

Interview

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.



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

Surname: McLaren Christian Names: David Francis Age last Birthday: 36 Place of Birth: Ardrossan South Aust. Are you a British Subject?: Yes Married or Single: Single Present Occupation: Plc. 4th B.R. Guard. Dependents: Mother

Give short statement of apprenticeship or training and subsequent experience: Served 2 years C.H. Smith Ardrossan, 3 years R.F. Botton & 1 3/4 H.P. Harris Scarf & Co Fremantle, 1 year Hayden Vic Park W.A. 6 months Batters Perth W.A. 6 months Clyde engineering works Clyde W.A. 9 months Fiji Public works Dept Fiji 3 years 3 months C.S.R. Coy Kausoni Fiji Experienced in Launch & engine work Agricultural & building iron work & all general blacksmithing work. Employed in all cases as Blacksmith

State specifically where engaged and class of work done during past three years: Employed by C.S.R. Coy Ltd Kausoni Fiji Work consisted of Launch, Engine & general mill repairs New & repair work Tool making Tool dressing & tempering & spring making for looms.

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

Launch (Repass on new) work General work Agricultural or building or engineering work

Earliest date on which prepared to embark: May 29th

Give names and addresses of two personal references as to character: Mr G Thoms Govt Printing Office Adelaide Sgt Major Reid 4th B.R. Guard. Mitcham

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) David Francis McLaren

(Address) No 148 4th B.R. Guard

Mitcham

(Date) May 21st 1917

1449

Death Register.

No. 32.

AUSTRALIAN MUNITIONS WAR WORKERS.

Badge No. 3544. Name MCLAREN, D.F. ^{and} *naucis*

Age 38. Arrived on "Demosthenes" 31. 12. 17.

Died at Southampton Parish Infirmary. Date 23. 10. 18.

Inquest held on

Cause of Death Pneumonia.

Registered Southampton. Date 28. 10. 18.

Buried at Hollybrook Cemetery, Shirley. Date 30. 10. 18.

*Warren, Southampton.
B4-156.*

Grave Registration No. B1156.

1st Certificate of Death forwarded to Melbourne on 13th Dec. (letter posted) 3rd December, 1918. (letter date)

2nd " " " " " 20. 12. 18.

Effects as follows received at Australia House on One Portmanteau and One Suit Case - to be forwarded to Australia.

£2. 12. 6 Cash in possession of deceased at death. See statement to Defence 21. 2. 18

Despatched to Australia per S. S. Barambah Date 24. 12. 18

Insured for £25. (Total)

Death notified to Ministry of Munitions on 22nd November, 1918.

" " Defence Department by cable on 31st October, 1918.

" " " " " letter on 3rd December, 1918.

Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*

After completion of Form.

