

**St. Lawrence Churchyard,
Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3220 PRIVATE

D. H. LAWRENCE

54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

17TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 23

The Lord Gave
And The Lord Hath Taken Away

David Hamilton LAWRENCE

David Hamilton Lawrence was born at Lostock, near Gresford, NSW on 20th August, 1893 to parents Richard & Amelia Lawrence (nee Dennis).

David Hamilton Lawrence attended Lostock Public School, NSW.

Richard Lawrence, father of David Hamilton Lawrence, died on 5th March, 1912 at Maitland West, New South Wales.

David Hamilton Lawrence was a 23 year old, single, Farmer from Lostock, Gresford, NSW when he enlisted at Gresford, NSW on 20th July, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3220 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Amelia Lawrence of Lostock, Gresford, NSW. David Hamilton Lawrence stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Light Horse for about 2 years.

Private David Hamilton Lawrence was posted to "B" Company, Newcastle Depot Battalion on 20th July, 1916 for recruit training. Private Hamilton was transferred from Newcastle A.I.F. Camp on 27th July, 1916 to Rutherford, NSW. He was transferred to Reserve Company Depot Battalion at Rutherford, NSW on 28th July, 1916. Private Lawrence was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 33rd Battalion at Rutherford, NSW on 26th August, 1916.

Private David Hamilton Lawrence was admitted to Field Hospital at Rutherford, NSW on 4th October, 1916 with Mumps. He was discharged on 21st October, 1916.

He was transferred to Reserve Company of 33rd Battalion at Rutherford, NSW on 6th October, 1916 then transferred again to 8th Reinforcements of 54th Battalion on 6th November, 1916.

Private David Hamilton Lawrence embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 11th November, 1916 with the 54th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 30th January, 1917.

54th Battalion

The 54th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 2nd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 2nd, the 54th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

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 David Hamilton Lawrence was sent sick to Hospital on 6th February, 1917 with Influenza from 14th Training Battalion – No. 11 & 12 Camp, Hurdcott.

Private David Hamilton Lawrence was admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire, England on 7th February, 1917 with Cerebro Spinal Fever. He was transferred to Salisbury Isolation Hospital on 9th February, 1917. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Very ill on admission, blindness after a few days followed by incontinence & paralysis.*"

Private David Hamilton Lawrence died on 17th February, 1917 at Salisbury and District Joint Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for David H. Lawrence, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private David Hamilton Lawrence was buried on 19th February, 1917 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 120 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mrs A. Lawrence, Lostock, NSW as advised by Base Records on 13th March, 1917 that Private D. H. Lawrence had been admitted to Fovant Military Hospital on 7th February, 1917.

Mr H. Wilson, Pickering, Denman, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 1st April, 1917 stating he had "*received word that my son-in-law died of meningitis in England on March 17th 1917. The cable reached me on 27th March addressed to the Minister at Gresford saying he had died. On Thursday last 29th March I saw in the paper where he was suffering from spinal meningitis but not dead. I would deem it a great favour if you would inquire into this & find out whether he is still alive. Trusting to receive a favourable reply from you. P.S. I have omitted his name Private David H. Laurence.*"

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Lawrence, Lostock, NSW on 9th August, 1917 giving official details of her son's death...."*I have to inform you I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he died at Salisbury and District Joint Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, England, of cerebro spinal meningitis, on 17th February, 1917 (not on 17th March, 1917, as previously advised, the error being due to a mutilation in the transmission of the cable) and was buried in Stratford Sub-Castle Church Yard, near Salisbury, in Grave No. 120, on 19th February, 1917...."*

R. W. Thompson & Son, Solicitors, High Street, West Maitland, NSW wrote to Base Records on 13th October, 1917 regarding the death of Private David Hamilton Lawrence: "*In connection with this matter to obtain Probate on behalf of the Executors we have already received from you Department a Certificate of death. The Testator's life was insured in the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited who decline to pay the amount due unless they have a Certificate of the death from your Office. May we ask you to be good enough to let us have a duplicate of the Certificate at your earliest convenience and oblige.*"

Mrs Amelia Lawrence, Lostock, NSW wrote to Base Records on 8th November, 1919 to acknowledge receipt of a letter & photograph of her son's grave. The letter went on to state "*I would be pleased to have a permanent memorial erected to his grave. I would be pleased if you would request the Director of graves or whether it would be as well to request him myself.*" Base Records replied on 17th November, 1919 stating the "*Imperial War Graves Commission will eventually erect permanent headstones of a uniform design over the graves of members of the A.I.F. In addition to the particulars of name, rank, unit and date of death, the next-of-kin will shortly have an opportunity of providing a three line inscription, providing they are willing to defray the cost of same. When the Authorities are ready to take action you will be advised.*"

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Lawrence, Lostock, NSW on 4th May, 1921 stating that the "*late No. 3220 Private D. H. Lawrence, 54th Battalion, enlisted as a single man and recorded you as next of kin, but it would appear from correspondence in the file that he left a widow. If such is the case I shall be obliged if you can furnish me with her present address. This information is required in order that War Medals etc issuable on account of the abovementioned late soldier's service may be disposed of according to the instructions under the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which prescribe that these items must go to the next of kin in the following order of relationship unless good and sufficient reasons for varying the procedure are stated for the consideration of the Minister:- Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother....."* I shall be obliged if you will advise me whether there are any reasons as to why War Medals etc., should not be handed to deceased's widow....."

