

Burnley Cemetery, Lancashire

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2990 PRIVATE

D. A. MORRISON

31ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21ST MARCH, 1917 Age 24

Asleep With The Brave

David Ashton MORRISON

David Ashton Morrison was born at Burnley, Lancashire, England in May, 1892 to parents Patrick and Mary Ellen Morrison (nee Ashton). David Ashton Morrison was baptised on 5th June, 1892 at St. Peter's Church, Burnley, Lancashire. His family lived at 90 Hartley Street & his father was listed as a Collier.

The 1901 England Census recorded David Ashton Morrison as an 8 year old, living with his family in a 4 roomed dwelling at 55 Tentre Street, Burnley, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Patrick Morrison (Coal Miner, aged 31, born Burnley, Lancashire) & Mary Ellen Morrison (aged 31, born Burnley, Lancashire). David was the eldest of three children listed on this Census – David, then Evelyn Morrison (aged 7, born Burnley, Lancashire) & James Ashton Morrison (aged 1, born Burnley, Lancashire).

David Ashton Morrison attended Burnley Grammar School.

The 1911 England Census recorded David Ashton Morrison as an 18 year old Wood Planer (Cabinet making), living with his family at 55 Tentre Street, Burnley, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Patrick Morrison (Machinist, Woodworking (Chair-making), aged 41) & Mary Ellen Morrison (Cotton Weaver, aged 41) David's parents had been married for 19 years & had 8 children, 3 having since died. David was the eldest of 5 children listed on this Census – David, then Evelyn Morrison (Cotton Spinner, aged 17), James Ashton Morrison (School, aged 11), Elizabeth Morrison (School, aged 5) & Mary Ellen Morrison (aged 3).

According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour, David Morrison came to Australia when he was 19 years old.

David Ashton Morrison was a 23 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted on 10th November, 1915 at Holsworthy, Sydney, NSW with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 31st Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2990 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. E. Morrison of 55 Tentre Street, Burnley, Lancashire, England.

Private David Morrison was posted to A.I.F. "A" Company of 19th Battalion for training on 10th November, 1915. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements, 31st Infantry Battalion on 28th February, 1916.

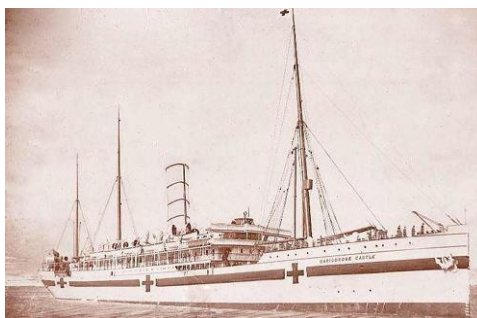
Private David Ashton Morrison embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 14th March, 1916.

Private David Ashton Morrison was written up for breaking ranks on 1st April, 1916. He was awarded 2 days C.B. (Confined to barracks) & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private David Ashton Morrison embarked from Alexandria on 20th June, 1916 on *Huntsend* with B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th June, 1916.

Private David Ashton Morrison proceeded from Etaples, France on 19th July, 1916 to join his Unit. Pte Morrison was taken on strength with his Unit in France on 23rd July, 1916.

Private David Ashton Morrison was wounded in action on 7th December, 1916 in France. He was admitted to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 7th December, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right arm. Private Morrison was transferred by Ambulance Train on 9th December, 1916 & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 10th December, 1916. Private Morrison embarked from Calais, France on 17th December, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Carisbrook Castle* for England.



Hospital Ship *Carisbrook Castle*

Private David Ashton Morrison was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England on 19th December, 1916. He had two wounds in right arm with no injury to bone, vessels or nerves.

Private David Ashton Morrison was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England on 21st February, 1917. The Hospital Report reads:

21.2.17 – Has three small wounds on Ext. & Ant. surface of Arm – wounds are shallow but are discharging much pus.

2.3.17 – Has pains – sore throat- flushed face – influenza

13.3.17 – Gastritis – dirty tongue tenderness – rapidity – over McBurnies point.

