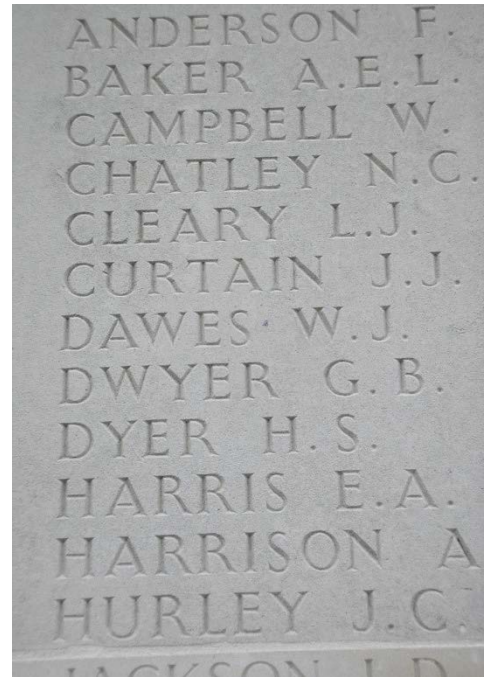


DAWES, William Jackson



Signage at Pozières
Photograph © P.R. Lister 20 June 2014



Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France
Photograph © P.R. Lister 20 June 2014

William Jackson Dawes was born in Williamstown, Victoria. His father, Richard Jackson Dawes was a sea captain. He attended Williamstown and Surrey Hills State Schools, then Canterbury Grammar, prior to arriving at HAC aged 16 in January 1910. Undertaking the Diploma, he completed it in the expected three years, graduating in December 1912. In 1913, he was on a mixed farm near Craigieburn, just north of Melbourne, Victoria, gaining experience with dairy cows, beef cattle, sheep and cropping.

In Melbourne, in April 1915, Dawes volunteered, serving in Egypt, briefly on Gallipoli, and then on the Western Front from late March 1916. As Lance Corporal with the 22nd Battalion, he was killed in the late stages of the Battle of Pozières on August 5, 1916. He was 23. His father requested that notice of his sons' death not be published in any Victorian newspapers. There are no details of his death known, and his body has never been found. He is commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.

William's two older brothers also served in the war. One of William's brothers, Edward John, died on 27 October 1918 whilst serving aboard H.M.S. Epsom.