

**Kirkdale Cemetery,
Liverpool, Lancashire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



J. L. HUNTER

AUSTRALIAN MUNITION WORKER

1ST APRIL, 1918

James Luke HUNTER

James Luke Hunter was born near the town of Galashiels, Roxborough, Scotland (as listed on Attestation Papers).

[Note: There is insufficient information to correctly identify James Luke Hunter's birth, parents or Census entries. Also there is a discrepancy with his age – he stated he was 43 in 1915, however his death registration recorded his age as 52 in 1918]

James Luke Hunter stated he was aged 43 years & 11 months, single & a Labourer when he enlisted on 6th December, 1915 at Townsville, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs N. Mahin, North Ward, Townsville, Queensland. His Medical Examination found "*Dental treatment necessary.*" James Hunter stated he had served with Black Watch for 2 years & had purchased his discharge.

Private James Luke Hunter was posted to No. 9 Depot Battalion – "D" Company on 8th December, 1915 for recruit training.

Private James Luke Hunter was charged with an Offence at Rifle Range, Enoggera for being Drunk in Lines. He was confined to Camp for 48 hours from 4th February, 1916.

Private James Luke Hunter was transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 15th Battalion on 11th March, 1916. Private Hunter was transferred to Reserve Company on 23rd April, 1916.

Major R. H. Walsh & Major J. A. Milne, of Camp Headquarters, Enoggera, Queensland wrote to The Camp Commandant. Enoggera on 20th April, 1916 with the following: "We certify that we have examined Hunter, James Luke of the Reserve Company, and that in our opinion he is not suitable for Active Service. We therefore recommend that he is discharged from the A.I.F. as "*not likely to become an efficient soldier.*"

Captain Hunt, Camp Adjutant, replied to Officer Commanding, Reserve Company, Chermside Camp on 2nd May, 1916 advising "*Approval having been received for the discharge of Hunter, James Luke the file is forwarded you herewith for preparation of discharge...On completion of these papers please have the man paraded at Camp Headquarters in charge of a N.C.O., so that his discharge may be formally confirmed. Men for discharged are to be normally paraded between 2 and 4 pm.*"

Private James Luke Hunter was formally discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 4th May, 1916.

James Luke Hunter applied for enrolment as a Muniton Worker in Great Britain.

[Note: At the time of researching, the Munitions file for James Luke Hunter was not free to view. Once a payment is made to view the file then it is free for all to view.]

James Luke Hunter was accepted as a Muniton Worker & was issued a number of 1506. (refer to newspaper item below - August, 1917)

Australian Munitions Worker James Luke Hunter died on 1st April, 1918.

A death for James L. Hunter, aged 52, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Liverpool, Lancashire, England.

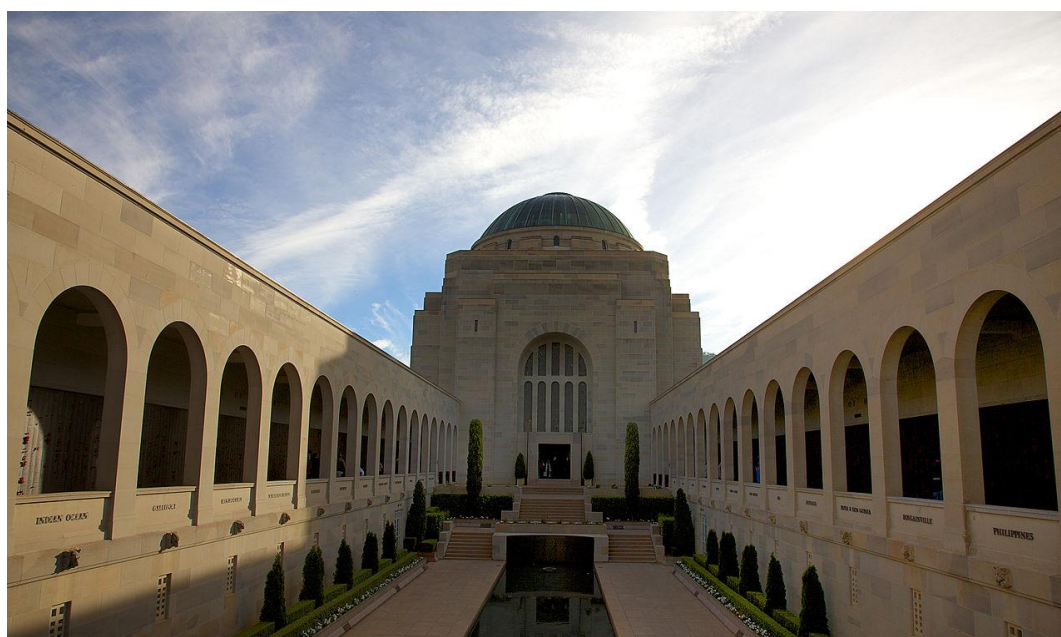
Australian Munitions Worker James Luke Hunter was buried in Kirkdale Cemetery, Liverpool, England – Plot number VII. C.E. 7. & has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Worker James Luke Hunter, Australian Muniton Worker. No family details are listed.

