

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2847 CORPORAL

E. F. RENNICK

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

19TH APRIL, 1917 Age 24

Ernest Francis RENNICK

Ernest Francis Rennick was born at Canterbury, Victoria on 8th June, 1892 to parents Edward Croker Rennick and Florence Rennick (nee Carter).

Ernest Francis Rennick attended Scotch College, Perth, Western Australia from 8th October, 1906. He passed his Senior Public Examination in 1909 & left the College on 1st December, 1909.

(Scotch College information courtesy of Archivist, Scotch College, Swanbourne, Western Australia)

The 1914, 1915 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Hawthorn, Victoria listed Ernest Francis Rennick, Clerk, from Barker's Road, Kew.

Ernest Francis Rennick was a 23 year old, single, Clerk from "Monake" Barker's Road, Hawthorn, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 26th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2847 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr E. Rennick, care of Read and Read Solicitors, William Street, Melbourne, Victoria. (the address of the next of kin on Attestation Papers shows Edward Rennick, Ravensthorpe, W.A.). Ernest Francis Rennick stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 1 ½ years with Scotch College Cadets in Western Australia.

Private Ernest Francis Rennick was posted to Depot Battalion on 5th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion on 19th July, 1915.

Private Ernest Francis Rennick embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Star of Victoria (A16)* on 10th September, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements.

Private Ernest Francis Rennick was taken on strength of 6th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 7th January, 1916. *(Casualty Form – Active Service states he reverted to the Ranks on joining Battalion)*

Private Ernest Francis Rennick was transferred to 58th Battalion from 6th Battalion on 17th February, 1916. He was taken on strength of 58th Battalion on 17th February, 1916 at Serapeum.

58th Battalion

The 58th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 17 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Roughly half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 6th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 6th, the 58th was predominantly composed of men from Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Ernest Francis Rennick was transferred to 15th Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company from 58th Battalion on 8th March, 1916. He was taken on strength of 15th Brigade Machine Gun Company at Tel-el-Kebir on 9th March, 1916.

Private Ernest Francis Rennick embarked from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 on *Kalyan*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 24th June, 1916.

Private Ernest Francis Rennick was to be Temporary Corporal from 24th August, 1916 vice 2288 Corporal Gibb promoted to T/Sergeant.

Temporary Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick was appointed Corporal on 20th October, 1916.

Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick was sent sick to Hospital on 20th February, 1917. He was admitted to 12th Australian Field Ambulance on 20th February, 1917 with Trench feet then transferred the same day to 5th D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) & admitted to 21st February, 1917. From there Corporal Rennick was transferred & admitted to 1st S.M. Casualty Clearing Station on 25th February, 1917 then transferred to 31st Ambulance Train on 26th February, 1917. Corporal Rennick was admitted to 1st Canadian General Hospital on 27th February, 1917. He embarked from Havre, France on 1st March, 1917 for England on Hospital Ship *Dieppe* with Trench feet.

Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick was admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital (also known as Kitchener Military Hospital) at Brighton, Sussex, England on 2nd March, 1917 with Trench Feet.



Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick died at 11.45 am on 19th April, 1917 at Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from Acute Phthisis.

A death for Ernest F. Rennick, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick was buried on 23rd April, 1917 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIF.108 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier's remains were accorded a Military Funeral. Firing Party provided by the Royal Field Artillery stationed at Brighton were in attendance. Trumpeters of the Royal Field Artillery sound the "Last Post" at the graveside. The deceased soldier's remains were interred in the Heroes Corner at the Brighton Cemetery. The Revd. Sydney Bevan of Brighton officiated at the graveside. No relatives were present at the Funeral. Temporary Oak Cross is being erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain any details of the sufferings, death and burial of Corporal E. F. Rennick. The Registrar, Kitchener Military Hospital replied "*This soldier gradually became weaker and, in all probability, developed a Tubercular infection. Everything was done for him that could be done and he did not suffer to any extent before he died.*" An earlier update had stated "*This patient is suffering from a very severe pneumonia probably tuberculosis and he is dangerously ill.*"

Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Rennick's father - Mr E. Rennick, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick – service number 2847, aged 24, of 15th Coy., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of Edward Croker Rennick and Florence Rennick, of 112 Barkers Rd., Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia.

