

**Netley Military Cemetery,  
Hampshire, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1984 C. SERJT. MAJOR**

**L. A. RENO DCM**

**52ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**6TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 24**

*Pro Rex Et Patria*

*Te Saluto*

## Lawrence Adrian RENO

Lawrence Adrian Renou was born in 1892 at Seymour, Victoria to parents Frederick George and Henrietta Grace Renou (nee Darling).

Lawrence Adrian Renou attended Perth High School (now Hale School), Wembley Downs, Western Australia.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Dampier, subdivision of York listed Lawrence Adrian Renou, Engineering Cadet, of Quairading, Western Australia.

The First World War Embarkation Roll lists Laurence Adrian Renou as a 23 year old, single, Civil Engineer from East Cannington, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 2nd March, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1984 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Frederick G. Renou, of East Cannington, Western Australia. Lawrence Renou stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 3 years with No. 1 Battery, Western Australian Field Artillery.

Private Lawrence Adrian Renou was posted to No. 12 Depot Company on 10th March, 1915 for recruit training. He was promoted to Corporal on 16th April, 1915 & posted to "D" Company of 5th Reinforcements of 12th Battalion the same day.

Corporal Lawrence Adrian Renou embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Hororata (A20)* on 26th April, 1915 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements.

Corporal Lawrence Adrian Renou was taken on strength at Anzac with 12th Battalion on 12th July, 1915. He reverted to Ranks & was promoted to Corporal on 27th July, 1915 & taken on strength of 12th Battalion at Gallipoli the same day.

Corporal Lawrence Adrian Renou was promoted to Sergeant on 1st September, 1915.

Sergeant Lawrence Adrian Renou disembarked from H.M.T. *Lake Michigan* at Alexandria on 6th January, 1916.

Sergeant Lawrence Adrian Renou was transferred from 12th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade on 1st March, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir to 52nd Battalion, 13th Brigade at Railhead the same day.

Sergeant Lawrence Adrian Renou was to be C.S.M. (Company Sergeant Major) & Warrant Officer Class 2 on 12th March, 1916 while posted at Tel-el-Kebir.

Company Sergeant Major Lawrence Adrian Renou proceeded on *Ivernia* from Alexandria on 5th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 12th June, 1916.

Company Sergeant Major Lawrence Adrian Renou was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his action at Mouquet Farm – "*\_\_ General, brave and excellent work on the 3rd & 4th September, 1916. Patrolled trench during heavy bombardment on afternoon of 4th September. At 4.15 pm when it was necessary to fall back 150 yards and build new barricades. He filled sandbags for 1 ½ hours under heavy fire until wounded.*"

Company Sergeant Major was wounded in action in France 3/4th September, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd Canadian Field Ambulance on 5th September, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to head & face. He was transferred & admitted to 49th Casualty Clearing Station on 5th September, 1916. C.S.M. Renou was transferred to No. 12 Ambulance Train on 8th September, 1916 & was admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France with gunshot wounds to head the same day. C.S.M. Renou embarked for England on Hospital Ship *West Australia* on 24th September, 1916.

### 52nd Battalion

The 52nd Battalion was raised at Tel el Kebir in Egypt on 1 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were veterans from the 12th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 12th, the 52nd was originally a mix of men from South and Western Australia and Tasmania. From March 1916, the battalion's reinforcement groups mainly comprised men from Queensland. The 52nd became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division.

After arriving in France on 11 June 1916, the 52nd fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm on 3 September. It had been present during an earlier attack mounted by the 13th Brigade between 13 and 15 August, but had been allocated a support role and missed the fighting. In this second attack the 52nd had a key assaulting role and suffered heavy casualties- 50 per cent of its fighting strength. The battalion saw out the rest of the year alternating between front line duty, and training and labouring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-17.

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

Company Sergeant Major Lawrence Adrian Renou was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 25th September, 1916 with gunshot wounds to head – severe. The Hospital Admissions form reads:  
*“At C.C.S. 5-9-16. L. eye eviscerated. Large septic wound in L. Frontal Region. R. Eye blind. Frontal lobe exposed. Bridge of nose & ethmoid destroyed. Conscious but noisy.”*

*On admission – Septic wound, Hernis pulsates. No pain.*

*27-9-16 Patient is quiet & conscious.*

....

*19-10-16 Wound satisfactory, but patient's general condition poor: much weaker.*

*29-10-16 Hernia protruding – L. lid swollen. Some pus from upper margin of hernia.*

.....

*4-11-16 General condition bad.*

*5-11-16 Pulse feeble. Much cerebro-spinal fluid & pus came away. Temp. dropped.”*



**Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley**

Company Sergeant Major Lawrence Adrian Renou was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal – Routine Orders dated 21st October, 1916. (London Gazette – 14th November, 1916; Commonwealth of Australia Gazette – 19th April, 1917).

