

**Queensferry Cemetery,
Edinburgh, Scotland,
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2127 ORDINARY SEAMAN

WILLIAM KENNETH BUCK

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA"

10TH MARCH, 1915 Age 17

Erected By His Shipmates

As A Token Of Their Respect

William Kenneth BUCK

William Kenneth Buck was born on 28th April, 1897 at Devonport West, Tasmania to parents William Henry Buck & Sarah Buck (nee Stephenson).

Sarah Buck, mother of William Kenneth Buck, died on 27th October, 1902.

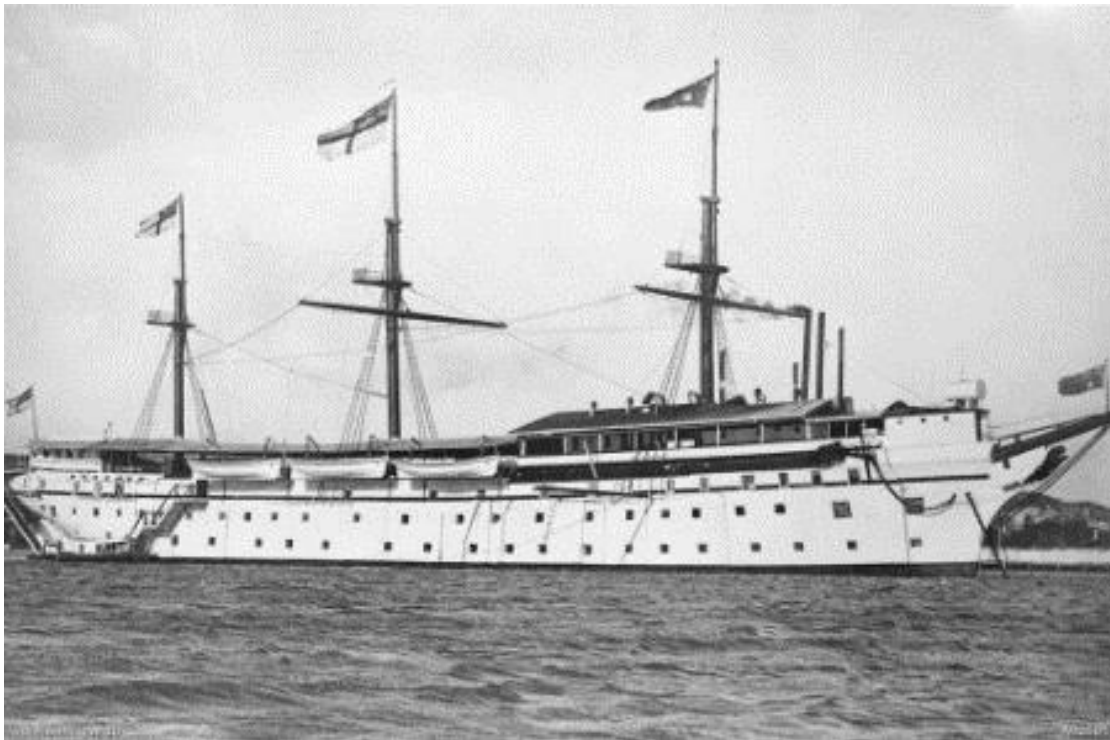
William Kenneth Buck was aged 15 years when he enlisted with the Royal Australian Navy on 9th September, 1912 for a period of 7 years, following his 18th birthday. His service number was 2127. William Kenneth Buck was 5ft 7 ½" with fair hair, blue eyes & a fair complexion. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. H. Buck of Dufton, Latrobe, Tasmania.

William Kenneth Buck joined H.M.A.S. *Tingira* on 9th September, 1912 as Boy 2nd Class. He was promoted to Boy 1st Class on 23rd June, 1913. His character was assessed as very good & his ability as satisfactory on 14th October, 1913.

