

**All Saints Churchyard,
Warlingham, Surrey
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



8345 WARRANT OFFICER 1ST CI.

H. W. LAWSON

AUST. FIELD ARTILERY

3RD MARCH, 1918 Age 32

God Rest His Soul

Henry William LAWSON

Henry William Lawson was born at Aldershot, Hampshire, England in 1885 to parents Henry & Emma Lawson.

The 1891 England Census recorded Henry Lawson (junior) as a 6 year old Scholar, living with his family at 43 Ogleby Street, Woolwich, London, England, in a 2 roomed dwelling. The Bright family also lived at the same address but not with the Lawson family. His parents were recorded as Henry Lawson (Canteen employed _____, aged 42, born London) & Emma Lawson (aged 32, born India (British Subject)). Henry Lawson (junior) was one of four children listed on this Census – Emma Lawson (junior) (Scholar, aged 12, born Woolwich, Kent), Annie Lawson (Scholar, aged 10, born Newcastle, Northumberland), then Henry (junior) & Frederick Lawson (aged 3, born Woolwich, Kent).

[The 1901 England Census recorded Henry Lawson (Coal _____ in Boiler House, aged 52) & his wife Emma Lawson (aged 43) living with their daughter Mabel E. Lawson (aged 9, born Woolwich, Kent) in a 3 roomed dwelling at 55 St. Mary Street, Woolwich, London, England.]

Henry William Lawson, Carman, aged 18 years, born Aldershot, Hants, signed on with the Royal Horse & Field Artillery on 15th October, 1902 at Woolwich. Henry William Lawson listed his parents as Henry & Emma Lawson of 55 St. Mary St, Woolwich. He was given a Regimental number of 27677. He was posted as Gunner on 31st October, 1902 & served at Home until 6th December, 1903. Gunner Lawson served in Egypt from 7th December, 1903 until 31st January, 1905 when he was serving at Home. He was granted G.C. Badge on 15th October, 1904.

Gunner Henry William Lawson married Fanny Rosetta Moon at Register Office, West Ham on 25th November, 1905.

Gunner Henry William Lawson was awaiting trial on 8th April, 1912 & convicted and imprisoned on 23rd April, 1912. He was discharged due to Felony on 31st May, 1912.

[The 1911 England Census recorded Henry Lawson (Furnace Stoker – Arsenal Building Works Dept., aged 61) & his wife Emma Lawson (aged 53) living together in a 5 roomed dwelling at 16 Maxey Road, Plumstead, London, England. Henry & Emma Lawson had been married for 33 years & had 8 children, 4 of whom were deceased.]

According to information supplied by his widow for the Roll of Honour - Henry William Lawson came to Australia when he was 27 years of age. He was 5 feet 8 ½ inches with a fresh complexion, blue eyes & brown hair.

Henry William Lawson married Florence Hains. A marriage was registered on 1913 in the district of Adelaide (Registry Office) & another marriage registered in 1914 in the district of Port Adelaide, South Australia.

A birth was registered in 1914 in Port Adelaide for Frederick Henry Lawson – parents Henry William & Florence Lawson (nee Hains). A birth was registered in 1915 in Port Adelaide for Robert Lawson – parents Henry William & Florence Lawson (nee Hains).

Henry William Lawson was a 30 year old, married, Chef from Carlyle Street, Granville, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 22nd September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 8345 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Florence Lawson, Hall Street, Semaphore, South Australia. Henry William Lawson stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 years in England with Home Forces R.F.A. (Royal Field Artillery). He was 5 feet 8 ¼ inches with a fair complexion, blue eyes & brown hair.

Henry William Lawson was appointed acting Quartermaster Sergeant with 18th Battery, F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 16th October, 1915.

Quartermaster Sergeant Henry William Lawson embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Persic* (A34) on 22nd November, 1915 with the 6th Field Artillery Brigade – 18th Battery & disembarked at Suez on 21st December, 1915 & proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force).

