

**Chichester Cemetery,
Chichester, West Sussex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5888 PRIVATE

R. L. E. LAWSON

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH MAY, 1917 Age 24

One Of The Brave

Sacred To The Memory Of

A Brave Soldier

Richard Leslie Eric (Les) LAWSON

Richard Leslie Eric Lawson was born at Northam, Western Australia on 27th April, 1893 to parents Frederick and Mary Ann Lawson (nee Buck).

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Dampier, subdivision of Northam, Western Australia listed Richard Leslie Eric Lawson, Clerk, of Henry Street.

Richard Leslie Eric Lawson was a 23 year old, single, Clerk from 236 St. Georges Terrace, Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 19th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5888 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Frederick James Lawson, of Northam , Western Australia.

Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson was posted to 63rd Depot on 18th April, 1916 at BlackBoy Hill Camp, Western Australia for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 4th May, 1916.

Richard Leslie Eric Lawson married Alice Irene Ferguson in Perth, Western Australia on 10th June, 1916.

Marriage notice – *The West Australian*, Perth – 24 June, 1916 & *Western Mail*, Perth – 30 June, 1916:

LAWSON – FERGUSON – On Saturday, June 10 1916, at St. George's Cathedral, Perth, by Dean Mercer, Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson, of A.I.F., Blackboy Hill, only son of Mr and Mrs F. Lawson, of Northam, to Alice Irene, third daughter of Mr R. R. Ferguson, of Northam.

Richard Leslie Eric Lawson was now listed as married & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Alice Irene Lawson, of 23 Harley Street, Highgate Hill, Western Australia.

Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suffolk (A23)* on 13th October, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd December, 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 Richard Leslie Eric Lawson proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on H.T. *Princess Clementine* on 28th December, 1916 from 7th Training Battalion, England.

Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson was admitted to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 29th December, 1916. He proceeded to join his Unit on 30th December, 1916 & was taken on strength of 28th Battalion in France on 27th January, 1917.

Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson was sent sick to Hospital on 10th February, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 10th February, 1917 with Mumps then transferred & admitted to 1 ANZAC Mumps Hospital on 11th February, 1917. Private Lawson was discharged to duty on 2nd March, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 3rd March, 1917.

Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson was wounded in action on 26th March, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 26th March, 1917 with G.S.W. (Gunshot wound/s) to knee then transferred to No. 3 Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Private Lawson was admitted to No. 3 Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 27th March, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 29th March, 1917. He was admitted to No. 5 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 30th March, 1917. Private Lawson embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. George* on 16th April, 1917.

28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp in Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, which was instead being raised in Victoria.

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For many of the major battles of 1917 the 28th found itself in supporting roles. At the second battle of Bullecourt, the 28th provided reinforcements who were nonetheless involved in heavy fighting. The 28th went on to attack as part of the third phase at the battle of Menin Road, capturing its objectives in seven minutes, and was in reserve during the capture of Broodseinde Ridge. The battalion was also in reserve for the battle of Poelcappelle on 9 October, but, with the attack floundering in the mud, it soon became embroiled in the fighting.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 28th Battalion

26th March, 1917 – France:

Supported the 26th Batt. A.I.F. in attack on LAGNICOURT

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson was admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England on 17th April, 1917 with gunshot wounds to right knee. The Hospital Admissions form recorded that he was operated on – on 23rd April, 1917 with wound drained. Pte Lawson was operated on again on 10th May, 1917 with a counter incision in thigh for removal of pus. On 13th May, 1917 Septicaemia developed & he was reported as seriously ill.

Mrs Alice Irene Lawson, of 23 Harley Street, Highgate Hill, Western Australia, wife of Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson, was advised on 13th April, 1917 that Private Richard Lawson had been wounded. Mrs Lawson sent a Telegram requesting the name of the Hospital. Base Records advised Mrs Lawson on 2nd May, 1917 that Private Lawson had been admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England, on 17th April, suffering from gunshot wound to knee – mild.

Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson died on 19th May, 1917 (in afternoon) at Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, Sussex, England from wounds received in action in France – GSW (Gunshot wound/s) to right knee & Septicaemia.

