

**St. Michael & All Angels Churchyard,
Lyonshall, Herefordshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



643 TROOPER

F. COWLES

4TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE

10TH SEPTEMBER, 1915 Age 23

*Greater Love Hath No Man Than This,
That He Lay Down His Life For His Friends*

Frank COWLES

Francis Cowles was born on 21st January, 1892 at Lyonshall, Herefordshire, England to parents Cornelius Cowles & Mary Jane Cowles (nee Heath). His birth was registered in March quarter, 1892 in the district of Kington, Herefordshire, England. Frank Cowles was baptised on 19th March, 1892 at Lyonshall, Hereford, England.

Frank Cowles attended Lyonshall School, Herefordshire, England from 25th March, 1895 until 27th September, 1904. His father was listed as Corn. Cowles, Publican, The Village.

The 1901 England Census recorded Frank Cowles as a 9 year old, living with his mother & siblings at the George Inn, Lyonshall, Herefordshire, England. His mother was listed as the Head of the Household - Mary Janes Cowles (Inn Keeper, aged 45, born Staffordshire, England). Frank was one of five children listed on this Census – George Cowles (Gardener, aged 21, born Reglan, Monmouthshire), Mary Ann Cowles (Servant – domestic, aged 19, born Rockfield, Monmouthshire), Clara Cowles (aged 13, born Rockfield, Monmouthshire), Frank then Ellen Cowles (aged 7, born Lyonshall, Herefordshire). Frank's father – Cornelius Cowles (Gardener, aged 49, was listed on the Census 2 doors away at The Terrace, Lyonshall, Herefordshire in a 4 roomed dwelling.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Frank Cowles came to Australia when he was 18. He had training in Butchering in England & his "calling" was Sugar Farming in Australia. Frank Cowles, Butcher, aged 17, was a passenger on the *Waipara* which had departed from the port of London, bound for Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Frank Cowles had contracted to land at Cairns, Queensland.

Frank Cowles was a 22 year old, single, Butcher when he enlisted on 17th September, 1914 at Marrickville, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1004 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Cowles, Waltons Farm, Leominster, Hereford, England. He stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been apprenticed with Davis' Butchers at Hereford, England.

Frank Cowles was posted to 6th A.A.S.C. (Australian Army Service Corps) on 21st December, 1914 as Driver.

Driver Frank Cowles embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Port Macquarie* (A39) on 21st December, 1914 with the 2nd Light Horse Brigade, 2nd Light Horse Brigade Train (6th Company, A.A.S.C.), 1st Reinforcements.

Driver Frank Cowles disembarked at Colombo on 14th January, 1915 (vide Ship's Order No. 25 dated 15th January, 1915), for Hospital Treatment for Syphilis.

2nd Light Horse Brigade Train

The 2nd Light Horse Brigade was a mounted infantry brigade of the First Australian Imperial Force which served in the Middle Eastern theatre of World War I. The brigade first saw action while serving in the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC)'s New Zealand and Australian Division during the Dardanelles Campaign in the Battle of Gallipoli. After being withdrawn to Egypt in February 1916 they served in the ANZAC Mounted Division from March 1916 as part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign until the end of the war.

(Wikipedia)

Driver Frank Cowles re-embarked from Colombo with Reinforcements of 4th Australian Light Horse with Regimental number of 643 & was subsequently taken on strength of their Unit.

Driver Frank Cowles joined 4th Australian Light Horse from Reinforcements on 27th July, 1915 at Gallipoli.

Driver Frank Cowles was wounded on 22nd August, 1915 at Gaba Tepe.

4th Australian Light Horse Regiment

The 4th Light Horse Regiment was formed as the divisional cavalry regiment for the 1st Australian Division on 11 August 1914. Belying traditional stereotypes, over 20 per cent of the original regiment were city dwellers from Melbourne. The regiment sailed from Melbourne on 19 October 1914 and disembarked in Egypt on 10 December.

The light horse were considered unsuitable for the initial operations at Gallipoli, but were subsequently deployed without their horses to reinforce the infantry. The 4th Light Horse Regiment landed on 22 and 24 May and its squadrons were initially scattered to reinforce the infantry battalions already ashore. The regiment was not reunited until 11 June. Much of the regiment's time at Gallipoli was spent defending the precarious ANZAC position, most frequently around Ryrie's Post, but its squadrons were involved in several minor attacks. It left the peninsula on 11 December 1915.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 4th Australian Light Horse Regiment

22nd August, 1915 – RYRIE'S POST

1945 – 2015 – Demonstration to test enemys strength & to drawn his fire.