Quartermaster Sergeant Henry William Lawson embarked from Alexandria on H. T. *Eboe* on 17th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd March, 1916. He was transferred to 6th B.A. Column on H.T. *Eboe* while at sea on 15th March, 1916. Quartermaster Sergeant Henry William Lawson was promoted to Temporary B.S.M. (Battery Sergeant Major) & Warrant Officer (Class 2) on 15th March, 1916. (Note – dates as recorded on Casualty Form – Active Service).

Temporary Battery Sergeant Major Warrant Officer (Class 2) Henry William Lawson was promoted to Battery Sergeant Major Warrant Officer (Class 2) on 14th April, 1916.

Battery Sergeant Major Warrant Officer (Class 2) Henry William Lawson was transferred to 16th Battery on 13th May, 1916.

Battery Sergeant Major Warrant Officer (Class 2) Henry William Lawson was posted to Brigade Headquarters on 5th July, 1916.

Battery Sergeant Major Warrant Officer (Class 2) Henry William Lawson was promoted to Warrant Officer (Class 1) on 17th August, 1916.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson was sent sick to Hospital on 31st December, 1916. He was admitted to 38th Casualty Clearing Station on 1st January, 1917 with Debility. Warrant Officer (Class 1) Lawson was transferred & admitted to 1st General Hospital at Etretat on 4th January, 1917. He embarked for England from Havre on 13th January, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Glenart Castle*.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson was admitted to 5th London General Hospital, Westminster, England on 14th January, 1917. He was discharged from Hospital on 9th February, 1917 & was granted furlough from 10th February to 26th February, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire & medically classified on 28th February 1917 as B1 A. (temporarily unfit for service).

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson was medically reclassified on 17th May, 1917 as "A" – fit for active service.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson was marched out of No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs & marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire the same day.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson proceeded overseas from R.B.A.A., Larkhill, Wiltshire via Folkestone on 2nd July, 1917. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 3rd July, 1917. Warrant Officer (Class 1) Lawson was marched out from A.G.B.D. on 13th August, 1917 to 6th A.F.A.B.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson rejoined his Brigade (6th Army Brigade, Australian Field Artillery) from Hospital on 17th August, 1917 in France.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson was sent to Hospital sick in France on 31st December, 1917. He was admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance on 31st December, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (Not yet determined). Warrant Officer (Class 1) Lawson was transferred & admitted to 64th Casualty Clearing Station on 8th January, 1918 with otorrhoea then transferred & admitted to 54th General Hospital on 10th January, 1918. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Cambrai* on 19th January, 1918.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson was admitted to Military Hospital, Boscombe, England on 19th January, 1918 with otorrhoea. He was transferred to 4th London General Hospital on 24th January, 1918.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson died at 6.30 pm on 3rd March, 1918 at 4th London General Hospital, R.A.M.C., Denmark Hill, London, England from Meningitis & Otitis Media.

A death for Henry W. Lawson, aged 32, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth Greater London, England.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson was buried at 3.30 pm on 7th March, 1918 in All Saints Churchyard, Warlingham, Surrey, England and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson - *Coffin was polished Oak. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours, The cortege ledt the residence of Mr T. F. Burton at 2.40 pm the coffin being conveyed on a Gun Carriage supplied by Guards Depot, Caterham. A service was held in Church on arrival. The coffin as draped with the Australian Flag. Firing Party was supplied by Administrative Headquarters and the "Last Post" was sounded by an Australian Bugler. A number of floral wreaths were placed on the grave. Administrative Headquarters were represented at the funeral. A temporary oak cross was erected on the grave.*

Names & address of relatives present at the funeral – Mrs Lawson (mother), Mrs Westron (Sister), Mrs Burton (Sister) and Mr T. F. Burton (Brother-in-law) of Manna Mead, Upper Warlingham, Surrey.

Q.M.S. Henry William Lawson requested in his Will written at Tel-el Kebir, Egypt on 3rd February, 1916 bequeathed all his property & effects to his wife – Florence Lawson of Adelaide, South Australia.

A War Pension was granted to Mrs Florence Lawson, 7 West St, Torrensville, widow of the late Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 6th May, 1918. A Pension was also granted to Frederick Henry Lawson, son of the late Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 6th May, 1918.