Mrs A. Lawrence, Lostock, NSW replied to Base Records on 30th May, 1921 stating "*.....I beg to state that I ___ sure that there is some error as I have no knowledge of my son ever having married. He resided with me from childhood until he enlisted & the poor boy was carried off the Boat on arrival in England from Australia, very sick & died a few weeks later. I am sure he was never married. We will be greatly surprised to know that he was & would like to have any particulars that you can furnish - as I shall certainly claim his War Medals &c. I feel sure you have made a mistake & anxiously await your reply.*"

Base Records replied to Mr H. Wilson, Pickering, Denman, NSW on 18th June, 1921 stating "In April, 1917 you wrote to this office, concerning one David H. Lawrence, claiming him to be your son-in-law, but I have been unable to obtain corroboration of the statement. As a matter of fact, the soldier was only 22 years of age when he enlisted, and his people, who were nominated as next-of-kin, have no knowledge of his marriage. I desire to be in a position to properly dispose of the late soldier's war medals, etc, and shall be glad to learn from you whether the person referred to in your letter and the deceased soldier were identical. If so, some proof of his marriage should be submitted. I am holding the matter open for 21 days from this date, when if no evidence in support is produced, the war medals, etc., will be handed over to the deceased soldier's mother."

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Lawrence, Lostock, NSW on 22nd August, 1921 stating "with further reference to the disposal of the war medals, etc. of your son, the late No. 3220 Private D. H. Lawrence, 54th Battalion, I have to inform you that I have been unable to obtain any proof of your son's marriage, arrangement are being made for the mementos to be forwarded to you as they become available."

Private David Hamilton Lawrence 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 Lawrence's mother – Mrs A. Lawrence, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private David Hamilton Lawrence – service number 3220, aged 23, of 54th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Amelia and the late Richard Lawrence.

D. H. Lawrence is remembered on the Lostock Public School Honour Board.



Lostock Public School Honour Board

D. H. Lawrence is remembered in the World War 1 Panel of the Gresford School of Arts War Memorial, located at Park Street, East Gresford, NSW.



Gresford School of Arts War Memorial (Photos from War Memorial Register of NSW)

WORLD WAR I							
Ahearn J.	Doyle A.M. †	Jupp G.L.	Powell J.W.	Arthur C.G.	Doyle R.	Kenney J.	Priestley G.H. †
Arthur W.Q.	Duggan E.	Kent V.	Ralston J.	Aaplund G.E.	Duggan H.H.	Kepple A.E. †	Randall A.S.
Auckett H.E. †	Duggan V.	Kerr J.H. †	Reynolds A.R.	Ayre A.	Edwards J.	Kidd A.L.	Reynolds H.A.
Bachelor G.	Edwards L.O.	Kidd S.J. †	Reynolds K.G.	Bacon A.	Field C.H.	Kidd V.R.	Reynolds R.
Barling J.P.	Fitzsimmons E.J.	Kimber A.T. †	Robertson H.	Barry B.F.	Fogarty F.	Lawrence C.R.	Robertson W. †
Bentley J.B. †	Follan A.H. →	Lawrence D.H. †	Rumbel M.	Bird C.L. †	Foster A.	Lawrence E.F.	Sales A.J.
Bird H.T.	Foster H.	Lawrence V.S. †	Short J.H.	Boydell W.J.	Francis A.	Lawrie G.K.	Storey S.B.
Bridger F.	Fry W.H.	Leake W.E. †	Stowe H.	Brooker C.W. †	Fryer G.L.	Lee N.	Swadling C.E.
Brooker M.A.	Furner G.L. †	Lagoe L.G.	Swadling W.M.	Broole C.D. †	Furper H.T. †	Lindeman A.H.	Taylor E.A. †
Brown H.B.	Gammoun H.W. †	Lindeman E.B.	Taylor E.H.	Brown H.H.	Gearry P.J.	Linton H.	Thompson A.J.C.
Brown S.V.	Gibson O.	Litchfield L.V.	Thompson J.H.	Burt W.H. †	Gillies A.S.J.	Lowcock E.	Thompson W.G.N.
Butler B.B.	Gilmour J. †	Lastry H.R. †	Tucker W.E.	Butler F.S.	Gray S.J. †	Lynch D.E. †	Tyrrell S.B. †
Capararo A.G.	Grey E.	Macedonald G.	Tyrrell W.J.	Capararo O.C.	Grey S. †	Magenzie J.B.	Venelle T. †
Cardow H.	Hamilton C.	Marr J.	Vincent F.	Cardow R.	Harley P.	Marrin S.G.	Walker R.
Carter L.	Hartup C.A.	Marshall W.M.	Wardon A.	Castles O.	Hartup H.C.	Martin R.G.	Watson W.M.
Chick A.R.	Hartup R.	Mathews D. †	Watt R.C.	Clements A.J.	Hayes B.H.	McBlane J.	Wells D.G.
Clements L.O.	Henson W.H.	McGermott E.G. †	Wells F.W.	Collison L.G.	Herbert F. †	Miller T. †	Wells J.H.
Collison O.C.	Hicks R.	Sherry J.R. †	Wilson W.J.	Cory E.	Hipwell J.L.	O'Neill B.M.	Woodhouse B.N.
Cross A.G.L.	Holmes C.W. †	Osborne A.S. †	Woods J.	Degg J. †	Hopson R.	Osmund J.R.	Worthington Claude
Danks F.	Huckkatt V.A.	Page C.B. †	Worthington R.C.	Dark W.B.	Hudson R.L.	Page J.R.	Worthington Richard
Davies A.	Hust W.	Page T.A. †	Yates J.	Davies E.B.	Stield J. †	Parker H.J.	WORLD WAR I
Dawkins A.C. †	Irby J.	Parker R.L.	WORLD WAR I	Dennis A.W.	Jarrett W.C. †	Parker E.A.	1914 - 1918
Doyle A.B. †	Jutts C.	Pearson A.T.	East Gresford				