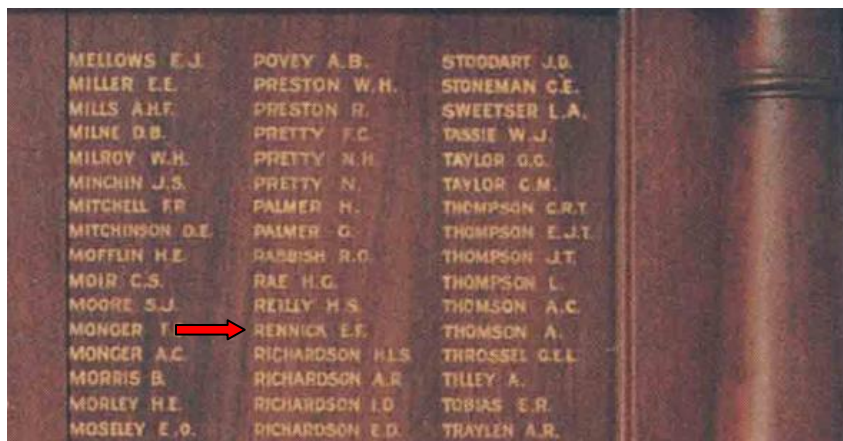
E. F. Rennick is remembered on the 1914 – 1918 Roll of Honour Board, located at Collegians House, Scotch College, Swanbourne, Western Australia.



Scotch College Roll of Honour Board

(Image remains copyright of Scotch College, Perth)

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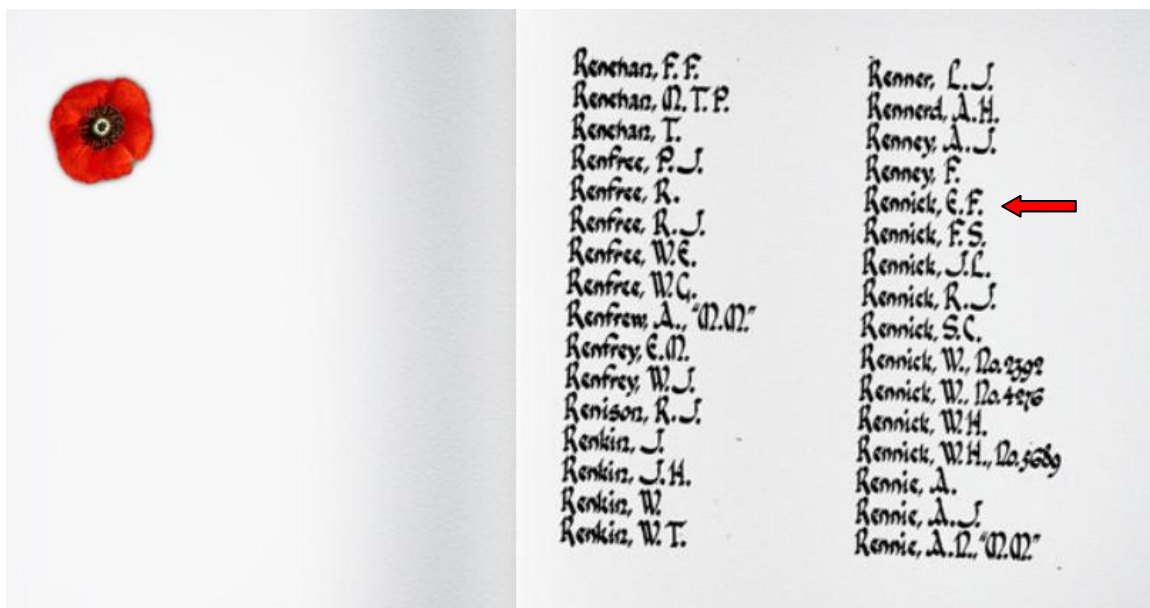


E. F. Rennick is remembered on the Melbourne Harbour Trust Honour Roll, located at 2A Clarendon Street, Southbank, Melbourne, Victoria.



