

**St. Cuthbert Churchyard,
Bedlington, Northumberland**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1871 GUNNER

G. G. LAWSON

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

22ND JANUARY, 1917

George Gray LAWSON

George Gray Lawson was born at Jamestown, South Australia 14th November, 1895 to parents Daniel and Barbara Ann Lawson (nee Gilles).

George Gray Lawson attended Yatina Public School, South Australia.

Barbara Ann Lawson, mother of George Gray Lawson, died on 24th March, 1905 at Mannanarie, South Australia.

Daniel Lawson, father of George Gray Lawson, died on 11th March, 1915 at Mannanarie, South Australia.

George Gray Lawson was a 19 year old, single, Farmer from Yatina, South Australia when he enlisted in Adelaide, South Australia on 2nd October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1871 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Miss Mary Gray Lawson, of Yatina, South Australia (parents deceased).

George Gray Lawson was posted to Light Horse Base on 2nd October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 11th Light Horse Regiment on 1st November, 1915 then transferred the same day to 13th Reinforcements of 3rd Light Horse Regiment.

Private George Gray Lawson embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 11th January, 1916 with the 1st Light Horse Brigade, 3rd Light Horse Regiment, 13th Reinforcements.

Private George Gray Lawson was taken on strength of 1st L.H. R.R. (Light Horse Reserve Regiment) at Heliopolis on 1st March, 1916.

Private George Gray Lawson was taken to No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 26th March, 1916 with appendicular pains. He was returned to duty the same day.

Private George Gray Lawson was admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis on 5th April, 1916 with Influenza.

Private George Gray Lawson was transferred to Artillery Details as Gunner on 15th May, 1916. He embarked for England on HMT *Corsican* from Alexandria.

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.

Gunner George Gray Lawson was admitted to Military Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire, England on 25th July, 1916 with Gastric Catarrh (The Hospital Admissions form records that he was admitted on 26th July, 1916 with Pleurisy & discharged on 7th October, 1916.) He was marched in to A.A.T.D. (Australian Artillery Training Depot) at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 28th September, 1916.

Gunner George Gray Lawson was admitted to Military Hospital at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 8th October, 1916 with Pleurisy. He was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Dorset on 23rd October, 1916 from Tidworth, Wiltshire with Pleurisy (as per Hospital Admissions form. The Casualty Form – Active Service records he was admitted with Gastric Catarrh.)

A Medical Report was completed on Gunner George Gray Lawson at 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England on 28th October, 1916 regarding his disability – Pleurisy. The Medical Board stated that the Pleurisy was caused from Exposure & infection while on ordinary Military Service. It was recommended that Gunner Lawson be given a change to Australia for six months as temporarily unfit but not discharged as permanently unfit. Gunner Lawson was discharged to Weymouth on 12th November, 1916.

Gunner George Gray Lawson was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 12th November, 1916.

Gunner George Gray Lawson was admitted to Sidney Hall Military Hospital at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 31st December, 1916 with Pulmonary Tuberculosis. He was reported as dangerously ill on 14th January, 1917.

Base Records advised Miss M. G. Lawson, Yatina, South Australia, next-of-kin of Gunner George Gray Lawson, on 19th January, 1917 that her brother was dangerously ill. A follow up report on 25th January, 1917 stated that Gunner Lawson's condition was stationary.

Gunner George Gray Lawson died at 2.45 pm (as per Hospital Admissions form, however the Morning State of Sick form has the time of death as 1.35 pm) on 22nd January, 1917 at Sidney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Rapid Tuberculosis of Lungs/Pulmonary Tuberculosis & Exhaustion.

A death for George G. Lawson, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Gunner George Gray Lawson was buried on 25th January, 1917 in St. Cuthbert Churchyard, Bedlington, Northumberland, England (in south-west part) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records contacted Miss M. G. Lawson, of Yatina, South Australia in October, 1921 stating she was registered on the records as the registered next-of-kin of the late Gunner G. G. Lawson but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself 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 & specifically asked if his father and mother were living & if he had any brothers.

The personal effects of the late Gunner George Gray Lawson were sent to his sister – Miss M. G. Lawson, Yatina, South Australia, who was registered as the next-of-kin.

Mr N. A. Lawson, brother of the late Gunner George Gray Lawson, wrote to Base Records in October, 1921 to advise them that his sister who was registered as the next-of-kin of the late Gunner George Gray Lawson had died on 19th July, 1921, leaving one sister & two brothers. The eldest brother was Mr J. G. Lawson, of Yatina & their father & mother were both dead.

Gunner George Gray Lawson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Lawson's eldest brother – Mr J. G. Lawson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner George Grey Lawson – service number 1871, of Australian Artillery Training Depot, Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of the late Daniel and Barbara Ann Lawson, of Yalilla, South Australia.

Gunner G. G. Lawson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 22.



