



# LAWRENCE FAMILY

### Family History

William Lawrence was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts, in 1824, under the name Lawrence Doran. Around 1825, his parents changed his name to Lawrence Dorling and, in 1843, he himself adopted the alias of William Lawrence when he signed on as a crewman on the whaling ship *Florida*.

Around 1844, William deserted the *Florida* while it was docked in King George Sound and walked to Perth.

He married Elizabeth Caporn (known as Bessie) and the couple had nine children, the eldest being Francis William (Frank), born in 1847, who was to become the grandfather of three Lawrence servicemen (Frank, Hubert and Aubrey).

William became a licensed boatman and boat builder. He worked for Mr. Jones of Point Walter between 1845 and 1847 but, in 1855, he also held the licence of the Trumpeters' Arms Public House, which he sold that year.

However, in July 1856, William and his brother-in-law, James Caporn, faced trial for stealing thirty-five sovereigns from Richard Wells. William was sentenced to eight years in gaol but received his Ticket of Leave after four years. This allowed him to work as a boat builder but not as a boatman. William purchased a property on the corner of St George's Terrace and Mill Street and established the Waterside Boatbuilding Yard.

William's sentence expired in 1864 which allowed him to resume work as a boatman in addition to his boatbuilding business. He expanded his businesses, taking on partners and building pearling luggers for the growing pearling industry in the Northwest.

William's success grew. In 1879, he was the foreman of Randell, Knight and Co. (a steamboat transport company ferrying goods and people up and down the Swan River) and, in later years, he became a partner in the company.

In 1864, William became involved in exploration and prospecting in the Kimberley region. He joined several expeditions and, in 1885, was involved with the discovery of gold at Bindoon. William also formed, and funded, the exploration party that discovered gold in the Yilgarn area, north of Southern Cross, in 1887. This triggered the Eastern Goldfields gold rush.

In 1876, William built a new brick house at 18 Mill Street. His sons lived in the same street, at numbers 2,6 and 8. He also purchased property in the Aberdeen Street area of Northbridge around 1882.

William became a director of the Perth Gas Company in 1883, and he retired from the boat building business in 1888, dissolving the partnership of Lawrence and Son. His sons, William and Samuel formed a new partnership, W. and S. Lawrence, that same day. Another son, Andrew, later joined the business.

In 1889, he purchased 1000 shares in the Irwin Coal Mining Company.

William's wife, Bessie, died in 1890 and, five years' later, his daughter, Eunice, and her husband Charles Vernon Birch, moved into 18 Mill Street to care for him. When they moved to South Perth in 1897, William went with them.

William died on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1898, in South Perth. His son, Francis, although excluded from the Will, was one of principal mourners. As per his instructions, William's coffin was not placed in a hearse but carried by pallbearers. His coffin was draped in the Stars and Stripes, the flag of the U.S.A.

William was buried in the East Perth Cemetery, along with his wife, Bessie.

Francis William Lawrence, known as Frank, was the eldest son of William and Bessie. Born in 1847, four months before the marriage of his parents, Frank became a boatman, probably in the employ of his father. He became a master of cargo boats and steamers and, for many years, was in charge of the Randell, Knight and Co. steamers which travelled between Perth and Fremantle.

Frank married Hannah Bicknell in 1867, and the couple had twelve children between 1967 and 1890. The relationship was a volatile one, characterised by physical violence and disorderly conduct on both sides. Hannah died of heart failure in 1895, at the age of 47 and, due to the history of violence, a postmortem was ordered to ensure that the death was due to natural causes. The newspaper report on the circumstances of Hannah's death listed Frank's occupation as boat builder.

Between 1884 and 1895, Frank was found guilty of multiple offences, including drunkenness, assault, the use of obscene language and disorderly conduct. He was finally gaoled for three months and fined for resisting arrest and damaging a police officer's uniform.

It was perhaps this history, and the repeated publicity, that caused Frank's father to completely omit Frank from his Will when it was drawn up in 1897, just fifteen months before William's death in 1898.

Frank died of liver cancer in 1904, leaving an estate of 611 pounds and five shillings for his son Francis William Lawrence to administer. At the time of his death, Frank's occupation was listed as labourer.

