

**Church Bank Cemetery,
Wallsend, Tyne & Wear (Northumberland)
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



H. MANN

AUSTRALIAN MUNITIONS WORKER

26TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 33

Too Good In Life

To Be Forgotten In Death

Only Brother Tom

Henry MANN

Henry Mann was born around 1885.

(Not enough information has been sourced to positively prove the following information below show in [] but based on the details on the death certificate which listed A. H. Mann, of 41 Prince Street, Bristol, England, as the father of Henry Mann, the following is presumed to be correct :

[A Henry Mann married Catherine Morrissey in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England & their marriage was registered in the March quarter, 1879.]

[The 1891 England Census recorded Henry Mann as a 5 year old, born Bristol, Gloucestershire, living with his family at 14 Pipe Lane, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. His parents were listed as Henry Mann ((Haulier, aged 35) & Kate Mann (aged 34). Henry was one of three children listed on this Census – Thomas Mann (Scholar, aged 7) then Henry & Catherine (aged 14 months).]

[A death for Kate Mann, aged 36, was registered in the March quarter, 1893, in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.]

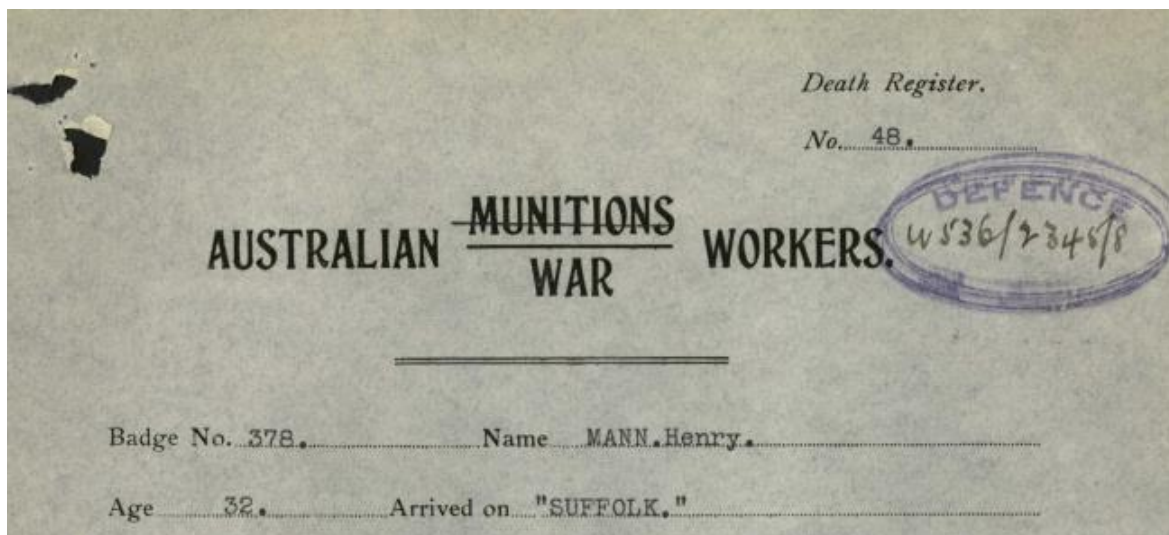
[A marriage was registered in the March quarter, 1900 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England for Albert Henry Mann and Julia Douglass.]

[The 1901 England Census recorded Henry Mann as a 15 year old Assistant Greengrocer living with his parents as Narrow Quay, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. His parents were listed as Albert H. Mann (Railway Carter, aged 40) & Julia Mann (Brushmaker, aged 30).]

[The 1911 England Census recorded Henry Mann (Stableman, aged 54) & Julia Mann (aged 39) living with 2 children – Albert Mann (At School, aged 9) & Frank Mann (aged 10 months), living at 38 Prince Street, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England in a 2 roomed dwelling. Henry & Julia Mann stated on the 1911 Census that they had been married for 12 years & and a total of 6 children, of which only 2 were still living.]

Henry Mann applied for the position of “Labourers for non military work in Great Britain” on 16th March, 1917.

Henry Mann signed an agreement as an Australian War Worker on 21st April, 1917. He was a 32 year old, single, Shipyard Labourer from 16 Ashmore St., Erskineville, NSW. He was given a badge no. of 378.



Australian War Worker Henry Mann embarked from Freemantle, Western Australia on 22nd May, 1917 on *Suffolk* & arrived at Plymouth, England on 17th August, 1917.

Henry Mann reported to work at Tyne Ship Co., Willington Quay but was advised that work would not be ready until the following Monday. Henry Mann advised Officer-in-Charge, Australian Munitions Workers, Plymouth that his

subsistence money given at Plymouth would not carry him as he would not be paid a full weeks pay until the following Friday. He was advised to contact the Ministry of Labour.

Henry Mann advised the Officer-in-Charge, Australian Munitions Workers, Plymouth via postcard that he had commenced work as a Labourer at the Tyne Iron Ship Co. on 26th August, 1917.

Henry Mann applied in November, 1918 to transfer from Tyne Iron Ship Building Co. to Messrs Eltringham, where he had been offered indoor work but the transfer was refused. Henry Mann had asked the Officer-in-Charge, Australian Munitions Workers, to assist in gaining the transfer as he had lost a lot of time the previous winter owing to the climate and it would be difficult for him to average full time during the coming winter. Henry Mann stated if the transfer were granted he would not apply for make up wages & thus save the pay office. Henry Mann was advised to make his application for transfer to the local employment exchange & was advised to remain in his present position until such time as he could be repatriated back to Australia.

A Medical Certificate was written for Henry Mann on 12th November, 1918 stating that he was suffering from Influenza & was unable to attend his employment.

Another Medical Certificate was written for Henry Mann on 25th November, 1918 stating that he was suffering from Pneumonia & was unable to attend his employment.

Henry Mann was boarding at Mrs McDonald's house & she was his landlady. While he was ill – his father & brother had stayed with Mrs McDonald for 10 days and 5 days respectively. There was later an issue by Mrs McDonald that she had not been compensated for Henry Mann's relatives staying with her, although Sgt. T. Mann, brother of the late Henry Mann, stated that he had offered Mrs McDonald £5 to help cover the expenses while he had been there for four days but she had said "she would not hear of it."

War Worker Henry Mann died at 3.30pm on 26th November, 1918 at 1 Rosehill Gardens, Willington-on-Tyne, England from Pneumonia following Influenza. Henry Mann's father – Mr A. H. Mann on 41 Prince Street, Bristol was named on the death certificate as the Informant & was present at the death of his son.

A death for Henry Mann, aged 32, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Tynemouth, Northumberland, England.

War Worker Henry Mann was buried on 29th November, 1918 at Church Bank Cemetery, Wallsend, Northumberland, England – Plot number I. R.C. (Roman Catholic) 722. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Worker H. Mann – service number 378 (Badge No.), aged 33, Australian War Worker. He was the son of the late Henry and Catherine Mann.

Australian Munitions Worker Henry Mann, Service number 378, 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 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)*



*** 23 pages of the Service Record file for Henry Mann, War Worker No.378 is open to view on-line at the National Archives of Australia.*



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. All but one of these casualties are buried in the UK - the other being in France.

Church Bank Cemetery, Wallsend, Northumberland, England

Church Bank Cemetery, Wallsend contains 60 Commonwealth War Graves – 48 from World War 1 & 12 from World War 2.



Church Bank Cemetery, Wallsend (Photos by Mike Berrell)



Photo of Australian War Worker H. Mann's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in Church Bank Cemetery, Wallsend, Northumberland, England.



(Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)