Grosvenor, Sydney John (1154/6754 AIF)

Image 1©*B Grosvenor family collection 2015*
Taken prior to his embarkation.

Name	**Grosvenor, Sydney John** **Private AIF**
Service Number	1154/6754
Date of Birth	24th August 1888
Died	5th October 1971
Place of Birth	Wickham NSW
Resident	Victor Harbor SA
Cemetery	Peake Cemetery SA

Sydney (Syd) John Grosvenor was born at Wickham, NSW, on 24 August 1888, the second of ten children of Archibald Thomas Grosvenor and Prudence Grosvenor (nee Prouse). The family later moved to Victor Harbor and he was educated at the local public school.

Syd was farming at Inman valley and was married to Hervey Grosvenor (*nee* Campbell) when he decided to enlist the AIF on 28 February 1916, aged 27 years and six months. His regimental number was 1154.

In May of 1916, it was noted that Hervey needed to be operated on and it was desirable that Sydney, take immediate leave and be there and admit her back into hospital in Adelaide. The issue Sydney had was that he was undergoing training in Broadmeadows at the time. His record states that he was discharged on the 31 May 1916 as being ..*"unlikely to become an efficient soldier."*

There could be a number of undocumented reasons for this. However according to his record and conduct sheet, it was clean and bore no charges or any evidence that he was unsuitable. He may have been disadvantaged due to his wife Hervey taking ill, and for the unspecified leave time he needed for her recovery. Placing family first and country needs second at the time, was not seen as favourable for service personnel.

The world war raged on and it was on the 18 September 1916 after his wife had recovered that he found himself back in the recruiting centre ready to re-join. Just a day later his application was accepted and Syd was posted to the 22nd Reinforcements, 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry.

On 7 November 1916, the Reinforcement Unit embarked from Adelaide on the HMAT A19 *Afric* and disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9 January 1917. The embarkation roll reveals his daily rate of pay was five shillings of which he remitted home three shillings to his mother. All enlisted men received an additional one shilling per day pay, to be paid on completion of their overseas service.

On berthing at Plymouth the soldiers entrained to the Australian base on the Salisbury Plains where they underwent further training to prepare them for service at the front. On 22 May 1917, Syd proceeded to Southampton for embarkation to France. The channel crossing was undertaken at night due to the constant threat of enemy submarine activity. Arriving at Havre the next day, Syd remained at the Australian Base Depot until 13 June when he marched out to the 10th Battalion at Ribemont.

The 10th Battalion, part of the 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade, was undergoing a period of reorganisation. Their training focussed on musketry practice, route marches, platoon and company attacks and how to deal with gas shelling's.

By 24 June 1917, the Battalion was near Mailly-Maillet, about ten kilometres north of Albert, and prepared for an attack to drive the Germans out of Auchonvilliers and Mailly-Mallet. The 3rd Brigade's intention was to seize the high ground in that area on the night of 25-26 June and the 10th Battalion advanced as part of the second wave in the centre, with the 11th Battalion on the right flank and the 12th Battalion on the left.

In late March 1918, the German army, utilising troops freed by the collapse of Russia in October 1917, launched a major offensive on the Western Front.

On 30 June 1918, Syd was wounded in the right shoulder by gunfire and admitted to the 1st Casualty Clearing Station. He was later evacuated to England where he was sent to the Suffolk Military Hospital. His family was not advised of his injuries until 12 July. Three weeks later his condition was considered much improved and was transferred to No 4 Convalescent Depot where he remained until 21 November 1918. Eight days later Syd rejoined his unit in France.

Syd was repatriated to Australia on 20 May 1918, sailing on the HT *Nestor*, which berthed at Port Adelaide on 29 June 1919 and he was demobilised on 7 August 1919.

He returned to farming and there were three children of the marriage. Sydney John Grosvenor died on 5 October 1971. He is buried in the Peake Cemetery.

References:

awm.gov.au., 2025., *Private Sydney John Grosvenor.* [accessed 09/08/2025].
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P10498476

Grosvenor B., 2015 Images *Family collection*

Henderson, M., 2015 Image *WW1 Veterans*

Milne, I., 2015 Image *Cemetery*

Sa.gov.au., 2025. *Sydney John Grosvenor.,|* South Australian Red Cross Information Bureau.
[accessed 09/08/2025].
https://sarcib.ww1.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/eyewitness/sydney-john-grosvenor-2

Terrace, V., 2025., View digital copy. naa.gov.au. [accessed 09/08/2025].
https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=4391111

Compiled by the Victor Harbor RSL History Research Team, September 2015. Updated by T.Young
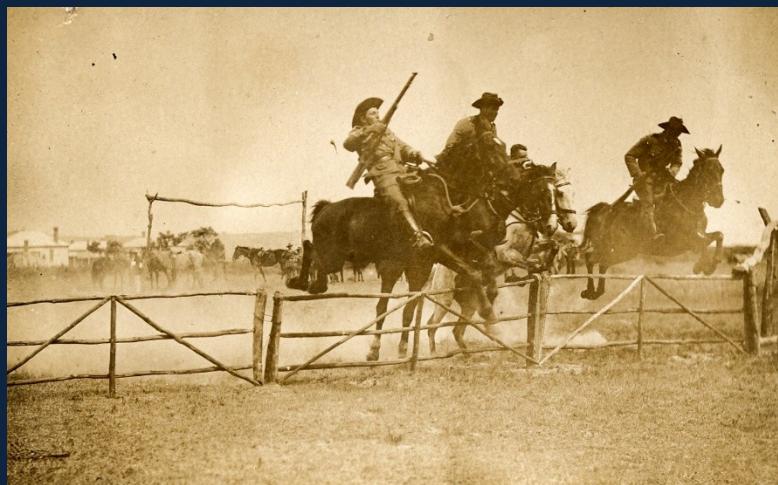& M.Young 09/08/2025

