

**Bournemouth East Cemetery,
Bournemouth, Dorset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



378 WARRANT OFFICER

ARTHUR GORDON HARRISON

4TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH JULY, 1917 Age 32

Arthur Gordon HARRISON

Arthur Gordon Harrison was born at Launceston, Tasmania on 20th May, 1885 to George and Alicia Maria Harrison (nee Firman).

Arthur Gordon Harrison attended Grammar School at Launceston, Tasmania.

Arthur Gordon Harrison was a 29 year old, single, Bookkeeper from 41 Chadford Street, Mosman, NSW when he enlisted at Randwick, Sydney, NSW on 20th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 378 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. Harrison, 26 Tamar Street, Launceston, Tasmania. Arthur Harrison stated on his Attestation Papers the he had previously served with Colonial Cadet Forces & Militia Reserve.

Private Arthur Gordon Harrison was posted to 4th Battalion on 20th August, 1914.

Private Arthur Gordon Harrison embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides* (A14) on 20th October, 1914 with the 4th Infantry Battalion, "E" Company.

Private Arthur Gordon Harrison was wounded at Gallipoli Peninsula on 19th May, 1915. He was admitted to Convalescent Camp at Helouan on 22nd June, 1915 then transferred to Base Details on 30th June, 1915.

4th Battalion

The 4th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these other battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. The commander of the 4th Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel A. J. O. Thompson, was killed the next day. At ANZAC, the battalion took part in the defence of the beachhead and in August, along with the rest of the 1st Brigade, led the charge at Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 4th Battalion

19th May, 1915 – McLaurin's Hill Anzac:

12 am - Enemy opened heavy burst of fire which lasted till 12.35 am. Sniping continued intermittently till 3.30 am when enemy attacked. The attack started weakly in front of D coy. The enemy troops after advancing a short distance turned to their right & moved towards their right across the fire prone D & A coys. They seemed bewildered by our fire. The attack then developed on our left without result and at 9.30 am enemy gave up attempt. Enemy losses very heavy in comparison to ours. Excellent work was done by No. 51 Cpl Bram (?) MGS who removed MG from tripod & putting it on the parapet did good execution among the enemy. Our casualties were made heavier by troops' anxiety to shoot after daylight thus exposing themselves unduely. D coy's Trenches were heavily shelled all afternoon (from "GOBEN"?). Required much repairing at night. Night quiet weather bright & clear. All ranks stood to at 3.0 am.

Casualties to 12 noon 14 killed 31 wounded.

At night attack expected & all men possible in firing line including 70 men from 5th Bn. Night passed quietly with usual sniping & one burst of heavier firing at 12 noon lasting till 12.20. One M.G. from 9th L. H. set up in communication trench in placement other MG in reserve. Trench improvement continued all night. Enemy very quiet usual bombardment did not occur after dawn.

Casualties 1 Killed 7 Wounded

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Arthur Gordon Harrison was transferred to A.I.F. Headquarters, Intermediate Base, Cairo from 6th July, 1915. He was taken on strength of A.I.F. Headquarters from 4th Battalion on 13th July, 1915.

Private Arthur Gordon Harrison embarked from Alexandria on H. T. *Tunisian* on 10th July, 1915.

Private Arthur Gordon Harrison was appointed Acting Sergeant on 1st August, 1915.

Acting Sergeant Arthur Gordon Harrison was promoted to Sergeant on 1st August, 1915.

Sergeant Arthur Gordon Harrison was promoted to Staff Sergeant on 8th March, 1916 at Cairo, Egypt.

Staff Sergeant Arthur Gordon Harrison embarked from Alexandria for England on 22nd May, 1916 on *Euripides*.

Staff Sergeant Arthur Gordon Harrison was promoted to Warrant Officer Class I on 7th April, 1917.

Warrant Officer Arthur Gordon Harrison was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England on 7th June, 1917 with Phthisis. The Medical Case Sheet recorded the following information: "*Sick for 10 days. Pain under left scapula. Left Australia Oct 14th to Egypt. In 4th Bat on Gallipoli one month- left with septic hand – then to Staff in Egypt – came to England July 16 – HQ. ever since. St Deformat. found in chest..... A very pale thin looking man...*" Warrant Officer Harrison was discharged on 28th June, 1917 to Furlough & then Depot at Weymouth.