Australian Munitions Worker James Luke Hunter, Service number 1506, 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)



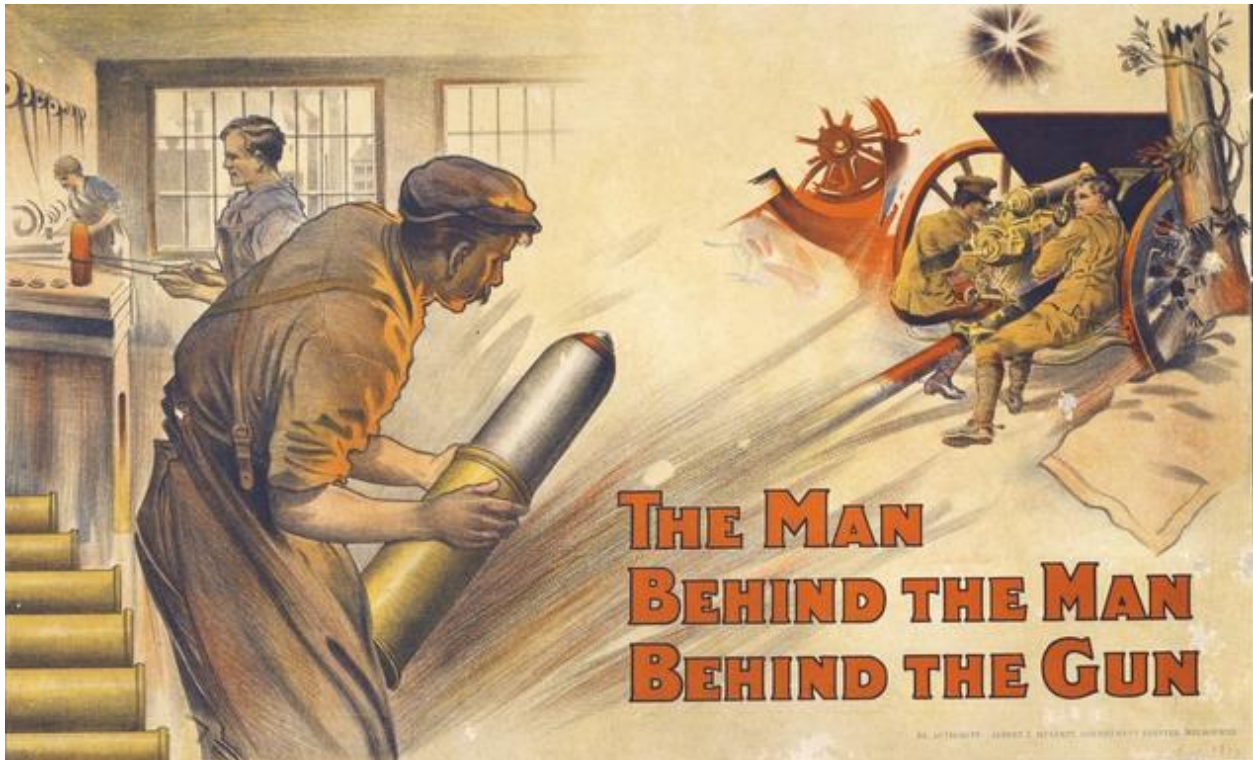
Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)

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.

