

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



2411 PRIVATE

**W. J. LANSDOWN**

4TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

5TH MARCH, 1917 Age 45

*Tho Lost To Sight*

*To Memory Dear*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. J. Lansdown is located in Grave Plot # 216  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Walter James LANSDOWN

Walter James Lansdown was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1870 at Bath, Somerset to parents William George & Sarah Ann Lansdown (nee Johnson). His birth was registered in the December quarter, 1870 in the district of Bath, Somerset, England.

William G. Lansdown, aged 54, arrived as a passenger on *Merkara* from Somersetshire, England, departing from London & arriving at the port of Brisbane on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 1885. James Lansdown, aged 14, John Lansdown, aged 16 & Alfred Lansdown, aged 12, all arrived on the same ship. (A death for a Sarah Ann Lansdown, aged 53, had been registered in Bath, Somerset in December quarter, 1884.)

Walter James Lansdown married Emma Georgina Crockford on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1891 in Queensland, Australia.

A birth was registered for Hazel Mary Lansdown in 1895 – parents Walter James & Emma Georgina Lansdown.

A birth was registered for Reginald Charles Lansdown in 1902 – parents Walter James & Emma Georgina Lansdown.

The 1903 Australian Electoral Roll lists Walter James Lansdown as a carpenter living at Imperial Terrace along with his wife Emma Georgina, domestic duties in Paddington, Brisbane.

The 1908 & 1913 Australian Electoral Rolls lists Walter James Lansdown as a carpenter living at Ellena Street along with his wife Emma Georgina, domestic duties in at Kangaroo Point, Brisbane.

Walter James Lansdown was a 41 year old, married, Carpenter from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1916 with the 4<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2411 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Emma Georgina Lansdown of Bank Terrace, Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland.

Pte Walter James Lansdown embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Itonus (A50)* on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 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 Walter James Lansdown was marched out on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1916 from Hurdcott, Fovant, Wiltshire. On 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 he was marched out of No. 3 Camp Park House to Pioneer Training Battalion at Perham Downs.

Private Walter James Lansdown was dead on arrival at Fargo Military Hospital on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 from Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire. A Post mortem examination was held & it was

discovered that Pte Lansdown died from Heart failure caused by Bright's Disease & Cerebral Haemorrhage. No Coroner's Court was held.

A death for Walter J. Lansdown, aged 41, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Walter James Lansdown was buried on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 216 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private W. J. Lansdown is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 174.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte Walter James Lansdown was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Lansdown's widow – Mrs E. G. Lansdown (sent May, 1922 & August, 1922).

W. J. Lansdown is also remembered on the Ithaca War Memorial located at Memorial Park, Enoggera Terrace, Paddington, Brisbane.



**Ithaca War Memorial** (Photos from Queensland War Memorial Register – Shirley & Trevor McIvor)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Walter James Lansdown – service number 2411 as being 45 years old & served with 4th Australian Pioneers. He was the son of William George and Sarah Lansdown; husband of Emma Georgina Lansdown of Bank Terrace, Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland. Born at Bath, Somerset, England.

A War Pension was granted to Emma Georgina Lansdown, wife of late Pte Walter James Lansdown, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1917. A pension as also granted to Reginald Lansdown, son of late Pte Walter James Lansdown, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1917.

(43 pages of Pte Walter James Lansdown'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*

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## Newspaper Reports

### ROLL OF HONOUR – 280TH LIST

#### QUEENSLAND – DIED OF ILLNESS

W. J. Lansdown, Paddington, 5/3/17

*(The Queenslander, Brisbane – Saturday 24 March, 1917)*

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#### 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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1922, to Mrs E. G. Lansdown advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning the length of the inscription for the headstone of the late Pte had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 14 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken. The inscription chosen contained over 100 letters whereas the available space would only permit 66 letters (less the number of spaces between words). Mrs E. G. Lansdown had wanted the following inscription –

*“We often think of you our loved one  
And your name is often called  
Still there’s nothing that can answer  
But your photo in the wall.”*

Pte W. J. Lansdown does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Tho Lost To Sight To Memory Dear*

Photo of Pte W. J. Lansdown's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)