H.M.A.S. *Tingira*

H.M.A.S. *Tingira* (an aboriginal word for "open sea") was a training ship commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy. Previously the *Sobraon* carried cargo and passengers between Australia & the United Kingdom once a year between 1866 & 1891. The *Sobraon* had been purchased by the NSW Government in 1891 & was used as a reformatory or Nautical School Ship for wayward boys until 1911.

The Royal Australian Navy refitted the *Sobraon* & was commissioned on 25th April, 1912 as H.M.A.S. *Tingira* & moored in Rose Bay, Sydney. Up to 250 boys between the ages of 14 ½ and 16 could be trained at any time, although the trainee complement rarely exceeded 200. Between 1912 and 1927, 3,158 boys were trained for naval service. As *Tingira* was immobilised, the steam yacht HMAS *Sleuth* was attached to the training ship as a tender, and used to provide seagoing experience to recruits.



H.M.A.S. *Tingira* moored in Rose Bay, Sydney in 1912

Boy 1st Class William Kenneth Buck joined H.M.A.S. *Australia* on 15th October, 1913. He was promoted to Ordinary Seaman 2nd Class on 28th April, 1914.

H.M.A.S. *Australia*

H.M.A.S. *Australia* was launched in 1911 and commissioned as flagship of the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.) in 1913. On completion she sailed for Australia and, on 4 October 1913, led the cruisers and destroyers of the fleet unit into Sydney Harbour to public acclaim.

With the outbreak of the First World War, *Australia* became the flagship of the force that captured the German colonies in the southern Pacific. She led a force which captured Rabaul on 13th September, 1914 before proceeding to Samoa.

In late December, 1914 *Australia* received orders to sail to England via the Pacific and reached Devonport on 28th January, 1915. En route she captured and sank von Spee's supply ship *Eleonore Woermann* off South America. From Devonport *Australia* proceeded to Rosyth in Scotland, where in February, 1915 she became flagship of the 2nd Battle Cruiser Squadron, flying the flag of Rear Admiral Sir William Pakenham, KCB, MVO. The squadron, as initially formed, comprised *Australia* and her two sister ships, HMS *New Zealand* and HMS *Indefatigable*.



H.M.A.S. *Australia* 1914

Ordinary Seaman William Kenneth Buck died on 10th March, 1915 at Linlithgow, West Lothian, Scotland (Source: Australian War Memorial – Roll of Honour) from Pneumonia.

Ordinary Seaman William Kenneth Buck was buried in Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number 575. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission but his headstone was “Erected by his shipmates as a token of their respect”.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Ordinary Seaman William Kenneth Buck – service number 2127, aged 17, of H.M.A.S. “Australia”, Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of William Henry Buck, of Devonport West, Tasmania.

Ordinary Seaman W. K. Buck is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 1. He is one of 117 “boy soldiers” and “boy sailors” who have been identified among the 61,000 names on the Roll of Honour for the First World War.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Wm. Buck is remembered on the West Devonport State School Roll of Honour located in the Devonport RSL Museum, 18 Macfie Street, Devonport, Tasmania.



West Devonport State School Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

W. Buck is remembered on the Devonport War Memorial located in Victoria Park, Victoria Parade, Devonport, Tasmania.



Devonport Cenotaph (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson / Arthur Garland)



Seaman William Buck is remembered on the Devonport Municipality Roll of Honour located Devonport RSL Museum, 18 Macfie Street, Devonport, Tasmania.



Devonport Municipality Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Glenn Morse, Curator & Arthur Garland)

