

**Bennochy Cemetery,
Kirkcaldy, Scotland
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



521A PRIVATE

F. TORSON

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

23RD SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 39

Frederick TORSON

Frederick Torson was born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1878 to parents Thomas Ferquist Torson & Louisa Torson.

Frederick Torson was a 37 year old, single, Miner from Thornborough, North Queensland when he enlisted at Cairns, Queensland on 22nd July, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 521 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Louisa Fernquist, Vestras, Sweden.

Private Frederick Torson was posted to Camp on 29th July, 1916 with 11th Depot Battalion. He was transferred to 7/13 Machine Gun Reinforcements on 23rd August, 1916. Private Torson was admitted to No. 5 Australian General Hospital from 26th September, 1916 until 16th October, 1916. He was transferred to No. 15 Reinforcements Depot Company on 25th October, 1916 then transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 3rd Machine Gun Company.

Private Frederick Torson embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 23rd November, 1916 the 3rd Machine Gun Company, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 29th January, 1917.

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 Frederick Torson was marched in from Australia to Australian Details, No. 6 - 7 Camps at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 30th January, 1917. He was transferred on 23rd February, 1917 to 3rd D. M. G. Coy.

Private Frederick Torson proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 29th June, 1917 from 16th Machine Gun Company to reinforce 6th Machine Gun Company.

Private Frederick Torson was marched in to M.G.B.D. (Machine Gun Base Depot) at Camiers, France on 30th June, 1917. He was marched out on 25th September, 1917 from M.G.B.D. & was taken on strength of 1st Machine Gun Company on 28th September, 1917.

Private Frederick Torson was wounded in action on 7th November, 1917. He was transferred to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance then admitted to 2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 8th November, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to left arm. Private Torson was transferred by Ambulance train & admitted to 53rd General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 9th November, 1917. Private Torson was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *St. David* on 22nd November, 1917.

Private Frederick Torson was admitted to Suffolk Hospital, Ampton, Bury St. Edmunds, England on 23rd November, 1917 with gunshot wounds to arm & chest. He was transferred on 5th January, 1918 to Infirmary at Bury St. Edmunds.

Private Frederick Torson was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 7th March, 1918 & discharged to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 13th March, 1918.

Private Frederick Torson's designation was changed to 1st Machine Gun Battalion, A.I.F. on 1st April, 1918 & his regiment/service number was re-allotted to 521 A.

On 19th April, 1918 Private Frederick Torson was medically assessed & rated as B1 A1 – fit for light duty only – four weeks. He was assessed again on 27th April, 1918 & rated as B1 A2 – fit for overseas training camp in three to four weeks. Private Torson was assessed again on 29th April, 1918 & rated as B1 A2. On 6th May, 1918 Private Torson was assessed as B1 A3 - fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks.

Frederick Torson, aged 39, married Ruth Agnes Landels Love, aged 35, on 10th May, 1918 at the Register Office in the district of St. Giles, in the June quarter, 1918. Ruth Agnes Landels Love was born in Scotland & her occupation was listed as Red Cross Nurse. Her address at the time of the marriage was Ampton Hall, Ingham Bury St. Edmunds. Her present address was listed as 4 Bennochly Terrace, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland.

Newspaper Notice – *The Scotsman*, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland - 11 May, 1918:

MARRIAGES

TORSON-LOVE – In London, on 10th May, Pte F. Torson, A.I.F., to Ruth A. L. Love, third daughter of George Love, Esq., Kirkcaldy, Fife.

On 24th May, 1918 Private Frederick Torson was medically assessed as A3 – fit for overseas training camp where soldiers were transferred for hardening prior to rejoining their unit overseas.

Private Frederick Torson was marched out from No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott on 28th May, 1918 to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill.

Private Frederick Torson was marched out to Machine Gun Company Training Depot at Grantham on 7th June, 1918. He proceeded overseas to France from Grantham via Folkestone on 18th June, 1918.

Private Frederick Torson was marched in to Machine Gun Base Depot at Camiers on 18th June, 1918. He proceeded to join his Unit on 22nd June, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion in the field on 24th June, 1918.

