

**Devizes Road Cemetery,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3758 WORKER**

**H. L. EATON**

**AUSTRALIAN MUNITION**

**26TH MARCH, 1918**

## Henry Lund EATON

Henry Lund Eaton was born 15th February, 1876 at Manchester, Lancashire, England to parents Henry & Annie Eaton (nee Lund). He was baptised on 15th June, 1876 in Wesleyan-Methodist Chapel, Longsight, Lancaster, England.

The 1881 England Census recorded Henry L. Eaton as a 5 year old, living with his family at 85 South Bank Road, North Meols, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Henry Eaton (Cigar Merchant, aged 30, born Manchester, Lancashire) & Annie Eaton (aged 27, born Manchester, Lancashire). Henry Lund Eaton was the eldest of three children listed on this Census – Henry then Reginald G. Eaton (aged 3, born Manchester, Lancashire) & Stanely H. Eaton (aged 4 months, born Manchester, Lancashire). Also listed was Ellen Forrester (General Domestic Servant, aged 34).

The 1891 Wales Census recorded Henry L. Eaton as a 15 year old Scholar, living with his family at Caernarvonshire, Wales. His parents were listed as Henry Eaton (Farmer, aged 40) & Annie Eaton (aged 37). Henry Lund Eaton was the eldest of three children listed on this Census – Henry then Reginald G. Eaton (Scholar, aged 13) & Wilfrid C. Eaton (aged 4, born Pentrefelin, Carnarvon, Wales). Also listed was Kate Jones (General Servant, aged 12).

The 1901 England Census recorded Henry L. Eaton as a 25 year old Wheelwright – Foreman living with his family at 37 Exeter Street, Ardwick, South Manchester, Lancashire. His widowed mother was listed as Annie Eaton (Living on own means, aged 47). Henry was the eldest of three children listed on this Census – Henry then Reginald G. Eaton (Draper's Assistant, aged 23) & Wilfred C. Eaton (aged 14, born Criccieth, Carnarvon, Wales). Also listed was Clara G. Robinson (cousin of Annie Eaton, Commercial Clerk – Cashier, aged 49, born Manchester, Lancashire).

[The 1911 England Census recorded Annie Eaton (mother of Henry Lund Eaton) as a 57 year old widow living with her two sons – Reginald George Eaton (Manufacturer Agent, aged 34) & Wilfred Collin Eaton (Clerk, aged 24) all living in a 7 roomed dwelling at 14 Lister Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester. Annie Eaton stated that she had been married for 24 years & had 4 children, 1 who had since died. Also listed was Clara Grange Robinson (cousin of Annie Eaton, Fore Mistress, aged 59).]

Henry Lund Eaton married Mary Rowland in Victoria, Australia in 1908.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Corowa, subdivision of Walla Walla, NSW recorded Henry Lund Eaton, Carpenter & Mary Eaton, Domestic Duties, both from Walla Walla.

Mary & Henry Lund Eaton had two children – Henry Rowland Eaton, born 23rd December, 1909, (birth registered in the district of Wangaratta, Victoria) & Mary Lund Eaton, born 11th January, 1911 (birth registered in the district of Albury, NSW).

Henry Lund Eaton, aged 41, married, Carpenter with two children, applied for enrolment as a Volunteer for Manufacture of Munitions in Great Britain on 26th November, 1917. He stated he had "*served 5 year apprenticeship in Manchester. Had 18 months experience in South Africa (during Boer War) building for Military Forces. In the past 13 years have carried on trade as Carpenter & Builder in Victoria & New South Wales.*" "During past 3 years have been working as Carpenter & Builder at Walla Walla, New South Wales."

Henry Lund Eaton was approved & given a Muniton Worker number of 3758. He had stated on his application that the earliest date he was prepared to embark was January, 1918.

Australian Munitions Worker Henry Lund Eaton embarked from Australia on 19th January, 1918 (some forms have date as 17th) on *Beltana* & arrived at R. A. Docks, London, England on 22nd March, 1918 (some forms have the date as 20th.)