22nd August, 1915 – LONE PINE

1600-1800 – Enemy shelled heavily, directing Machine Gun fire in sand bags cutting them completely away. Parapets had to be built up under very heavy shelling, bombing & rifle fire.

22-8-15		1945 2015	Demonstration to test enemys strength & to drawn his fire	} Bdg. Op. Mem. 2015 C.L.
22-8-15	LONE PINE	1600 1800	Enemy shelled heavily, directing machine gun fire in sand bags	

C.11054.

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
22-8-15	LONE PINE 1600 1800	cutting them completely away parapets had to be built up under very heavy shelling, bombing & rifle fire
		} Summary of Events attached R.L.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frank Cowles died on 10th September, 1915 at Military Hospital, Devonport, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. to Right Arm. (Rank of Private as listed on Field Service form – Report of Death of a Soldier).

A death for Frank Cowles, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1915 in the district of Devonport, Devonshire, England.

Driver Frank Cowles' body was sent to his mother – Mrs Cowles at Lyonshall. He was buried on 14th September, 1915 in St. Michael & All Angels Churchyard, Lyonshall, Herefordshire, England – No. 88 Section "C" & has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper item – *The Kington Times*, Herefordshire, England – 18th September, 1915:

ANOTHER LEOMINSTER HERO'S DEATH

SUCCUMBS TO WOUNDS AT DEVONPORT.

TROOPER FRANK COWLES OF THE AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE

Deep regret will be felt, for for a while sincere sympathy will go out to Mrs Cowles and family at the death of Trooper Frank Cowles, of the Australian Contingent.

This young hero was only 23 years of age and the son of Mrs M. Cowles, of the Walton, Leominster. He had been in Australia for six years when, last year, he paid a visit to his home where he stayed three months. While in this country he underwent an operation to his nose and had a finger taken off. Two days before the outbreak of hostilities he sailed for Australia, and on arriving at Sydney he heard the call for men and immediately offered his services. He joined the Australian Light Horse contingent as a butcher, to which trade he had been apprenticed at Lyonshall where he was born, afterwards serving in the butchering line at Kington. On leaving Sydney his regiment went to Egypt where they were stationed for some time and on the 16th July they left for the Dardanelles. Although letters had been received from him from time to time whilst he was in the trenches, his family had heard nothing as to his having been wounded until Friday morning last. On that day a notification was received to the effect that he had been seriously wounded in the right arm, the legs and feet and that he was lying in hospital at Devonport. One of the patients there had written stating that it was thought deceased's legs would be better, but his arm was very painful. When Mrs Cowles came back from market on Friday there was a telegram waiting for her stating that her son was worse. She then wired to her daughter, Mrs C. Frances, living at Little Bury, Glaston, to come over to take charge of the house, as she, Mrs Cowles, was going to Devonport to see her son. On her way to Leominster station, however, she was told that her son was dead. She then went to Lyonshall to make arrangements for her son to be buried there, and at the same time wired to the Devonport authorities asking if they should fetch the deceased, or would they send his body to be buried at home. Mr George Cowles, of The George, Lyonshall, the eldest son, received a wire from the Devonport authorities stating that they were sending the body home on Saturday.

The deceased had been a life-long abstainer and when in Australia he had worked hard and has left everything to his mother to do what she wishes of his possessions. He would never have settled in England, and always said that a man that would work in Australia would always do well.

This young hero was wounded on the 22nd August when the Australians lost so many of their men in the Dardanelles. His sister-in-law's husband, Trooper Richard Moore (late of Lyonshall) now of Australia is serving with the same Contingent to which the deceased belonged, in the Dardanelles.