17.3.17 – Gangrenous Appendix – enormously thickened adherent removal – Tube drainage.

21.3.17 – After progress fairly – pulse began to get weak & rapid. – Temp. to rise again – profuse diarrhoeal motions – no sign of peritoneal spread – nothing P.V. Died.

Private David Ashton Morrison died on 21st March, 1917 at 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England from Appendicitis.

A death for David A. Morrison, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Dartford, Kent, England.

Private David Ashton Morrison was buried on 28th March, 1917 in Burnley Cemetery, Lancashire, England – Row A. 12183 (& Screen Wall) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. Private David Ashton Morrison was buried in a family grave along with his younger brother - James Ashton Morrison, aged 11, of 55 Tentre Street, buried 2nd December, 1911; nephew - Thomas Rostron, aged 2, of 55 Tentre Street, buried 16th August, 1915 and later his father - Patrick Morrison, aged 70 years, of 118 Briercliffe Road, buried 3rd January, 1942.

Newspaper item –Burnley Papers:

BURNLEY COLONIAL

BODY BROUGHT HOME FOR INTERMENT

The interment took place at Burnley Cemetery, on Wednesday, of Private David A. Morrison, a native of Burnley, and a member of the Australian Expeditionary Force, who died in hospital at Dartford, from appendicitis. The deceased soldier's mother resides at 55, Tentre-street, and the news of his death came as a great shock to her, for she was expecting him home shortly on leave. Pte Morrison, who was 24 years of age, was a former scholar at Fulfilled School, and won a scholarship tenable at Burnley Grammar School. He was a regular attender at St. Catherine's prior to his emigration to Australia five years ago. He enlisted at Sydney in September, 1915, and had been in France about eighteen months. He was severely wounded in the arm in December, and after being at Netley was removed to Dartford, where, as stated, he succumbed to appendicitis.

The funeral service on Wednesday was conducted at the house by the Rev. A. B. Edelstone, and by his Lordship the Bishop of Burnley at the Cemetery. The coffin was of polished elm, with brass mounts, the plate being inscribed, "Private David A. Morrison, died March 21st, 1917, aged 24 years." Six bearers were supplied from Preston Depot, with Corpl. Furr in charge. In the first carriage were Mr and Mrs Morrison and family and Miss Morrison; 2nd carriage, Mr Ashton, Mr and Miss Blakey, and Mr and Mrs Whitehead; 3rd carriage, Mr and Mrs Smithson, Mrs Richardson, and Miss Richardson, and Miss Mason. There were a large quantity of wreaths and flowers. Mr L. Pollard had charged of the arrangements.

A War Pension was granted to Mary Ellen Morrison, mother of the late Private David Ashton Morrison, of 55 Tentre St., Burnley, Lancs., in the sum of 15/- per fortnight from 27th May, 1917.

Private David Ashton Morrison was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Morrison's mother – Mrs M. E. Morrison, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both sent to England in July, 1922).

A letter was written to A.I.F. Base Records, Canberra in February, 1945 by Mrs Evelyn Rostron, of 4 Allenby St, North Coburg, Victoria (sister of late Private David Ashton Morrison) regarding the issue of War Medals in respect of the late No. 2990 Private David Ashton Morrison. Mrs Rostron had recently read in the newspapers about unclaimed medals of soldiers & was enquiring if there were any medals owing to her brother & if so the medals could be trusted to her & she would take them home to her mother who was still living in Burnley, Lancashire. She intended to go back home to England as soon as the present war had ended. Mrs Rostron advised that she had been in Australia since 1920 & was a War widow at that time. Mrs Rostron was advised that all medals etc were issued to his mother – Mrs M. E. Morrison of 55 Tentre Street, Burnley, Lancashire, England.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private David Ashton Morrison – service number 2990, aged 24, of 31st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Patrick and Mary Ellen Morrison, of 22 Pear St., Burnely, England.

Private D. A. Morrison is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 119.