A death for Richard L. E. Lawson, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Chichester, Sussex, England.



Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson was buried on 22nd May, 1917 in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England – Grave No. 79 Square 121 which was then crossed out & in red replaced with Grave No. 70 – Soldiers Plot. From the burial report of Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson - *The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party provided by the Royal West Sussex Regt. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and covered with several floral tributes, which were sent by the deceased's Aunt and cousins, Mrs Delf and Mr & Miss Delf., Sisters & Nurses and Patients of Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester and Miss Higginson of the Australian Red Cross Society. Prior to interment a service was held in the Chapel at the Cemetery. Relative present at the funeral:- Mr Richard Delf, cousin, of 16 Park Lane, Norwich. Temporary oak Memorial to be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission now records Private Lawson's place of burial as Plot number 121.79 and he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson requested in his Will that all his real and personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Alice Irene Lawson, of 23 Harley Street, Highgate Hill, Perth, Western Australia. He also appointed his wife as Executrix and Trustee.

A War Pension was granted to Alice Irene Lawson, of 39 Harley Street, Highgate Hill, widow of the late Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson, in the sum of 40/- fortnightly from 23rd July, 1917.

Mrs A. Lawson, widow of the late Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson, advised Base Records in October, 1917 that her new address was "Bromley Villa" 85 Lincoln Street, Highgate Hill, Perth, Western Australia.

Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Lawson's widow – Mrs A. I. Lawson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson – service number 5888, aged 24, of 28th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frederick and Mary Ann Lawson; husband of Alice Irene Lawson, of Westonia, Western Australia.

Private R. L. E. 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 113.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. L. E. Lawson is remembered on the Northam Fallen, located in Northam Memorial Hall, 263 Fitzgerald Street East, Northam, Western Australia.