FUNERAL AT LYONSHALL

The funeral of Trooper Frank Cowles, which took place at Lyonshall Parish Church on Tuesday afternoon was the occasion of an impressive demonstration of sympathy and respect. In spite of the bad weather there was a large attendance of parishioners and others and the church was practically full. A most impressive and memorable service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. R. Pemberton). The boys of the choir were in attendance and Mr R. H. Bromley was at the organ. The service in the church commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by the 46th Psalm. After reading the Lesson the Vicar made appropriate reference to the late Trooper Cowles, who, he said, was one who had lost his life in the service of his country. He knew they were gathered there chiefly to show respect to the life of one who used to live amongst them and sympathy with those who were mourning the loss of their son and brother. Many thousands were mourning for sons and brothers who were laid to rest in distant countries and in a way they were in meeting there showing their respect to all those who had so nobly laid down their lives in the service of their country and he hoped that in that time of sympathy and sorrow they would be enabled to bear their share of the sacrifices that they were called upon to make for the great victory that would be theirs and that the trouble and anguish of the war might leave a fruitful and abiding peace. Such men as Trooper Cowles were still bravely dying for the glory and honour of their God, their King, and their country.

After the singing of the hymn "Fight the good fight," the special prayer for the safety of our soldiers and sailors was said. A beautiful rendering of Mr J. S. Arkwright's hymn "Father we bring our dead to Thee" was given and as the coffin was borne from the Church to the graveside Mr Bromley played the Dead March in Saul.

The principal mourners were Mr and Mrs Cowles (father and mother), Mr and Mrs G. H. Cowles, George Inn, Lyonshall (brother and sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs E. Warren Chester (Brother-in-law and sister), Mrs Lewis Hughes Llancloudy (sister), Mr and Mrs R. Francis, Little Bury, Luston (brother-in-law and sister), Miss Clara Cowles, Leominster (sister), and Mrs J. Clewer, Leominster (sister).

Amongst those present was Captain G. E. Redburg, of the 10th Battalion, 1st Division Australian Imperial Force, who represented Sir George Reid, the High Commissioner for Australia. Captain Redburg took part in the first landing in the Dardanelles, was wounded and is now recuperating in England. Amongst the military present were Quarter-Master Sergt. Bore, recruiter, Kington; Pte T. Brickley, 1st K.S.L.I. (who arrived that day at Titley from Flanders), Corporal F. J. Blakeley, Lance-Corporal W. B. Blakeley, Trooper E. W. Morris, Trooper L. W. Bacho (Shropshire Imperial Yeomanry), Trooper A. J. Hamer and Trooper F. G. Hamer (Montgomeryshire Yeomanry), and Driver R. Briggs (R.A.M.C.).

The general public present included: Mr Alfred Wrigley (Bryn Curl, Lyonshall), Miss Lloyd (The Firs), Miss Lloyd (Tanhouse), Mr and Mrs W. Thomas (Lyonshall), Mr and Mrs A. Barker (Whitern Gardens), Mr and Mrs Davies (Mount Pleasant), Mrs Bufton, Mr and Mrs Hamer, Mr J. Ratcliffe (Lyonshall nurseries), Mr A. Gooding (Lynhales gardens), Mr T. Thomas (the Marsh), Mr E. Addis, Mr T. Thomas (Lyonshall), Mr G. Frowen, Mr R. Morgan, Mr C. Morgan, Mr A. Burgoyne, Mr R. Burgoyne, Mr W. Norgrove, Mr E. Cadman, Mr A. Well, Mr W. Fuller, Mr J. Hobby, Mr C. Barnes, Police Constable Mason, Mr J. Lloyd, Mr W. Williams.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr W. H. Burgoyne. The body was enclosed in an elm military coffin covered with black cloth with brass plate bearing the inscription: "Frank Cowles, died September 10th 1915; aged 23 years." The coffin was also draped with a large Union Jack and was carried from the George Inn to the church in turns by soldier bearers, and a number of former friends in the village.

