

**Campdown Cemetery,  
Charlestown, Cornwall**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3668 CORPORAL**

**R. S. COOMBES**

**AUSTRALIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS**

**24TH APRIL, 1921**

## Reginald Sydney COOMBES

Reginald Sydney Coombes was born at Charlestown, near St. Austell, Cornwall, England in 1890 to parents Charles Frederick Beswarrick & Mary Harvey Coombes. (Father's name as shown on Certified Extract of the Marriage Certificate in the Service Record file for Reginald Sydney Coombes. Charles Frederick Beswarrick was listed as a Mariner).

The 1891 England Census recorded Reginald Coombes as a 5 month old living with his Mother & grandmother at Charlestown, St. Austell, Cornwall, England. His widowed grandmother was listed as head of the household – Hannah Coombes (Housekeeper, aged 57) & his mother was listed as Mary H. Coombes (Single, Dressmaker, aged 19, born St. Austell, Cornwall). Also listed was Thomas Coombes, son of Hannah & brother of Mary (Engineer Draughtsman, aged 22).

Reginald Sydney Coombes' mother Mary Harvey Coombes married Samuel Beswarrick in the March quarter, 1901 in the district of St. Austell, Cornwall, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Reginald Coombes as a 10 year old, living with his family at Charlestown, St. Austell, Cornwall, England. His widowed grandmother was listed as head of the household – Hannah Coombes (aged 67). His mother was listed as Mary Beswarrick (Married, aged 30) along with her husband Samuel Beswarrick (Blacksmith, aged 42).

The 1911 England Census recorded Reginald Coombes as a 20 year old Wheelwright, boarding at Charlestown, St. Austell, Cornwall, England. The head of the household was listed as Samuel Beswarick (Blacksmith, aged 51) along with his wife Mary Beswarick (aged 39). Samuel & Mary had been married for 10 years & Mary had listed she had 4 children – (Reginald), Marguerite Beswarick (aged 7), Colin Beswarick (aged 6) & Dorothy Beswarick (aged 4).

Reg. S. Coombes, aged 21, from St. Austell, was a passenger on *Ascania* which had departed from the port of Southampton, England on 27th August, 1912, bound for Quebec, Montreal. Reg. S. Coombes had listed his country of intended future permanent residence as USA. Reginald S. Coombes, aged 21, was listed as a passenger on *Ascania*, which had arrived at the port of Quebec, Canada on 6th September, 1912. The manifest of the *Ascania* which arrived at the port of Quebec, Canada on 6th September, 1912 recorded Reginald S. Coombes, aged 21, Carpenter. His town of last residence was recorded as Charlestown & the name & address of the nearest relative was listed as step-father Samuel Beswarick, Charlestown, Cornwall. Reginald's final destination was listed as Gilbert.

Reginald Sydney Coombes was a 25 year old, single, Wheelwright from People's Palace, Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Casula, Sydney, NSW on 31st January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3668 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Harvey Biswarick, of Charlestown, Cornwall, England.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes was posted to "E" Company, Depot Battalion on 31st January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "D" Company, Depot Battalion on 9th February, 1916 then transferred to No. 4 Signalling School on 3rd March, 1916. Private Coombes was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 30th Battalion on 27th June, 1916.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ballarat (A70)* on 5th August, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 30th September, 1916.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes, of Codford, Wiltshire, married Violet Henrietta Vincent, of Langton Terrace, Penwerris, Cornwall on 25th October, 1916 in the Parish Church of Penwerris, Cornwall, England.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes was classified as Class A on 4th January, 1917 while at 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England. He was marched out from 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott on 12th January, 1917 &

marched in to A.A.S.C. (Australian Army Service Corp) Training Depot, No. 4 Camp at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 12th January, 1917.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 18th March, 1917 on *Princess Henrietta* to reinforce Motor Transport Section A.A.S.C. from A.A.S.C. Training Depot at Parkhouse. He disembarked at Rouen, France on 18th March, 1917 & was marched in to B.M.T.D. (Base Motor Transport Depot) at Rouen on 19th March, 1917.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes was detached to 2nd A.S.C. Repair Shops at Rouen on 21st March, 1917.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes was attached to 1st B. M. T. D. on 8th December, 1917.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes was on leave to UK from 31st January, 1918 to 15th February, 1918.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes was marched to A.C.T.S. Col. (Australian Corps Troops Supply Column) on 24th February, 1918 & taken on strength from 1st Base M.T. Depot on 25th February, 1918.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes was transferred & taken on strength of 1st Australian Divisional M. T. (Motor Transport) Company in France on 12th March, 1918.