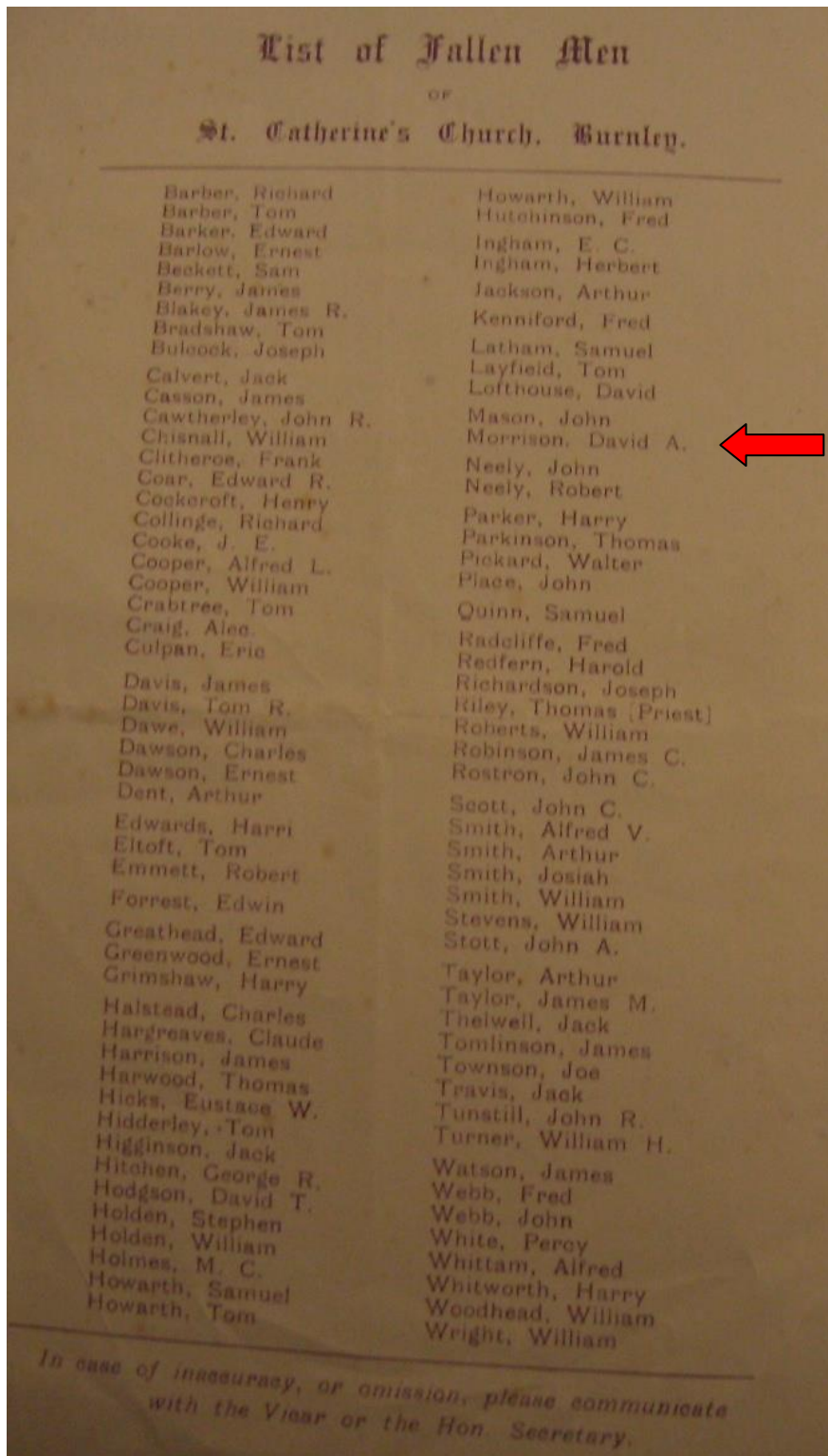


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

David A. Morrison is remembered in the List of the Fallen Men of St. Catherine's Church, Burnley.