Warrant Officer Arthur Gordon Harrison was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 28th June, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on 4th July, 1917 at No. 2 Australian Command Depot at Weymouth on Staff Sergeant Arthur Gordon Harrison. His disability was listed as Tuberculosis which had originated in June, 1917 in London & caused by an infection. The Medical Officer in charge of the case recommended that he not be discharged as permanently unfit but instead have a change to Australia. The Medical Board however, recommended that Staff Sergeant Harrison be permanently unfit for General Service & permanently unfit for Home Service in England.

Warrant Officer Arthur Gordon Harrison was detached from attached duty on 13th July, 1917 with Administrative Headquarters, London and marched out to No. 2 Command Depot for return to Australia.

Warrant Officer Arthur Gordon Harrison "died suddenly" on 19th July, 1917 at No. 33 Southbourne Road, Bournemouth, England (his sister's residence). Later reports recorded that he died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis & Haemoptysis.

A death for Arthur G. Harrison, aged 32, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Christchurch, Hampshire, England.

Warrant Officer Arthur Gordon Harrison was buried at 3 pm on 23rd July, 1917 in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England – Plot number O. I. 145 & has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Warrant Officer Arthur Gordon Harrison - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased Warrant Officer was buried with full Military Honours. Gun Carriage, Firing Party, bugler and party of mourners provided by the New Zealand Engineers stationed at Christchurch near Boscombe were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and surmounted with several lovely floral tributes. The floral tributes were from the mother and father of the deceased, his comrades of the Administrative Headquarters Staff A.I.F. London, the New Zealand Engineers of Christchurch Camp, a comrade in France, Misses Battams of West Southbourne and Mrs J. H. Beckwith. The coffin was born to the graveside by six N.C.O.'s (comrades of the deceased) of the Administrative Headquarters Staff A.I.F. London. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Chapel at the Cemetery. The Rev. Shaw of Boscombe officiated at the funeral. Lieut Baker of the Administrative Headquarters Staff A.I.F. London represented the Commonwealth Military Authorities. Temporary oak memorial will be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral – Mrs Poutsy (Sister) of 33 Southbourne Road, Bournemouth and No.1100 Armr S/Sgt A. E. Harrison (Cousin) of the 53rd Battalion, A.I.F., Perham Down.

Warrant Officer Arthur Gordon Harrison was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Warrant Officer Harrison's father – Mr G. Harrison, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Warrant Officer Arthur Gordon Harrison – service number 378, of 4th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Alicia Maria Harrison, of Launceston, Tasmania.

Warrant Officer A. G. Harrison is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 40.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Arthur Gordon Harrison is remembered on the Mosman Library's online "Doing our bit, Mosman 1914-1918" but he is not remembered on the Mosman War Memorial.



(54 pages of Warrant Officer Arthur Gordon Harrison'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



Newspaper Notices

NOTES ON THE CASUALTY LISTS

Private Arthur G. Harrison (wounded) is the youngest son of Mr and Mrs George Harrison, of Launceston. Prior to enlisting Private Harrison spent several years in Chillagoe (N.G.) where he won several prizes for rifle shooting.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times – 30 June, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

339TH AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

ILL

S-Sergeant Arthur G. Harrison, Launceston.

(Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania – 26 September, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Official advice has been received by Mr. George Harrison, Tamar Street Launceston, announcing the sudden death of his youngest son, Staff -Sergeant Arthur Gordon Harrison, at the residence of his sister, Mrs. Pousty, Bournemouth, England. At the outbreak of the war deceased enlisted as a private in New South Wales, and on recovering from wounds received after some weeks in the trenches at Gallipoli, was appointed to a position on the staff at Cairo, and transferred later to Headquarters Staff, London. Before leaving Tasmania he was for some years in the employment of Messrs. D. and W. Murray, Limited, Launceston, and was also well known in rowing circles, being a member of the North Esk club.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 1 August, 1917)

DEATHS

HARRISON – On the 19th July, at the residence of his sister, Mrs W. Poutsy, Bournemouth, England (suddenly), Staff-Sergt. Arthur Gordon Harrison, youngest son of Mr and Mrs George Harrison, Tamar-street, Launceston, aged 32 years.

