

Byker & Heaton Cemetery, Newcastle Upon Tyne War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1876

R. D. PENNOCK

AUSTRALIAN MUNITIONS WORKER

29TH JULY, 1918

Robert Dowker PENNOCK

Robert Dowker Pennock was born in 1859 at Scarborough, Yorkshire, England to parents Henry Pickup Pennock & Jane Pennock (nee Wallis). He was baptised on 1st July, 1859 at St. Mary's Church, Scarborough, Yorkshire (East Riding), England.

The 1861 England Census recorded Robert Dowker Pennock as a 7 month old living with his family at 7 James Street, Scarborough, Yorkshire, England. The head of the house was listed as Joshua Bowker (Landscape Gardener, aged 49). Robert's father was listed as Henry Pennock – Servant (Gardener, aged 41, born Seamer, Yorks) & his mother as Jane Pennock (aged 32, born Swinton, Yorks). Robert was the youngest of five children listed on this Census – Mary Ann (Scholar, aged 12, born Swinton, Yorks), Eliza (Scholar, aged 8, born Scarborough, Yorks), Isabella (Scholar, aged 5, born Scarborough, Yorks), Elizabeth (Scholar, aged 4, born Scarborough, Yorks) then Robert.

The 1871 England Census recorded Robert D. Pennock as an 11 year old, Scholar, living with his family at 4 Vine Street, Scarborough, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Henry P. Pennock (Landscape Gardener, aged 52) & Jane Pennock (aged 41). Robert was one of seven children listed on this Census – Mary Ann (aged 22), Elizabeth (Scholar, aged 14) then Robert, Charles (Scholar, aged 9), Thomas (Scholar, aged 7), John William (aged 4) & Emily (aged 1). Also listed was Joshua Bowker, a visitor (Landscape Gardener, Widower, aged 58).

The 1881 England Census recorded Robert D. Pennock as a 21 year old, Bricklayer, living with his family at Oak Road, Falsgrave, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Henry P. Pennock (Landscape Gardener, aged 62) & Jane Pennock (aged 51). Robert was one of seven children listed on this Census – Isabella (Domestic Servant, aged 25), Elizabeth (Dressmaker, aged 24), then Robert, Charles (Cabinet Maker, aged 21), Thomas (Plumber, aged 17), John W. (Errand Boy, aged 14) & Emily (Scholar, aged 11).

Robert Dowker Pennock married Harriet Tymon on 5th March, 1883 at Scarborough, York, England.

James Henry Pennock, son of Robert Dowker & Harriet Pennock was born in 1884 at Scarborough, Yorkshire, England.

John Robert Pennock, son of Robert Dowker & Harriet Pennock was born on 26th June, 1888 at Byker, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.

Robert Tymon Pennock, son of Robert Dowker & Harriet Pennock was born on 7th August, 1889 at Byker, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Robert Pennock as a 31 year old, married, Bricklayer living with his wife – Harriet (aged 31) at 15 Shipley Street, Byker, Northumberland, England). Three children were listed on this Census – James H. (Scholar, aged 6, born Scarborough), John R. (aged 2, born Newcastle Upon Tyne) & Robert T. (aged 1, born Newcastle Upon Tyne).

Stephen William Pennock, son of Robert Dowker & Harriet Pennock was born on 18th November, 1891 at Byker, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.

Florence May Pennock, daughter of Robert Dowker & Harriet Pennock was born on 2nd May, 1893 at Byker, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.

Charles Edward Pennock, son of Robert Dowker & Harriet Pennock was born on 19th December, 1894 at Byker, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.

Henry Pickup Pennock, father of Robert Dowker Pennock, died in January, 1896

The 1901 England Census recorded Robert Pennock as a 41 year old, married, Bricklayer living with his wife – Harriet (aged 41) at 21 Shipley Street, Byker, Northumberland, England). Six children were listed on this Census – Henry (Apprentice, aged 16), John (aged 12), Robert (aged 11), Stephen (aged 9, born Newcastle), Florence (aged 7, born Newcastle) & Charles (aged 6, born Newcastle).

The 1911 England Census recorded Robert Pennock as a 51 year old, married, Bricklayer living with his wife – Harriet in a 4 roomed dwelling at 124 Clydesdale Rd, Byker, Newcastle on Tyne, Northumberland, England. Robert & Harriett had been married for 28 & had six children - five were listed on this Census – John Robert (Bookkeeper (Clerk), aged 22), Robert Tymon (Patternmaker, aged 21), Stephen William (Engineers Fitter, aged 19), Florence May (Dressmaker, aged 17) & Charles Edward (Printer's apprentice, aged 16).

Robert D. Pennock, Bricklayer, was a passenger on the *Otway* which had departed from the port of London, England on 5th January, 1912 bound for Sydney, Australia. He arrived in Sydney on 15th February, 1912.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW listed Robert Pennock, Bricklayer & his son - James Henry Pennock, Bricklayer, both of 12 Excelsior Street.

Robert Dowker Pennock applied for enrolment as a War Worker/Munition Worker in Great Britain. He was given a War Worker number of 1876.

(No other information is available regarding Robert Pennock's role as a War Worker as his File is not open for free viewing & would cost \$69 to view)

Australian Munitions Worker Robert Dowker Pennock died on 29th July, 1918.

A death for Robert D. Pennock, aged 56, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.

Australian Munitions Worker Robert Dowker Pennock was buried at Byker & Heaton Cemetery, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Northumberland, England – Plot number O.C.4. and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledge by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Worker R. D. Pennock – service number 1876, Australian War Worker. No family details are listed.

Australian Munitions Worker Robert D. Pennock 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)*



**** Note –** *The Service Record file for Robert Pennock, Australian Munition Worker No.1876, 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.*



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)

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 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.

**Australian Munitions/War Worker Robert Dowker Pennock has a Private Headstone which would have been provided by his family instead of receiving a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone.

Byker & Heaton Cemetery, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Northumberland, England

Byker & Heaton Cemetery contains 283 Commonwealth War Graves - 159 scattered First World War burials, mostly of local men who had died in Newcastle's military hospitals, including the 1st Northern General and 124 graves from World War 2 mainly scattered throughout the cemetery except for a plot in the centre with 25 graves.



Byker & Heaton Cemetery (Photo above by daglish – Find a Grave; below from CWGC)



Photo of Robert Dowker Pennock's shared Family Headstone in Byker & Heaton Cemetery, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Northumberland, England.



(Photo by nettlyne – Find a Grave)

In Loving Memory of
ROBERT DOWKER
Dearly Beloved Husband of
HARRIET PENNOCK,
Who Died July 29th 1918
Aged 58 Years.

Also STEPHEN WILLIAM
Son of the Above
Who Died April 7th 1919
Aged 27 Years.

Also HARRIET
Beloved Wife of
ROBERT PENNOCK
Who Died May 30th 1933
Aged 74 Years.