Heint

DATE.	McLaren. D. F.	Record since Landing.
1.1.18.	<i>Reported to Officer-in-Charge, Australian Munitions Workers, London. Glasgow.</i>	
4.1.18.	Began work with <u>Messrs. Boots & Son, Ramsgate as Blacksmith.</u>	
6.1.18.	Returned postcard with particulars.	
4.3.18.	Letter to O.i/c, from McL. claiming London rate of pay, to which entitled as W.M.V. (Ack.8.3.18.	
	Particulars of case forwarded to Min. of Mun. for attention).	
9.5.18.	Letter to O.i/c, from McL. giving his address and saying he has received back pay and war bonus; is quite satisfied with work.	
16.6.18	Letter to O.i/c, from McL. Is now working for <u>Messrs. Boot at Fawley, Near Southampton.</u>	
9.10.18	Letter to O.i/c, from McL. applying for country allowance of 9/- per week. Firm will not pay this; thinks he is entitled to it, as he could make no allotment to dependents in Australia.	
	(Ack.11.10.18. Question of payment of country allowance under consideration by Committee on Production. Will doubtless be advised when decision arrived at).	
20.10.18	Letter to O.i/c, from K.M.Symonds, Aust. War Worker, complaining that sick men suffering from influenza do not receive sufficient attention at Fawley, and requesting visit of investigation by representative from Australia House (Replied to 24.10.18. by visit of representative from Australia House).	
23.10.18	Telegram to O.i/c, from K.M.Symonds informing him that McL. died that afternoon and requesting instructions.	
24.10.18	Telegram to O.i/c, from Messrs. Boots, informing him of McL's death at Southampton Parish infirmary on previous day.	
24.10.18	Letter from O.i/c, to Symonds acknowledging telegram 23.10.18. with reference to McL's death. Requests him to make all arrangements for funeral. Expenses up to £10, will be guaranteed by Commonwealth Government. Representative from Australia House arriving to-day to enquire into conditions affecting Australians at Fawley. He will advise as to McL's funeral. Requests death certificate to be sent to this office and all particulars as to cause of death, funeral etc, and that information re date and place of burial be given to representative who will attend funeral. McL's effects to be collected and forwarded to Australia House.	
24.10.18	Letter to O.i/c, from Messrs. Boots confirming their telegram and telephone message with reference to McL's death and enclosing confirmation and notices. His insurance card and wages due to him, will be handed over to representative from Australia House when he calls (Ack.25.10.18).	
24.10.18	Letter from O.i/c, to Messrs. Boots with reference to death of McL. Arrangements for the funeral etc, have been made through K.M.Symonds Aust. War Worker, who has been communicated with and asked to collect deceased's effects. Requests firm to assist Symonds in carrying out instructions, and to send official notification of McL's death, with full particulars and forward any monies due to him.	
26.10.18	Letter to O.i/c, from Messrs. Boots, stating they have handed to Symonds £4.18.6 ¹ / ₂ also National Health and Unemployment Insurance Cards due to McL. (Ack.29.10.18).	
30.10.18	Letter to O.i/c, from Symonds stating he has carried out instructions in respect of funeral of McL. Encloses statement of account of monies due to McL. and small account paid out of it for lodging etc, settled by S. Balance enclosed amounting to £2.12.5. Is sending Badge, certificates of death, insurance cards, Unemployment book and Bank Pass Book, showing credit balance of £91. Will be glad to receive £10, allowance to cover funeral expenses. Australians at firm are paying for burial. Further information and particulars of funeral will be sent to-morrow. Everything will be done to carry out O.i/c's wishes in the matter.	
31.10.18	Letter to O.i/c, from Symonds. Is forwarding McL's portmanteau and suit case containing his effects Gives particulars of funeral, which was attended by 65 Australian Workers from Calshot and other friends and many floral tributes were sent.	

Record since Landing (continues)

DATE.

McLAREN. D. F.

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- 31.10.18. Cable from O.i/c, to Defence reporting death of McL. at Southampton Infirmary from Influenza. 23.10.18.
- 5.11.18. Letter from O.i/c, to Controller. Post Office Savings Bank, W.Kensington, informing him of death of McL. and stating that amongst deceased's effects was found his P.O.Savings Bank account, amounting to 291, ~~as~~ that arrangements may be made for forwarding the monies to Commonwealth Government for deceased's Executors. Deposit Book enclosed for necessary action in the matter.
- 5.11.18. Letter from O.i/c, to K.Symonds acknowledging letters of 30th and 31st ultimo and 1st instant with reference to McL. Statement of account received, also badge and certificate 2 death certificates, insurance cards, unemployment book, bank pass book, and postal note for £2.12.5. on account of deceased, £10, allowance for funeral will be forwarded on receipt of Undertaker's settled account; also cost of death certificates. The portmanteau and suit case have been received and will be forwarded to McL's relatives.
- 5.11.18. Letter to O.i/c, from Mrs.H.G. Ansley, with reference to the relations which existed between herself and the late D.F.McLaren, and asking for help and advice with regard to provision for the child which she is expecting in following January. States her husband is in Mesopotamia. Asks if McL. has left a will making any provision for her. He had been giving her £1, allowance fortnightly and at present she has nothing to go on with. She understood McL. had £100, in the bank to his credit, also money in Commonwealth Bank.
- 7.11.18. Letter to O.i/c, from K.M.Symonds, enclosing medical card and keys of the baggage belonging to McL, also list of contents of suit case. Refers to case of Mrs.Ansley, who had written to him, and he had advised her to write to this office.
- 7.11.18. Letter from O.i/c, to A.I.F. Headquarters informing them of request of A.M.W's at Southampton that McL's brother A.B.McLaren, 4th Coy, 3rd Division, A.S.C, should be informed of his brother's death.
- 8.11.18. Memo. from O.i/c, to Defence re Influenza epidemic and confirming cable reporting death of McL. and other A.M.W's from same complaint.
- 8.11.18. Letter from O.i/c, to Mrs.H.J.Ansley, acknowledging her letter 5.11.18. with reference to McL. States his letters will be returned to the writers through Post Office, His Bank Pass Book has been received at this office and the money to his credit will be eventually sent to Department of Defence Melbourne, who will pay it to next of kin. If paternity can be proved and the law directs money should be available, an order of court should be obtained to hand it over for provision of child. The latter can only be registered in Mother's name. Suggest she should write to McL's friend K.M.Symonds, who might be of assistance in her trouble. A solicitor should be consulted for claiming any money.McL. left no will and his effects will be sent to Australia.
- 8.11.18. Letter from O.i/c, to K.M.Symonds, acknowledging letter 7.11.18. enclosing medical card and keys of McL, also list of contents of suitcase. With reference to Mrs.Ansley, asks him to give her any help or advice he can.
- 14.11.18. Letter to O.i/c, from Post Office Savings Bank Department acknowledging letter 5.11.18. with reference to McL's account. If a Registrars Certificate of Death is sent, arrangements will be made for transmitting money to the Public Trustee in Australia for distribution according to law. Form enclosed for obtaining certificate. Deposit Book is returned. (Ack.15.11.18.)
- 15.11.18. Letter from O.i/c, to Registrar of Deaths, Southampton enclosing form of Death Certificate to be filled in and returned.
- 16.11.18. Memo from Accounts Branch re Funeral expenses of McL. Account attached from Messrs.Thomas