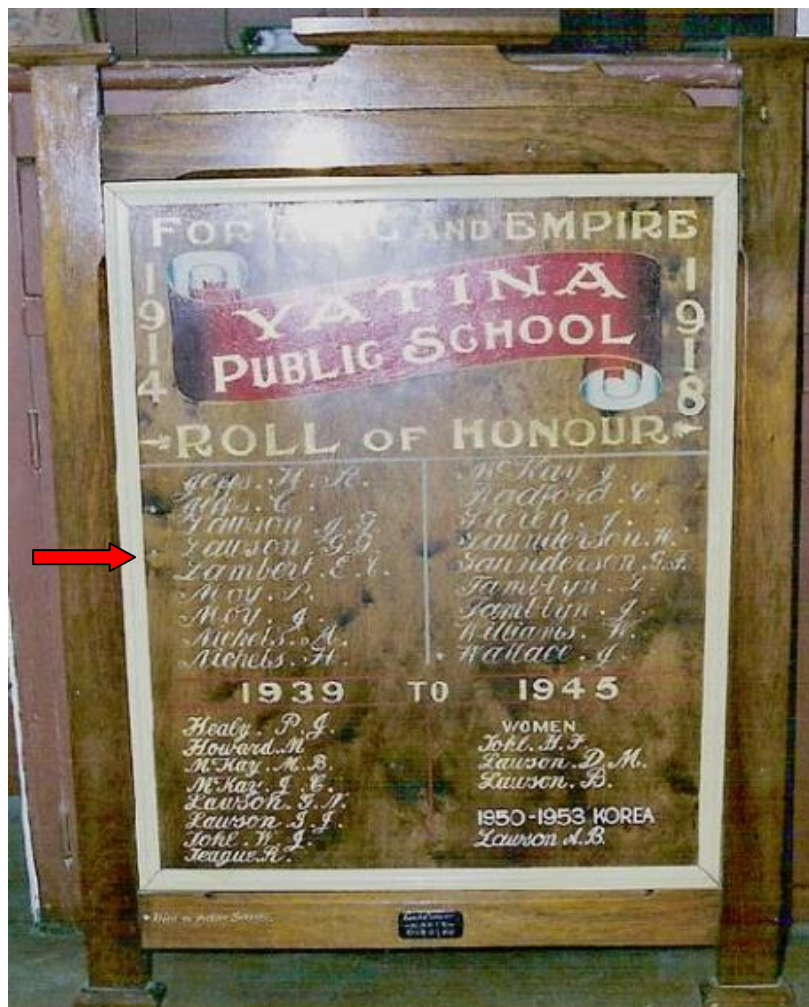
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. G. Lawson 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)

G. G. Lawson is remembered on the Yatina Public School Roll of Honour, located in Jamestown National Trust Museum, Mannanarie Road, Jamestown, South Australia.

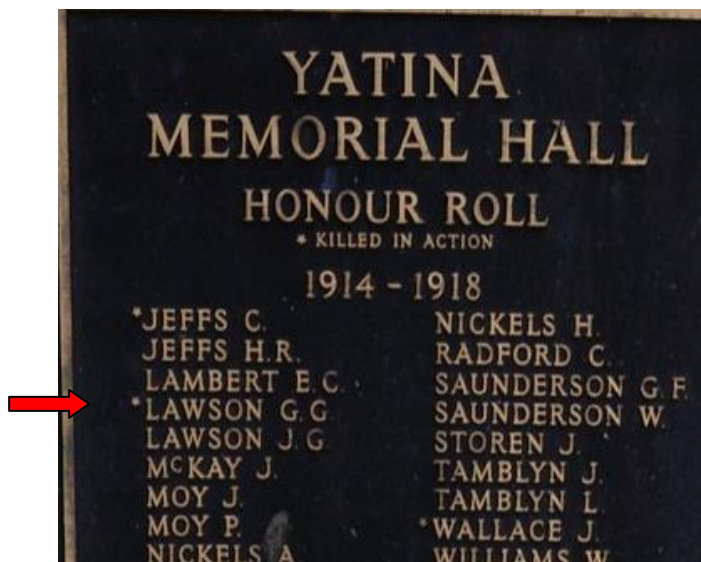


Yatina Public School Roll of Honour (Photo from Virtual War Memorial Australia)

G. G. Lawson is remembered on the Yatina Memorial Hall Honour Roll which is located at the site of the Yatina School which opened in 1879 & closed in 1952.



Yatina Memorial Hall Honour Roll



(81 pages of Gunner George Gray Lawson'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

THE AUSTRALIANS

269TH CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ILL

Gnr. G. G. LAWSON, Yatina (2nd occ.)

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 January, 1917)

271st CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died of Sickness

1871 Gnr. G. G. LAWSON, Yatina (Jna. 26)

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 February, 1917)

THE WAR

THE LATE GUNNER G. G. LAWSON

Gunner George Gray Lawson, who died at the Military Hospital, Wremouth, England, after a long illness was the second son of the late Mr. D. Lawson, of Ya tina, and was 21 years and 2 months of age. He enlisted on September 28, 1915, and sailed for Egypt on January 11, 1916. On his arrival there he met his brother Gill, who is now in France.



Gunner Lawson was admitted to the hospital with influenza, and on his recovery he transferred from the Light Horse to the Artillery, and left for England early in June, where he took ill and never recovered. Besides his brother, Dvr. J. G. Lawson, in France, he leaves two sisters and another brother.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 February, 1917) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 February, 1917)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

LAWSON – On the 22nd January, at Wrimouth Military Hospital, England, Gunner George Gray Lawson, second son of the late Mr D. Lawson, Yatina, aged 21 years and 2 months. After a long illness. – Inserted by his loving sisters and brother, Yatina, and Gill, on active service.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 February, 1917) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 February, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

LAWSON – In loving memory of our dear brother, 1871, Gunner George Gray Lawson, who died of sickness in the Sydney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, England, on January 22, 1917, aged 21 years.

Too far away your grave to see,
But not too far to think of thee.

-Inserted by his loving sisters and brother, Yatina, and Brother Gill in France.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 January, 1918)

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)

Gunner G. G. Lawson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. Cuthbert Churchyard, Bedlington, Northumberland, England

St. Cuthbert Churchyard, Bedlington has only two Commonwealth War Graves – both from World War 1.



St. Cuthbert Church, Bedlington (Photos by John Lord)



Photo of Gunner G. G. Lawson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Cuthbert Churchyard, Bedlington, Northumberland, England.



(Photo by Thomas Hunter Brown – Find a Grave)