# LAWRENCE

## Hubert

Service No: 3605



Hubert Lawrence  
Courtesy National Archives of Australia

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Hubert Lawrence

Service number: 3605

Date of enlistment: 15/6/1917

Age at Enlistment: 18 years 8 months

Civil Occupation: Farm Hand

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 3 ¾ inches

Weight: 130 pounds

Chest measurement: 33 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: Aubrey Malcolm Lawrence

Mother: Martha Elizabeth  
Parker/Dickerson/Dickenson/Dickinson

Siblings: Hubert/Hugo (1889) Frank (1894)  
Clarence Edward (1901-1901) Violet (1903-1903) Lesley/Leslie (1904)  
Reginald (circa 1906) Myrtle Ivy (1908) Mavis Rose (1912)

Married: Elizabeth Ruth Ritchie





## Life Story

Hubert Lawrence, also known as Pud, was born in York in 1899. His surname was spelt Laurence on his birth registration. Like his brothers, Hubert grew up in the Northam area, as his family moved often due to the nature of his father's work.

At the time of enlistment, Hubert was living in Victoria Park. Due to his age, he needed the consent of both parents to join up, so the consent form had to be sent to his father in Merredin before being returned to his mother in Victoria Park.

Initially appointed as a Guard, 5<sup>th</sup> Military District, Hubert was sent to the Depot in August 1917.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> September, he became a Trooper in the 6<sup>th</sup> Camel Corps before transferring to the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

One month later, he embarked aboard HMAT *Commonwealth* and left Fremantle, bound for Egypt, where he joined the Reinforcements Camp at Moascar.

Twelve days later, Hubert was admitted to the No. 2 Australian General Hospital with influenza and mumps. He was discharged on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 1918 and Taken on Strength with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Regiment, before he transferred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1918.

Over the next few months, Hubert spent periods of time in hospital in Gaza and at rest camps in Jerusalem. It was October before he was finally discharged and mid-November before he reported to the Australian Stores Depot at Ghezirah, where he remained until the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1919.

Hubert returned to Australia on board HMHS *Oxfordshire* and was discharged from the Armed Forces on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1919.

After the War, Hubert was employed by the Western Australian Government Railways (W.A.G.R.) at Northam in 1920. He was appointed fuelman at Southern Cross in 1925 but returned to Northam the same year, when he was appointed R.O. and Tuber.

A medical examination for W.A.G.R. in 1921 found that Hubert had “slightly defective colour vision” and was “not to be employed where moving or signalling of trains is concerned.”

In 1928, Hubert was transferred to Fremantle. He married Elizabeth Ruth Ritchie at Fremantle in 1929 and the couple went on to have a large family.

In 1930, Hubert transferred back to Northam as a fuelman before being sent to Kalgoorlie in 1931. Although appointed as a fuelman, the job was downgraded to labourer three months’ later due to a lack of available work.

The family returned briefly to Northam in 1934 before Hubert returned to Kalgoorlie and took the position of R.O. tuber.

1937 was a year of highs and lows for the family. In April, their eldest son, Brian, died and was buried in the Kalgoorlie Cemetery. Then, three months’ later, Hubert shared second prize in the State lottery with a fellow worker. His share was five hundred pounds.

In 1938, Hubert spent time in Geraldton working as a fitter’s assistant before the family moved to Narrogin, where they remained for four years.

In 1943, Hubert transferred for the last time; back to Kalgoorlie where the family stayed for the rest of his life.

In 1958, Hubert was involved in an accident at work and had to have part of his right leg amputated. He was paid 587 pounds in compensation, but his health began to deteriorate. Hubert retired from W.A.G.R. in 1963 after forty-three years of service.





In the mid-1960s, Hubert spent time in Hollywood Repatriation Hospital before passing away in October 1970 at the age of eighty-one. He is buried in Kalgoorlie Cemetery, in the same grave as his wife, who died in 1984.