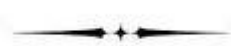
These men were not members of the Australian Imperial Forces and did not serve in combat units, but were recruited to meet the shortfall in skilled labour that threatened many of Britain's key wartime industries including munitions. *(Source: Australian War Memorial)*



*** Note – The Service Record file for Worker James Luke Hunter, Australian Muniton Worker No. 1506, 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.*

(17 pages of Private James Luke Hunter's Australian Imperial Force Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll) & National Archives



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)

NORTHERN VOLUNTEERS

Thirty one volunteers left by the Wodonga on Monday for Enoggera, their names and districts being as follows:-

Townsville – Clarence Cahill, Gilbert Henry Camp, John Campbell, Arthur William Cowell, William John Dwyer, **James Luke Hunter**.....

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 7 December, 1915)

Northern Soldiers

ENTERTAINED AT DINNER

The Cafe Majestic was filled to its utmost capacity last night with soldiers from Lower Burdekin— Ayr, Brandon, Inkerman, Cromarty— and Townsville districts. Each camp was represented, and though at one time it looked as if the applicants for admission would be more than the big room would accommodate, every man whose name had been submitted, found a seat ; in fact, 70 men who were late in responding to the invitation, were not disappointed.

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The chair was occupied by Sir Robert Philp, and amongst those seated near him were Major Pendlebury (D.A.A.G.), Major O'Mahonev, Major A. T. Jackson, Lieutenant Hibbard, Lieutenant Patterson, Lieutenant Luxmoore, Messrs. J. Botten, A. T. Bishop, C. Philp, and others. The guest included the following soldiers:-

H. L. Sleigh, G. H. Camp, E. J. Lindford, **J. L. Hunter**, F. Cobb,

Sir Robert Philp said the great deeds already accomplished by the Australians would be emulated by these men. He was satisfied that the Allies were going to win the war. Whenever a reverse occurred recruits came forward with a rush. The men from North Queensland and from the backblocks had responded better than the townsmen. He would like to see the citizens of Brisbane do a little more. The men present were all men who had gone of their own free will. There was no coercion needed to make them go. Until Germany was completely beaten there would be no peace. All the Empire's resources were needed in order that the fight might be won. Australia and Canada had done great service for the Empire, and would do more. He hoped than the northern men. would avenge those who had fallen on Gallipoli, and that they would carry the Australian flag into Berlin.

Major Pendlebury said that he was pleased that the commandant had delegated him to attend the function, which certainly evinced painstaking organisation, the heartiest recognition-judging from the vast attendance— and keen appreciation. It was a happy idea to get men together as they were assembled that night. The appearance of the men was most creditable to themselves and to the districts which they represented. It was the policy of his department to sec that comrades were kept together, when it was practicable. He eulogised the North Queenslanders, and said he was proud of the northern portion of the continent for its splendid response to the Empire's call. He emphasised the value and the necessity of discipline.

Major Jackson spoke of the contribution or men from rifle clubs. Many clubs in the north has so many representatives either at the front or in the training camps that they were either at their wit's end to make up the efficiency number, or were composed of men who were not on the roll 18 months ago.

Lieutenant Luxmoore related some of his Gallipoli experiences.

Mr. Joseph Botten said the idea of a Christmas reunion originated at the dinner given about six weeks ago by their chairman of that evening. Mr R. McKinnon was present at that function, and handed the speaker a cheque which was the nucleus of the fund which provided the entertainment. The Delta (S.C.) and Townsville (B.C.) Masonic lodges at Ayr and Townsville respectively had sent handsome donations, and desired him to convey to the soldiers present the members' greetings, and best wishes.

Letters of apologies for their absence were received from Sir Alfred Cowley and Mr. Mackenzie Lees, who each sent a donation of two guineas.

Songs were given by Messrs. Graham, Williams, Blake, and L. Lowth, Miss L. Fegan contributed a spirited recruiting recitation "Me," a humorous encore number "He Didn't," and a very fine rendering of "How Liege Held the Road." Mr. Botten's recitation was "The Hell Gates of Soissons." At the conclusion of Miss Fegan's number the soldiers' bouquet was presented to the lady by Sergeant Charlie Jameson.

Cheers for Miss Fegan, Sir Robert Philp, Mr. Joseph Botten, the committee, and donors were followed by "God Save the King" and "Auld Lang Syne," and at 10.30 the happy reunion was over.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 December, 1915)

RECRUITING IN MARYBOROUGH

The following were accepted yesterday at the local Drill Shed for active service:- Walter Thompson (Bundaberg), Harold James Thomas (Bundaberg), John Connolly (Childers), **James Luke Hunter was accepted for munition making in England.**

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 22 August, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Australian Munition Worker J. L. Hunter has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Kirkdale Cemetery, Liverpool, Lancashire, England

In December 1914, Liverpool became one of the 21 Auxiliary Patrol Bases and in February 1915, the base of the 10th Cruiser Squadron. During the Second World War, Liverpool was headquarters of Western Approaches Command and a manning depot for officers and men of the Merchant Navy who agreed to serve with the Royal Navy for the duration of the war.

