

**All Souls Cemetery,  
Kensal Green, London, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**F. W. COARE**

**AUSTRALIAN MUNITION WORKER**

**11TH SEPTEMBER, 1918**

## Frederick William COARE

Frederick William Coare was born on 9th January, 1869 at Clarendon, South Australia to parents Arthur & Sarah Coare (nee Dailey).

Arthur Coare, father of Frederick William Coare, died on 15th August, 1872 at Clarendon, South Australia.

Frederick William Coare married Ada Lillian Osborn in Victoria in 1901.

Sarah Coare, mother of Frederick William Coare, died on 5th December, 1903 at Parkside, Adelaide, South Australia.

A birth was registered in Victoria in 1904 for James Arthur Coare, son of Frederick William & Ada Coare (nee Osborn). A birth was registered in Victoria in 1906 for Lorna Pearl Watson Coare, daughter of Frederick William & Ada Coare (nee Osborn).

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Batman, subdivision of Fitzroy Central, Victoria, listed Frederick William Coare, Striker & his wife Ada Lillian, Home duties, living at 135 Leicester Street, Fitzroy.

A birth was registered in Victoria in 1911 for Walter Frederick Bolton Coare, son of Frederick William & Ada Coare (nee Osborn).

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Batman, subdivision of Fitzroy Central, Victoria, listed Frederick William Coare, Striker & his wife Ada Lillian, Home duties, living at 171 Leicester Street, Fitzroy.

The 1914, 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Batman, subdivision of Fitzroy Central, Victoria, listed Frederick William Coare, Striker & his wife Ada Lillian, Home duties, living at 151 Leicester Street, Fitzroy.

Frederick William Coare, aged 48, of 151 Leicester Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria, applied for enrolment as a Volunteer for Manufacture of Munitions in Great Britain on 13th February, 1917. He was a Boilermaker's Assistant & married with 3 dependants. Frederick stated on his application form that he had "*been in the Iron trade for the best part of my life in Boiler Shops & general repairs to Steam Ships work I am now following have had several years in Blacksmith's Shop.*" He also stated he had "*been at D & R Buchanan's & Brock for over four years on ship work. They are the principal ship repairers in Victoria. I am still there.*" Frederick Coare had previously worked at Gray Bros., Melbourne as a Boilermaker's Assistant for 1 year & Johnston's Tyre Foundry, Melbourne, as a Boilermaker's Assistant for 5 years. Frederick Coare stated a preference for work as a Holder up or Hammer man. He was prepared to embark on 16th March or sooner if required.

Frederick William Coare was accepted & given a Munition Worker number of 849 (Vic).

Frederick William Coare embarked from Australia on 6th May, 1917 on *Ulysses* & arrived at Plymouth, England on 27th July, 1917.

Frederick William Coare reported sick to work from 24th January, 1918 to 30th January, 1918 due to Bronchitis; from 5th April, 1918 to 21st April, 1918 due to influenza; from 15th May, 1918 to 29th May, 1918 due to Rheumatism & from 28th July, 1918 for 5 ½ weeks due to Scabies & Eczema.

Frederick William Coare entered the City of Westminster (Fulham Road) Infirmary on 4th August, 1918 with a skin complaint & was discharged on 27th August, 1918. A Medical Report was completed on Frederick William Coare, dated 28th August, 1918, stating he was in a bad condition & suffering from Dropsy. It was recommended that he return to Australia.

A letter was received from Solicitors on behalf of Frederick William Coare stating he was in a very serious condition & it was very doubtful whether he would even recover.

Australian Munition Worker Frederick William Coare died on 11th September, 1918 at Whitehall Nursing Home, 53 Torrington Square, London from Chronic nephritis, cellulitis (boils on legs and thighs) & uraemia. The Death

Certificate states Frederick William Coare, 49 years, "of Barrow in Furness formerly of Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia." Ellen Marion Sutton, of 53 Torrington Square, was present at the death.

A death for Frederick W. Coare, aged 49, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of St. Giles, Gloucestershire, England.

