

**Plumstead Cemetery,
Plumstead, Greater London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



G. SEYMOUR

AUSTRALIAN MUNITION WORKER

25TH OCTOBER, 1918

George SEYMOUR

George Seymour was born on 6th August, 1859 at Okehampton, Devon, England to parents George Waye Seymour & Ann Seymour (nee Guest). He was baptised on 23rd September, 1859 at Okehampton, Devon, England.

The 1861 England Census recorded George Seymour as a 1 year old, living with his family at Rose Mary Lane, Okehampton, Devon, England. His parents were listed as George Seymour (Stone Mason, aged 25, born Okehampton, Devon) & Ann Seymour (aged 25, born Okehampton, Devon). George was the eldest of two children listed on this Census – George then William Seymour (aged 3 months, born Okehampton, Devon).

The 1871 England Census recorded George Seymour as a 12 year old Scholar, living with his family at No. 8 Painters Court, Okehampton, Devon, England. His parents were listed as George Seymour (Mason, aged 36) & Ann Seymour (aged 36). George was the eldest of five children listed on this Census – George then William Seymour (Scholar, aged 10), Eliza Seymour (Scholar, aged 7, born Okehampton, Devon), Charles Seymour (Scholar, aged 4, born Okehampton, Devon) & Henry Seymour (aged 1, born Okehampton, Devon).

George Seymour married Agnes Mary Pike at Okehampton, Devon, England on 17th December, 1879.

The 1881 England Census recorded George Seymour as a 21 year old, married, Carpenter living with his wife – Agnes Seymour (aged 18, born Plymouth, Devon) living at 15 Stobhill Road, Okehampton, Devon, England. There were 3 families listed at No. 15 Stobhill Road.

George Seymour, aged 24, & his wife Agnes, aged 20, & their daughter Rose, aged 1, were passengers on *Northern Monarch* which departed from the port of Plymouth, England & arrived at Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia on 4th March, 1884.

Births were registered in Queensland for the following children of George & Agnes Seymour: - Charles Gordon Seymour (26th June, 1885), Richard George Guest Seymour (1st March, 1887), Frank William Seymour (17th February, 1889), George Robert Greer Seymour (20th May, 1891) & Victor Montague John Seymour (15th October, 1895).

The 1903 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Fortitude Valley, Queensland recorded George Seymour, Carpenter & his wife Agnes Seymour, Domestic duties, from Amelia Street, Bowen Hills.

The 1905 & 1908 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Fortitude Valley, Queensland recorded George Seymour, Carpenter from Amelia Street, Bowen Hills.

George Seymour applied for enrolment as a Volunteer for Manufacture of Munitions in Great Britain. He was issued a Munition Worker number of 2470.

[Unfortunately, the Munitions file for Worker George Seymour has not been opened so there is very little information known at the time of researching – October, 2022]

Australian Munitions Worker George Seymour died on 25th October, 1918 at 32 Kashgar Road, Plumstead, London, England from Influenza & Pneumonia. His sister F. M. Seymour was present at the death.

A death for George Seymour, aged 60, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Woolwich, London, England.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 9115062-18

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	WOOLWICH
1918 DEATH in the Sub-district of Plumstead East	in the County of London

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 No. When and where died Name and surname Sex Age Occupation Cause of death Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar

359	Twenty fifth October 1918 32 Kachgar Road	George Seymour	Male	60 years	carpenter	(1) Influenza (2) Pneumonia Certified by H. J. Garty L.S.A.	J. M. Seymour Sister Present at the death 34 Kachgar Road Plumstead	Twenty sixth October 1918	M. Taylor Registrar
-----	--	----------------	------	----------	-----------	---	---	---------------------------	------------------------

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 12th day of April 2018

DYE 261053

See note overleaf

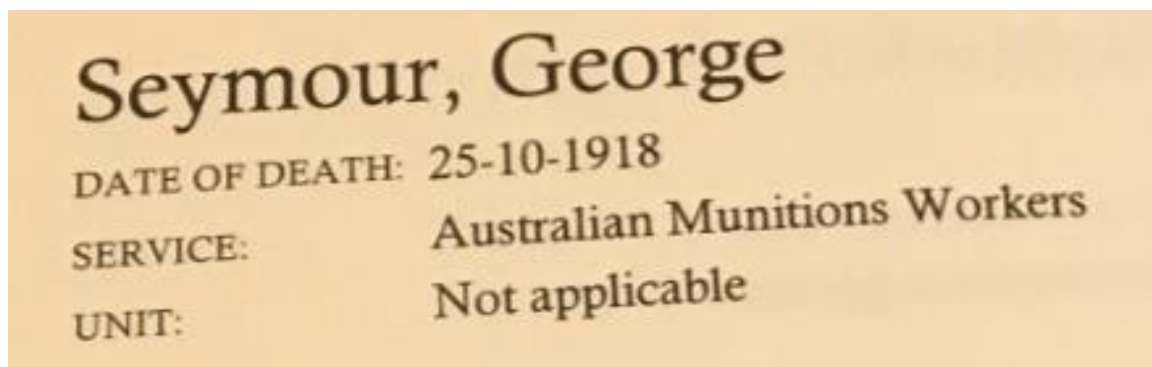
CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT
 WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