Private D. H. Lawrence is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 159.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

D. H. Lawrence's headstone takes pride of place in the photo for the banner of the website - WW1 Australian Soldiers & Nurses who rest in the United Kingdom

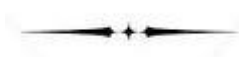
WW1 AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS & NURSES WHO REST IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

[HOME](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [W](#) [MORE..](#)



(67 pages of Private David Hamilton Lawrence'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

DIED OF ILLNESS

Information came to Gresford on Tuesday last from the military authorities that David Hamilton Lawrence has died in hospital in England from meningitis. Dave was a fine specimen of manhood and was a typical Australian. The sympathy of the district is extended to Mrs Lawrence and family in the loss of their son and brother.

(Dungog Chronicle; Durham and Gloucester Advertiser, NSW – 30 March, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 284

NEW SOUTH WALES
DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte D. H. Lawrence (Lostock)

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 31 March, 1917)

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.-Probate Jurisdiction.-In the Will of DAVID HAMILTON LAWRENCE, formerly of Lostock, in the State of New South Wales Farmer, a Member of the Australian Imperial Forces, deceased.-Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that Probate of the last Will of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to RICHARD LAWRENCE and CHARLES EDMUND LAWRENCE, the Executors named in the said Will; and all notices may be served at the office of the undersigned, to whom it is requested notice of all claims be sent within the said fourteen days. Dated this 31st day of March, 1917. R. W. THOMPSON and SON, Proctors, 293 High-street, West Maitland. By their Agents, WEBSTER and MACLEAN, 7 Moore-street, Sydney.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 April, 1917)

For King and Country

Dead

Lawrence, D. H., died of sickness

(Dungog Chronicle; Durham and Gloucester Advertiser, NSW – 24 April, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

LAWRENCE – In loving memory of our dear cousin, Pte D. H. Lawrence, 54th Battalion, who died in England on 17th February, 1917.

Gone, but forgotten.

Inserted by his loving cousins, Alice and Ella Flory, Aberdare Junction.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 16 February, 1918) & (The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 23 February, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

LAWRENCE – In loving memory of our dear brother, David H., died of illness, in England, Feb. 17th, 1917.

Farewell our own dear brother;
Sweet thoughts of you we'll keep;
Although two years have passed away,
Our grief is just as deep.
From memory's page we'll never blot
Three little words – "Forget-him-not."

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Sarah and James Lawrence.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 19 February, 1919)

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)

Private D. H. Lawrence does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away

St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Most of the 47 First World War burials in Stratford-sub-Castle (St Lawrence) Churchyard were made from the local hospital and more than half of them are of Australian servicemen who were based at the many Australian depots and training camps in the area. There are also two burials of the Second World War in the cemetery. (*Information from CWGC*)



St. Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle



Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle with CWGC Cross of Sacrifice



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)

Photo of Private D. H. Lawrence's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England.




(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)





Original Grave Markers

Stratford-sub-Castle War Graves

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	RAF	British Army			NZ	NZ	Rogers 3 AIF		Robson Nurse	NZ	
B			Nicol AFC	Mason 5 Aus Pioneer	Dundas 29 AIF	Thorsby 20 AIF	Walpole (Wilson) 3 AIF	O'Grady 10 AIF	Kubank 40 AIF	NZ	
C	NZ	Jacob 31 AIF	Wood 9 AIF	Smith 55 AIF	British Army	British Army	Smith Aus ASC	O'Donnell 16 AIF	Knight 52 AIF	Lawrence 54 AIF 	Edmonds 48 AIF
D		Lewis 30 AIF	British Army	Whitchurch 51 AIF	British Army	Dee 52 AIF	Greenslade 17 AIF	British Army	Thorburn 13 AIF	Knight 13 AIF	Hannabry 16 AIF
E					Adams 13 AIF	Crow Aus FA	British Army	Bolton 40 AIF	British Army	British Army	
F		British Army		British Army	British Army	British Army		Canada		British Army	

(Information for layout of graves – courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)