Australian Munitions Worker Henry Lund Eaton started work on 24th March, 1918 as a Carpenter at Old Sarum Aerodrome, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Australian Munitions Worker Henry Lund Eaton was involved in an accident at 5.10 pm on 25th March, 1918 while working for Mowlem & Sons. He was examined by the Medical Officer & taken to Salisbury Infirmary. Henry's

condition was reported as serious & it was proposed to operate on him at 8.30 am on 26th March, 1918. According to details recorded in his Munitions Worker file - Henry Eaton had *"passed away after the operation – death following shock. The medical Officer stated there was no hope of recovery the bowels being very severely crushed."*

Australian Munitions Worker Henry Lund Eaton died at 10 am on 26th March, 1918 at Salisbury Infirmary, Wiltshire, England after an operation following an accident at Circular Saw Bench. The cause of death on the Death Certificate was reported as *"injuries caused by an accidental blow received from a piece of wood owing to jamming of same in the saw at which he was working at the Old Sarum Aerodrome on the 25day of March 1918."* The name of the Death Certificate was listed as *"Harry Leonard Eaton"*. This was corrected in the right hand margin on 4th May, 1918 & corrected to *"Henry Lund Eaton."*

A death for Henry L. Eaton, aged 42, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Australian Munitions Worker Henry Lund Eaton's mother – Mrs Eaton, 14 Lister Street, Stockport Road, Manchester, was advised of her son's death & it was proposed that her son would be buried in the local cemetery unless she desired his body be sent to Manchester for burial. Mrs Eaton replied *"Have decided to have burial at Salisbury. Have you cabled his relatives in Australia."*

Australian Munitions Worker Henry Lund Eaton was buried on 28th March, 1918 in Devizes Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 3. 357 & has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – Salisbury & Winchester Journal, Wiltshire, England – 30 March, 1918:



Mowlem and Co, at Old Sarum Aerodrome, stated that on Monday afternoon deceased was working at a circular saw, driven by a 12 h.p. petrol engine, engaged in sawing 4in. by 4in. timber into 2in. by 2in. The pieces of timber were about 5 feet in length. Witness was helping the deceased as sawyer's mate. The work was commenced at three o'clock, and everything went all right until about ten minutes past five, when somebody spoke to witness, and deceased's attention being momentarily drawn away from his work, he accidentally dropped the timber on the saw in a wrong position. Instead of meeting the saw directly straight, the timber touched the saw in a slanting direction and became jammed between the saw and the guide or fence at the side, and the other end of the timber struck the deceased in the stomach. The saw was stopped, and witness stopped the engine directly he saw what had happened. After being struck, the deceased reeled and fell to the ground. Witness inquired if he was hurt, and he replied that he was in great pain. Another man asked him how it had happened, and he said his mate (meaning witness) let go of the timber too soon. Witness added that he did not have hold of the timber at the time of the accident. It was his duty to take the wood when it had got clear of the saw and to hand it back to the deceased. Owing to the deceased's injuries he was removed on his bed to his hut, and was subsequently taken to the Salisbury Infirmary.

Daniel Byrne, carpenter and joiner, employed in checking joinery by Messrs. Mowlem, said he saw the deceased at work on the afternoon in question. The last witness was at his proper place at the rear of the saw, pulling the timber clear of the saw when it was cut. Witness did not see the accident, but he noticed the deceased reel and fall to the ground. After rendering assistance he reported the occurrence to the foreman at the office, and a doctor was telephoned for.



The Coroner—Did you form any opinion as to how it happened ?

Witness—His attention might have been drawn to something else.

Do you think he may possibly have accidentally dropped the piece of wood ?—He may have.

Replying to the Foreman (Mr. W. Osmond), witness said the wood which had previously been sawn by the deceased was in order.

Miss D'Abreu, house surgeon at the Salisbury Infirmary, said the deceased was admitted to the institution about six on Monday evening suffering from profound shock following severe abdominal injury. An operation was performed the same evening, and it was found that the bowel was torn and the abdomen was full of blood. The hemorrhage was controlled, but the patient's condition got worse, and he died about 9.50 a.m. on Tuesday. Death was due to the injuries received.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

Mr. E. Barton Hack expressed, on behalf of the firm, their deep regret at the accident and sincere sympathy with the man's relatives.

The Coroner said he was sure the jury would concur with those sentiments. It was very sad that a man who came over to do his bit should have been killed when he had only been in England a few days.

#### Probate details

Eaton, Henry Lund of Walla Walla, New South Wales, Australia died 26 March 1918 at Salisbury. Administration London 1 April, 1920 to Stephen Abbott Notcutt, Solicitor, the attorney of Mary Easton. Effects £741 8s. 9d.

There are many pages in the Record file for Australian Munitions Worker Henry Lund Eaton relating to his widow, Mrs Mary Eaton, of Rowan Street, Wangaratta, requesting financial assistance & a Pension. Various Departments were involved in correspondence regarding this situation including the Air Ministry England, High Commissioner's Office, Australian Department of Defence, Secretary of Prime Minister's Department, Treasury Department, Secretary to the Minister for Public Works, NSW, Australian Munitions Workers Headquarters, London & Solicitors for the deceased's widow. The Insurance Company paid £300 Compensation which was placed with the Public Trustee, Sydney & a lump sum of £100 of that money had been paid to Mrs Eaton with the remaining balance of £200 paid at the rate of £3 every four weeks. There is also correspondence relating to claims for money by Mrs Annie Eaton, mother of the deceased Australian Muniton Worker – Henry Lund Eaton.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Worker Henry Lund Eaton – service number 3758, Australian Muniton Worker. No family details are listed.