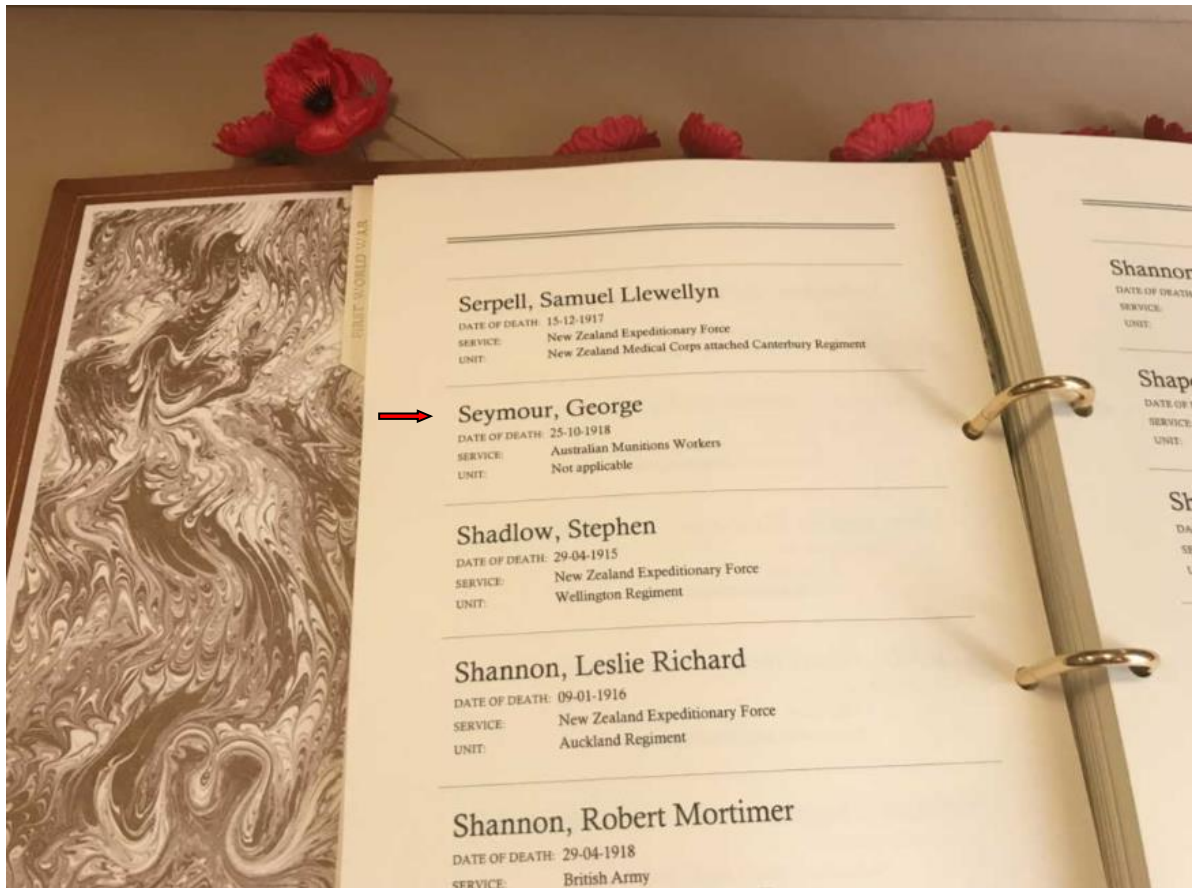


Australian Munitions Worker George Seymour was buried on 31st October, 1918 in Plumstead Cemetery, Greater London, England – Plot number B. 1518 & now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Worker George Seymour – service number 2470, Australian Munition Worker. No family details are listed.

Australian Munitions Worker George Seymour, Service number 2470, 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)



**** Note – The Service Record file for George Seymour, Australian Munition Worker No. 2470, 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





George & Agnes Mary Seymour & their family

(left to right) – Francis William Seymour, George Seymour, Lavinia Rose Seymour, Charles Gordon Seymour, George Robert Greer Seymour, Agnes Mary Seymour & Richard George Guest Seymour.

(Photo would have been taken before 1895 when Victor Montague John Seymour was born)



George Seymour

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.

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)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SEYMOUR – Died, October 25, 1918, in England, from pneumonia and influenza, George, the beloved husband of Agnes Seymour, 164 Oxford-street, Woollahra.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 23 November, 1918)

On Active Service

SEYMOUR- In loving memory of my dear husband, George Seymour, who died in England of bronchial pneumonia, October 25, 1918. His memory dwells within the hearts of those who knew his worth. Inserted by his loving wife and family. Queensland papers please copy.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 25 October, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SEYMOUR- In loving memory of our dear father, who passed away at Croydon, England, while munition working, on 25th October, 1918.

It is just a year ago to-day,
Since our dear father passed away;
Time does not alter love so true,
This day brings back our grief anew.
We little thought when he left home,
That he would never more return;
Only those who have lost are able to tell,
The loss of a dear one they loved so well.

Inserted by his loving sons and daughter, Gordon, Dick, Frank, George and Rose.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 25 October, 1919) & (*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 October, 1919)

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.

Plumstead Cemetery, Greater London, England

Plumstead Cemetery contains 187 Commonwealth War Graves – 106 relating to World War 1 & 81 relating to World War 2.



Plumstead Cemetery Entrance



Chapel in Plumstead Cemetery *(Photo courtesy of Ian Yarham – 2020)*



Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Ian Yarham – 2021)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Yarham – 2020)

Photo of Australian Munition Worker G. Seymour's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Plumstead Cemetery, Greater London, England.





(Photo courtesy of Ian Yarham - 2020)