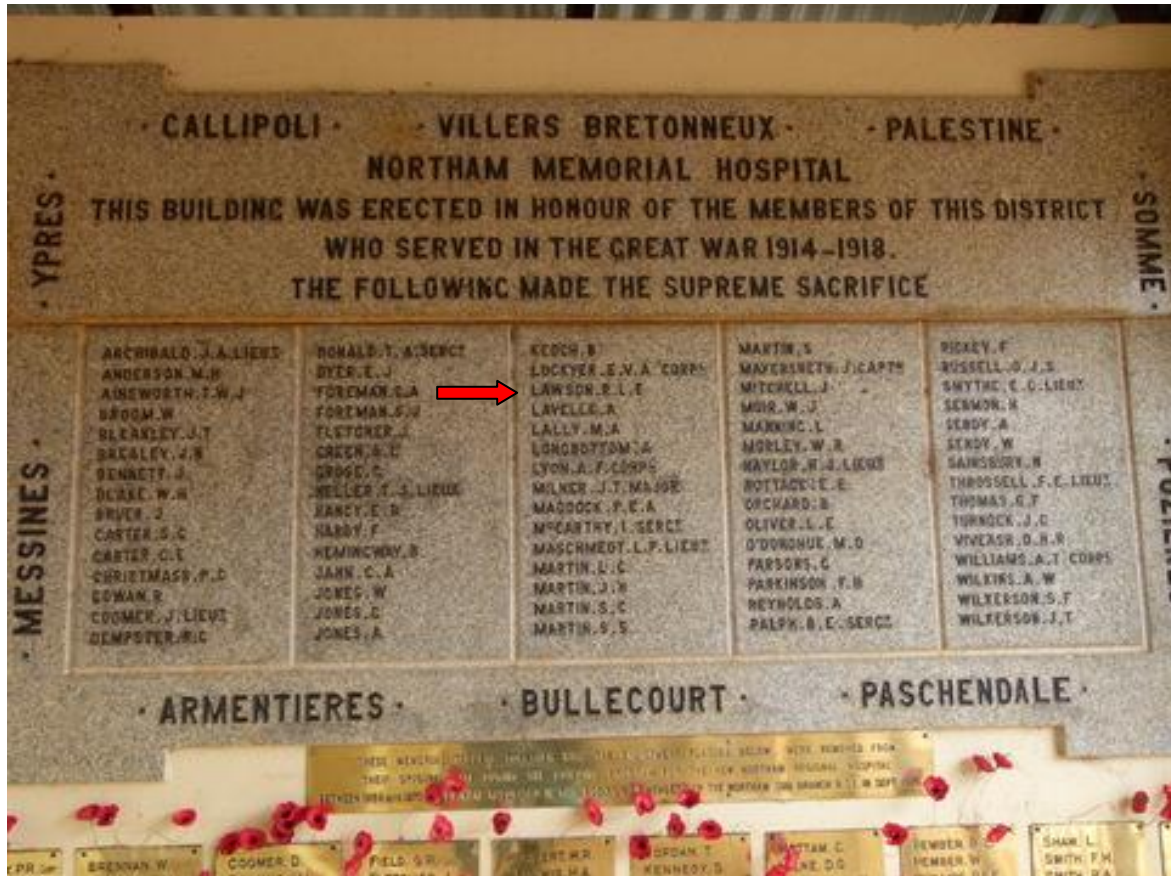


Northam Memorial Hall (Photo by Gordon Stuart)



Northam Fallen (Photo from Virtual War Memorial, Australia)

R. L. E. Lawson is remembered on the Northam Memorial Hospital Honour Roll, located in Northam Memorial Hall, 263 Fitzgerald Street East, Northam, Western Australia.



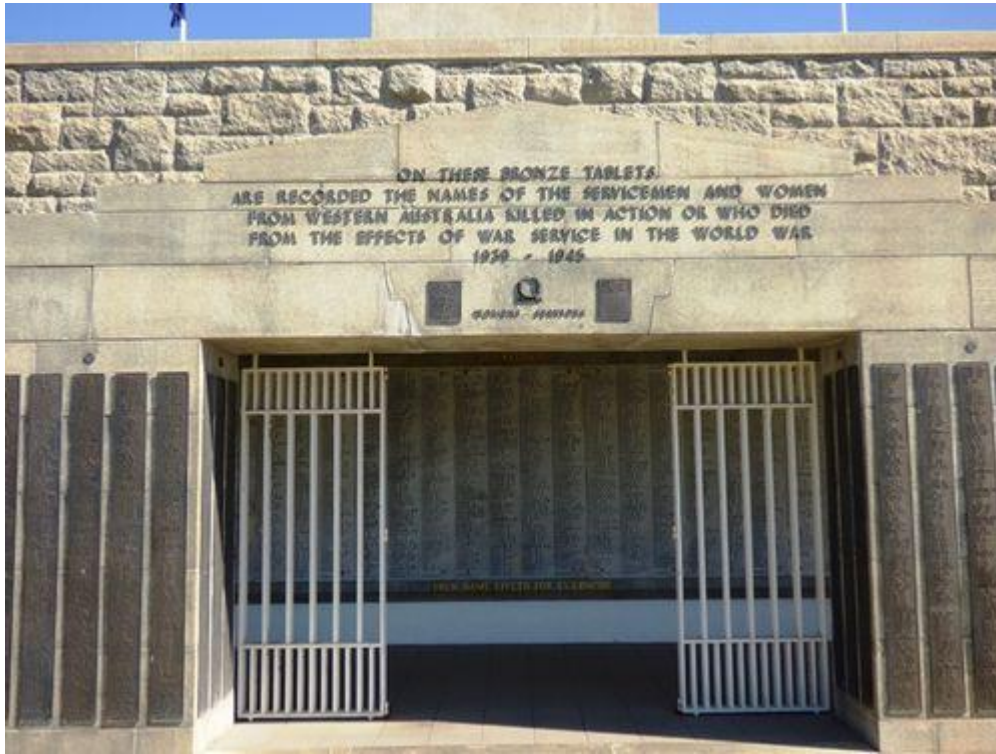
Northam Memorial Hospital Honour Roll (Photo from *Virtual War Memorial, Australia*)

R. L. E. Lawson is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names
 (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)