(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 1 August, 1917) & (Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 1 August, 1917) &

(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 4 August, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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.

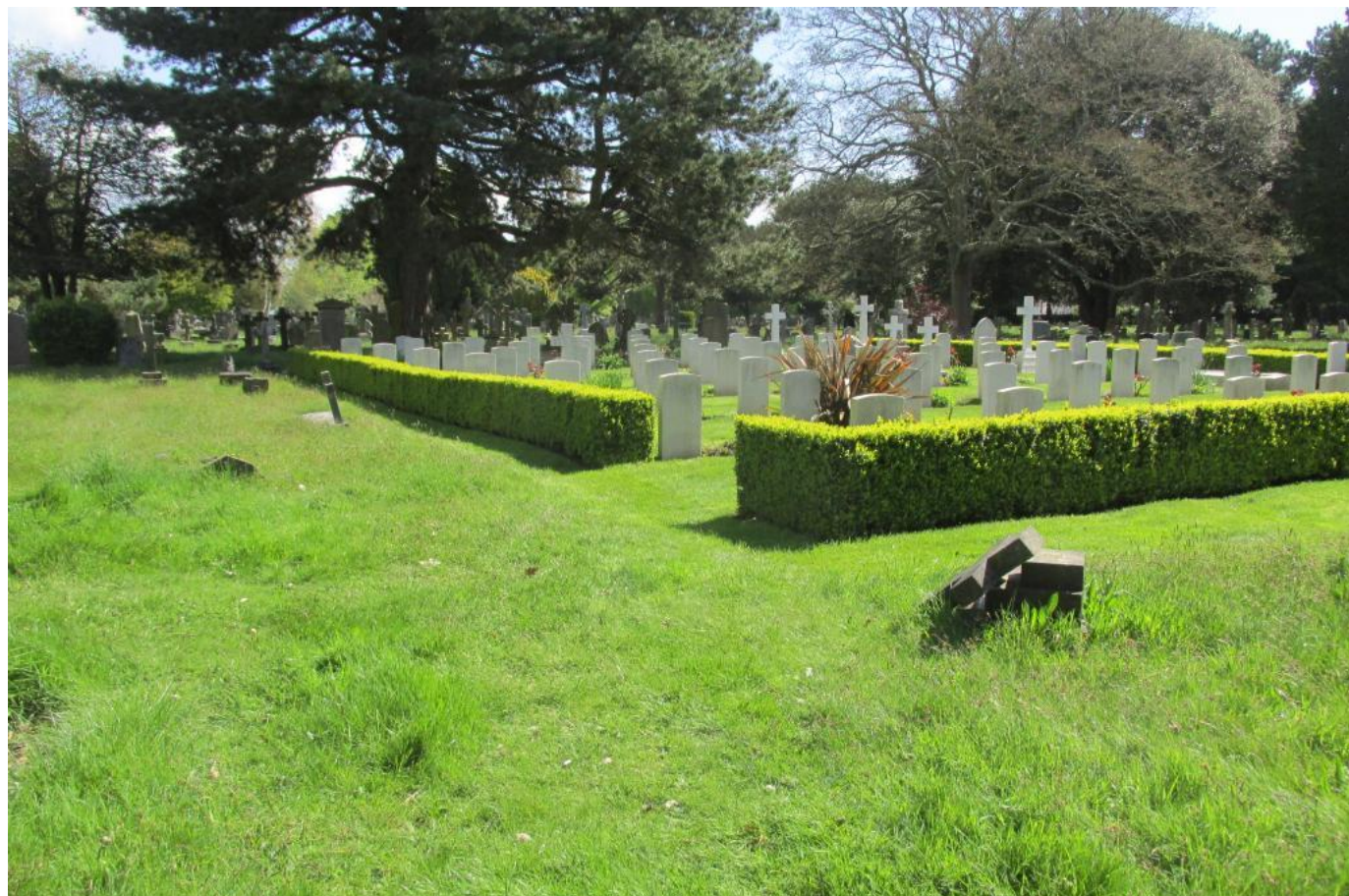
Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England