DATE.

McLAREN. D. F.

Record since Lagding (continued)

Com. Govt.

- 16.11.18 & Son, Southampton, Undertakers, for £16.10.0 dated Oct 31st. £10, towards expenses allowed by E.O. allowed for McL's funeral expenses by Commonwealth Government.
- 18.11.18 Letter from O.I/c from Registrar, Southampton, enclosing Death Certificate filled in. Fee for same amounts to 1/- (Ack. 25.11.18 enclosing cheque for 1/- for copy of Death Certificate)
- 18.11.18 Letter from O.I/c to Ministry of Munitions informing them of McL's death.
- 22.11.18 Letter from O.I/c to Controller P.O. Savings Bank, London enclosing Form No. 2 certificate of death filled in and completed by Registrar and asking for further information for settling matter of McL's account.
- 25.11.18 Memo. from O.I/c to Shipping Clerk, Australia House asking him to forward McL's effects to Defence Dept. Melbourne. They consist of 1 Portmanteau and 1 suit case. To be insured for £25.
- 28.11.18 Letter to O.I/c from K.M. Symonds, enclosing certificate of McL's grave cost of which amounts to £1.10.0, accounts of funeral settled now. /s
- " " " Letter to O.I/c from Controller P.O. Savings Bank London, with reference to application of deposit of deceased enclosing draft of facts of case for signature by Symonds and to be returned when completed. (Ack. 4.12.18 stating document sent to Symonds for signature)
- 29.11.18 Letter from O.I/c to Symonds ack. letter 17.11.18 enclosing P.O. Order for £3.15.1 $\frac{1}{2}$. /ce
- 30.11.18 Letter to O.I/c from Mrs. Ansley ack. letter of 8th inst. States she has written (According to advice given) to A.B. McLaren, brother of deceased but has received no reply up to date. Has also written to McL's parents in Australia stating full particulars of her case and asking for help in her trouble. Would be glad to know if she should wait for a reply or get an order of the Court for assistance in providing for the child. Has all papers in her possession to prove paternity.
- 3.12.18 Letter from O.I/c to Defence confirming cable of Nov. 4th reporting death of McL. and giving particulars of funeral. States deceased's effects have been forwarded to Australia by K.M. Symonds also sum of £2.12.5 which has been credited by Accounts Branch in London. Bank Pass Book has been received by this Office with sum of £91.0.0. to deceased's credit which will be cabled to Defence. Enclosed death form, certificate of death and letter of sympathy from Ministry of Munitions.
- 4.12.18 Letter from O.I/c to Symonds with ref. to Deposit Book of McL. giving particulars of account. Asks that he should complete form sent and return it with enclosed pass book so as to cause as little delay as possible in settling McL's estate.
- " " " Letter to O.I/c from A.B. McLaren, saying he has just received news of his brother's death. Asks for particulars to be sent to him. (Ack. 7.12.18 giving full particulars of McL's death, also information with regard to deceased's effects and monies in Post Office etc., Refers him to K.M. Symonds for further information. Informs him of Mrs. Ansley's wish to communicate with him on private matters connected with deceased.)
- 7.12.18 Letter from O.I/c to Mrs. Ansley informing her of letter received from A.B. McLaren and giving his address, advises her to write to him.
- 10.12.18 Letter from O.I/c to Controller P.O. Savings Bank, London, enclosing declaration form filled in by Symonds, and Death Certificate relating to McL, also withdrawal form and Deposit Book. Requests that Deposit Book shall be returned when account is settled, to enable him to forward it to next of kin in Australia.
- 17.12.18 Letter from O.I/c to Mrs. Ansley ack. letter of Nov. 30th received at this Office on Dec. 14th. Advises her to get an Order of Court to help her in procuring assistance for provision of the child. If she wishes to make any claim, it should be done promptly.
- 20.12.18 Letter to O.I/c from Mrs. Ansley ack. letter 17th inst. Encloses letter recd. from A.B. McLaren who is going to see her as soon as possible. She has not been able to procure an Order of the Court as she has been confined to her bed for 3 weeks with Influenza and

