

**Efford Cemetery,
Plymouth, Devon, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1689 PRIVATE

N. H. LAWRIE

48TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH MAY, 1917 Age 21

Dear Is The Memory

Left Behind

Of A Life Unselfish,

Loving & Kind

Norman Herbert LAWRIE

Norman Herbert Lawrie was born at Nelshaby, near Napperby, South Australia on 7th November, 1895 to parents Andrew & Anna Maria Wilhelmina Lawrie (nee Richter).

Norman Herbert Lawrie was a 20 year old, single, Gardener from Jamestown, South Australia when he enlisted on 17th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Anna Maria Wilhelmina Lawrie, Glenmark Orchard, Jamestown, South Australia. Norman Lawrie stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with 24th A.L.H. (Australian Light Horse) for 2 years.

As Norman Herbert Lawrie was under the age of 21 – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. A. Lawrie & A. M. W. Lawrie signed their consent to the following letter: "*Glen Mark Orchard, Jamestown. We hereby certify that we consent to the enlistment of our son Norman Herbert Lawrie for Active Service abroad.*"

Private Norman Herbert Lawrie was posted to "E" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion at Exhibition Camp on 3rd March, 1916 for recruit training then transferred to "B" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion at Mitcham on 16th March, 1916. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 32nd Battalion at Mitcham on 16th March, 1916 then on 1st April, 1916 he was transferred to 2nd Reinforcements of 48th Infantry Battalion.

Private Norman Herbert Lawrie, Service number 1689, embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 11th April, 1916 with the 48th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements. He embarked on *Franconia* on 6th June, 1916 from Alexandria & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th June, 1916.

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 Norman Herbert Lawrie proceeded overseas via Folkestone on 24th January, 1917 on *Princess Clementina* from 12th Training Battalion, Codford, Wiltshire. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 25th January, 1917. Private Lawrie was marched out from 4th A.D.B.D. on 5th February, 1917 & was taken on strength of 48th Battalion in France on 6th February, 1917 from 2nd Reinforcements.

Private Norman Herbert Lawrie was wounded in action on 11th April, 1917. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 11th April, 1917 with bullet wound to Leg. Private Lawrie was transferred to 49th Casualty Clearing Station on 11th April, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head & Back then transferred on 13th April, 1917 to Ambulance Train. He was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 13th April, 1917 with shrapnel wound/s to Head. Private Lawrie embarked for England on 19th April, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. George*.

48th Battalion

The 48th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Roughly half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 16th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 16th, the men of the new battalion hailed mainly from regional South Australia and Western Australia. The new battalion formed part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division....

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1917 was also a trying year for the 48th Battalion. In two of the major battles in which it fought - the first battle of Bullecourt, in France, and the battle of Passchendaele, in Belgium - it was forced to withdraw with heavy casualties as result of poor planning and inadequate support. On neither occasion did the battalion fail for want of courage or skill amongst its own troops.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 48th Battalion

Noreuil – 10th / 11th April, 1917:

The attack on BULLECOURT was carried out this morning assisted by TANKS. The attack was timed to commence at 4.30 am. The TANKS were late getting away and slow in moving forward the consequence was that the attack was delayed and it was not until 6.19 that my men were able to penetrate the 2nd position, as the Bourge (?) lifted off the East edge of BULLECOURT at 5 am it meant that my men were exposed all this time to Rifle and Machine Gun fire. We suffered heavy Casualties before reaching Trenches.

Casualties 14 Officers 421 OR

Noreuil – 11th April, 1917:

A full report is attached herewith. Both Officers and OR did splendid service.

Moved back to BAPAUME on night of 11th inst being relieved by 45th Bn.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Norman Herbert Lawrie was admitted to Military Hospital, Devonport, England on 20th April, 1917 with G.S.W to Head & Right Buttock (severe). The Hospital Admissions form recorded "C. S. Meningitis. Developed in hospital where patient had been for 3 weeks suffering from G,S,W of head."

