

**St. Pancras Cemetery,
East Finchley, London, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



937 LANCE CPL

A. B. MACKEY

19TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

23RD AUGUST, 1918 Age 40

Alfred Britannia MACKEY

Alfred Britannia Mackey was born at Balmain, Sydney, NSW in 1877 to parents John Alger Mackey & Maria Martha Mackey (nee Bates).

The 1913 Australian Electoral for the division of Balmain – Balmain North Polling Place, New South Wales, recorded Alfred Mackey, Wool-classer, of 29 Cove Street. Also listed at 29 Cove Street was John Alger Mackey, Chemist, Maria Mackey, Domestic Duties & Eva May Mackey, Domestic duties.

Alfred Britannia Mackey was a 38 year old, single, Carpenter from Cove Street, Balmain, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 12th February, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 937 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mona Martha Mackey (name as listed on Embarkation Roll, however Attestation Papers have the name recorded as Mariah Marther Mackey), Cove Street, Balmain, Sydney, NSW.

Alfred Britannia Mackey was posted to 19th Battalion (no date recorded).

Private Alfred Britannia Mackey embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 25th June, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 19th Infantry Battalion, "C" Company.

[Note: The Embarkation Roll has his rank listed as Private, however the Casualty Form – Active Service has his rank listed as Lance Corporal.]

Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli Peninsula on 16th August, 1915.

Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey was wounded at Dardanelles / Gallipoli on 24th August, 1915. He was admitted to Hospital Ship *Ascanius* on 27th August, 1915 with a comminuted fracture of right arm. Lance Corporal Mackey was transferred & admitted to Tigne Hospital at Malta on 30th August, 1915. He embarked from Malta on 9th September, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Brasile* for England.

19th Battalion

The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. A large number of the 19th's original recruits had already served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) in the operations to capture German New Guinea in 1914. The 19th left Australia in late June, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 19 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. From mid-September, until its withdrawal from the peninsula on the night of 19 December, the 19th Battalion was responsible for the defence of Pope's Hill.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey was admitted to King George Hospital, London, England on 16th September, 1915 with GSW to shoulder & fractured arm. He was transferred to Military Convalescent Hospital at Epsom on 12th January, 1916 & discharged to furlough on 16th February, 1916.

Mrs M. Mackey, Core Street, Balmain, NSW, mother of Lance Corporal Mackey, was advised by Base Records on 15th September, 1915 that her son had been slightly wounded on 24th August & had disembarked at Malta from Hospital Ship on 10th September, She was advised on 27th September, 1915 that her son had embarked for England on Hospital Ship on 9th September, 1915. Mrs Mackey was advised on 3rd October, 1915 that her son was in Hospital in London.

Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey was placed on Supernumerary List on 23rd January, 1916.

A Medical Report was completed on Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey on 14th March, 1916 at Australian Base Depot, Weymouth, England. His disability was listed as G.S.W. right shoulder & chest which had occurred at Anzac on 24th August, 1915. *"On 24th August received a shrapnel bullet in R. shoulder fracturing the upper end of humerus. Was operated on twice for the removal of necrosed bone. Bullet was removed from just under the skin. Was finally discharged from hospital 3 weeks ago."* Lance Corporal Mackey's present condition at the time of the Medical Report: *"Complains of pain in R. shoulder & cannot lie on it. Can only raise arm by movement of scapula ditroid being powerless. Cannot raise R. arm above shoulder & movements at shoulder joint are limited."* The Medical Board recommended that Lance Corporal Mackey was fit for Home Service – light duties.

Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey was invalided to Australia from Portland on 17th March, 1916 on *Ascanius* with GSW shoulder & arrived in Australia on 30th April, 1916.

Mrs M. Mackey, Core Street, Balmain, NSW, mother of Private Mackey, was advised by Base Records on 21st April, 1916 that Lance Corporal A. B. Mackey was returning to Australia & was due in Melbourne about the beginning of May, 1916.

Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) in Sydney, New South Wales on 18th September, 1916 – medically unfit – disability – G.S.W (gunshot wound/s) Right shoulder and chest.

A War Pension was granted to ex-Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey, 29 Grove St, Balmain, in the sum of 30/- per fortnight from 19th September, 1916.

A War Pension was granted to ex-Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey c/o Arsenal Branch, Australia House, Strand in the sum of 15/- per fortnight commencing 16th August, 1917 & to be revised on 14th February, 1918.