A large Canadian hospital, which became No. 5 Canadian General Hospital, opened at Kirkdale in July 1917 and of the 391 First World War burials in Liverpool (Kirkdale) Cemetery, more than 100 are Canadian. Of the remainder, 82 are of officers and men of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment. About half of the graves from this period are scattered throughout the cemetery and the rest are contained in two war graves plots, where the names of the dead are recorded on Screen Wall panels. There are also 115 Second World War burials in the cemetery, nine of them in one of the First World War plots, the rest scattered.

This cemetery also contains nine war graves of other nationalities. Originally, there were many more, including American and German from the First World War and Belgian from both wars, but these were later removed to other national cemeteries in the United Kingdom or repatriated to their home country.

(Information from CWGC)



Kirkdale Cemetery (Photo by Phil Nash)



CWGC Screen Wall in Kirkdale Cemetery (Photo by Eirian Evans)

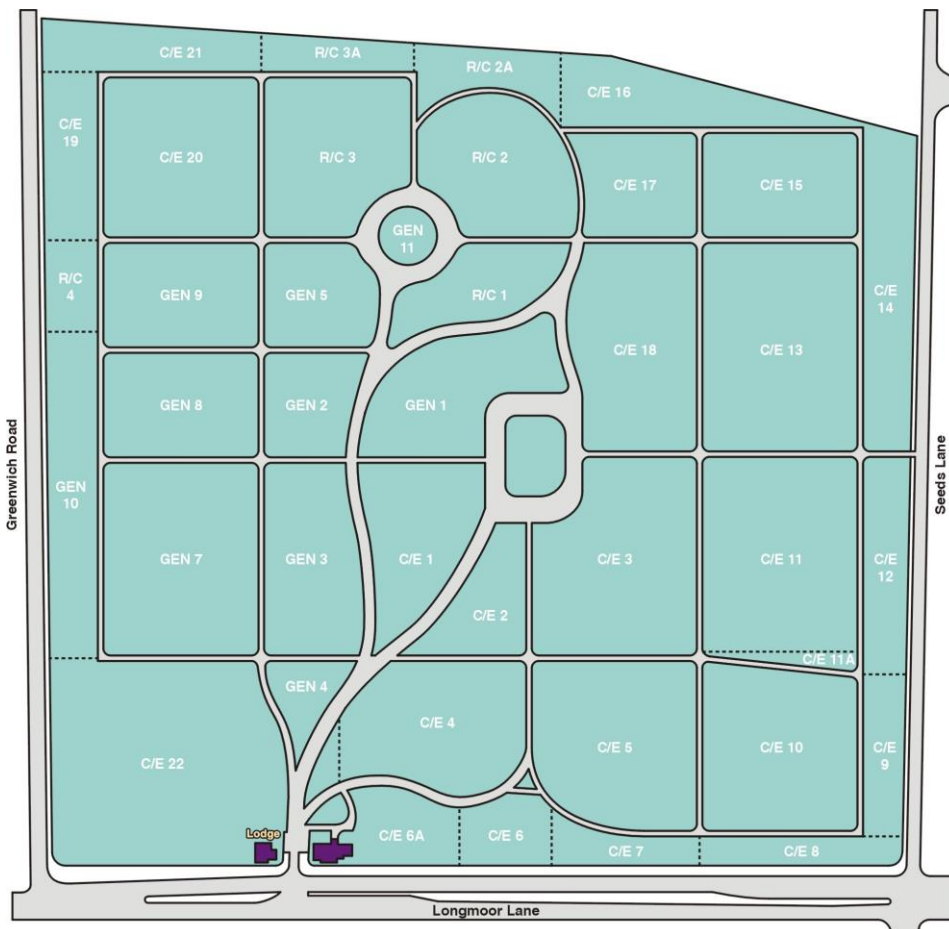
Photo of Australian Munition Worker J. L. Hunter's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Kirkdale Cemetery, Liverpool, Lancashire, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – EMB)



CWGC Information Board in Kirkdale Cemetery (Photo by Phil Nash)



Kirkdale Cemetery