The next-of-kin for Private Reginald Sydney Coombes was altered in March, 1918 from his mother – Mrs M. H. Beswarick to his wife – Mrs Violet H. Coombes, of 7 Langton Terrace, Falmouth, Cornwall, England.

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes was appointed Artificer (Wheeler) on 24th March, 1918.

Artificer Reginald Sydney Coombes was transferred to Australian C.T.M.T. Coy. (Corps Troops Motor Transport Company) on 26th March, 1918. He was taken on strength from 1st A.D.M.T. Coy the same day.

Violet Henrietta Coombes, wife of Artificer Reginald Sydney Coombes, died on 11th October, 1918 in Falmouth, Cornwall, England. She was buried in St. Budock Churchyard, Budock, Cornwall, England.

Artificer Reginald Sydney Coombes was on leave to UK from 19th October, 1918.

Artificer Reginald Sydney Coombes was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 1st March, 1919 vice Steel promoted while posted with 6th M. T. Company.

Temporary Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was promoted to Corporal on 22nd March, 1919.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was transferred to 4th M.T. Company on 24th May, 1919. He was taken on strength from 6th A. M.T. Coy. the same day.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was on leave from Belgium to UK from 1st August, 1919 & rejoined from leave on 17th August, 1919.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was paid A.A.S.C. M. T. on 13th October, 1919.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was on Nominal Roll in France 21/22 November, 1919.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was granted leave from 2nd December, 1919 to 9th December, 1919. The balance of leave to make up 21 days due to members of Graves (Detachment) Service to be granted on disembarkation in Australia.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was transferred to UK from France on 30th November, 1919 for demobilization. He was eligible on 30th November, 1919 for 15 days extra disembarkation leave under Circular Memo 30.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was taken on strength of Furlo Dept on 2nd December, 1919 for Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was due to report to Furlo Section at 10 am on 10th December, 1919 & was granted Troopship leave subject to recall.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was to return to Australia from England on Troopship *Megantic*. He did not embark.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes left England on Troopship *Friedrichstadt* on 22nd January, 1920 for the return to Australia. He disembarked at Sydney, NSW, Australia on 12th March, 1920.

Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force in Sydney, NSW, Australia on 19th May, 1920 due to termination of period of enlistment.

A handwritten note, undated, in the Service Record file for Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes, which was located with the blank Hospital Admissions form & with page 39 of 47 reads: "Coombes. *Has had attacks of tachycardia. Two attacks of pain over cardiac area. Has done 6mts training in Signalling School, Sound otherwise. ? – the first sound over the apex. An attack of rheumatic fever years ago.*"

Reginald Sydney Coombes, Wheelwright, aged 29, from Australia was a passenger on the *Walmer Castle* which arrived at the port of Southampton, England on 23rd August, 1920. He had embarked from the port of Natal.

Ex-Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes died on 24th April, 1921 as per date on Death Certificate. (Note: The private headstone kerbing has the date of death as 25th April, 1921.)

A death for Reginald S. Coombes, aged 30, was registered in the June quarter, 1921 in the district of St. Austell, Cornwall, England.

1917	Twenty fourth April 1921 Charlestown St Austell RD	Reginald Sydney Coombes	Male	30 years	a Wheelwright (journeyman)	(1) Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Certified by A. H. Shaw M.D.	J. Beswarick - Stepfather in attendance Charlestown St Austell	Twenty Fifth April 1921
------	---	-------------------------------	------	-------------	----------------------------------	--	---	----------------------------------

(Death Certificate kindly purchased & supplied by John Rowe)

Ex-Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was buried in Campsdown Cemetery, Charlestown, Cornwall, England – Plot number A.11.4 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Ex-Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes – service number 3668, of 4th M. T. Coy, Australian Army Service Corps. He was the son of Mrs M. H. Beswarick, of 85 Charlestown Rd., St. Austell, Cornwall.

Private R. S. Coombes is not commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia as he died after the cut-off date for the Roll of Honour – being 31st March, 1921 and was no longer a member of the Australian Armed Forces having been discharged.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. Coombes is remembered on the Charlestown and Holmbush War Memorial, located at St. Paul's Church, Charlestown, Cornwall, England.



**Charlestown and Holmbush War Memorial** (Photos from War Memorials Online)

R. Coombe is remembered on the St. Austell War Memorial, located at Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, St. Austell, Cornwall, England.





**St. Austell War Memorial** (Photos from War Memorials Online)

(47 pages of Corporal Reginald Sydney Coombes' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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.