# LAWRENCE

## Frank

### Service No: 5703

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Frank Lawrence

Service number: 5703

Date of enlistment: 7/9/1915

Age at Enlistment: 21 years 1 month

Civil Occupation: Wood chopper

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 feet 7 inches

Weight: 160 pounds

Chest measurement: 38 inches

Complexion: Sallow

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Aubrey Malcolm Lawrence

Mother: Martha Elizabeth Parker/Dickerson/Dickenson/Dickinson

Siblings: Hubert/Hugo (1889) Clarence Edward (1901-1901) Violet (1903-1903) Lesley/Leslie (1904) Reginald (circa 1906) Myrtle Ivy (1908) Mavis Rose (1912)

Marriage: Agnes Cox

## Life Story

Aubrey Malcolm Lawrence, the father of Frank, was born around 1873, the son of Francis William Lawrence and Hannah Bicknell. He was working in the Metropolitan area as a labourer before he married Martha Elizabeth Dickerson/Parker in 1896. She was the daughter of John Parker and an Aboriginal woman named Mary/Banjup from the Moore River area.

Martha was also the half-sister of Harry and James Dickerson. She already had a son, named Augustus Alexander Smith, who had been born in York in 1894, to Martha and Frank Smith. This child became known as Frank Lawrence and, in later life, would use Augustus Alexander as his middle names.

Aubrey and Martha were to have another eight children together and, by 1897, were living in the York area. In 1900, Aubrey worked as a farmer at Tammin, before he found permanent employment as a repairman with the W.A.G.R. (Western Australian Government Railways). Initially posted to Meckering, he was transferred to various locations in and around the Goldfields before being transferred to Doodlakine in 1906.

Aubrey resigned from the W.A.G.R. in November 1906 and, four years' later, the family were living at Grass Valley, where Aubrey was recorded as a fitter. In May 1910, he published a notice stating that he was not responsible for any debts of his wife, Martha Lawrence.

In 1916 and 1917, Aubrey and Martha were listed on the electoral rolls as living at Nokanning in the Shire of Merredin. Aubrey was listed as a farmer. In February 1917, A.M. Lawrence advertised for a housekeeper at a farm near Merredin (children not objected to). The address given for applications was the Railway Coffee Palace in Wellington Street, Perth. It appears that Aubrey and Martha may have separated around this time.

At the time of Frank's enlistment, his father was living and working in Kellerberrin. His mother was initially listed as living in Mount Lawley but then moved to Cunderdin. Frank had been working as a wood chopper and noted on his record that that he had registered to join the Citizens' Military Forces.

Frank embarked from Melbourne on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1915 aboard HMAT *Nestor A71*. He arrived in Heliopolis on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and was Taken on Strength with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Ammunition Column at Heliopolis.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Frank transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery Division and was assigned to the 24<sup>th</sup> Howitzer Brigade at Tel-el-Kebir. Then, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1916, he was Taken on Strength with the 112<sup>th</sup> Howitzer Battery.

Frank was appointed a Temporary Driver at Serapeum on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, several weeks before proceeding to join the British Expeditionary Forces in France. He disembarked at Marseilles on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1916 and, in July, was appointed a Driver with the 24<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade in France.

Frank had to forfeit six day's pay in early April, when he was found to be Absent Without Leave overnight, and was given four days' Field Punishment No. 2. This meant heavy labouring duties and possibly being restrained in handcuffs or fetters.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1917, Frank transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Army Field Artillery Brigade before moving to the 112<sup>th</sup> Battery. Then, in late March, he was re-mustered as a Gunner in the Field.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> July, Frank was charged in the Field with disobeying a lawful command, after he failed to halt when ordered to do so by an officer. Frank had galloped a horse on a paved road. He had to forfeit five pounds ten shillings and was Awarded fourteen days, Field Punishment No.2.

Frank was in trouble again in early October, when he was charged in the Field with having a light burning in his trench shelter after sundown. He was again awarded fourteen days' Field Punishment No.2.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> October, Frank was taken ill and sent to the 5<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in Rouen. From there, he was transferred to England and admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Southern General Hospital on the 27<sup>th</sup> October, suffering from the effects of severe heart strain.