THE WREATHS

From mother, George and Emily; "In loving memory," from his father; "In ever loving memory of our dear brother," from his loving sister Ciss; "In ever loving memory of our dear, brave brother," from Kitty and Dick: "Dear Uncle." From all the children at the George; "With deepest Sympathy," from Kate; "In ever loving memory of our dear uncle Frank," from his little nieces and nephews, Pike Fields; "In ever loving memory," from Nell and Jack and little Rosie; "In ever loving memory of our dear uncle Frank,: from his little nieces Georgina and Connie; "With Mr Robinson's sympathy," Lynhales; "With loving sympathy," from all at the Howe; "With sincere sympathy," from Mrs and the Misses Thomas-Moore; "In ever loving memory of an old scholar," from the children of Lyonshall School; "With deepest sympathy," from Arthur and Mary Wall, Maidenhead Inn; "With deepest sympathy," from Mr and Mrs William Thomas; "With loving sympathy," from Mrs Jones, Tanhouse; "With deepest sympathy," from Mrs Hooper; "With deepest sympathy," from Mr and Mrs Fuller and family; "With deep sympathy," from Mr and Mrs Price, New Street; "With our sympathy," from Mr and Mrs E. Jay; "In ever loving memory," from Miss Emma Evans; "With deepest sympathy," from Mr and Mrs Jones, Lane Cottage; "In loving remembrance," from an old school friend, Cissie Thomas; "With sincere sympathy," from Mrs Williams and Alice; "In remembrance of Frank." From W. Tunks; "With deep sympathy," from Mr and Mrs Francis; "In fond remembrance," from Mr and Mrs G. Fletcher and family; "With deepest sympathy," from Mr and Mrs Thomas and family, Castle; "In loving remembrance," from Mr and Mrs W. T. Clark, Lyonshall; From Mr and Mrs W. H. Burgoyne; "With deepest sympathy," from a Friend; "With deepest sympathy," from C. and F. Barnes.

LETTERS FROM THE LATE TROOPER COWLES

The late Trooper Frank Cowles was greatly attached to his mother and wrote her many letters of absorbing interest. His thought for Mrs Cowles is well displayed in a letter written at Heliopolis Camp, Egypt, on ay 9th, when he was expected to leave for the Dardanelles at any moment. He then said: "According to the papers you have a lot of shirkers in Leominster. The Government ought to make every single man enlist. It is scandalous to think of Englishmen living at home when the country is fighting for its existence. You want a few Colonial boys round Leominster to shale them up and show them the way to do their duty. A man who dies in the war will die in honour but a single man who lives at home will live and die in disgrace.

In the same letter Trooper Cowles went on to deal in some details to money matters and added: "I want you to make a note of all this and when you are satisfied that I am killed claim the lot. You will have no trouble in getting it all. This may be all unnecessary as a man may get back without a scratch but there is a certain amount of risk and it is well to put things in order."

Writing on August 15th (a week before he received the wounds which were to prove fatal) he said: "Do you know Mr Breakwell, of Pembridge? He had a nephew from Shrewsbury in the same squadron as I am in. He was killed yesterday by a bullet through his head. He died a true soldier's death. His name was Lowe. It is all trench work here. I miss my old horse. A man lives a good bit like a rabbit here."

These extracts are interesting as showing the high plane which Trooper Cowles placed his soldier's calling, and the fearlessness with which he faced death should such a sacrifice be necessary for the honour of his native land.

Newspaper item – The Kington Times, Herefordshire, England – 25th September, 1915:

In our report of the funeral of Trooper Frank Cowles last week, the names of Mrs Gibbons, of Luston, and his nieces and nephews of Little Bury, as having sent wreathes, were inadvertently omitted.

Probate Details:

COWLES, Frank of the Waltons, Leominster, Herefordshire, a Trooper in the 4th Australian Light Horse, died 10 September, 1915 at the Military Hospital, Devonport. Administration (with Will) Hereford 30 March to Mary Jane Cowles (wife of Cornelius Solomon Cowles). Effects £459 9s. 4d.

Driver Frank Cowles was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Cowles' mother in England – Mrs Cowles, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Trooper Frank Cowles – service number 643, aged 23, of 4th Australian Light Horse. No family details are listed.

Driver F. Cowles is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 4.