Some of the 120 First World War burials in this cemetery are those of soldiers who died in Bournemouth's auxiliary and private hospitals. 75 of these graves are in a special plot on the main path and include a Special Memorial to 2 soldiers drowned off Bournemouth in January 1915, whose bodies were not recovered. The plot also contains 7 of the 68 Second World War burials, the rest being scattered throughout the cemetery. One of the First World War burials is unidentified. There are 4 Foreign National war burials here.

The war plot is enclosed by a hedge, and the War Cross is on the West side of it. It was at one time called Boscombe Cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Bournemouth East Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*



Bournemouth East Cemetery (Photos from CWGC)

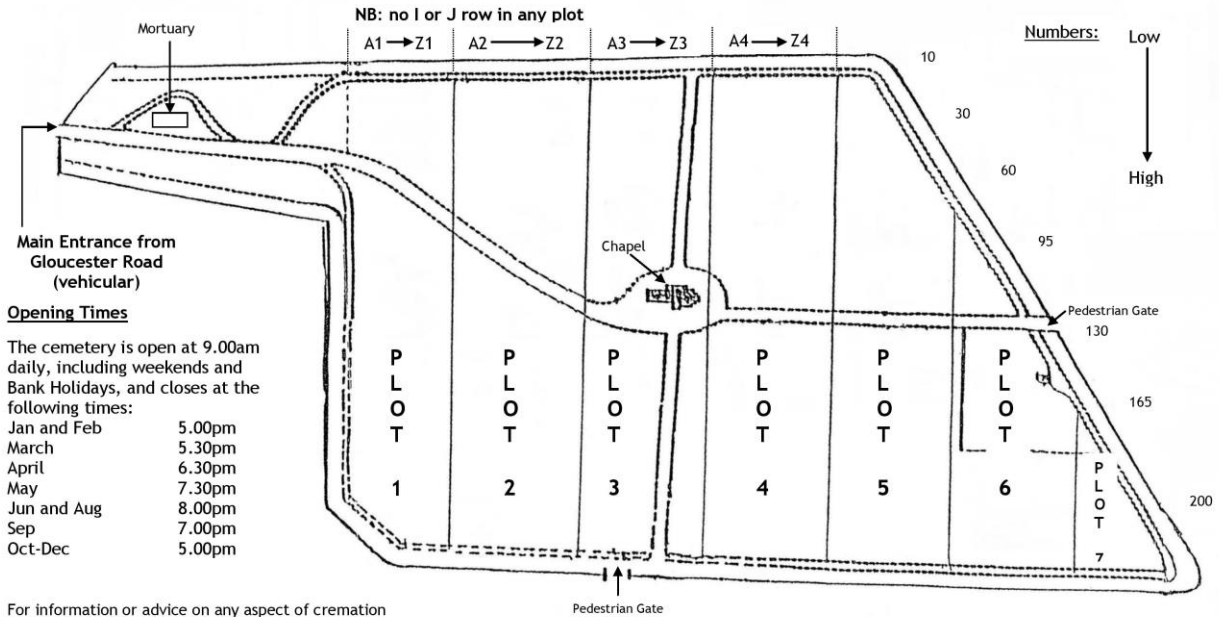


Photo of Warrant Officer Arthur Gordon Harrison's Private Headstone in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England



(Photo by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

East Cemetery, Gloucester Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6JB



Opening Times

The cemetery is open at 9.00am daily, including weekends and Bank Holidays, and closes at the following times:

Jan and Feb	5.00pm
March	5.30pm
April	6.30pm
May	7.30pm
Jun and Aug	8.00pm
Sep	7.00pm
Oct-Dec	5.00pm

For information or advice on any aspect of cremation or burial please contact:

Bournemouth Bereavement Services
 Bournemouth Crematorium
 Strouden Avenue
 Bournemouth
 BH8 9HX

Tel: 01202 526238
 Email: crematorium@bournemouth.gov.uk