### **Distinguished Conduct Medal**

The Distinguished Conduct Medal (D.C.M.) was established as a decoration for gallantry in the field by other ranks of the British Army & Commonwealth Dominions and Colonies. It is the oldest British award for gallantry and was a second level military decoration, ranking below the Victoria Cross (until its discontinuation in 1993 when it was replaced by the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross). During the First World War, concern arose that the high number of medals being awarded would devalue the medal's prestige. The Military Medal was therefore instituted on 25 March 1916 as an alternative and lower award, with the Distinguished Conduct Medal reserved for more exceptional acts of bravery. (Wikipedia)



**Distinguished Conduct Medal**

Company Sergeant Major Lawrence Adrian Renou died at 3.30 pm on 6th November, 1916 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wound to head.

A death for Lawrence A. Renou, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Company Sergeant Major Lawrence Adrian Renou was buried on 7th November, 1916 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England –Plot number C.E. 1872 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mr. F. Renou, of 91 Hill Street, Perth, Father of the late Company Sergeant Major Lawrence Adrian Renou, received a letter from Base Records, dated 25th April, 1917 stating: - *"I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Second Supplement, No. 29824 to the "London Gazette" of 14th November 1916, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, the late No. 1984, Company Sergeant Major L. A. Renou, 52nd Battalion:--"Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry in action. He carried out patrol work during a heavy bombardment. Later, in order to build a barricade, he filled sand bags for one and a half hour s under very heavy fire. He showed a splendid example of courage and determination throughout." (The above has been promulgated in the Commonwealth of Australian Gazette, No. 62 of 19th April, 1917)."*

Company Sergeant Major Lawrence Adrian Renou was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to C.S.M. Renou's father – Mr F. Renou, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Company Sergeant Major Lawrence Adrian Renou – service number 1984, aged 24, of 52nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frederick George and Henrietta Renou, of Collins St., Melbourne. Awarded the D.C.M. (Distinguished Conduct Medal).

Company Sergeant Major L. A. Renou is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 156.



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

C.S.M. L. A. Renou is remembered with Plaque No. 20 in the Memorial Grove at Hale School, Hale Road, Wembley Downs, Western Australia. The Memorial Grove honours the 124 Old Haleians who have died in conflicts since the Boer War.



**Memorial Grove & Eternal Flame sculpture with Memorial Plaques at Hale School, Western Australia**



L. Renou is remembered on the Gosnells War Memorial, located in the grounds of City of Gosnells Council, Albany Highway, Gosnells, Western Australia.



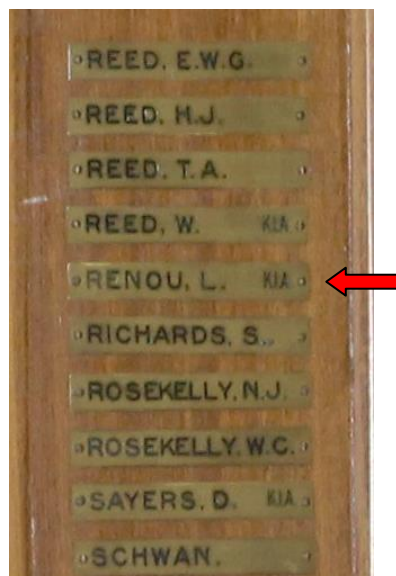
**Gosnells War Memorial** (Photo by Gordon Stuart)



L. Renou is remembered on the Gosnells Road Board Honour Roll, which is located in the Gosnells RSL, 2 Mills Road, Gosnells, Western Australia.



Gosnells Road Board Honour Roll (Photo by Linton)



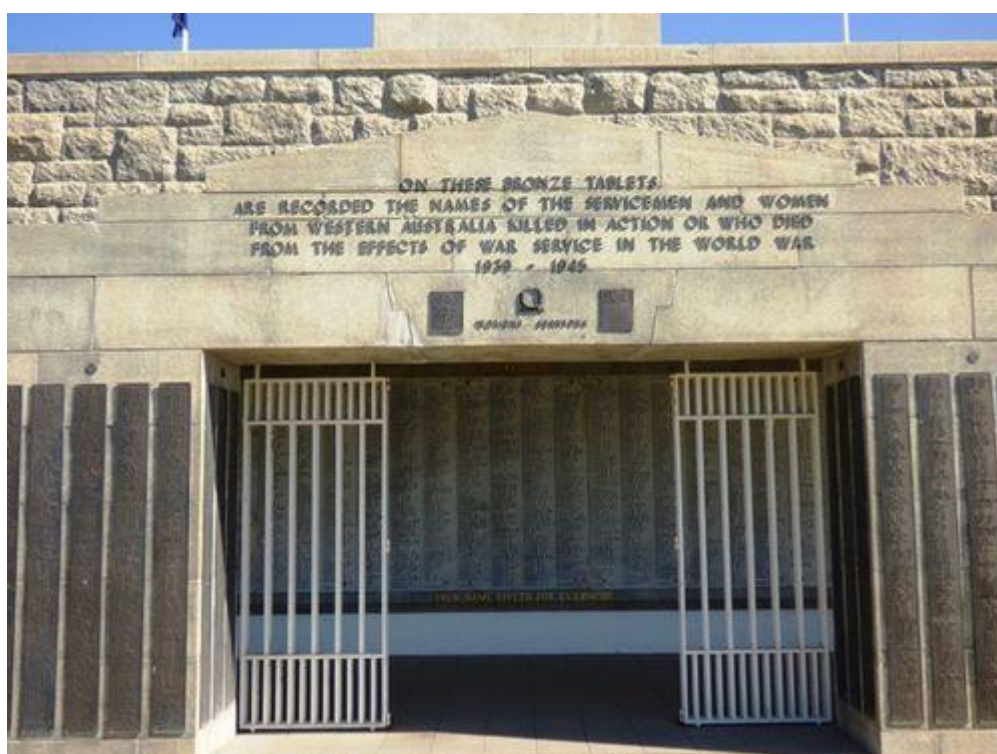
The Western Australia State War Memorial is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)  
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

