

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

17 98

Application for Enrolment as Volunteer for Manufacture of Munitions in Great Britain.

Surname Ashley Christian Names Thomas Age last Birthday 40 Place of Birth Bridgnorth, England Are you a British Subject? I am Married or Single Married Present Occupation Farmer & Carpenter Dependants Wife & four children two over 16 years Give short statement of apprenticeship or training and subsequent experience

I have had 25 years experience in my trade 20 in England & 5 here in Australia previous to my taking up land. I am a wheelwright by trade but can work Smiths Screwing Machines, or do any kind of carpentering I can also do Blacksmith work. I worked in Manchester England, a good many years at H Heaton & Sons.

State specifically where engaged and class of work done during past three years

I have been engaged the last three years at Eubin following my farm and Building Houses

Class of work which you desire in England, if available. (State trades or sections of trades in order of preference)

joiner Blacksmith Driller. Boiler Makers Assistant Riveter or Shipwrecker, or any other work you may think fit to give me

Earliest date on which prepared to embark at a weeks notice

Give names and addresses of two personal references as to character J Dean Hammond of Cattering Ketterberrin & Hargreaves of Eubin Ketterberrin

NOTE.-Applicants should forward copies (not originals) of not more than three recent testimonials.

[SEE OVER.]

DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED.

I hereby declare that the above is a true statement, that I am in good health and capable of undertaking the work applied for, that I will accept duty in the trade capacity allotted to me and at the rate of wage and under the conditions of working prevailing in Great Britain, and will be subject during the period of my stay in England to the direction of the Ministry of Munitions or officer authorized by the Australian Government. I agree to return to Australia at the termination of the war, or earlier, if so directed.

(Signature) Thomas Ashley

(Address) Bowland Farm Eubin Ketterberrin, N. A.

(Date) Feb 12th 1917

Badge No. 3138	CHRISTIAN NAMES. Thomas	Age. 40	Agreement Signed. Not to hand	Passport IN 21.7.17	Trained as Wheelwright	Alternative Trades on Application Form. Joiner Blacksmiths' Joiner Boilermaker
REFERENCE SUPPLIED.	Married SingleDrawing Separation Allowance.	OUT. 1.3.19	Working as Aeroplane Erector	

W.A.	Left FREMANTLE	Per s.s. Benalla	On 22.5.17	Arrived at Plymouth	On 21.7.17
	Left WEYMOUTH	Per s.s. Euripides	On 1.3.19	Arrived at	On

DATE. 1914-17

Qualifications and Previous Record.

20 yrs. Wheelwright in England.
 Several yrs. at Messrs Heaton & Son. Manchester.
 5 yrs. Wheelwright in Aust.
 Farm Work & Building.

Euripides mhr

Remarks (NOT INCLUDED IN RECORD ON BACK OF CARD).

773

This man's record is "satisfactory" conduct & work
 call for no special comment.

A.M.W. 1a-7,590 -10/7/17.