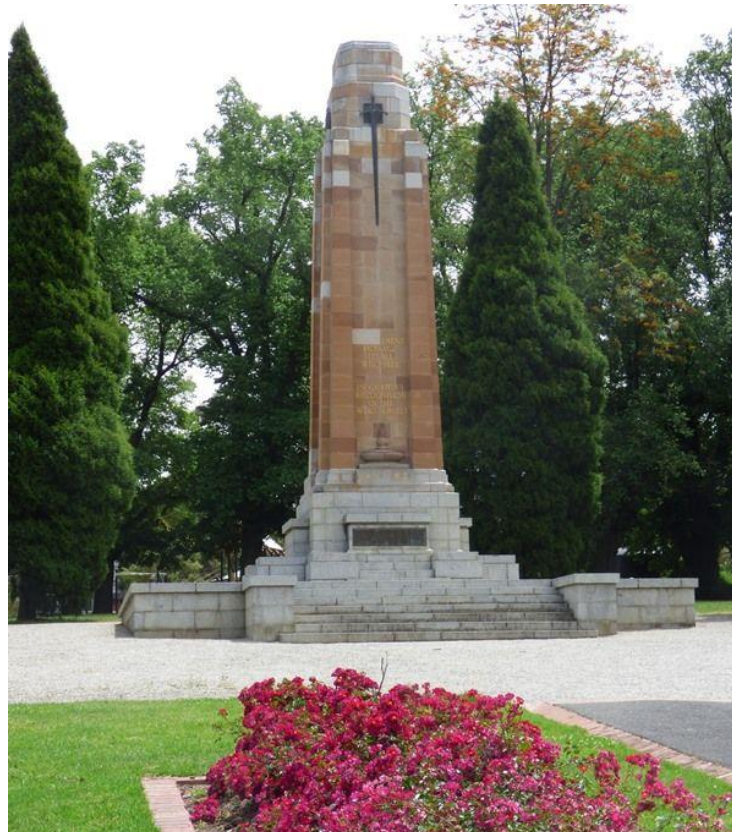
Melbourne Harbour Trust Honour Roll (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Faith)

E. F. Rennick is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





The Hawthorn Cenotaph, located in St. James Park, Burwood Road, Hawthorn Victoria does not list individual names.



Hawthorn Cenotaph (Photo from Monument Australia)

Corporal E. F. Rennick is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 179.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(36 pages of Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

THE SCOTCH COLLEGE

SPEECH DAY

A more than usually large and fashionable company of wellwishers of the Scotch College assembled on the playground last week to commemorate the speech day and prize distribution for the year 1910.....

The Principal (Mr P. C. Anderson, M.A.) then read his report, which contained the following:-

"It gives me great pleasure to submit for your consideration the 14th annual report of the Scotch College.....Next let us look at the results of last year's senior public examination. Thus, of course, is a very much harder examination than the junior. It is the matriculation examination of the Adelaide University. The total number of candidates who sat for this examination in November last year was 622. Here, again, one of our boys, E. L. Bean, topped the list. R. Walker, came 3rd, J. L. Owen 10th, W. Caldwell 14th, Craig 13th, E. Mellows 19th, H. G. Cumming 41st, and E. F. Rennick 52nd, while L. R. Benjabin, H. Evans, C. A. Hope, H. S. Lucraft, and M. A. Scouler succeeded in passing.

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The following boys received certificates:- Senior Public Examination, 1909 – Bean, E. L., Benjamin, L.R., Caldwell, Wm., Craig, Charles, Cumming, H. G., Evans, Howard, Hope, C.A., Lucraft, H. S., Mellows, E.J., Owen, J. L., Rennick, E. F., Scouler, Walker, Robert.

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(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 24 December, 1910)

DIED ON SERVICE

RENNICK – Died of illness, in the Kitchener Military Hospital, on April 19, Corporal E. F. Rennick (Mick), beloved younger son of E. C. and Florence Rennick, of Barker's road, Hawthorn.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 April, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

290TH LIST

Died of Illness

Cpl. E. F. RENNICK, Melbourne.

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 1 May, 1917)

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)

Corporal E. F. Rennick does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Base Records notified Imperial War Graves Commission, London on 15th November, 1932 advising them that the entry in the publication for Brighton Borough Cemetery for the late No. 2487 Corporal E. F. Rennick showed the date of death incorrectly & should read "19th April, 1917." The photo of the headstone (see below) of the late Corporal Rennick shows that the date of death had been corrected since the headstone was made & installed.

The Imperial War Graves Commission replied to Base Records on 21st December, 1932 stating that the entry in the Register relating to Corporal E. F. Rennick would be amended & "action will also be taken to ensure the accuracy of the inscription on the headstone."

A slip of paper in the Service Record file of the late Corporal Ernest Francis Rennick reads: "In order to correct the date of death it will be necessary to sink a small panel to the depth of the existing lettering and to re-engrave the correct date on the background of the panel. This action will be carried out. Extract M. 33/53 of 13.1.1933 ex I.W.G.C. in reply to B.R. letter dated 15.11.1932."

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





(Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Corporal E. F. Rennick's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo by Terry Denham)