*(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)*



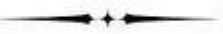




**Other Corps of Australia Panel** (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(46 pages of Company Sergeant Major Lawrence Adrian Renou'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) & National Archives





**SERGT.-MAJOR LAWRENCE A. RENO**

52nd Battalion

Died of wounds. Son of Mr J. G. Renou, C.E., Perth  
(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 15 June, 1917)



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **230th LIST**

##### **WOUNDED**

C.S. H. L. A. Renon (East Cannington), and dangerously ill

*(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 13 October, 1916)*

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### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIXTH LIST**

##### **WEST AUSTRALIA**

##### **PROGRESS REPORT**

Sergeant-Major L. A. Renou, East Cannington condition stationary, previously reported severely wounded and dangerously ill.

*(Kalgoorlie Western Argus, Western Australia – 24 October, 1916)*

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### **At the Fighting Fronts**

#### **243rd CASUALTY LIST**

##### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

C.S.M. L. A. RENO (E. Cannington), previously reported seriously wounded and dangerously ill.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 22 November, 1916)*

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### **KILLED IN ACTION**

RENOU – On November 6, 1916, at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, from wounds received in France, Sergeant-Major L. A. Renou, 52nd Battalion, late 12th Battalion, only son of H. and F. G. Renou, of Perth; aged 24 years and 10 months. Pro Rege et Patria – Te Salute.

*(The West Australian, Perth, W.A. – 18 November, 1916) & (The West Australian, Perth, W.A. – 20 November, 1916)*

*(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 24 November, 1916)*

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## **WAR CASUALTIES**

Mr. J. G. Renou, C.E., of Adelaide-terrace, Perth, has received the following letter from Major Dean, officer in charge of Base Records, Melbourne :-"I have much pleasure in forwarding copy of extract from the second supplement to the London 'Gazette' of November 14, 1916, relative to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, the late Company Sergeant-Major L. A. Renou, 52nd Battalion:--'Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry in action. He carried out patrol work during a heavy bombardment, later, in order to build a barricade, he filled sand bags for an hour and a half under very heavy fire. He showed a splendid example of courage and determination throughout. " (The above has been Promulgated in the Commonwealth Australian "Gazette.") The young soldier, who was only 24 at the time of his death, was born in Victoria and educated at the James-street School and the High School, in Perth, subsequently joining the Public Works Department as an engineering cadet. He was engaged on railway construction when the war broke out and promptly responded to his country's call. He had served three years with the Perth Artillery Corps and was consequently well qualified for active service. He went through the Gallipoli campaign and was at the evacuation, subsequently proceeding to France, where he was wounded during the Mouquet Farm engagement on September 6, dying from the wounds received two months later. Sergeant Renou was a grandson of Lieutenant F. Renou, of Greenwich Naval School.

*(The West Australian, Perth, W.A. – 22 June, 1917)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Anzac Heroes**

RENOU – In memory of C.S.M. Lawrence Adrian Renou, D.C.M., 52nd (late 12th) Battalion A.I.F., Warrant Officer B.I.F., only son of H. and F. G. Renou, who died at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England, November 6, 1916, from wounds received in France September 3, 1916. Te Salute.

*(The West Australian, Perth, W.A. – 6 November, 1917)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Anzac Heroes**

RENOU – In memory of my old friend, Sergeant-Major L. A. Renou D.C.M., who died on November 10, 1916, from wounds received at Mouquet Farm.

- Inserted by Lance Mattinson (on active service)

*(The West Australian, Perth, W.A. – 10 November, 1917)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Anzac Heroes**

RENOU – In memory of C.S.M. Lawrence Adrian Renou, D.C.M., 52nd (late 12th) Battalion A.I.F., Warrant Officer B.I.F., only son of H. and F. G. Renou, who died at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England, November 6, 1916, from wounds received in France September 3, 1916. Te Salute.

*(The West Australian, Perth, W.A. – 6 November, 1918)*

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## 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)*

Company Sergeant Major L. A. Renou does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Pro Rex Et Patria Te Saluto*

## **Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England**

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire**



**Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire** (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)

Photo of C. Serjt. Major L. A. Renou's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.





**Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery**

