

**Christ Church Churchyard,
Esher, Surrey
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2661A CORPORAL

J. F. DAWES

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 40

James Frederick DAWES

James Frederick Dawes was born on 11th November, 1876 at Islington, London to parents Charles Frederick & Mary Emily Dawes (nee Ellis). He was baptised on 4th February, 1877 in St. Stephens's Church, Islington, London. The family lived at 383 New North Road & Charles Frederick Dawes, James' father, was listed as a Butcher.

Charles Frederick Dawes, father of James Frederick Dawes, died on 8th September, 1886 at High Street, Esher, Surrey.

The 1891 England Census recorded James F. Dawes as a 14 year old scholar living with his widowed mother & family at High Street, Esher, Surrey. His mother was listed as Mary E. Dawes (Cow Keeper – Milk, aged 42, born Ecclesall, Yorkshire). James was one of six children listed on this Census – Charles E. Dawes (Assistant to Mother – milk, aged 20, born Molesey, Surrey), Louisa A. Dawes (aged 18, born Molesey, Surrey), Edith E. Dawes (aged 16, born Molesey, Surrey), then James, Walter E. Dawes (Scholar, aged 10, born St. John's, London) & Winifred Dawes (Scholar, aged 5, born Esher, Surrey). Also listed in the house was Annie Bowler, a visitor (Dressmaker, aged 33) & two servants – Richard C. Darr (Farm Labourer, aged 21) & John A. Hill (Farm Labourer, aged 16).

James Frederick Dawes attended Negus High School, Esher, Surrey.

James Frederick Dawes came to Australia around 1912, according to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour.

James Frederick Dawes was a 37 year old, single, Gunsmith fitter when he enlisted in Sydney on 4th September, 1914 with Headquarters of 1st Light Horse Regiment, Australian Imperial Force. James Dawes was also an Electrical Engineer. He was given a service number of 1 & his religion was Church of England. His next-of-kin was listed as his sister – Mrs G. Webb, of High Street, Esher, Surrey, England. James Dawes was 5ft 8 inches tall, with blue eyes, grey hair & had a bullet wound at the back of his neck. James Dawes stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 5 years with Garrison Artillery & 12 years Staff Sergeant A.O.C.

Armourer Sergeant James Frederick Dawes was written up for Breaking out of Camp & being absent without leave from 9 am on 2nd October, 1914 to 6.30 am on 4th October, 1914 while in Camp. As punishment his leave & pay were stopped for 45 ___ (remitted to 24 ___).

Armourer Sergeant James Frederick Dawes was written up for being absent without leave on 19th October, 1914 while in Sydney. He was "severely reprimanded."

Armourer Sergeant James Frederick Dawes embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Star of Victoria* (A16) on 20th October, 1914.

Armourer Sergeant James Frederick Dawes was written up on 17th December, 1914 for "breaking open arrest". The proceedings of a Court Martial found that his punishment was "reduced to the ranks" on 16th January, 1915.

James Frederick Dawes was returned to Australia per "*Kyarra*" which left Suez on 3rd February, 1915 & disembarked at Melbourne on 11th March, 1915. James Frederick Dawes was discharged at Melbourne for disciplinary reasons S.N.L.R. (Service No Longer Required) on 11th March, 1915. His file was stamped "Not Eligible for War Medals" & he automatically forfeited his War Gratuity claim.

James Frederick Dawes was a 39 year old, single, Gunsmith from Rifle Factory, Lithgow, NSW when he re-enlisted at Brisbane on 7th August, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2661 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Emily Dawes, of Clerement Dairy, Esher, Surrey, England. Information provided by Mrs Mary Emily Dawes, mother of James Dawes, for the Roll of Honour, stated his occupation as Engineer. James Dawes stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 16 years & 9 months in the Imperial Armourers Section, A. O. Corps.

Private James Frederick Dawes embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Seang Bee* (A48) on 21st October, 1915.

Private James Frederick Dawes was admitted to 4th Auxiliary Hospital, Cairo on 27th January, 1916 with Mumps (mild).

Private James Frederick Dawes was admitted to No. 1 Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 8th February, 1916 with Influenza (mild) & discharged to duty on 18th February, 1916.

