

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,  
Tidworth, Wiltshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2515 PRIVATE**

**C. W. G. BLAKE**

**29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 27**

## Charles William Gilbert BLAKE

Charles William Gilbert Blake was born around 1888/1889\*\* to parents Benjamin Gilbert and Elizabeth Jane Blake.

*[According to details provided by his re-married widow for the Roll of Honour – Myrtle Jessie Boulton stated Charles William Gilbert Blake was born at Chesham, England. The CWGC have recorded that Charles William Gilbert Blake was born in England, however Charles William Gilbert Blake recorded on his Attestation Papers that he was born at Burwood East, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.]*

*[It is believed that Charles William Gilbert Blake was born to Elizabeth Jane Blake who was unmarried at the time of his birth. Assuming his father was Benjamin Gilbert (Gilbert being his surname & not a middle name). His mother was listed as next-of-kin when Charles enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force – under the name of Elizabeth Gilbert.]*

The 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Mitcham, Victoria listed Charles William Blake, Tile Packer, from Springvale Rd, Tunstall.

Charles William Gilbert Blake was a 26 year old, single, Tile Packer when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 16th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2515 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Gilbert, 60 York Street, St. Kilda, Victoria.

Charles William Gilbert Blake married Myrtle Jessie Fankhauser on 2nd August, 1915 in East Burwood, Victoria.

Newspaper Marriage Notice – *The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 August, 1915:

### **MARRIAGES**

*BLAKE – FANKHAUSER – On the 2nd August, at the Methodist Church, East Burwood, by the Rev. T. Green, Charles William Gilbert, son of Benjamin Gilbert Blake, of St. Kilda, to Myrtle Jessie, daughter of Mrs F. A. Fankhauser, of Burwood East.*

Private Charles William Gilbert Blake was posted to H.Q. Company Depot at Ascot Vale on 3rd August, 1915. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 10th March, 1916.

Private Charles William Gilbert Blake embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 14th March, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 15th April, 1916.

### **29th Battalion**

The 29th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria on 10 August 1915. Having enlisted as part of the recruitment drive that followed the landing at Gallipoli, and having seen the casualty lists, these were men who had offered themselves in full knowledge of their potential fate.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Charles William Gilbert Blake embarked from Alexandria on H.M.T. *Franconia* on 6th June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th June, 1916.

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 Charles William Gilbert Blake was examined & classed as fit for active service on 16th August, 1916 at Camp 28, Lark Hill, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, England.

Private Charles William Gilbert Blake was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 16th August, 1916 with Epilepsy – seriously ill. He was transferred on 26th August, 1916 with Hospital Admissions form recording – Abscess of Brain.

Private Charles William Gilbert Blake was admitted to Lucknow Isolation Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 26th August, 1916 with a Cerebral Abscess. A entry on the Casualty Form – Active Service dated 27th August, 1916 reads: “ S.M.O. Hd Qtrs A.I.F. Tidworth - dangerously ill.”

Private Charles William Gilbert Blake died on 28th August, 1916 at Lucknow Isolation Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Abscess of Brain. (Note: Some forms have recorded that he died of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis).

A death for Charles W. G. Blake, aged 28, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire, England.

Private Charles William Gilbert Blake was buried in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 183 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Letters were sent to both the late Private Charles William Gilbert Blake’s widow & mother, advising them of brief details of his death & burial.

Mrs E. Gilbert, 60 York Street, St. Kilda, Victoria, mother of Private Charles William Gilbert Blake, was advised by Base Records on 6th September, 1916 that Private C. W. G. Blake was dangerously ill suffering from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. J. Boulton (remarried widow of the late Private Blake), Post Office, Modella, via Longwarry, Victoria on 21st December, 1921 stating: “*I shall be obliged if you will let me know whether you have any objections to the war medals, etc. of the late No. 2515 Private C.W.G. Blake, 29th Battalion, being handed over to his mother who was nominated as next-of-kin...*”

Myrtle Jessie Boulton replied to Base Records on 9th January, 1922 regarding the War medals stating “*I am quite willing she should receive them & would be glad if you will notify her in this respect.*”

[Myrtle Jessie Blake remarried in 1918 to Leslie Joseph George Boulton.]

Communications addressed to Mrs E. Gilbert, 60 York Street, St. Kilda, Victoria from Base Records in January, 1922 were returned “not known”. Base Records found that the War Gratuity file for the late Private Charles William Gilbert Blake was listed as 52 Puckle Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria.

