

**Brotton Church Cemetery,
Brotton, Yorkshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



M. JACKSON

AUSTRALIAN MUNITION WORKER

18TH MARCH, 1919

Montague JACKSON

Montague Jackson was born at Highwood, Romsey, Hampshire, England in 1867 to parents Henry & Emily Jackson (nee Arnold). Montague Jackson was baptised on 31st December, 1867.

The 1871 England Census recorded Montague Jackson as a 3 year old, living with his family at Charlton Lodge, Kingston –on-Thames, Surrey, England. His parents were listed as Henry Jackson (Railway Contractor, aged 37, born Aston, Warwickshire) & Emily Jackson (Railway Contractor's wife, aged 31, born Romsey, Hampshire). Montague was one of three children listed on this Census – Gertrude Jackson (aged 6, born Upper Norwood, Surrey), Henry Jackson (aged 5, born Upper Norwood, Surrey) then Montague. Also listed - Clara J. Arnold (sister-in-law of Henry Jackson, aged 19) & 3 servants – Matilda Young (Cook, age d24), Laura Carden (Nursemaid, aged 22) & Fanny Bungey (Housemaid, aged 18).

The 1881 England Census recorded Montague Jackson as a 13 year old Scholar Boarding at Blenheim House, north side of St George Road, Wimbledon, Surrey, England. The Schoolmaster was listed as William H. Bedbrook (aged 31) with his wife Rose C. Bedbrook. Montague was one of 17 children boarding, along with 2 teachers & 5 servants.

The 1891 England Census recorded Montague Jackson as a 23 year old, Clerk, living with his family at Lynedock, Wimbledon, Surrey, England. His parents were listed as Henry Jackson (Railway Contractor, aged 56) & Emily Jackson (aged 51). Montague was one of three children listed on this Census – Gertrude Jackson (aged 26) then Montague & Edith E. Jackson (Scholar, aged 18, born Surbiton, Surrey). Also listed was Elizabeth Carter (Servant, aged 35).

Montague Jackson, aged 50, of 282 Oxford Street, Paddington, New South Wales, Australia, applied for enrolment as a Volunteer for Manufacture of Munitions in Great Britain on 8th September, 1917. He was an unmarried Labourer & stated he had worked for 7 ½ years with Permanent Way Tramways of NSW as a Labourer. Montague Jackson stated he was prepared to embark with two weeks' notice. He was issued an Australian War Worker Badge number 2251.

Montague Jackson embarked from Australia on 2nd March, 1918 on S.S. *Commonwealth* & arrived R.A. Docks, England on 13th May, 1918.

Montague Jackson commenced work on 15th May, 1918 with Cable Co., Skinningrove as a Labourer. Montague Jackson transferred from Skinningrove Iron Works Ltd to Messrs Simon Carves Ltd, Skinningrove on account of the work being unsuitable. (information as per Record file).

A letter was received on 4th March, 1919 by Officer-in-Charge, Australian Muniton Workers, London from Montague Jackson regarding repatriation. He stated that *"as his age was 51 years and he had lost his position in the Government after a strike he thought it would be useless to go back to Australia. His mother also who lived in England was 79 and required monetary assistance."*

A letter was sent to Montague Jackson on 12th March, 1919 stating that his *"application for the mutual determination of his agreement had been favourably received."* Montague Jackson was sent forms to be signed & returned & he was also to return his Badge & Exemption Certificate. Montague Jackson was informed that should he desire to return to Australia at a later period then it would be at his own expense. Montague Jackson acknowledged the above in a letter which was received by Officer-in-Charge, Australian Muniton Workers, London on 15th March, 1919 which read *"...I cannot carry on in the matter as I am laid up with a bad attack of Influenza.."*

Australian Muniton Worker Montague Jackson died about 1 am on 18th March, 1919 at Brotton Hospital, Yorkshire, England from Cerebral emboli & Cardiac Failure as per Death Certificate. Details from his Death Certificate – Montague Jackson, of the Huts, Skinningrove, Ironworks Labourer. (Note: details from the Muniton Workers file state that *"the Matron in charge of the Cottage Hospital at Brotton (stated that he) passed peacefully away."*

The next of kin in England were advised - (mother) Mrs E. Jackson, 58 Glenwood Avenue, Westcliffe-on-Sea & (brother) Mr H. Jackson – Marguirita, 3 Fairview Road, Norbury, S.W.

A death for Montague Jackson, aged 51, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Guisborough, Yorkshire, North Riding, England.

Australian Munition Worker Montague Jackson was buried on 22nd March, 1919 in Brotton Church Cemetery, Brotton, Yorkshire, England – Plot number A. N. 6. & has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. As stated in Montague Jackson's file – *"Burial expenses up to £10 were guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government.... All the Aust. War Workers at Skinningrove and Saltburn were present at the service which was conducted by the Rev. F. Bancroft of Brotton..... The arrangements for the funeral were made by a fellow War Worker No. 2252 W. E. Knaggs, as the deceased's relatives who are resident in England were unable to be present."*

Probate details:

Jackson, Montague, of Loftus Camp, Skinningrove, Yorkshire, died 18 March 1919 at the Cottage Hospital, Brotton, Yorkshire, Administration London 24 June to the Public Trustee. Effects £314 12s. 8d.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Worker Montague Jackson - service number 2251, Australian Munition Worker. No family details are listed.

Australian Munitions Worker Montague Jackson 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*)

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)



(53 pages of Australian Munition Worker Montague Jackson'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 existant. When the war ended the Australians returned home and life moved on.

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)

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.

Brotton Church Cemetery, Brotton, Yorkshire, England

Brotton Church Cemetery has 11 Commonwealth Commission War Graves – 10 from World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



Brotton Church Cemetery *(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*

Photo of Australian Munition Worker M. Jackson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brotton Church Cemetery, Brotton, Yorkshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)