Private Frederick Torson was sent sick to 12th Australian Field Ambulance on 16th August, 1918 & admitted to 55th Casualty Clearing Station with Pneumonia the same day. He was transferred to Ambulance Train 19 & admitted to 47th General Hospital at Le Treport, France on 17th August, 1918. Private Torson was marked for transfer to England on 31st August, 1918 & embarked on Hospital Ship "*Essequibo*" for England on 1st September, 1918 with Tubercle of left lung.

Private Frederick Torson was admitted to Bermondsey Military Hospital, Ladywell Road, Lewisham, London, with Tubercle of Lung on 2nd September, 1918.

Private Frederick Torson died at 1.10 am on 23rd September, 1918 at Bermondsey Military Hospital, Ladywell Road, Lewisham, London, from Tubercle of Lung.

A death for Frederick Torson, aged 39, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Lewisham, London, England.

Private Frederick Torson's body was claimed by relatives for private burial. He was buried at 9 am on 26th September, 1918 in Bennochly Cemetery, Kirkcaldy, Scotland – Plot number F. F. 89 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Torson - *Coffin was good, Elm. The deceased soldier was buried in a private family grave at Kirkcaldy. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Also in attendance at the funeral was – Father-in-law, Mr Love of Bennochly, Kirkcaldy, Scotland and several other relatives and friends.*

Private Frederick Torson requested in his Will, dated 11th May, 1918, that all his real and personal estate be bequeathed to his wife Ruth Agnes Landel Torson of 4 Bennochly Terrace, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland.

Private Frederick Torson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Torson's widow - Mrs R. A. L. Torson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both issued in England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private F. Torson – service number 521 A, aged 39, of Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the husband of R. A. L. Torson, of The White House, Dunshalt, Fife, Scotland.

Private F. Torson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 175.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(51 pages of Private F. Torson'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 ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST No. 374

WOUNDED

Private Frederick Torson, Sweden

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Qld – 24 December, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 441

Died from Other Causes

Private F. Torson (Sweden)

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Qld – 15 November, 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)

Private F. Torson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Bennochly Cemetery, Kirkcaldy, Scotland.

Bennochly Cemetery, Kirkcaldy, Scotland contains 33 Commonwealth War Graves. There are 25 War Graves relating to World War 1 & 8 relating to World War 2. There is only 1 Australian War Grave in this Cemetery.



Gates of Bennochly Cemetery, Kirkcaldy (*Find a Grave – Becky Doan*)

Photo of Private F. Torson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bennoch Cemetery, Kirkcaldy, Scotland.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Mike Brown – Dec 2020)

Private Frederick Torson was buried in a Private plot - F. F. 89 in Bennochly Cemetery, Kirkcaldy, Scotland on 26th September, 1918. He shares a plot with his brother-in-law – Private Charles Goode Landels Love who was the brother of Private Frederick Torson’s wife – Ruth Agnes Landels Love.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records Private Charles Goode Landels Love, 201961, 4th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, who died on 2nd September, 1917, aged 31. He was the son of George and Martha Landels Love of White House, Dunshalt, Fife.

UK De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour, 1914 – 1919, Volume 4:

LOVE, CHARLES GOODE LANDELS, Private, No. 201961, 4th Battn, The Canadian Infantry, Canadian Expeditionary Force, yst. s. of George Love, of 4, Bennochly Terrace, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Rope Manufacturer, by his wife, M., dau. of Dr Landels; b. Kirkcaldy, 11th May, 1886; educ. High School, Kirkcaldy; went to Canada in 1910, settled at Montreal as an Engineer; volunteered for Imperial Service, and joined the 94th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force 19 Nov. 1915; transferred to the 4th Battn. on arrival in England, and died at the Military Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., 2 Sept. 1917, of nephritis. Buried in Kirkcaldy Cemetery, Fife; *unm.*



Private Torson’s Headstone (left) & Private Love’s Headstone (right)

(Photo from Find a Grave – Mike Brown – Dec 2020)