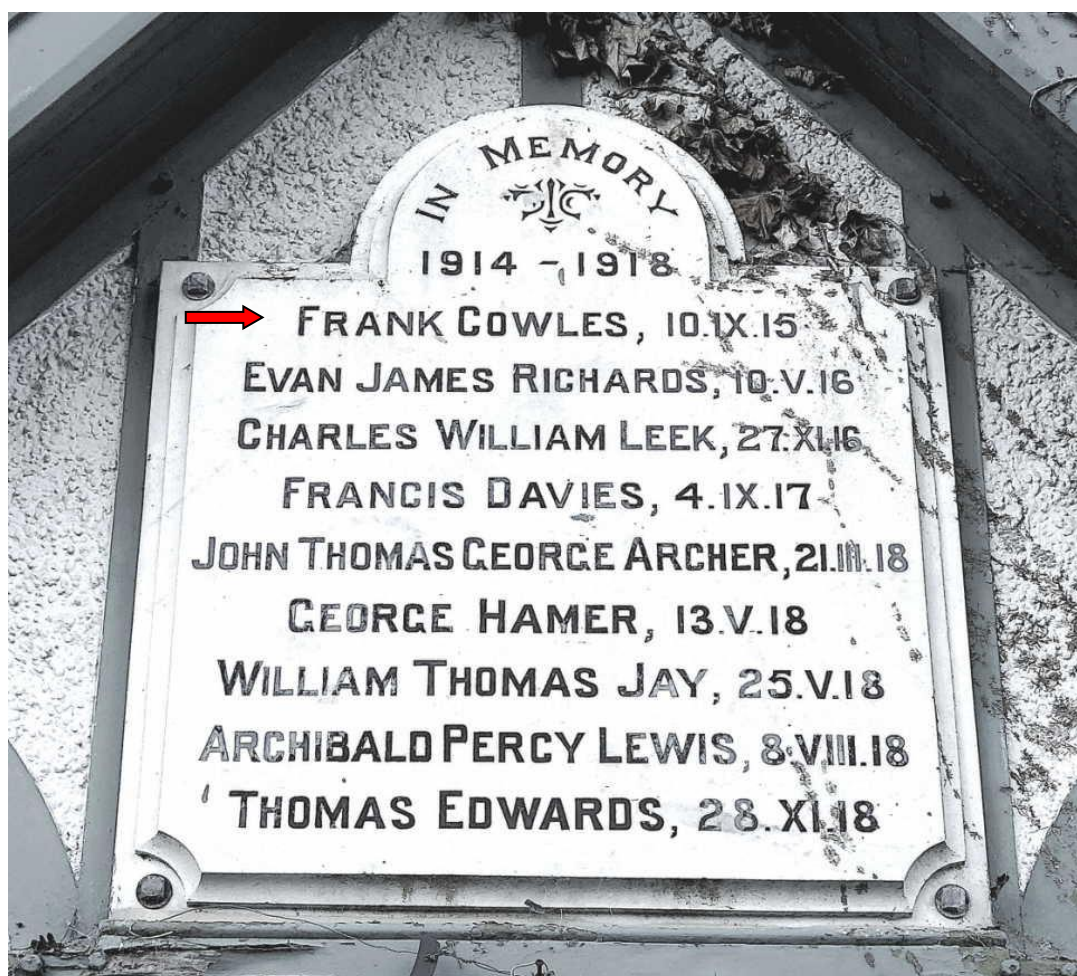


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Frank Cowles is remembered on the Plaque on the Lyonshall War Memorial Hall, Lyonshall, Herefordshire, England.



Lyonshall War Memorial Hall (Photos by Philip Pankhurst)



Frank Cowles is remembered on the Roll of Honour located in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Lyonshall, Herefordshire, England.



(26 pages of Driver/Trooper Frank Cowles' 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



Newspaper Notices

THE DARDANELLES

CASUALTIES

107th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS OR ILLNESS

Pte F. COWLES, England.

(*Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 12 November, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

107TH CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Cowles, F. (4th L.H., late 6th A.S.C.), England.

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – 12 November, 1915)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Trooper Frank Cowles has a Private headstone with the following inscription:

*Greater Love Hath No Man Than This,
That He Lay Down His Life For His Friends*

St. Michael & All Angels Churchyard, Lyonshall, Herefordshire, England

There is 1 Commonwealth burial here from the 1914-18 war. There is also 1 Polish airman here from the 1939-45 war.

(Information from CWGC)



St. Michael & All Angels Church, Lyonshall *(Photos by Fabian Musto)*



Photo of Trooper Frank Cowles' Private Headstone in St. Michael & All Angels Churchyard, Lyonshall, Herefordshire, England.



(Headstone photos courtesy of John Quinton Adams)



In Loving Memory

Of

Trooper FRANK COWLES

Who Died Sepr. 10TH 1915 Of Wounds

Received In Gallipoli, August 22ND

Aged 23 Years



Greater Love Hath No Man Than This,

That He Lay Down His Life For His Friends