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. Gilbert, 52 Puckle Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria, on 8th February, 1922 stating “*I have to inform you that the widow of your son, the late No. 2515 Private C. W. G. Blake, 29th Battalion, has communicated with this office relinquishing her claims to the deceased’s War Medals, etc., in your favour, and arrangements are being made for their transmission to you as they become available. I would suggest that you write Mrs Boulton, of Modella, via Longwarry, Victoria, acknowledging her courteous action in the matter.*”

The personal effects of the late Private Charles William Gilbert Blake were sent to his mother - Mrs E. Gilbert, 60 York Street, St. Kilda, Victoria.

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. J. Boulton (remarried widow of the late Private Blake), Post Office, Modella, via Longwarry, Victoria on 16th September, 1922 stating *"It is understood that the correct name of the late No. 2515 Private C. W. G. Blake, 129th Battalion, is C. H. GILBERT, and should you desire same added to the records, it will be necessary for you to furnish a Statutory Declaration (which must be signed in the presence of a Justice of the Peace) embodying the soldier's correct name."*

T. & G. Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited, Melbourne, Victoria wrote to Base Records on 21st September, 1916 to request the Certificate of Death in connection with Charles William Gilbert Blake.

Base Records replied on 17th October, 1916 enclosing a copy of the certificate of report of death of the late No. 2515, Private C.W.G. Blake, 29th Battalion.

A War Pension was granted to Myrtle Jessie Blake, Springvale Rd, Burwood East, widow of the late Private Charles William Gilbert Blake, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 13th November, 1916.

Private Charles William Gilbert Blake was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Blake's mother – Mrs E. Gilbert, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

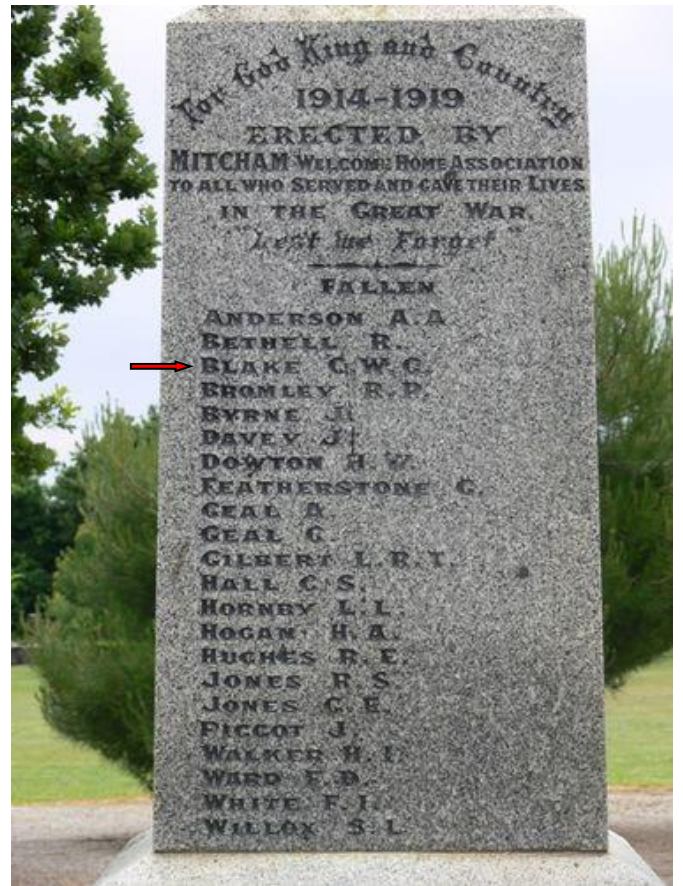
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles William Gilbert Blake – service number 2515, aged 27, of 29th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Benjamin Gilbert and Elizabeth Jane Blake.

