

PRIVATE LAWRENCE ROLAND CORNWELL

Regimental No: 47867 Royal
(Motor Transport)Auxiliary

Army Service Corps.M.T.
Petrol Coy.



WW1 RASC Cap Badge

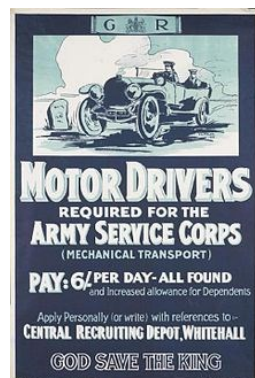
Lawrence Roland Cornwall (Cornwall) was born in 1883 in Cosham, Hampshire, the son of James and Mary Cornwall. James was a journeyman bricklayer and he and his wife, (at the time of the 1891 census), lived at 44 Malton Road, Portsea with their children William, Lawrence, Catherine and Alfred. In 1901 the only record that can be found of a Cornwall is a John Cornwall aged 18 years, working as a domestic coachman and boarding at 4 Goodwood Place, Portsmouth. As Lawrence then became a coachman for Captain Fuller at Douthwaite Lodge (per his military record and the 1911 census) it is thought this may be the same person.

Lawrence married Mary Alice Sullivan in Portsmouth, on 1st January, 1906, and they adopted a child, who was born on 6th January 1903 in Fareham. They named him Lawrence Roland. Lawrence (jnr) was with his Aunt, Catherine Banfield (Lawrence's sister) and Grandmother, Mary (now a widow), at the time of the 1911 census and living at 51 Childers St., Deptford, London.

Lawrence Roland Cornwall's Medical history shows that he was examined in Kirkbymoorside on 28th January 1915 and considered fit for service. He was 31 years and 356 days old, 5ft 5 inches tall and weighed 9st 7 lbs. and he wore spectacles.

The Attestation form of Lawrence dated 2nd February 1915, shows his address as Douthwaite Dale and his occupation as Motor Driver. He joined the Army Service Corps as a driver remaining in this country until 25th July 1915, when he embarked on the *Duchess of Argyle* from Southampton arriving in Rouen the following day.

With 135 Company Army Service Corps, he served with the Expeditionary Force in France until 16th October 1918. Whilst in France his wife, Mary Alice, sadly died on 8th September 1917, at the age of 30. She had been working as a housemaid, and following an inquest in Portsmouth, on 10th September 1917, the



cause of death was recorded as accidental due to 'suffocation, probably brought about whilst in an epileptic fit'.

CORNWELL Mary Alice of 52 Balliol-road Buckland **Portsmouth** (wife of Lawrence Rowland **Cornwell**) died 8 September 1917 at the George hotel High-street Portsmouth Administration **London** 28 September to the said Lawrence Rowland Cornwell private A.S.C. Effects £101 9s. 10d.

Lawrence was granted leave in January of 1917 and again on 15th September, a period which was extended until 30th of the month. On 25th October 1917 a note records that his next of kin was now Lawrence Cornwell of 49 Childers Street, Deptford, London.

In 1917/1918, Lawrence continued to serve in France with a short period of leave of 14 days in October of 1918.

As with all those soldiers returning who had signed for the duration of the war, before Lawrence left his unit he would have been medically examined and given Army Form mZ22, which allowed him to make a claim for any form of disability arising from his military service. He was also given an Army Form Z44 (Plain Clothes Form) and a Certificate of Employment showing what he had done in the army, Z18. A Dispersal Certificate recorded personal and military information and also the state of his equipment. Lawrence was examined in Marseilles, France on 4th July 1919, making no claim for disability and giving his address as 40 Childers Street, Deptford. On 9th August 1919 he was discharged into Class Z Army Reserve and liable to recall in the event of a grave national emergency.

Class Z Reserve was authorised by an Army Order of 3 December 1918. There were fears that Germany would not accept the terms of any peace treaty, and therefore the British Government decided it would be wise to be able to quickly recall trained men in the eventuality of the resumption of hostilities. Soldiers who were being demobilised, particularly those who had agreed to serve "for the duration", were at first posted to Class Z. They returned to civilian life but with an obligation to return if called upon. The Z Reserve was abolished on 31 March 1920.

Family History

James Cornwell (Journeyman Bricklayer) – m – Mary
Their children: William – Lawrence – Catherine – Alfred

Lawrence Cornwell – m 1906 – Mary Alice Sullivan
They adopted a child born in 1903 and named him Lawrence Rowland

It is believed Lawrence Cornwell (senior) died in 1961, in Bridge, Kent at the age of 78.

Lawrence Roland Cornwell (jnr.) died in 1985, his death being registered in Poole Dorset.