Alfred B. Mackey married Bertha E. Coles in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Swindon, Wiltshire, England.

A War Pension was granted to ex-Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey, c/o Mrs Day, 33 Rozel Rd, Horfield, Bristol, England in the sum of 15/- per fortnight from 14th February, 1918 & to be reviewed on 15th August, 1918. A War Pension was also granted to Natalia Bertha Mackey (above address), wife of ex-Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey, in the sum of 7/6 d per fortnight from 14th February, 1918 & to be reviewed on 15th August, 1918.

According to the Death Notice in *The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW for 14th September, 1918 (see below under death details) – Alfred Britannia Mackey was a Munition Worker.

After being medically discharged from the Australian Imperial Force Alfred Britannia Mackey would have applied for enrolment as a Volunteer for Manufacture of Munitions in Great Britain. Unfortunately, his Munition Worker File was not available for free viewing (at the time of research) but it does show that he was issued with a Munitions Worker number of 3331.

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)



Ex-Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey died on 23rd August, 1918 at University College Hospital, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Alfred B. Mackey, aged 40, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Pancras, London, England.

Newspaper Death notice – *The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 14 September, 1918:

DEATHS

MACKEY – August 23rd, 1918, at University College Hospital, England, of pneumonia, Alfred B. Mackey, beloved husband of Bertha (Nattie) Mackey, Swindon, England, and dearly beloved youngest son of J. and M. Mackey, Cove Street, Balmain, aged 40. (Late of 19th Battalion, A.I.F., since munition worker).

Ex-Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey was buried in St. Pancras Cemetery, East Finchley, London, England – Plot number 7 R. 10 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Ex-Lance Corporal Alfred Britannia Mackey was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Alfred Britton Mackey – service number 937, aged 40, of 19th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mr and Mrs J. Mackey, of Java, Cove St., Balmain, Sydney, Australia; husband of Natalie B. Mackey, of 34 William St., Swindon, Wilts, England.

Lance Corporal A. B. Mackey is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 89.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(50 pages of Lance Corporal Alfred Britton Mackey's Australian Imperial Force Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

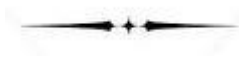
*** Note – The Service Record file for Alfred Britton Mackey - Australian Munition Worker had not been purchased at the time of researching from National Archives, Australia. Once the file is purchased it is then open for all to view on-line.*

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives





Lance Corporal Alfred Britton Mackey



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOR

83RD CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

L.-cpl A. B. MACKEY, 19th, Balmain

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 28 September, 1915)

CASUALTIES

TWO MORE LISTS

ILL AND WOUNDED PREDOMINATE

THE NINETY-FIRST LIST

EMBARKED FOR ENGLAND

L.-cpl A. B. MACKEY, 19th, Balmain

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 15 October, 1915)

MORE CASUALTIES

The 92nd casualty list shows 10 officers and 203 men lost through various causes....