ON THESE TABLETS ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF THE MEN FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA KILLED IN ACTION OR WHO DIED FROM THE EFFECTS OF WAR SERVICE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

28TH BATTALION

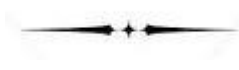
DAVIS F.C.	EDINGTON T.	CEE E.C.	HAMMOND M.C.	HODGSON M.R.	JONES W.T.	LIVINGSTON G.P.	M'NFILL W.W.	MOORE W.R.	PARSONS C.W.G.	RIDDEL
DAVIS W.P.	EDMONDS A.C.	GEORGE F.R.	HANCOCK J.N.L.	HOELSCHER H.	JOSE R.T.	LOCKYER E.V.	MACRAE N.F.	MORAN B.J.	PARTINGTON J.L.	RIDGWAY
DAVY J.C.	EDMONDS T.W.	GETTY A.	HANN E.F.	HOLDEN T.C.	JOYCE C.	MACROW J.A.	MACROW J.A.	MORGAN J.	PASCOE F.J.	RIBBY
DEAN C.E.	EDMONDS W.R.	CIBBARD J.H.	RANSEN A.H.	HOLMES H.H.	KEALS F.L.	M'TAGGART C.S.	M'TAGGART C.S.	MORRELL R.M.	PASSMORE A.C.	RITCHIE
DEAN J.A.	EDMONDSON E.	GIBBINGS C.T.	HARDEY J.	HOOD A.	KEARNEY P.	MADDEN W.T.	MADDEN W.T.	MORRIS H.	PATERSON M.E.	ROACH
DEANS F.R.	EDWARDS B.B.J.	GIBBONS A.R.	HARDING D.	HOPKINS F.W.	KELL B.T.	LOVE J.T.	MADIGAN W.	MORRISON J.D.D.	PEAD S.W.	ROBE
DEARDEN A.	EDWARDS E.C.	GIBBS B.N.	HARDINGHAM T.L.	HORROCKS E.J.	KELLY B.	LOVEDAY A.C.	MAGIN S.	MORROW A.	PEARSON A.	ROBE
DEARDEN W.	EDWARDS E.C.M.	GIBBS H.	HARCRAVE A.	HORROCKS S.H.	KELLY A.	LOVELACE W.H.	MAIRE J.A.	MORROW A.	PEARSON R.A.	ROBIN
DEEDMAN F.C.	EGAN F.Y.	GIBSON J.	HARMS C.	HORTIN J.C.	KELLY D.J.	LOVRIEN J.	MANDELZON L.V.	MORROW A.	PEARSON R.A.	ROBIN
DEEDMAN H.T.	ELLIOTT J.H.	GILBERT A.H.	HARPER F.	HOWARD A.W.	KELLY F.M.	LUCAS F.W.	MANNING L.H.	MOUTON C.W.	PEARSON R.A.	ROBIN
DEERING R.J.	ELLIOTT J.N.	GILBERT E.M.	HARRINGTON F.L.	HOWARD T.F.	KEMP C.A.	LUCAS S.R.	MARQUIS F.W.	MOULTON C.W.	PEARSON R.A.	ROBIN
DELAPORTE R.	ETTRIDGE J.E.	GILES E.C.	HARRINGTON J.W.	HOWE W.J.	KENNY G.F.	LURIN H.W.	MARQUIS J.J.	MOYLE E.T.	PELL R.	ROLLS
DE LURY W.	EVANS A.W.	GIRVAN J.	HARRIS A.J.	HOWELL W.G.	KENNON A.	LURIN L.R.	MARRION J.	MULLINS J.	PHILLIPS T.L.	ROUR
DEMASON C.A.	EVERETT J.	CITTINGS S.	HARRISON J.L.	HUGHES E.C.	KENT C.A.	LYDEN W.	MARSHALL C.	MULLINS V.H.	PHILLIS W.	ROUT
DEMPEY J.	FALLON J.A.	GLEESON J.	HARRISON T.J.	HUGHES W.H.	KEOGH J.	LYNALL C.S.	MARSLAND J.C.	MUNDAY J.	PICKARD H.	ROWE
DENCH C.N.	FARMER L.	GLEESON M.W.	HARRISON W.A.	HULL R.	KING E.H.	LYON E.	MARTIN H.J.	MUNDO R.J.	PICKTHORN A.E.	ROWL
DENNINGON R.	FARRIS E.T.	GLEESON S.J.	HART M.	HUMPHREYS L.A.	KING H.C.	MALPINE J.F.	MARTIN J.	MUNRO H.A.	PIPER G.H.W.	ROY
DENT E.A.	FERRIS D.	CLEW D.A.	HARTLEY J.	HUMPHRIES W.	KING C.	MARSHALL J.J.	MARTIN J.A.	MUNRO R.C.	PITTARD J.A.	ROYC
DEVINE A.F.	FIDLER T.	GLOSSOP R.	HARVEY H.K.D.W.	HUNT E.B.	KINGSLEY E.	M'CAIG M.	MARTIN S.J.	MURPHY A.	PLUMMER J.D.	RUDD
DEWAR C.M.	FILMER C.S.	GLOVER L.C.	HARVEY T.J.	HUTCHINSON H.V.	KINGSWELL C.H.	M'CALLUM M.	MASLIN C.W.	MURPHY P.J.D.	POLLAZE E.D.	RUSH
DICK C.H.	FINCLAND C.	GOLDING C.B.	HASELL C.L.	HUTCHINSON C.T.	KIRBY T.H.	M'CARROLL J.	MASON F.V.	MURPHY T.F.	POWELL A.	RUSS
DICKERSON S.C.	FINKIN J.B.	GOODFIELD W.	HASELL P.W.H.	HUTCHINSON C.T.	KIRBY T.H.	M'CARROLL J.	MASON H.	MURPHY T.F.	POWELL F.J.	RUST
DICKINSON C.	FISHER D.W.	GOODMAN H.	HASSETT M.	HUXTABLE C.B.B.	KIRK W.H.	M'CARROLL J.	MASON H.	MURPHY T.F.	POWELL F.J.	RUST
DIGHTON C.	FITCH W.O.	CORDON B.C.	HASTINGS F.A.W.	HYDE W.	KIRWAN E.J.	M'CALLUM M.	MASSEY E.C.H.	MURRAY A.A.	POWELL G.E.	RYAN