An advertisement was placed in the newspapers in 1921 seeking the address of the next of kin of the No. 8345 Warrant Officer H. W. Lawson, 6th Army F.A.B. as unclaimed communications had been returned to Base Records. Mrs F. Lawson, of 25 Wellington Terrace, Fullarton, South Australia, contacted Base Records, Melbourne in late August, 1921 to advise that she was the widow of the late Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson & that any communications to her should be sent to the Fullarton address.

Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Warrant Officer (Class 1) Lawson's widow – Mrs Florence Lawson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Warrant Officer Class 1 Henry William Lawson – service number 8345, aged 32, of 6th F. A. Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Henry Lawson and Emma Lawson; husband of Florence Lawson, of 25 Wellington Terrace, Fullarton, South Australia. Born at Aldershot, England.

Warrant Officer Class 1 H. W. 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 14.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. W. 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)

(82 pages of Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William 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

CASUALTY LIST, No. 386

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

8345 – W. Officer H. W. LAWSON, Torrensville (March 3)

(*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 March, 1918)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

387th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died of Sickness

8345 – Warrant-Officer H. W. LAWSON, Torrensville (3/3/18, p.r. died, cause not stated).

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 April, 1918)

BIOGRAPHICAL

THE LATE WARRANT OFFICER LAWSON

Mrs Florence Lawson, of West-street, Torrensville, has been advised that her husband, Warrant Officer H. W. Lawson 6th Field Artillery Brigade, died at the 4th London General Hospital, on March 3, of meningitis. Warrant Officer Lawson was the only son of Mr and Mrs H, Lawson, Plumstead, Kent, England.

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 July, 1918) & (*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 July, 1918) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 July, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS

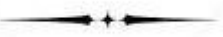
DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY

Warrant-Officer H. W. LAWSON, of the 6th Field Artillery Brigade, husband of Mrs Florence Lawson, of West-street, Torrensville, died in the 4th London General Hospital on March 3 of meningitis. He was the only son of Mr and Mrs H. Lawson, Plumstead, Kent, England.

(*Daily Herald*, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 July, 1918) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 July, 1918) &



Henry William Lawson (Photo from *Discovering Anzacs* – Keith McPhee)



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 F. Lawson, 7 West Street, Torrensville, South Australia advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her late husband, Warrant Officer H. W. Lawson in Warlingham Churchyard 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. Notices were placed in the newspaper to locate the next-of-kin of the late Warrant Officer H. W. Lawson, to which Mrs Lawson replied to in late August, 1921.

Mrs F. Lawson, of 25 Wellington Terrace, Fullarton, South Australia, widow of the late Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson, contacted Base Records, Melbourne on 7th September, 1921 to advise for the delay in confirming information regarding the headstone of her late husband but she was *"under the impression that a headstone was erected by the deceased soldiers' sister Mrs T. F. Burton, of Manna Mead, Upper Warlingham, Surrey about 2 ½ years ago. Evidently according to the official record such was not done."*

Base Records contacted Mrs F. Lawson, of 25 Wellington Terrace, Fullarton, South Australia, widow of the late Warrant Officer (Class 1) Henry William Lawson, on 16th September, 1921, to advise that the Star of David she had chosen to be inscribed on her late husband's headstone was the emblem of the Jewish faith, whereas the cross was the symbol of Christianity & their records show that her late husband was a member of the Church of England. They were writing as they thought that she would prefer the Christian Cross. Mrs Florence Lawson replied on 4th October, 1921 stating *"I was quite aware the Star of David is an emblem of Jewish faith, it is also used irrespective of denomination. As I am a Jewess & would have preferred to have it used, but if it does not come within your power to do so, then I must have the Cross used."*

Warrant Officer First Class H. W. Lawson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

God Rest His Soul

Photo of Warrant Officer First Class H. W. Lawson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Churchyard, Warlingham, Surrey, England.



All Saints Church, Warlingham, Surrey, England

All Saints Church, Warlingham, Surrey contains 22 Commonwealth War Graves – 15 from World War 1 & 7 from World War 2.



All Saints Church, Warlingham (Photo by Robin Webster)