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Lawrie, Glen Mark, Orchard, Jamestown, South Australia, on 2nd May, 1917 advising that Private Herbert Lawrie had been admitted to Hospital on 24th April with a gunshot wound to Head & right Buttock – severe.

Private Norman Herbert Lawrie died at 11.50 am on 13th May, 1917 at Military Hospital, Devonport, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W to Head & Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Norman H. Lawrie, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Private Norman Herbert Lawrie was buried on 16th May, 1917 in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number - General C. 4245 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private Norman Herbert Lawrie – Military Funeral. Chaplain – Rev. W. Metcalfe, 4 Hazelwood Terrace, Plymouth. Coffin was Military. Good. The funeral arrangements were carried out by the 3rd Devon Regt. A bunch of flowers was placed on the gun-carriage by the Nursing Staff of the Hospital per S.Sgt. Vidgin.

Private Norman Herbert Lawrie requested in his Will dated 2nd April, 1917 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mrs Anna Maria W. Lawrie, Glen March Orchard, Jamestown, South Australia.

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. M. Lawrie, Glen Mark, Orchard, Jamestown, South Australia on 16th December, 1921 stating that she was registered on the records of the late No. 1689 Private N. H. Lawrie, 48th Battalion as next of kin but requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father is still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs A. M. W. Lawrie replied to Base Records on 21st December, 1921 advising that the father of the late No. 1689 Private N. H. Lawrie, 48th Battalion, was still alive. His name was given as Andrew Lawrie, Glen Mark Orchard, Box 66, Jamestown, South Australia.

Private Norman Herbert Lawrie was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Lawrie's father – Mr A. Lawrie, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Norman Herbert Lawrie – service number 1689, aged 21, of 48th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Andrew Lawrie & Anna M. W. Lawrie, of Glen Mark Orchard, Jamestown, South Australia.

Private N. H. Lawrie is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 146.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

N. H. Lawrie is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

N. H. Lawrie is remembered on the Jamestown Memorial Arch & Park, Irvine Street, Jamestown, South Australia.



Jamestown Memorial Arch & Park (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



N. H. Lawrie is remembered on the Jamestown Presbyterian Honor Roll, located in Uniting Church Hall, Irvine Street, Jamestown, South Australia.



Jamestown Presbyterian Honor Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Elise Morgan)

N. H. Lawrie is remembered on Napperby Memorial Pulpit, located in Port Pirie National Trust Museum, 77 a Ellen Street, Port Pirie, South Australia.



Napperby Memorial Pulpit (Photo from Monument Australia – Denis Binnion)

N. H. Lawrie is remembered on the Grand Masonic Lodge Honor Roll, located in Grand Masonic Lodge, 254 North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia.