DINEEN L.C.	FITZPATRICK J.J.	GORMAN G.C.	HASVOLD A.	ILLING W.C.	KNAPP J.L.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURRAY A.A.	POWER A.G.	RYAN
DIX T.J.	FOCARTY T.J.	GORMAN P.	HAYDEN J.E.	INGRAM N.C.	KNAPP M.D.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	PRESTON J.D.	SADL
DIXON A.A.	FOLLEY E.P.	GRAND R.L.A.	HAYES W.T.	INTONDI J.P.	KNAPP T.S.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	PURSER J.J.	SAVI
DIXON V.W.	FORDHAM C.T.	GRANER W.G.R.	HAZELL W.J.	JACK J.F.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUARRELL C.	SCAT
DOHERTY B.L.	FOREMAN C.W.	GRANT L.A.	HECDEY A.E.	JACKSON E.A.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DONALDSON H.	FORREST R.	GRAY F.H.	HELM W.	JACKSON J.W.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DONALDSON N.F.	FORTH A.	GRAY J.J.	HEMMINGS J.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DOUGLAS A.E.	FOSS C.M.	GREY J.	HENDERSON E.T.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DOUGLAS T.L.	FOSS H.C.	GREY S.	HENDERSON F.R.C.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DOVELL H.J.	FOSTER C.N.	GREEN A.L.	HENDERSON F.R.C.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DOWNY E.	FOSTER L.N.	GREEN A.L.T.W.	HENDRY C.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DOWNY W.J.	FOSTER W.C.	GREIG A.P.	HENDRY C.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DOWNEY E.	FOLKES T.C.	GREIG A.P.	HENDRY C.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DOYLE J.	FOX F.H.	GREISHAN J.D.	HENSON M.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DRABBLE W.E.	FRANCIS P.H.	GRIEHN A.W.	HERRINGMAN A.J.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DRAPER J.W.	FRANCKLYN C.	GRIST W.C.	HERRINGTON A.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DREW A.F.	FRANCO R.A.	GROAT D.	HERRON R.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DREW V.C.	FREEMAN V.C.	GROSS P.	HICKS E.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DRIZZIE P.	FRENCH R.	GROVER C.W.	HICKS V.C.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DRUCK C.A.	FROBISHER J.H.	GROVES A.	HICKS W.H.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DUCKWORTH C.E.	FROST V.C.	GUDDERA E.	HIGGINS J.E.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DUDLEY F.	GABY A.E.	GUNN C.	HIGGINS J.F.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DUFF J.	GARDEN C.W.	HADDEN A.	HILL A.J.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DUFF R.	GARDINER S.W.	HADDEN W.	HILLIER J.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DUNN J.R.	GARDINER T.J.F.	HAINES J.	HIND J.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DUNNE W.E.	CARDNER A.	HALE F.L.	HINES A.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DUNPHY C.P.	CARDNER A.	HALE H.C.	HISLOP D.R.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DUNSTAN S.A.	CARRILAND E.H.	HALEY D.	HISLOP J.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
DURRANT G.T.	CARRITY H.W.	HALL J.	HISLOP P.M.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
EARL A.	CARTH T.J.	HALL W.	HOBBS J.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
EASTWOOD A.C.	CASTON D.J.L.	HALLAM E.J.	HODDER C.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
EATOUCH J.	CAVING J.D.	CEDDING C.V.	HODGSON J.	JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT
EDDINS W.				JACKSON W.B.	KNIGHT A.	M'CALLUM M.	MATHESON D.	MURPHY T.F.	QUICK J.K.	SCOT