(Photo by Alexander P. Kapp)



(Photo from Burnley in the Great War)

(36 pages of Private David Ashton Morrison'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 David Ashton Morrison



Newspaper Notices

BURNLEY COLONIAL'S DEATH

After almost reaching convalescence from wounds received in France, a Burnley native in the Australian Expeditionary Force has succumbed to appendicitis. This was the sad new Mrs Morrison, of 55, Tentre-street, received yesterday respecting her son, David A. Morrison, whom she was shortly expecting to see home on furlough. David was well-known in the Fulfilled district before he emigrated to Australia five years ago. He attended Fulfilled School, and won a scholarship tenable at the Burnley Grammar School. Subsequently he lost two fingers on one hand as a wood machineman. He attended St. Catherine's Sunday School. He enlisted in Sydney in



PRIVATE D. A. MORRISON

September, 1915, and went to France the following July. He was badly wounded in the muscle of the right arm on December 16 and was in Netley Hospital until February 21, when he was removed to a Dartford Hospital, where he died on March 21 from appendicitis. He was aged 24 years. He was an only son. His father has been serving in France seventeen months in a labour battalion, and he expects being home for the funeral at Burnley today. Pte Morrison's sister's husband, Pte John Rostron, of the Border Regt., was fatally wounded at Ypres in October, 1914 and died in hospital at Lille as a German prisoner of war.

(Burnley Express, Burnley, Lancashire, England – 28 March, 1917)

Roll of Honour

Morrison – Died in Dartford Hospital, on March 21st, of appendicitis, following wounds received in action un France, Pte (2990) David A. Morrison, Australian Expeditionary Force, aged 24 years. – From his sorrowing parents and sisters, 55, Tentre-st., Burnley.

(Burnley Express, Burnley, Lancashire, England - 28 March, 1917)

SOLDIER BURIED AT HOME

The interment took place on Wednesday, at the Burnley Cemetery, of Pte David A. Morrison, of 55, Tentre-street. The coffin was of polished elm, the plate was inscribed: "Private David A. Morrison, died March 21st, 1917, aged 24 years." The Rev. A. B. Edlestone conducted the service at the house, and the Bishop of Burnley at the cemetery. Six bearers were supplied from Preston depot, with Corpl. Furr in charge. The father, Pte P. Morrison, 9th Labour Co.,

A.S.C., came over on special leave from France to attend the funeral, and the other mourners were: - First carriage, Mrs Morrison and family, and Miss Morrison; second, Mr Ashton, Mr and Mrs Blakey, Mr and Mrs Whitehead; and third, Mr and Mrs Smithson, Mrs and Miss Richardson, and Miss Mason. The floral tributes were:- Wreath, "With fondest love, from father and mother and sisters"; spray, Mr and Mrs Blakey; wreath, Mr and Mrs Smithson; wreath, Mrs Richardson and family; wreath, Mr and Mrs Cockerill and family; spray, Miss Richardson and Miss Mason; wreath, Mrs Weatherhead and family; Union Jack cushion, from employees of the Components' munition workers; spray of lilies, from an Australian comrade (Eddie Wilkinson); spray, Mrs Pendleton; spray, Mr and Mrs Hope; cross, Mr and Mrs Pollard; and spray, Mr and Mrs Heap. Mr C. Pollard had charge of the arrangements.

(Burnley Express, Burnley, Lancashire, England – 31 March, 1917)

CASUALTIES

285th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Pte D. A. Morrison, England (previously reported wounded)

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 13 April, 1917)

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. A. Morrison does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Asleep With The Brave

Burnley Cemetery, Lancashire, England

The War Memorial in Burnley Cemetery stands close to the Rossendale Road entrance. Created in 1924, it includes a screen wall which records the names of 174 servicemen buried in the cemetery between 1914 and 1924. The memorial also incorporates a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cross of Sacrifice. The cemetery also contains 93 scattered burials of the Second World War.



Burnley Cemetery War Memorial *(Photo by David Dixon)*



Section of Screen Wall in Burnley Cemetery showing Private D. A. Morrison

Photo of Private D. A. Morrison's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Burnley Cemetery, Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of David O'Mara – Croonaert Research Services)