Private James Frederick Dawes was allotted to & proceeded to join 9th Battalion from Zeitoun on 27th February, 1916. He joined Battalion at Habeita on 28th February, 1916. On 3rd March, 1916 he joined the Battalion at Serapeum.

Private James Frederick Dawes proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) at Alexandria on 27th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 3rd April, 1916.

Private James Frederick Dawes was appointed Lance Corporal on 6th July, 1916 in the field.

Lance Corporal James Frederick Dawes was wounded in action in France on 23rd July, 1916. He was admitted to No. 5 General Hospital at Rouen on 27th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds. L/Cpl. Dawes was reported seriously ill on 6th August, 1916. He was transferred to England from Rouen on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* on 22nd August, 1916 with a gunshot wound to thigh.

Lance Corporal James Frederick Dawes was admitted to 3rd Western General Hospital at Cardiff on 23rd August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to left thigh & compound fracture to femur & tetanus.

Lance Corporal James Frederick Dawes was transferred to Welsh Metropolitan War Hospital at Cardiff on 7th November, 1916.

Lance Corporal James Frederick Dawes' condition was reported to be stationary on 10th December, 1916.

Lance Corporal James Frederick Dawes' condition was reported to be seriously ill on 4th December, 1916.

Corporal James Frederick Dawes died at 4.15 pm on 5th February, 1917 at The Welsh Metropolitan War Hospital, Whitchurch Glam, Cardiff, Wales from wounds received in action in France – Compound fracture to thigh & tetanus. The Hospital Admissions form states that 4 days before his death he developed embolism and gangrene of right leg.

A death for Frederick J. Dawes, aged 40, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Cardiff, Wales.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal James Frederick Dawes contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of relatives in Australia asking for particulars of the sufferings, death & burial of L/Col James Frederick Dawes. A reply was written by The Registrar, The Welsh Metropolitan War Hospital, Whitchurch Glam, Cardiff, Wales which reads: *"I have to inform you this patient had a very bad fractured femur, the wound was very septic. All that was possible was done for him and when he was seriously ill his friends were advised, he being visited by Mrs Dawes of Claremont Dairy, Esher, Surrey. After his position again became serious and a further wire was sent to Mrs Dawes but he passed away very quietly without making any particular statement on 5th February, 1917, before Mrs Dawes came. At her request the body was went to Esher, Surrey for burial."*

Corporal James Frederick Dawes's body left Cardiff on 8th February, 1917 to arrive at Esher at 6.23 pm for burial at Esher. He was buried on 10th February, 1917 at Christ Church Churchyard, Esher, Surrey, England, – Plot number D. 4. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Lance Corporal James Frederick Dawes was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to L/Cpl. Dawes' mother – Mrs M. E. Dawes, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent to England in January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal James Frederick Dawes – service number 2661A, aged 40, of 9th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mary Emily Dawes, of Claremont Dairy, Esher, and the late Mr Dawes. Served in the South African Campaign.

Frederick J. Dawes is remembered on the Esher War Memorial located on Lammas Lane junction with Esher Place Avenue, Esher Green and Church Street, Esher, Surrey, England.



Esher War Memorial (Photo from War Memorials Online – David Larkin)



Corporal J. F. Dawes is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(26 pages of James Frederick Dawes' Service Record with the Light Horse Regiment & 32 pages of Corporal James Frederick Dawes' subsequent Service Record 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

264th LIST

QUEENSLAND

WOUNDED

Cpl. J. F. Dawes, England (sev., prev. rep. w'ded and seriously ill)

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Qld – 20 January, 1917)

THE 273rd CASUALTY LIST

KILLED OR DIED OF WOUNDS

QUEENSLAND

Cpl. J. F. Dawes (England), p.r.w.

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 20 February, 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 James Frederick Dawes does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Corporal J. F. Dawes's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Christ Church Churchyard, Esher, Surrey, England.



Christ Church Churchyard, Esher, Surrey

Christ Church Churchyard, Esher, Surrey contains 15 War Graves – 8 from World War 1 & 7 from World War 2. There is only 1 grave for Australian Imperial Force.



Christ Church, Esher, Surrey (Photos by John Salmon)