DATE.

Record since Landing (continued)

McLAREN.D.F.

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Bronchitis and will be unable to go out until after her confinement. Will send doctor's certificate to verify statement, also the written statements of deceased acknowledging paternity. Is unable to employ a solicitor, as not sufficient means to do so. Army Separation allowance is her only source of income.

- 28.12.18 Letter from O.i/c to Mrs. Ansley ack. letter 20th inst. Regrets she is unable to attend the Court herself. Impossible to take action from this Office. Advises her to obtain necessary subsistence from McL's relatives. Is returning letters sent,
15. 1.19 Cable from O.i/c to Defence McL's effects despatched to Australia from High Comm's. Office London. 1 Portmanteau and 1 suit case insured for £25. Shipped per s.s. "Barambah".
- Letter from O.i/c to Defence confirming cable re McL's effect and other A.M.Ws. Enclosed Bills of Lading. Keys of boxes sent under separate registered cover.
16. 1.19 Letter from O.i/c to Controller P.O. Savings Bank ack. receipt of McL's deposit Book.

C O P Y.

South Australia
In the Supreme Court,
Testamentary Causes Jurisdiction.

THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of me DAVID FRANCIS McLAREN of Gawler Blocks in the State of South Australia made the fifth day of October 1917 I revoke all other wills made by me I appoint James Ross McLaren (On Active Service) & William Rusby of Gawler South to be my Executors and direct that my Funeral and Testamentary Expenses and all my debts shall be paid as soon as conveniently may be after my decease I give unto my Mother (Mrs Elizabeth Ann McLaren) one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of all money that I have in the Banks (&) or in my possession at the time of death & to my brothers James Ross Alan Bruce & Herbert Glen & sister Mrs W. Rusby the remaining half to be equally divided amongst them My tools & models to my brother Alan Bruce Photo material & photos to my brother James Ross Jewellery and medals to my brother Herbert Glen Books and diary to my mother All other property not mentioned to my Mother In Witness whereof I the said David Francis McLaren have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand the Fifth day of October in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen.

DAVID FRANCIS MCLAREN.

Signed by the said David Francis McLaren the Testator on the day and year aforesaid, in the presence of us, present at the same time who at his request in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses

Henry B. Brooks

Caroline Brooks

On the FOURTEENTH day of APRIL 1919 LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION with the above will annexed of the estate of David Francis McLaren formerly of Gawler Blocks in the State of South Australia late of Southampton in the United Kingdom Munition Worker deceased who died at Southampton in England on the 23rd. day of October 1918 were granted by the Supreme Court

of South Australia to the Public Trustee pursuant to an order made on the 26th. day of March 1919 by the Honorable Alexander Buchanan one of the Judges of the said Court.

Dated the 14th. day of April 1919.

Estate sworn not) (L.S) W. L. Stuart.
to exceed in value) Register.
£400/-/-)

I certify the above writing to be an examined copy of the Letters of Administration with the Will annexed of the estate of the within named deceased taken from the records of the Supreme Court of South Australia.

(sgd) W.S. Stuart

(Registrar of Probates.