Appendix

Image 2 © *B.Grosvenor Family Collection 2015*
This photograph shows a group of militia troopers, circa 1914, in horsemanship training near Victor Harbor; Syd Grosvenor is believed to be the soldier second from left..

Image 3 © *Faithe Jones vwm.org.au 2015*

Image 4 © *M.Smith 2015*
Five Victor Harbor World War One veterans pictured at a dinner held on 24 April 1970 at the RSL Clubrooms, Flinders Parade, Victor Harbor to celebrate ANZAC Day. From left: Frank Henderson (50th Battalion, Australian Infantry), Darcy Honeyman (50th Battalion), Len Reid MC (13th Light Horse Regiment), Sydney Grosvenor (10th Battalion, Australian Infantry) and Len Muller (5th Divisional Signal Company).
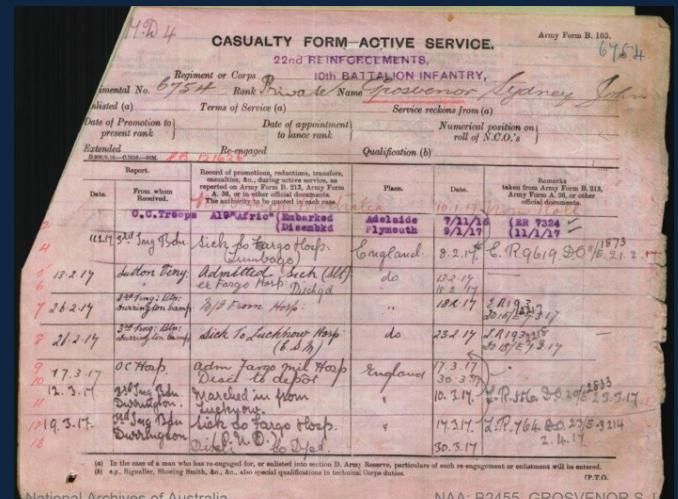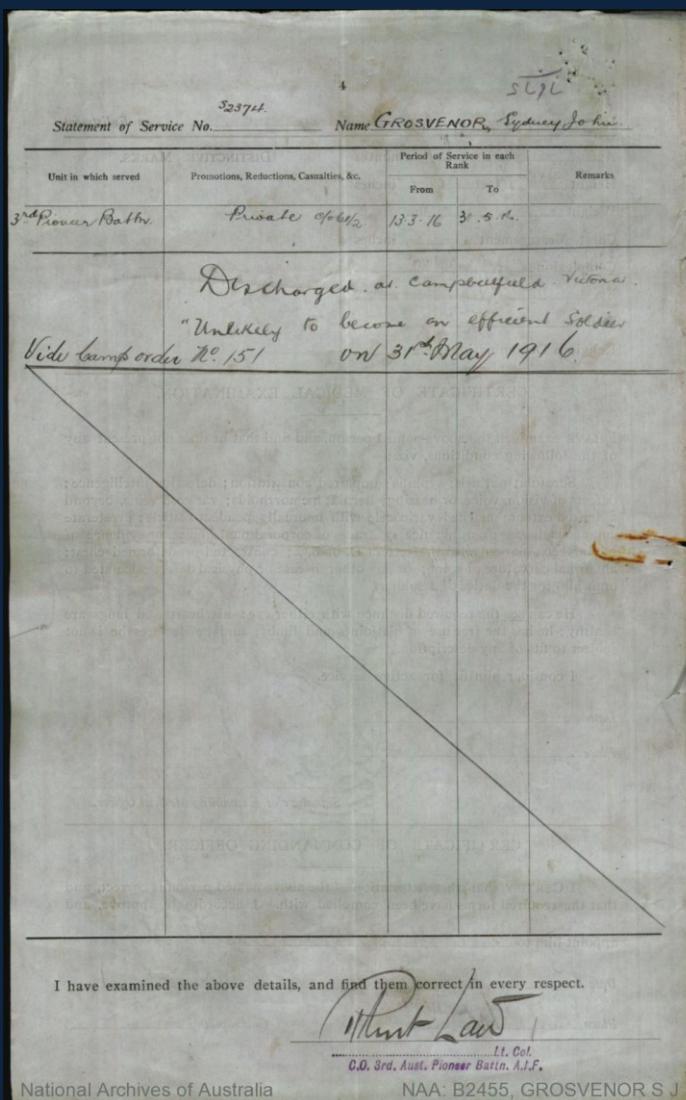
Image 5 © Ian Milne 2015
Grave of Sydney John Grosvenor, he is buried in the Peake Cemetery, Peake, South Australia.

Image 6 © naa.2025
Discharge information 31/05/1916

Image 7 © naa.2025
Active service record