for the repose of his soul. When war broke out, Sergeant Regan, his brother, Corporal W. Regan, and their close friends, Privates H. Hayball and W. Dews, volunteered for service. They set out with light hearts, saying they would take the chances. Corporal Regan was the first to be incapacitated, he being severely wounded in the body and knee seventeen days after the memorable landing on Gallipoli. Later, Private Hayball was killed. Now we learn of the death of the third member of that ill-fated party, while poor Willie Dews, the fourth member, has been reported as missing since the landing.



Standing – Sergeant Tom Regan, died in London (prefect Sacred Heart Sodality, Camperdown)

Sitting – Corporal W. Regan, severely wounded and invalided home.

(*Advocate*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 July, 1916)

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## **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

### **185TH LIST**

Died of Illness

Sgt T. REGAN, Camperdown

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 18 July, 1916)

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## **COLAC**

At a meeting of the Colac H.A.C.B. Society last, week feeling reference was made to the death of Sergeant Thomas Regan, of Camperdown. A motion was carried by all standing in silence expressing sympathy with the parents in their great loss, and out of respect to the secretary it was decided to place a record in the minutes of the books of the society's profound sorrow. A large number of members spoke to the motion. All regretted he had not lived in Colac to take part in the H.A.C.B., because they had heard their chaplain, Father Daly, frequently referring to Sergeant Regan as a model of what a Catholic young man should be. The secretary, in feelingly thanking members for their kindly sentiments, said he had conveyed the sad news to Father Daly, who burst into tears when he heard it.

*(Camperdown Herald, Victoria – 26 July, 1916)*

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## **CAMPERDOWN'S ROLL OF HONOUR**



### **The Late SERGEANT THOMAS REGAN**

Who died of illness (contracted at Gallipoli) in Harefield Hospital, England, on July 2, 1916.

*(Camperdown Chronicle, Victoria – 1 August, 1916)*

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### **Bereavement Card**

Mr and Mrs REGAN and FAMILY desire to THANK all kind Friends for letters and cards of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement. Would Friends be good enough to accept this public acknowledgement.

*(Camperdown Herald, Victoria – 12 August, 1916)*

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## **CAMPERDOWN**

In connection with the death of Sergeant Thomas Regan, in the Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, the parents in Camperdown a few days ago received two letters from the matron (E. Gray) of the hospital. The first, dated July 2nd, notified that the medical officer decided that the young man was not well enough to travel by the outgoing boat to Australia, through taking a bad turn. The next letter was dated only five days later, and conveyed the sad news of the son's death. The matron said: "He was the priest on Saturday morning, and gradually sank, until he passed away the next afternoon. His end was peaceful, and before he died he said everything was quite all right. He was buried with military honours. His comrades laid wreaths of flowers on his grave, and placed a scroll of marble on it. They have arranged for a photo graph to be taken, which we will send you." The Sister who nursed Sergeant Regan is a relative of a young lady employed in a Camperdown Milliner's shop with a sister of Sergeant Regan.

(*Advocate*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 September, 1916)

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## **LATE SERGEANT REGAN**

Mr and Mrs W Regan, of Camperdown, are in receipt of letters from the Matron (Miss E. Gray) of No.1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Eng., referring to the death of their son, Sergeant Regan. In one of these, dated July 7, the Matron writes:—"It is with sincere regret that I have to tell you of your son's death, though before now you will have received the cable from Headquarters in London. The last letter I wrote told you of his bad turn, which took place last Saturday morning. From this he never rallied, and gradually sank until he passed away at 3.5 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Everything that could possibly be done for him was done. He was peaceful and had no pain, though his breathing was labored. . . . He was buried with military honors on Tuesday afternoon in the little cemetery where two of our other patients have been laid to rest. . . . Please accept our sincere sympathy. As far as we could we tried to help him, as we knew you would have, could you have been with him. His nurse, Sister Rippen, and I were with him when he died. The end was peaceful, and he said everything was quite all right. His comrades laid several wreaths of flowers on the grave, and between them subscribed sufficient money to place a scroll of marble, engraved, over the grave. They have also arranged for a photograph of the grave to be taken, and this will be sent you. We thought you would be pleased to know exactly all that happened.

(*Camperdown Chronicle*, Victoria – 16 September, 1916)

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## **Hampden Shire Council**

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Hampden Shire Council was held yesterday....

Correspondence

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From Mr and Mrs Regan and family thanking the Council for kind letter of sympathy in connection with the death of the late Sergeant Thomas Regan.

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(*Camperdown Chronicle*, Victoria – 3 October, 1916) & (*Terang Express*, Victoria - 3 October, 1916)

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**IN MEMORIAM**

REGAN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergeant Thomas Regan, who died in England, July 2nd, 1916. R.I.P.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on his soul.

Our Mother, Queen of Heaven, Intercede for him.

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents, brothers and sisters, Camperdown, Mrs A. O'Dowd (sister, Colac; Corporal W. Regan (brother, Corowa)

(*Advocate*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 July, 1918)

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**IN MEMORIAM**

REGAN – On your charity pray for the repose of the soul of Sergeant Thos. Regan, who died in London, 2/7/16. R.I.P.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters, Camperdown, Colac and Corak (N.S.W.)