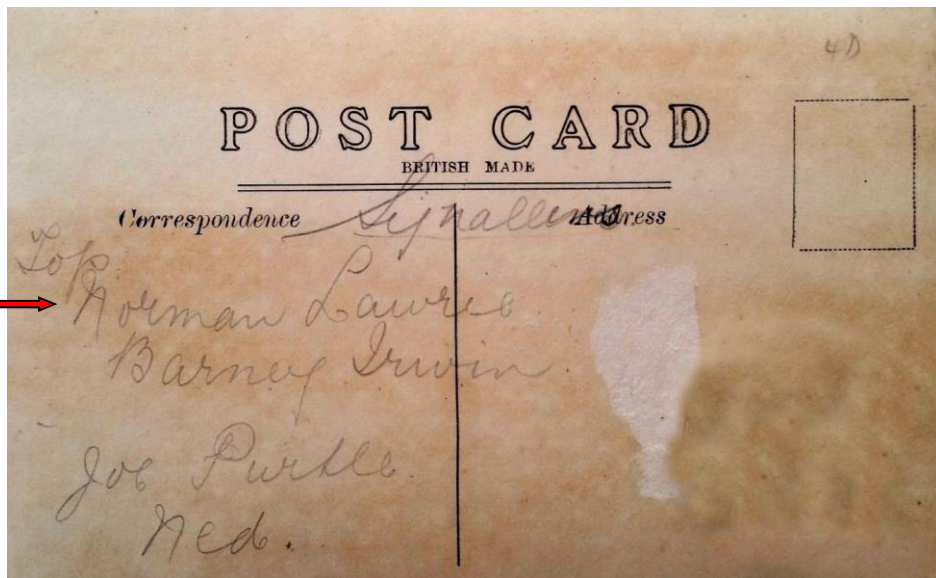


Grand Masonic Lodge Honor Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – South Australian History Network)

(44 pages of Private Norman Herbert Lawrie'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







Private Norman Herbert Lawrie

(Photo owned by Julia Herbert)



Newspaper Notices

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

LAWRIE – On the 13th May, died from gunshot wound in head and cerebro-spinal fever, at Military Hospital, Devonport, Sglnr, Norman H, Lawrie, 48th Battalion, A.I.F., fourth dearly loved son of A. and A. M. W. Lawrie, Glen Mark Orchard, Jamestown, aged 21 years.

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 24 May, 1917 & 25th May, 1917) & (*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 May, 1917) & (*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 May, 1917) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 May, 1917)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

LAWRIE – Died from gunshot wound in head and cerebro-spinal fever at Military Hospital, Devonport, on 13th May, Signaller Norman H. Lawrie, 48th Battalion, A.I.F., fourth dearly loved son of A. and A. M. W. Lawrie, Glen Mark Orchard, Jamestown, aged 21 years.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 May, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

303rd CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died of Wounds

1689 Pte N. H. LAWRIE, Jamestown (May 13)

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 28 May, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

LAWRIE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, No. 1689, Signaller Norman H. Lawrie, who died May 13, 1917, of wounds received in France on April 11, 1917.

God saw what was before him,
He knew the trials to come,
And from the blood-stained field of France
He took our dear one home.

– Inserted by his loving mother, father, brothers, and sisters.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 15 May, 1918) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 May, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

LAWRIE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, No. 1689, Signaller Norman H. Lawrie, who died May 13, 1917, from wounds received in France on April 11, 1917. To memory ever dear. – Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 May, 1919)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

LAWRIE – In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sgnlr, Norman Herbert Lawrie, 48th Batt., who died on the 13th May, 1917, of wounds received in France, April 11, 1917.

Not gone from memory, not gone from love,
But gone to our Father's home above.
Rest in the Saviour, sweetly rest;
They miss you most who loved your best.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brother, and sisters.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 May, 1920)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

LAWRIE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte Norman H. Lawrie, who died on the 13th May, 1917, of wounds received in France, April 11, 1917. Ever remembered by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 May, 1922) & (The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 May, 1922)

& *(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 May, 1922)*

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 20th July, 1921, to Mrs A. M. Lawrie, Glen Mark, Orchard, Jamestown, South Australia, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late No. 1689 Private N. H. Lawrie, 48th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private N. H. Lawrie does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Dear Is The Memory Left Behind

Of A Life Unselfish, Loving & Kind

Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area. Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth. PLYMOUTH (EFFORD) CEMETERY contains 338 scattered burials of the First World War. The 109 Second World War burials, including 5 unidentified, are also scattered apart from a small group in Section C, in a plot set aside for service burials that was actually little used. The Commission also maintains five non-war burials within the cemetery and 12 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Greek merchant seamen. PLYMOUTH CITY CREMATORIUM is situated in Plymouth (Efford) Cemetery and 61 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on a screen wall set into a recess in the hedge behind the Cross of Sacrifice.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo courtesy of Rebecca Smith)*

Photo of Private N. H. Lawrie's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Cliff Barry)