After his discharge from hospital, Frank had two weeks' furlough before reporting to Sutton Veny Camp at the end of December.

In early February, he was readmitted to hospital with influenza and not released to the No. 1 Command Depot until the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1918.

Frank's health did not allow him to return to the Field and, on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1918, he was returned to Australia and discharged from the Army in Fremantle on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

After his return in 1918, Frank married Agnes Cox in Perth. In 1921, after a period of time working as a hook man and sleeper cutter at Wellington Mills, Frank applied for a property under the Soldier Settlement Scheme. He established a small dairy herd and grew potatoes but had to give the property up due to ill health.

In 1931, Frank was listed on the electoral roll for West Perth under the name of Francis Augustus Alexander Laurence with no occupation listed. However, he and Agnes were also registered on the 1931 roll for North Perth, with an address in Bulwer Street. On this listing, Frank was recorded as a labourer. The spelling of his surname remained Laurence on the electoral rolls until 1943, while his occupation changed briefly to salesman in 1936 and 1937. During the 1930s, Frank was able to supplement his income with a military pension.



Francis Augustus Alexander Lawrence died on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 1947. His burial record spells his name as Laurence, while the death registration lists him as Lawrence. Frank was buried at Karrakatta Cemetery; his funeral notice stated he was the “dearly loved husband of Agnes and foster-father of Mavis and grandson Earl.”

Agnes died in 1952 and was buried in the same grave as Frank.



# LAWRENCE

## Aubrey Malcolm

Service No: 6848

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Aubrey Malcolm Lawrence

Service number: 6848

Date of enlistment: 13/3/1917

Age at Enlistment: 20 years 2 months

Civil Occupation: Labourer

Medals: British War Medal

Height: 5 feet 6 inches

Weight: 140 pounds

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Aubrey Malcolm Lawrence

Mother: Martha Elizabeth Parker/Dickerson/Dickenson/Dickinson

Siblings: Hubert/Hugo (1889) Frank (1894) Clarence Edward (1901-1901)  
Violet (1903-1903) Lesley/Leslie (1904) Reginald (circa 1906) Myrtle Ivy  
(1908) Mavis Rose (1912)

Married: Victoria May Coubrough (known as May)

### Life Story

Aubrey Malcolm Lawrence (the younger) was born in Fremantle in 1897 and grew up in the Northam area. His family moved often due to the nature of his father's work.

Aubrey initially tried to enlist at Kellerberrin on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 1916 but was rejected when he was found to be suffering from asthma. He reapplied in Northam on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1917 and, this time, was accepted.

Aubrey was appointed to the 20<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He embarked aboard HMAT *Borda* on the 29<sup>th</sup> June and arrived at Plymouth on the 26<sup>th</sup> August, where he was marched in to the 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Rollestone.

Six days later, Aubrey was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital suffering from asthma and arthritis. He was also found to have pulmonary tuberculosis and was transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Auxiliary Force at Dartford, where he remained until the 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Aubrey then proceeded to the No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth in preparation for his return to Australia. He departed on the 5<sup>th</sup> November aboard HMAT *Themistocles* and arrived in Fremantle on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

Aubrey was admitted to the No. 8 Australian General Hospital at Fremantle then transferred to Wooroloo Sanitarium for treatment. He was discharged from service on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1918 and granted a pension of sixty shillings per fortnight as he was "permanently incapacitated."

In 1918, Aubrey received twenty-five pounds from the Department of Repatriation to purchase furniture for a house in Northam where he intended to live with his mother and siblings.

A year later, Aubrey married Victoria May Coubrough. The couple went on to have seven children: Pearl, Helen, Aubrey M (1920) Gladys M. (1921) Leslie, Mavis (1925) and Frank.

Aubrey's health worsened and, in November 1919, he was diagnosed as "totally and permanently incapacitated with tuberculosis" and granted a permanent living allowance.

Around this time, the family appear to have moved to the metropolitan area, where they lived at several different addresses.

In 1928, Aubrey's wife, May, died in Fremantle Hospital. Thirteen months later, on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 1930, Aubrey died in Northam Hospital from complications related to tuberculosis. He was thirty-three.

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