(*Advocate*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 July, 1919)

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**IN MEMORIAM**

REGAN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergt. Thos. Regan, formerly of Camperdown, who died in London, July 3, 1916. R.I.P.

-Inserted by his parents, brothers and sisters.

(*Advocate*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 July, 1920)

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**IN MEMORIAM**

REGAN – Of your charity, dear friends, pray for the repose of the soul of Thomas Regan, who died in England in 1919.

(*Advocate*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 July, 1922)

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Thomas Regan is remembered on his parents' headstone in Camperdown Cemetery, Victoria.



**Camperdown Cemetery, Victoria** (Photos courtesy of Carol's Headstones)







*In Loving Memory Of*

*Our Dear Parents*

**WILLIAM REGAN**

*Died 24 March 1945, Aged 87.*

**MARY ANN REGAN**

*Died 28 Nov. 1927, Aged 62.*

**Also Their Son THOMAS**

**Late 1st A.I.F.**

**Died 2 July 1916, Aged 27**

**May They Rest In Peace.**



## 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 28th July, 1921, to Mr W. Regan, Wilson Street, "Camberdown", Victoria advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Sergeant T. Regan, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Sergeant T. Regan does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

## **St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England**

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*

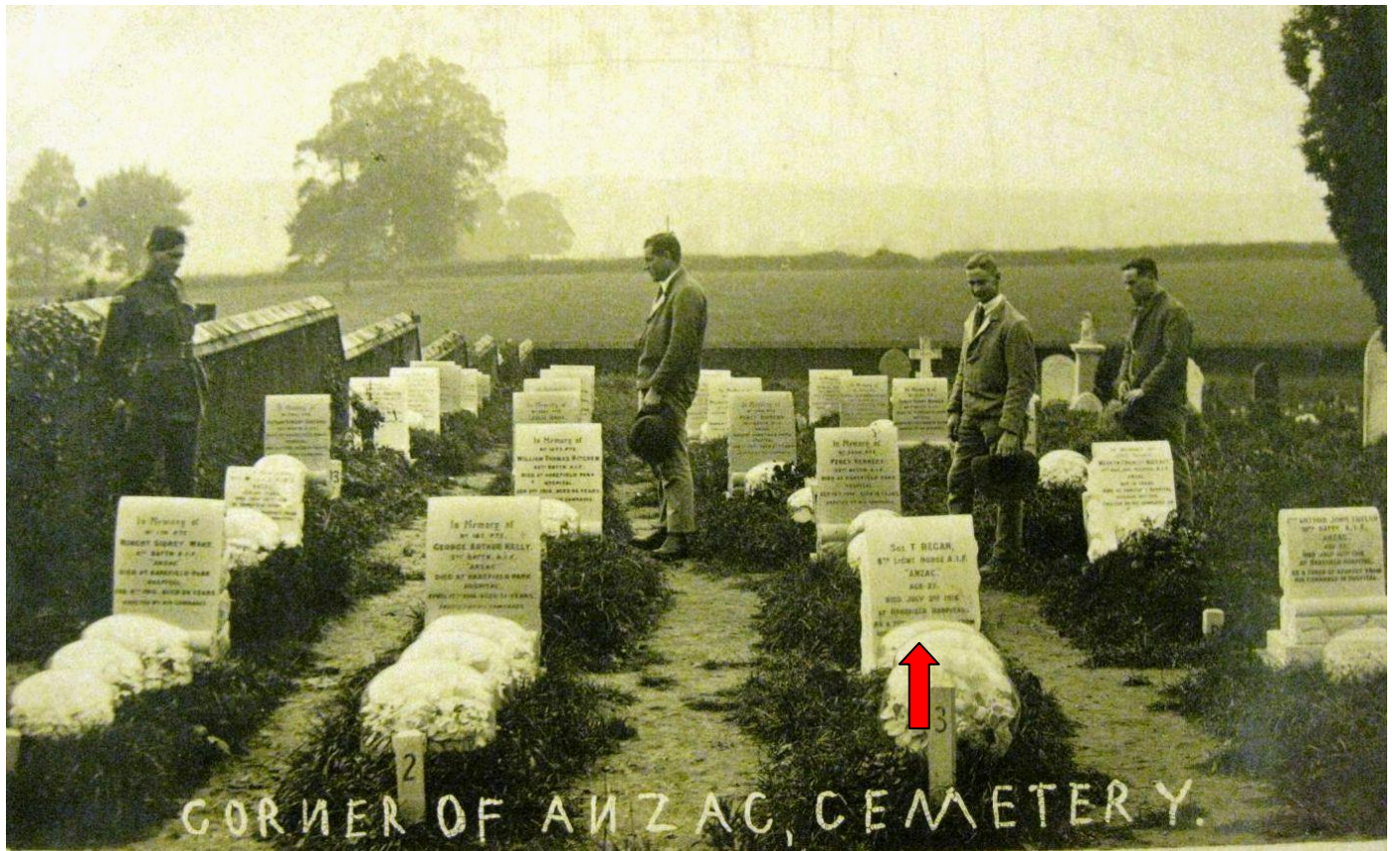






**Sergeant T. Regan's Headstone** (marked with arrow)





**Sergeant T. Regan's Headstone** (marked with arrow)





Photo of Sergeant T. Regan's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*





*(Photo courtesy of Judith Murfitt)*





**St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield** (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield** (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)





St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