Australian Munitions Worker Henry Lund Eaton is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



**Commemorative Roll** (Photo from AWM)



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (Capital Photographer)



H. L. Eaton is remembered on the Walla Walla War Memorial, located in Bi-Centennial Park, Commercial Street & Des Kennedy Memorial Drive, Walla Walla, NSW.



**Walla Walla War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Tom Bird)



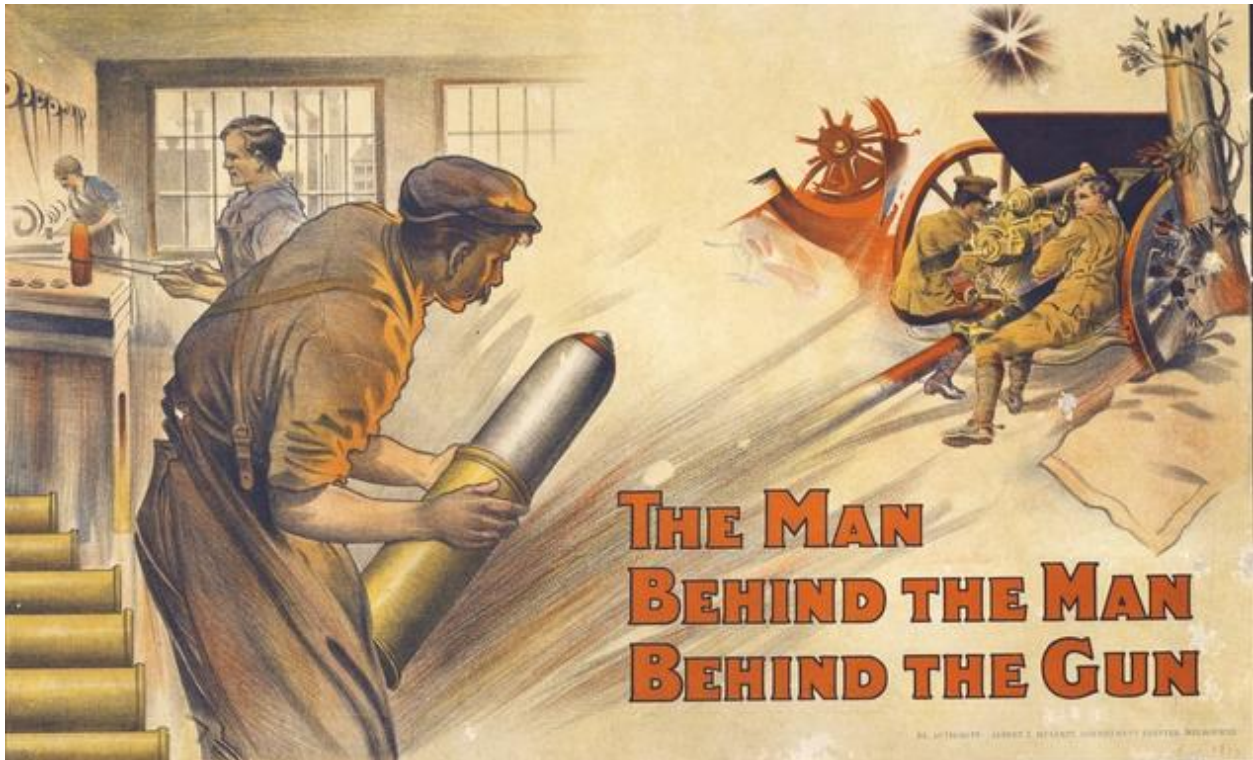


## Australian Munitions Workers

Men enlisted under a joint Australian Commonwealth – Imperial Government scheme for providing skilled Australian workers to British war industries during the First World War. Under this scheme the volunteers would receive free passage to Great Britain, an allowance for travel time, a special allowance for the duration of service, and eventual repatriation to Australia. Married men also received a separation allowance, but were required to allot a portion of all their earnings to dependants. The men were expected to work in whatever industries they were directed to by the British Board of Trade, and under the prevailing conditions and wages for the duration of hostilities.