Australian Munition Worker Frederick William Coare was buried on 17th September, 1918 in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England, – Plot details Square 67. Row 3. No.46028.

#### Probate details:

Frederick William, Coare, of 53 Torrington-square, Middlesex, died 11 September, 1918. Probate London 27 April to Frederick Charles Boyes, Solicitor. Effects £356 14s. 3d.

A letter written on 29th March, 1920 for the Invalid Pension describes Mrs Ada Coare, 151 Leicester Street, Fitzroy, widow of the late Australian Munition Worker Frederick William Coare as "*she ceased work ten weeks ago owing to ill-health. She suffers from goitre, rheumatism and varicose veins. She receives free medical attention and advice from Dr Degenhardt, of North Fitzroy. Mrs Coare has three children. The eldest one, a boy, earns 12/6 per week. A girl of 13 years and a boy of 8 years of age are wards of the State. Mrs Coare, who has made application for an invalid pension, informed me that she applied to-day at Fitzroy L.B.S. for assistance. She has neither property nor money in bank.*"

The Returned Munition & War Workers' Association, Victorian Branch wrote a letter, undated, stating that Mrs A. Coar, widow of the late F. W. Coare "*was 50 years of age with three young children depending on her, she is in delicate health & is at present depending upon relatives for the upkeep of her family. I have investigated this case myself & have found it very distressful in fact Mrs Coare is unable to go to work to earn anything towards to upkeep of herself & family.*" The Secretary of Defence, Central Administration replied on 11th October, 1920 stating that "... *invite your attention to y communication of the 3rd September No. 65862 wherein you were informed that in no case is a compassionate allowance granted where the widow is in receipt of an Invalid Pension. Mrs Coare's case has been previously investigated by the Invalid and Old Age Pension Branch on behalf of this Department and it has been ascertained that in addition to an Invalid Pension of 15/- per week she is receiving State assistance for the maintenance of the children. Under these circumstances it is regretted that the payment of a compassionate allowance cannot be approved.*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists F. W. Coare – service number 849, Australian Munition Worker. No family details are listed.

Australian Munitions Worker Frederick William Coare 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.

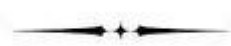
Government newspaper adverts appeared in August, 1916, and the first party of 76 workers departed Australia in September. Groups continued to be recruited and sent at intervals, with the eventual number of workers under the scheme totalling just over 5,000. Almost 1,000 of these had already been working 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)*



(54 pages of Frederick William Coare's Munition Worker file is available for viewing online 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-existent. When the war ended the Australians returned home and life moved on.*

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### **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)*

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#### **WORKMAN CRUSHED BY FALLING TIMBER**

Serious injuries were sustained by Fredrick Coare, 4, married, employed at Miller's timber yard, South Melbourne, in an accident which occurred at the yard yesterday afternoon.

Coare was assisting to handle a quantity of timber, when about half a ton of material fell away and crashed upon him. A great amount of the falling timber struck him on the head. He was picked up in a dazed condition and taken to the Homoeopathic Hospital, where he was found to be suffering from concussion of the brain and severe bruises about the body and shoulders. Coare lives at 151 Leicester-street, Fitzroy.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 September, 1918)*

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## DEATHS

### On Active Service

COARE - Munition Worker Frederick William, died suddenly, Nursing Home, London, loving father of James, Lorna and Walter, uncle of Doreen, aged 50 years.

We pictured dear Father returning,  
And longed for the clasp of his hand;  
But God has postponed our meeting  
Till we meet in a better land.

- Inserted by his sorrowing wife and family, 151 Leicester-street, Fitzroy

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 September, 1918)

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## OBITUARY

### MR FRED COARE

A cable message from London brought the news of the death of Mr Fred Coare. The deceased is well known in Warracknabeal and Minyip having had a tailoring business in the latter town. Since retiring from the tailoring he went back to his old trade – engineer's fitter – and for the past year has been working at the shipbuilding trade. He felt the call and tried to enlist but failed, being over the age, when he then enlisted as a munition worker. In Warracknabeal he was one of the prominent Rangers under Capt. Palmer and an enthusiastic member of the Warracknabeal Brass Band under Badmaster Taylor. On leaving the Wimmera he went to Melbourne, and there he married the sister of Mr C. Osborn, of Marnoo. The sad intelligence was a great blow to his wife. He leaves 3 children also to mourn their loss and the Rangers have lost one of their oldest soldiers.