Private C. W. G. Blake is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 115.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

C. W. G. Blake is remembered on the Mitcham War Memorial, located in Halliday Park, Mitcham Road, Mitcham, Victoria.



**Mitcham War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)

C. W. G. Blake is remembered on the Box Hill War Memorial, located in Box Hill Gardens, Nelson Road, Box Hill, Victoria.

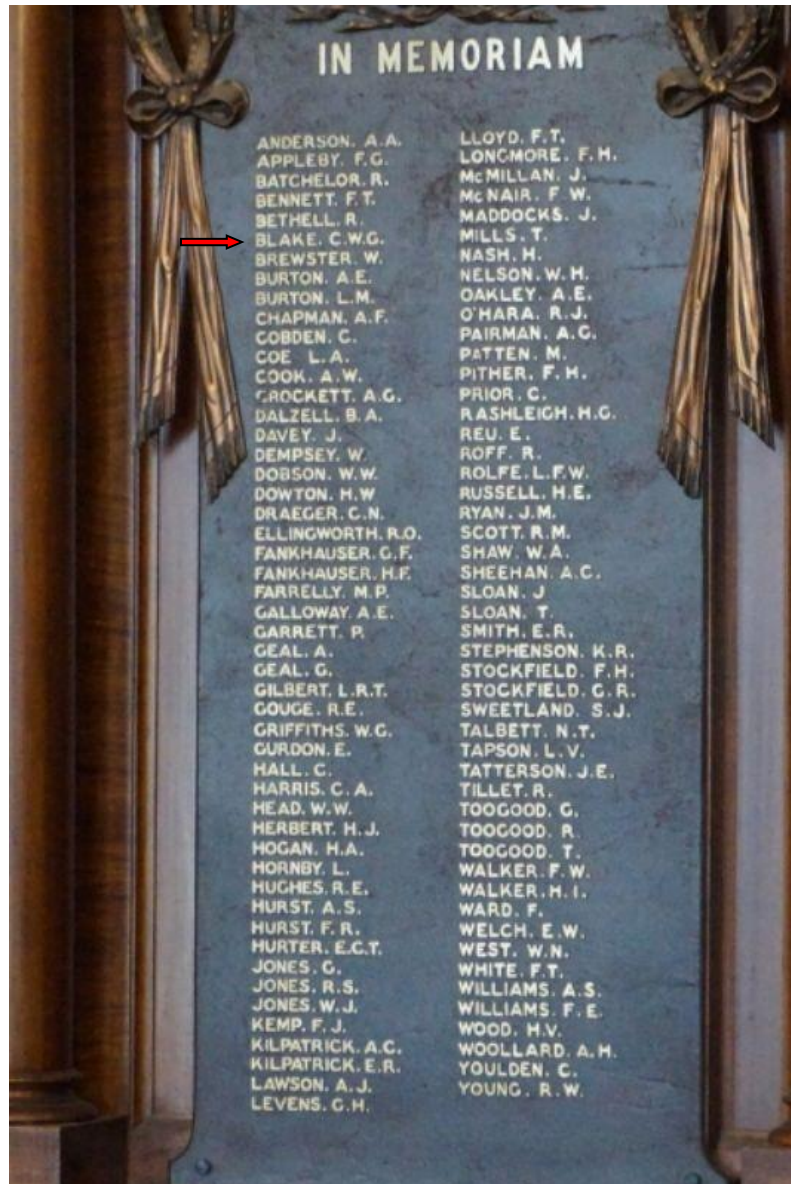


**Box Hill War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)

C. W. G. Blake is remembered Shire of Nunawading Honour Roll, located in Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, Victoria.

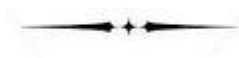


Shire of Nunawading Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



(74 pages of Private Charles William Gilbert Blake's 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **ON THE FIELD OF HONOR**

#### **214th & 215th OFFICIAL LISTS**

DANGEROUSLY ILL

VICTORIA

Pte Blake, C. W. G., St Kilda

*(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 19 September, 1916)*

---

### **DEATHS**

#### **On Active Service**

BLAKE – On the 28th August, at Sidworth General Hospital, England, of cerebro-spinal meningitis, Private Charles W. G. Blake, dearly beloved husband of Myrtle Jessie Blake, of East Burwood, and loved son of Mr and Mrs Gilbert, St. Kilda.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria -19 September, 1916)*

---

### **THE 219th CASUALTY LIST**

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private C. W. G. Blake, St. Kilda

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 27 September, 1916)*

---

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

*(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 4th July, 1921, to Mrs M. J. Blake, Spring Vale Road, East Burwood, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late No. 2515 Private C. W. G. Blake, 29th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private C. W. G. Blake does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England**

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

*(Information from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

*The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.*





**Tidworth Military Cemetery** (Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



**Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo courtesy of *John Prestidge*)



**Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire** *(Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)*



*(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)*

Photo of Private C. W. G. Blake's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)*