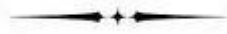
Government newspaper adverts appeared in August, 1916, and the first party of 76 workers departed Australia in September. Groups continued to be recruited and sent at intervals, with the eventual number of workers under the scheme totalling just over 5,000. Almost 1,000 of these had already been working in Britain under private agreements with large firms such as Vickers, and were brought under the conditions of the scheme. An additional 200 former AIF soldiers were also recruited in Britain. Initially only skilled workers were sought, however at the request of the British Government later groups included large numbers of navvies for general labouring.

These men were not members of the Australian Imperial Forces and did not serve in combat units, but were recruited to meet the shortfall in skilled labour that threatened many of Britain's key wartime industries including munitions. *(Source: Australian War Memorial)*



(122 pages of Munition Worker Henry Lund Eaton's Munition records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & National Archives*





## **Newspaper Notices**

*The newspapers at the time were encouraged not to report munition explosions or deaths through TNT poisoning as it would affect the morale of the civilian population and so reports in newspapers are virtually non-existent. When the war ended the Australians returned home and life moved on.*

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### **MUNITION WORKERS**

#### **AUSTRALIANS IN GREAT BRITAIN**

Melbourne, Thursday.

The Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce) announces that during the period from the inception of the schemes for the despatch of munition workers and navvies to Great Britain up to June 30 last, 2662 munition workers had been disembarked in England for employment on munition and war work. There had also been enrolled under the munition workers' scheme 124 men who had been discharged from the A.I.F. in England for that purpose, and two discharged A.I.F. men had enrolled under the navvies' agreement, making the total number of men engaged in work in Great Britain under both these schemes 4,998. Of this number 384 men had returned to Australia – the majority on account of ill-health. There had been 23 deaths. The agreement of 38 men had been cancelled for disciplinary and other reasons. Six of the men had enlisted in the A.I.F., in England, five men had enlisted in the Royal Navy, and nine men had enlisted in the British Army, leaving the total number of men still in England under the Commonwealth agreement as 4,533. In addition these men were registered on the index held in Australia House 674 Australian munition workers who proceeded to Great Britain under private contract prior to the inauguration of the Commonwealth scheme. Of the men still in England on June 30, 1918, 87 were waiting return up to that date, 152 men had proceeded to France to engage in special work, and 107 of them had returned again to England. Australian munition workers were employed at 409 different firms or centres, and navvies at 192, and the value of the output produced by the labour of these men was estimated at £6,000,000.

Provision for the payment of munition workers and navvies who proceeded to Great Britain on war work under the agreement with the Commonwealth Government is made in an amendment to the war financial regulations issued today. Munition workers and navvies are to be provided with a free passage from Australia to Great Britain and back. In the case of munition workers a dependants' allowance of 25s a week, with allowances for children, will be made for the first eight weeks after embarkation. Subsequently the allowance will be 20s. Separation allowances equal to that paid in the case of a private in the A.I.F. will be paid to dependants.

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 30 August, 1918)*

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### **DEATHS**

EATON – On the 26th inst., at Salisbury, HENRY LUND EATON, Eldest son of the late Henry and Annie Eaton, of 14, Lister-street, C.-on-M., as the result of an accident, he having returned from Australia last Friday, the 22nd of March.

*(Manchester Evening News, Lancashire, England – 28 March, 1918)*

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## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) honours the 1,700,000 men and women of the forces of the Commonwealth who died in the two world wars and ensures that their memory is never forgotten. The applicable periods of consideration are 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921 for the First World War and 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947 for the Second World War.

The Commission's principles:

- Each of the dead should be commemorated by name on the headstone or memorial
- Headstones and memorials should be permanent
- Headstones should be uniform
- There should be no distinction made on account of military or civil rank, race or creed

During both WW1 (& WW2) a number of Commonwealth civilian organisations were accepted by the military as qualifying for war grave status.

Members of the Recognised Civilian Organisations had to meet two additional criteria not required by military casualties.

1. Their death had to be caused by war actions or the increased threat caused by war and
2. They had to be on duty at the time of their death – being posted overseas counted as 'being on duty'.

The Australian government deemed that their War and Munitions Workers (men and women) qualified for war grave treatment as they were recruited as a body and were posted overseas for the war effort. Some of their CWGC entries show a 'service number' indicating that they were an organised body.

## **Devizes Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England**

Devizes Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire contains 49 Commonwealth War Graves – 29 from World War 1 & 20 from World War 2. There is 1 Australian buried here.



**Devizes Road Cemetery** (Photo by Moonraker – Find a Grave)





**Devizes Road Cemetery** (Photos by Moonraker – Find a Grave)





Photo of Australian Munition Worker H. L. Eaton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Devizes Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo by Moonraker – Find a Grave)*