(*Rupanyup Spectator and Lubeck, Banyena, Rich Avon and Lallat Advertiser*, Victoria – 10 October, 1918) &

(*Stawell News and Pleasant Creek Chronicle*, Victoria – 12 October, 1918) & (*The Horsham Times*, Victoria – 15 October, 1918)

& (*Warracknabeal Herald*, Victoria – 18 October, 1918)

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### 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.

### **All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England**

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green contains burials of both wars - 538. Half of the 482 First World War graves form a plot in the south-west section of the cemetery, the rest form small groups or are scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 5s Second World War graves are scattered. There are also 2 non war burials here. A screen wall in the First World War plot (Sect. 213) records the names of casualties of both wars whose graves could not be individually marked. Also recorded on the wall are the names of five servicemen whose remains were cremated in Kensal Green Crematorium.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green** *(Photo by Rodney Burton)*



**Cross of Sacrifice - All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green** (Photo by Chris Doran)



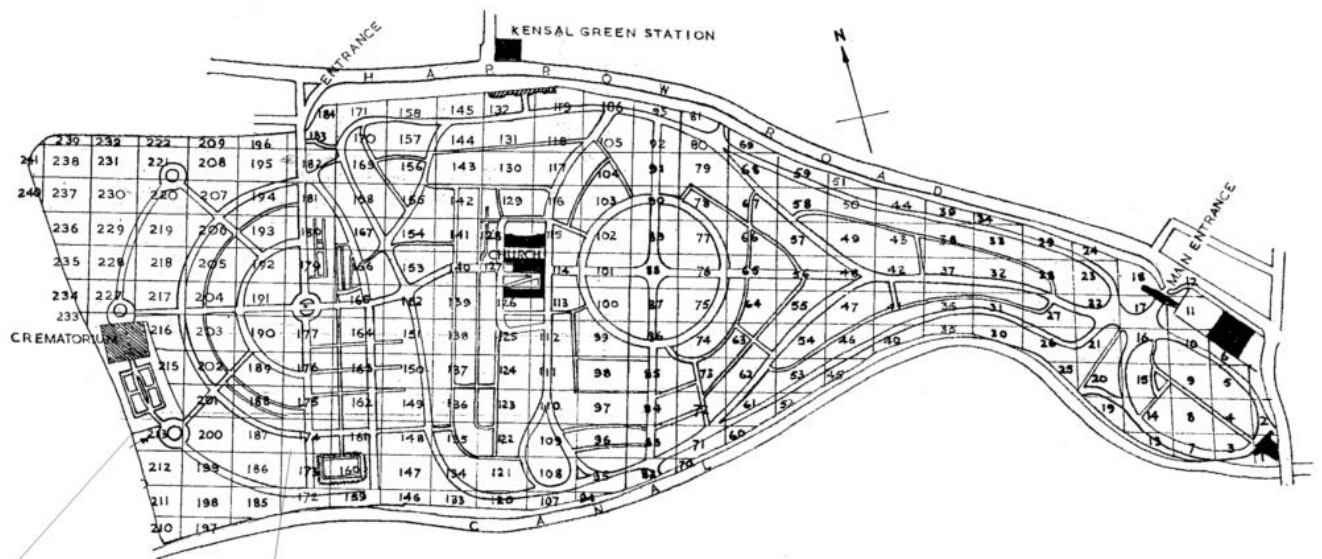
**All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green** (Photo courtesy of Francios Greeff)



Photo of Australian Munition Worker – F. W. Coare's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England.



*(Photo by Len Scott)*



Sect. 213 : Main U.K. and N.Z. Plot.  
 Sect. 173 and 174 : Main Dominion Plot