

William Arthur Lawton



In 1911, William, aged 27, was working as a domestic footman to Maud Calthorpe, a widow aged 61. William was a footman, and one of 11 servants looking after Maud at 38 Grosvenor Square West in Chelsea, a mansion with 30 rooms. At the same time, Ada Letitia Miles, aged 29, born in Lambeth, was working as a house parlourmaid to Charles Allan, a barrister-at-law nearby at 38 Cheyne Court, Chelsea. The couple married at St Barnabas, Pimlico on 29th August, 1915. William, now aged 32 was a private with the East Surrey Regiment stationed in Tunbridge Wells. Ada, aged 33 was living at Lumley Buildings and her father William Robert Miles, a verger and her sister, Violet Edith Miles were witnesses at the wedding.

William served with the 1/6th East Surrey Regiment as Private 2734. The Battalion was formed in August 1914 and he enlisted in Kingston upon Thames, as part of the Surrey Brigade in the Home Counties Division. **Below:** the East Surreys 1/6th Orchestra.



The 1/6th East Surreys also had a String Orchestra.

They embarked at Southampton in 29th October 1914 and landed at Bombay on 2nd December 1914, where they were posted to the Lucknow Division of the 8th Allahabad Brigade. The 1/6th went to Murree in April 1915 and then joined the Jhelum Brigade in

October 1915. William was part of the 2nd Rawalpindi Division. They were a mix of British and Indian units, cavalry and infantry. This division were headquartered in Rawalpindi and stayed there throughout the war, under the orders of the Northern Army. In January 1918 they were renamed the Northern Command. William died

Monument erected over Plot I, Row "B", Graves 36, 38 and 53, inscribed:-						
"Sacred to the Memory of the following Non-Commissioned Officers and men who died from heat stroke on the way from Karachi to the N.W. Frontier, June 6/7, 1916, and who lie buried beneath and near to this stone".						
1/5 E. Surreys.	2326	✓BUCKLE.	Pte. A.F.	6.6.16.	}	1.B.36.
			(A.Sgt.)			
1/6 do.	2734	✓LAWTON.	Pte. W.	"		1.B.53.

in an Indian railway train on 6th June, 1916, in Rohre. He is buried in the Sukkur Cemetery, with the monument inscription above to those servicemen who died from heat stroke when on their way from Karachi to the NW Frontier: this is included with the permission of the CWGC.

He is also remembered on the Delhi Memorial (India Gate) and on All Souls Memorial in St Margarets and was awarded the British War Medal. His death was reported in the December 1916 edition of the All Souls Parish Magazine and he was listed as a resident of St Margarets, this residence was also on his 'Soldiers Died in the Great War' record. Ada gave birth to a son in the autumn of 1916 whom she named Arthur Clement Denis Lawton. Unfortunately the child died shortly after its birth. Ada continued to live in Chelsea, in Grove Buildings, Manor Street, SW3 until her death in June 1965, aged 83. She never remarried.