NEW SOUTH WALES

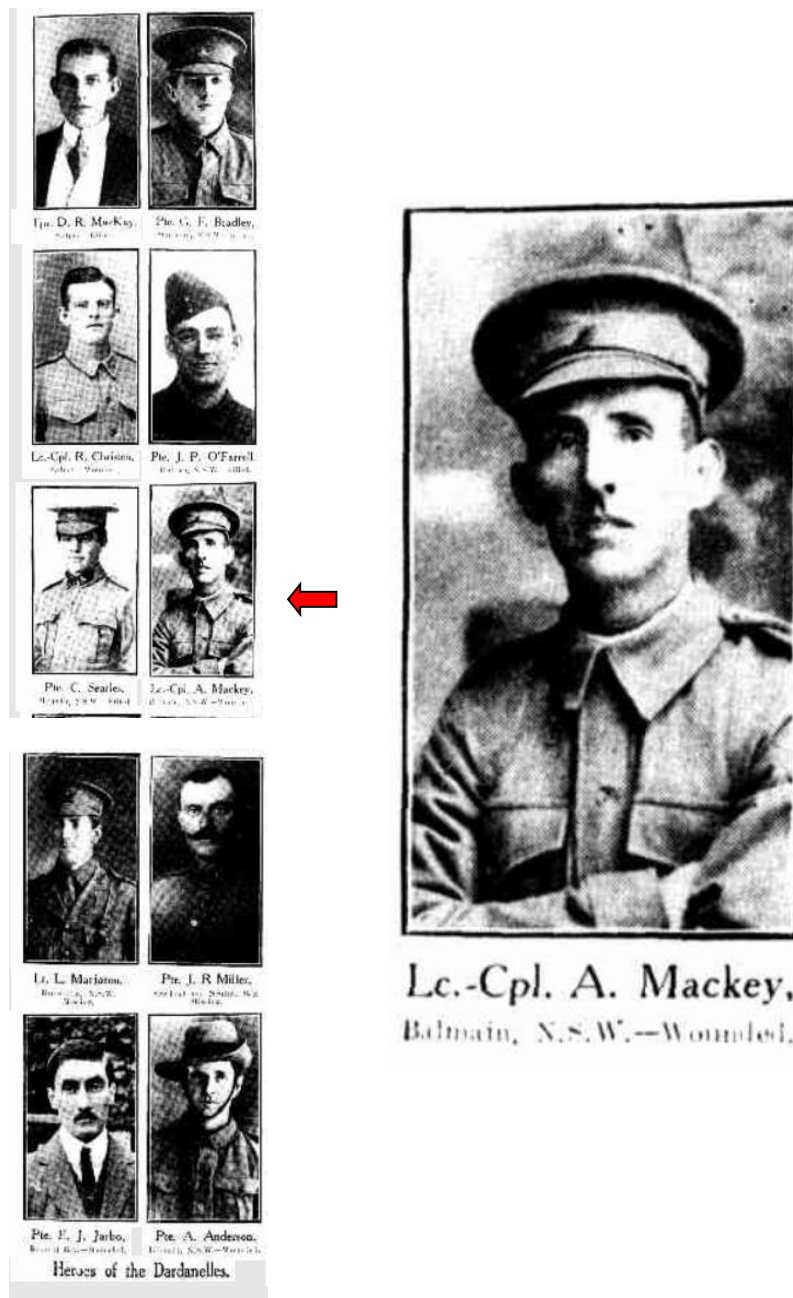
REPORTED IN HOSPITAL

(In London, except where otherwise specified)

L.cpl. A. B. MACKEY, 19th Bn., Balmain (previously reported wounded)

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 18 October, 1915)

Heroes of the Dardenelles



(*Sydney Mail*, NSW – 27 October, 1915)

WOUNDED AND SICK

MEN RETURNING

More wounded and sick are expected home shortly. The following are the names of the officers and men:-

.....

RANK AND FILE

.....

19th Battalion..... 937, A. B. Mackey

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 April, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

MACKEY – August 23, 1918, at University College Hospital, England, Alfred Britannia Mackey (late of Balmain), late 19th Battalion, A.I.F., and since munition worker.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 September, 1918)

DEATHS

MACKEY – August 23rd, 1918, at University College Hospital, England, of pneumonia, Alfred B. Mackey, beloved husband of Bertha (Nattie) Mackey, Swindon, England, and dearly beloved youngest son of J. and M. Mackey, Cove Street, Balmain, aged 40. (Late of 19th Battalion, A.I.F., since munition worker).

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 September, 1918)

Newspaper Notices – Munition Workers

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.

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

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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)

Alfred B. Mackey is remembered on a Headstone with his parents in Field of Mars Cemetery, East Ryde, Sydney, NSW.



(Photo from Find a Grave)



(Photo from Find a Grave)

Also ALFRED B. MACKEY

Son of the Above, Died at St. Pancras, London

23rd Aug 1918 Aged 40 Years.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Lance Corporal A. B. Mackey does not have an inscription on his Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

St. Pancras Cemetery, East Finchley, London, England

Also known as Islington and St. Pancras Cemetery. St. Pancras Cemetery & Islington Cemetery and Crematorium stand side by side in north London, England,

In St Pancras Cemetery, over 100 graves from both wars form a war graves plot. The plot also contains a number of headstones removed from graves scattered elsewhere in the cemetery that could not be maintained. A further memorial bears the names of 27 casualties whose graves could not be marked individually, and six First World War casualties buried in adjacent Islington Cemetery who could not be commemorated there.

There are now 308 First World War commemorations in St Pancras Cemetery, including 1 unidentified sailor of the Royal Navy, and 208 from the Second World War. There are 5 foreign national burials and 2 non-war service burials here.

(Information & Photos from CWGC)





St. Pancras Cemetery



Photo of Lance Corporal A. B. Mackey's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Pancras Cemetery, East Finchley, London, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – DeeBee 2015)



(Photo from Find a Grave)