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

28th Battalion Panel

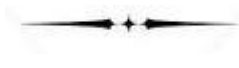
(61 pages of Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Wedding photo of Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson to Alice Irene Ferguson

(Photo with permission of Shelley Tonkin)



Newspaper Notices

KILLED IN ACTION

LAWSON – ON May 19, at War Hospital, Chichester, England, Private Richard Leslie Eric Lawson, of 28th Battalion, dearly beloved husband of Alice Lawson, 23 Harley-street, Highgate Hill, and only son of Mr and Mrs F. Lawson, Northam, aged 24. South Australian papers please copy.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 26 May, 1917) & (*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 1 June, 1917)

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

The 307th list of Australian war casualties was issued yesterday.

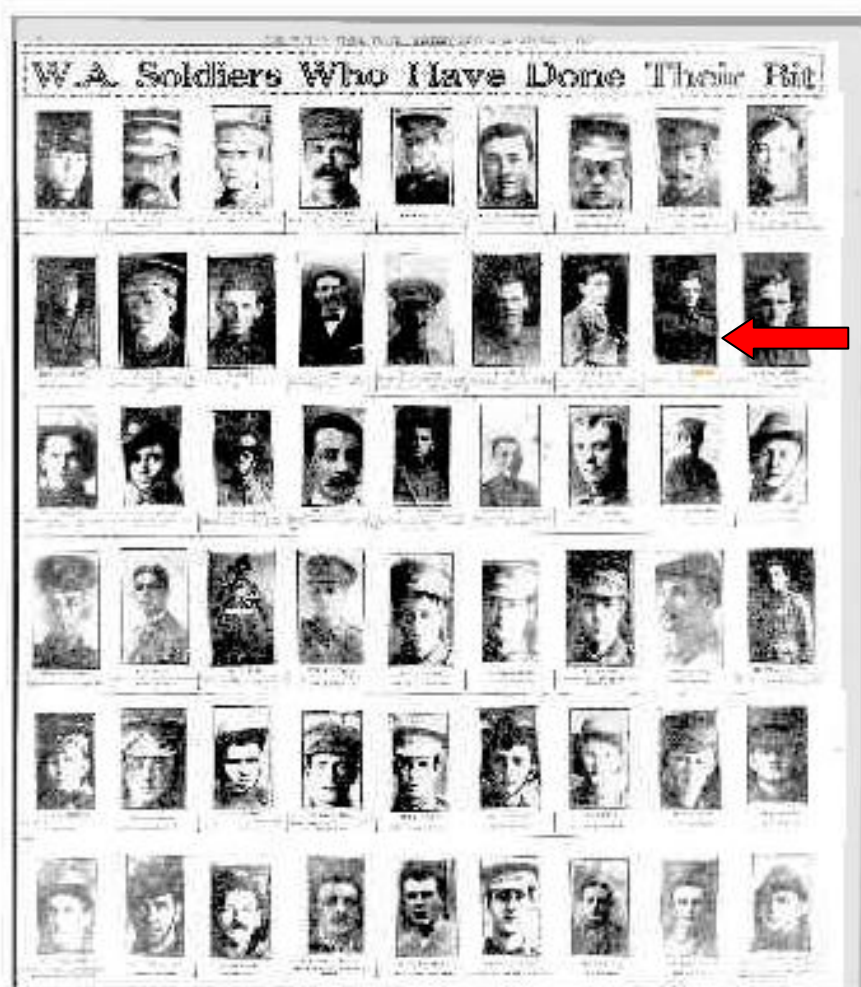
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte Richard Leslie Eric Lawson