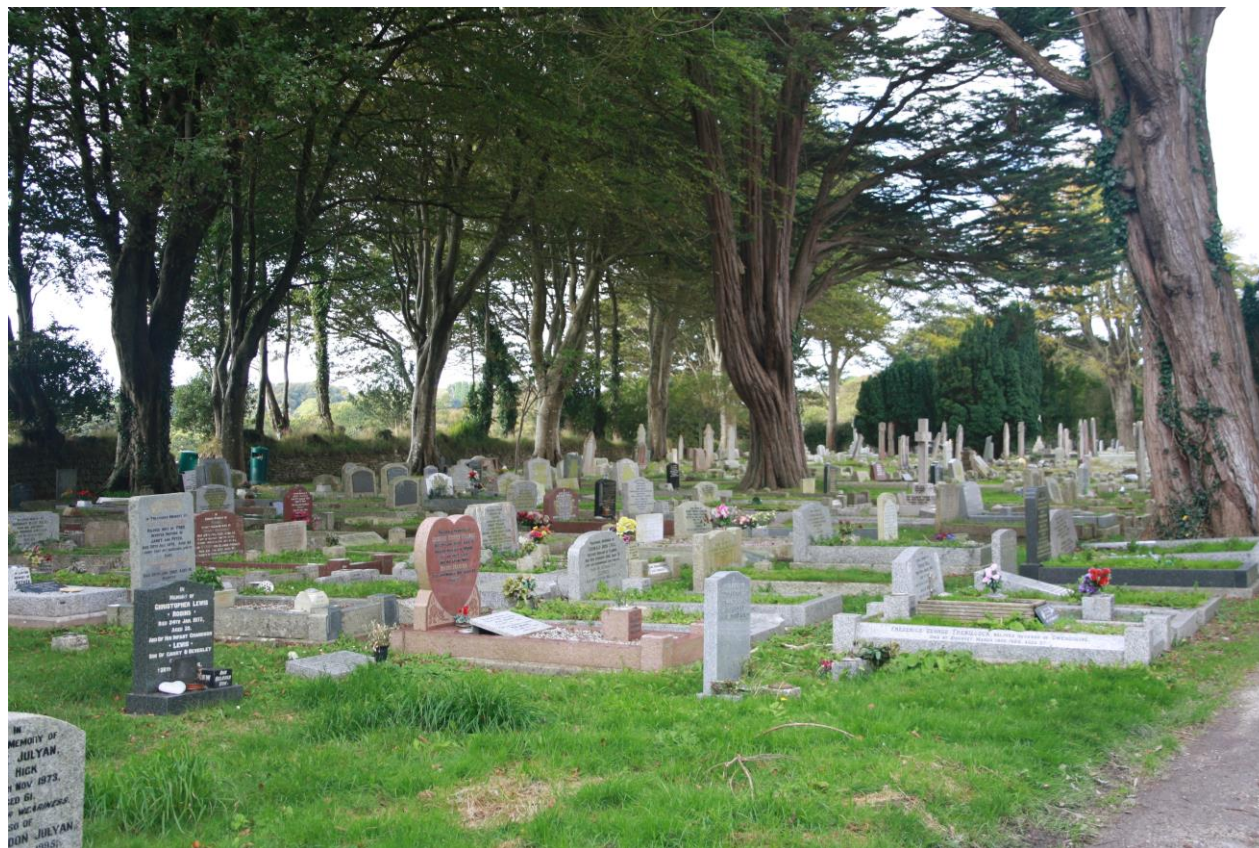
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly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

Private Reginald Sydney Coombes has a Private Headstone.

## Campdown Cemetery, Charlestown, Cornwall, England

Campdown Cemetery, Charlestown contains 12 Commonwealth War Graves – six from World War 1 & six from World War 2.



**Campdown Cemetery, Charlestown** (Photo by kernowmaid – Find a Grave)

Photo of Private Reginald S. Coombes' Private Headstone in Campdown Cemetery, Charlestown, Cornwall, England.



(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)

*Reginald S. Coombes, A.I.F. Died April 25, 1921. Aged 31.*

Inscription on end reads "War Aftermath"

(Note: Date of death should be April 24, 1921)



*(Photo by kernowmaid – Find a Grave)*



Photo of the headstone of Violet Henrietta Coombes, wife of Artificer Reginald Sydney Coombes, who died on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 in Falmouth, Cornwall, England. She was buried in St. Budock Churchyard, Budock, Cornwall, England.



(Photo by sanrock – Find a Grave)



*In Memory Of*

*Violet Henrietta,*

*The Dearly Loved Wife Of*

*Reginald Sydney Coombes, A.I.F.*

*Who Died Oct. 11TH, 1918*

*Aged 27 Years*