

**St. Edith's Churchyard,  
Baverstock, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2143 PRIVATE**

**A. RENWICK**

**34TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**13TH JANUARY, 1917    Age 35\***

*Not Forgotten*

*By His Two Loving Sisters*

*Bella And Lizzie*

*(\*Information provided by Family for Roll of Honour states age at death – 42)*

## Alfred RENWICK

Alfred Renwick was born at Millfield, Sunderland, Durham, England around 1875 to parents James & Isabella Renwick.

The 1881 England Census records Alfred Renwick as a 5 year old living with his family at 41 Potts St, Bishopwearmouth, Sunderland, Durham. His parents were listed as James Renwick (Plater in Ship Yard, aged 36) & Isabella Renwick (aged 35). Alfred was one of seven children listed in this Census – John W. (aged 15), Isabella (aged 13), Jane (aged 11), James (aged 9), then Alfred, George (aged 2) & Elizabeth (aged 5 months). Also listed was Hannah Renwick, sister of James Renwick (Domestic servant, aged 23).

Alfred Renwick attended Barnes Road School, South Shields, England.

The 1891 England Census records Alfred Renwick as a 14 year old Page Boy, living with his family at 103 & 101 Frederick St, Westoe, South Shields, Durham. His parents were listed as James Renwick (Plater in Ship Yard, aged 45) & Isabella Renwick (aged 45). Alfred was one of six children listed in this Census – Jane (aged 20), James (Shipyard Labourer, aged 17), then Alfred, George (aged 12), Elizabeth (aged 10) & Ethel B. (aged 3).

Isabella Renwick, mother of Alfred Renwick, died in 1895 at South Shields, Durham, England.

Alfred Renwick arrived in Australia around 1907 or 1908 according to information provided by his sister for Roll of Honour.

Alfred Renwick stated he was a 34 year old Seaman (postal address 56 Druid Street, Sydney, NSW) when he enlisted at Liverpool, NSW, on 22nd October, 1914. Alfred stated that he had served 12 years –with time expired with 68th Durham Light Infantry. Alfred was given the service number of 58 & was attached to 3rd Battalion, N. and M. Forces, Trop. Unit. Private Renwick was promoted to Corporal (Temporary) whilst employed in Signalling Station at Rabaul on 1st April, 1915. He was discharged on 31st December, 1915 – medically unfit & proceeded to Australia on S.S. *Te Anau*.

Alfred Renwick stated he was aged 35\* years & 6 months old, single & a Seaman from 56 Druid Street, Sydney when he re-enlisted at Casula, NSW on 11th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2143 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Miss Isabella Renwick of Millfield, Sunderland, England. His medical report stated no previous illness however teeth require attention. On his Attestation Papers, to the question "Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service" – Alfred replied – "No".

(\*Information provided by his sister for Roll of Honour states age at death – 42)

Private Alfred Renwick was posted to Depot Battalion on 11th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was posted to NSW Signal School from 23rd February, 1916 then transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 34th Battalion on 4th August, 1916.

Private Alfred Renwick embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 24th August, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 34th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 11th October, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Alfred Renwick was admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 13th December, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was discharged on 1st January, 1917 after being treated for Eczema.

Private Alfred Renwick died on 13th January, 1917 at Military Hospital Fovant, Wiltshire from Septicaemia.

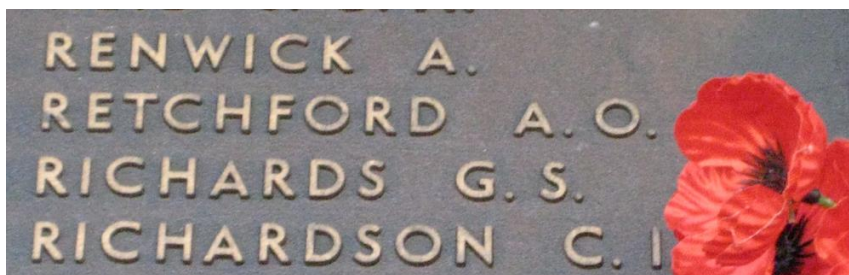
A death for Alfred Renwick, aged 37, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Alfred Renwick was buried on 16th January, 1917 in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

Private Alfred Renwick was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Renwick's sister – Mrs Davidson in England (issued in England July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred Renwick – service number 2143, as being 35 years old & served with 34th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of James and Isabella Renwick. Born at Sunderland, England.

Private A. Renwick is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 124.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



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

(51 pages of Private Alfred Renwick's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## Newspaper Reports

### LATEST CASUALTIES 269th LIST

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

Died (Other Causes)

Pte A. Renwick, England

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – Friday 2February, 1917)

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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 at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. 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)*

Private A. Renwick does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Not Forgotten By His Two Loving Sisters Bella And Lizzie*

### **St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England**

St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock contains 32 World War 1 War Graves – 3 London Regiment Graves in the south-west corner & 29 Australian War Graves.



**St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock** *(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts)*



**St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock** (Photos courtesy of Helen Roberts)



Photo of Private A. Renwick's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)*