DATE.	Record since Landing.
21. 7.17	Reported to Officer-in-Charge, Australian Munitions Workers, -London- Plymouth
24. 7.17	Began work at A.V. Roe & Co., as Aeroplane Erector.
25. 7.17	Returned post card with particulars.
17. 2.18	Letter to O i/c from A. Wishes to take back young nephew after war, requests particulars how to proceed. (Ack: 20.2.18. Whenttime comes for repatriation must interview Shipping Dept: Aust. House who will give full particulars of any privileges.)
undated	Letter to O i/c from A. Requests transfer to South of England. At present unable to work owing to chest trouble. (Ack: 15.4.18. Told to take med. cert. to Manager local E.E. & ask him to arrange transfer, explaining Manchester climate injurious to health.)
8. 5.18	Letter to O i/c from A. For the last 11 months, things have been very unsettled at works, every few weeks, & sometimes twice a week men have "downed tools". The whole of the works out on strike at present time. Has made 3 applications at Labour Ex. for transfer but without success. (Ack: 10.5.18 Told to see Manager E.E. again with reference to transfer.)
17. 5.18	Letter to O i/c from A. Has been transferred to Messrs Robey & Co., Lincoln.
13. 9.18	Letter to O i/c from A. Has been transferred from Lincoln to Chadderton. On arrival in England was told would receive London rate of pay, has written several times to Min. of Lab. but can get no satisfaction. Enclosing summary of hours worked. (Ack: 19.9.18. Cannot trouble Ministry owing to constant transfer.)
27.9.18	Letter to O i/c from A. Does not understand letter, only changed employment once at own request. Some months ago several A.M.Ws wrote with reference to their wages & requests same consideration. (Ack: 30.9.18. Must get matter adjusted & state if enrolled as W.M.V. & if so send full particulars of enrolment number.)
3.10.18	Letter to O i/c from A. With information required re W.M.Vs. (Ack: 8.10.18. Information forwarded to M. of M.)
8.11.18	Letter to O i/c from A. Has heard nothing from M. of M. Firm awaiting instructions. (Ack: 13.11.18. A little time must elapse before M. of M. can deal with claim re wages.)
11.11.18	Letter to O i/c from A. Requests to be repatriated at an early date (Ack: 13.11.18. Notification of repatriation will be sent in due course.)
16.11.18	Letter to O i/c from A. Requests to be sent back in time to assist at Harvest, has 160 acres, & wife can only get one man to help. Several A.W.Ws being repatriated in 14 days, would it be possible to join them. (Ack: 20.11.18. The A.M.Ws. being repatriated, are certified as unfit for work in England, & there is not sufficient accommodation to carry all of them.)
2.12.18	Letter to O i/c from A. Return home to help wife with Harvest. Has finished work here. (Ack: 5.12.18 A.M.Ws are being repatriated as quickly as possible.)
8.12.18	Letter to O i/c from A. Has tried to point out, the financial loss it will mean if detained here any longer.
15.12.18	Letter to O i/c from A. States after 21.12.18. will be out of employment, and awaiting repatriation. (Ack: 21.12.18. Told to report daily at local E.E. for fresh work & draw sub.allow. for any days of unemployment.)
26.12.18	Letter to O i/c from A. Requests early repatriation, as wife cannot get sufficient help to get harvest in, 170 acres of wheat (Ack: 31.12.18. Unless medically unfit, impossible to be taken out of turn for repatriation.)
26.12.18	Letter to O i/c from A. during journey from Manchester to Nelson, bag was brokwn open & all papers in reference to Agreement &c., taken out. (Ack: 2.1.19. Impossible to issue duplicate badge cert., but must fill in enclosed form & return.)
4. 1.19	Letter to O i/c from A. Has signed the unemployment sheet 14 days, but received no pay. Manager E.E. states waiting instructions from Aust. House. (Ack: 7.1.19. Written to Manager E.E. to expedite payment of sub.allow.)

DATE.

ASHLEY T.

Record since Landing (continued).

11. 1.19 Letter to O/c from A. Has missed this years Harvesting, wishes to get back in time to put in new crop. Lost papers turned up at last lodgings. (Ack: 14.1.19. Name has been listed for early repatriation.)
17. 1.19 Letter to O/c from A. Again requests repatriation by next boat. Has been receiving 5/- per day sub.allow. but Manager refuses to pay Xmas Day, & also states he is not entitled to more than 4 weeks pay. (Ack: 20.1.19. Not entitled to claim for Xmas Day, as it is Statutory holiday. Told to obtain reason why sub.allowance can only be paid for 4 weeks.)
28. 1.19 Letter to O/c from A. Again requests repatriation. (Ack: 29.1.19. No boat available for some time. A.M.Ws are at liberty to book their own passage to Australia, & this Dept. will pay £27 on notice from Shipping Co., that berth has been taken.)
31. 1.19 Letter to O/c from A. re repatriation. According to pamphlet cannot book own passage, willing to work passage back but must return before March. (Ack: 4.2.19. At liberty to book passage, or to work passage back to Australia. Must ask Labour E.E. for railway warrant to come to London to be repatriated first opportunity.)
8. 2.19 Called re sub.allow. & hostel. To be repatriated. Been out of work nearly 7 weeks. Given letter to Aldwych E.E. & Hostel.
10. 2.19 Called re badge certif. Given letter in lieu of it.
- 25.2.18. Copy of agreement signed by A. with regard to working passage to Portsaid.
- 26.2.18. Memo; from O/c to A. To report at Waterloo to entrain for Weymouth on 28th inst for embarkation on S.S. Euripides" owing to cessation of hostilities.
- undated. Memo; to O/c stating A. embarked on S.S. Euripides." to do special work on board, between Portland & Portsaid.

Europeans & War

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COPY.

*Certified True Copy
for Secretary.*



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

No. 2555

MELBOURNE.

12 MAY 1919

This is to Certify that No. 2138 Thomas Ashley

proceeded on 21st. May, 1917 to Great Britain as a Munition Worker

under agreement with the Government

of the Commonwealth of Australia, for employment under the Imperial Government

or otherwise, and returned to Australia on 7-MAY 1919 on account

of completion of agreement and his agreement

terminated on 7-MAY 1919

His record during the period of his agreement was satisfactory

T. TRUMBLE.

Handwritten signature and date: 27/5/19

Secretary.