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 5 June, 1917)

W.A. Soldiers Who Have Done Their Bit





PTE. LES. LAWSON

Died of wounds on May 19. Wife resides
23 Harley-street, Perth

(Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 5 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

SOLDIER HERO

LAWSON – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private R. L. E. Lawson (Les), who died of wounds on May 19, 1917.

When his Country called his lot he threw in !

Esteemed by all who knew him.

-Inserted by his loving parents and sister (Dorothy).

(The Northam Advertiser, Western Australia – 18 May, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

LAWSON – In loving memory of Private Les. Lawson, who died of wounds at War Hospital, Chichester, England. Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his friends, Jack and Lil Hawtin.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 18 May, 1918) & (Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 24 May, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

LAWSON – In loving memory of my dear husband, Les, who died of wounds May 19, 1917, at Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester.

One of the brave.

LAWSON – In fond memory of my dear comrade, Les Lawson, who died of wounds in England May 19, 1917.

Though death divides fond memory clings.

-Inserted by his sincere mate Cecil James White (on active service)

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 20 May, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

LAWSON – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Leslie, who died of wounds at Chichester Hospital, on May 19, 1917.

Some day we'll understand.

Inserted by his uncle and aunt, T. and M. J. Buck, and cousins, East Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 19 May, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

LAWSON – In loving memory of R. L. E. (Les) Lawson, who died at Greylingwell Hospital, England, of wounds received on active service on May 19, 1917.

Inserted by his loving father and sister, F. and D. Lawson, Northam.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 19 May, 1920)

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 R. L. E. Lawson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

One Of The Brave

Sacred To The Memory Of A Brave Soldier

Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England

Chichester Cemetery has 174 Commonwealth War Graves. Also known as Portfield Cemetery.

Of the 89 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, the majority are in a War Graves Plot in Squares 121 and 126 bordering a path on the far right hand side of the cemetery. This was constructed by the City Corporation, who also erected the War Cross at the eastern end of the enclosed plot especially designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and closely resembling the Commission's own Cross of Sacrifice. The names of the 1914-1918 war dead in the cemetery are engraved on the base of the Cross. There are also 75 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war here, mainly in two adjoining Church of England dedicated Squares, Nos. 115 and 159, in the south-western portion of the cemetery enclosed by a hedgerow on three sides, on the fourth side a wall bearing the inscription 1939-1945 THE MEN AND WOMEN BURIED IN THIS PLOT DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE. In the northern section a further Square, No. 42, is dedicated to Roman Catholic burials, there is a metal plaque bearing a similar inscription. There are also 7 non-Commonwealth war burials and 4 non World War burials in the care of C.W.G.C. within the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*



Chichester Cemetery (Photos by Adrienne – Find a Grave)





Some War Graves in Chichester Cemetery (Photo above by Basher Eyre; below from CWGC)



Photo of Private R. L. E. Lawson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)