William Kenneth Buck is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

NUMBER	RANK	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	DOB	AGE	UNIT	TOWN	ANZAG
1160	Regt	Baker	Cybil Laffoy	14.08.1914	22	HMAS AET	Maitland	
1153	Pte	Abel	Arthur Edward	09.05.1913	24	15th Inf Bn	Strahan	ANZAG
1041	Pte	Alexander	Arthur John	25.04.1913	29	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAG
1030	L/Cpl	Alexander	Henry	14.10.1913	29	BEP Infantry Regt	West Hobart	ANZAG
2134	Pte	Allen	William John	05.05.1913	39	8th Inf Bn	Launceston	
181	Sgt	Alison	Frank Valentine	29.05.1913	27	12th Inf Bn	Laffoy	ANZAG
1002	Pte	Alison	Owen Bertram	07.04.1913	37	15th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAG
1393	Capt	Anderson	Gerald Gilbert S	20.06.1913	27	1st Aus Cav Cdr Hosp	Hobart	ANZAG
1152	Pte	Anderson	Arthur Leslie	29.05.1913	27	12th Coy AAC	Carrick	ANZAG
2nd Lt	Anderson	Kenneth Henry	09.03.1915	20	12th Inf Bn	Bagdad	ANZAG	
816	Pte	Armstrong	Walter Thomas	15.10.1915	25	15th Inf Bn	Zeehan	
1377	Sgt	Arnot	James Allan	05.08.1915	34	AIF AAMG	Launceston	ANZAG
1151	Pte	Aitken	Thomas Christopher	09.07.1915	22	26th Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAG
1153	Pte	Ayers	John Arthur A	02.05.1915	35	15th Inf Bn	Molloy	ANZAG
373	Tpr	Baker	John	09.05.1915	18	15th Inf Bn	Avoca	ANZAG
1049	Pte	Baker	Thomas Vincent	28.05.1915	21	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Longford	ANZAG
1104	Pte	Baker	Henry John	06.11.1915	22	26th Inf Bn	Paratiah	ANZAG
639	Pte	Balfour	Percy Bridge	08.08.1915	29	15th Inf Bn	Waratah	ANZAG
2152	Pte	Balfour	Frank Clifford	25.04.1915	28	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAG
259	Pte	Bartley	William	08.05.1915	29	6th Inf Bn	Laffroy	ANZAG
2407	Dir	Burwick	Arthur Thomas L	18.05.1915	33	15th Inf Bn	Cyprus	ANZAG
81	Pte	Bax	Alfred George	04.03.1915	20	10th Coy AAC	Hobart	ANZAG
534	Pte	Beard	Edward Frank	22.08.1915	33	18th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAG
10741	Pte	Beard	Charles	09.05.1915	22	1st Lt Horse Regt	Tumby Bay	ANZAG
23	Dvr	Beaumont	Eneast James	30.05.1915	22	NZEF WIR	Zeehan	ANZAG
2271	Pte	Bell	Richard Turner	08.08.1915	38	3rd Fd Coy Engrs	Swanston	ANZAG
2002	Pte	Bennett	William	25.04.1915	21	3rd Fd Coy Engrs	Wynyard	ANZAG
1503	Pte	Benson	John Eric	07.08.1915	21	15th Inf Bn	Uverstone	ANZAG
1248	Pte	Buswick	Leslie James	18.08.1915	43	12th Inf Bn	Claremont	ANZAG
29	Pte	Bushell	Robert	03.09.1915	17	12th Inf Bn	Balfour	ANZAG
254	Cpl	Bethune	Alexander Douglas	18.11.1915	21	26th Inf Bn	Uverstone	ANZAG
833	Pte	Birdwood	Harold George	14.08.1915	22	14th Inf Bn	Moorina	ANZAG
309	Pte	Blackburn	Howard	07.08.1915	39	8th Lt Horse Regt	Hobart	ANZAG
193	Pte	Blake	John Clyde	09.11.1915	22	26th Inf Bn	Newtown	ANZAG
320	Pte	Blake	Ernest Samuel	02.05.1915	28	12th Inf Bn	Devonport	ANZAG
178	Spr	Bowden	Healey Roy	02.05.1915	28	12th Inf Bn	Bothwell	ANZAG
1453	Pte	Bowerman	George	07.09.1915	19	12th Inf Bn	Westbury	ANZAG
97	Pte	Bowman	Vincent	23.07.1915	23	3rd Fd Coy Engrs	Hobart	ANZAG
269	Pte	Bredley	Jack Keith	17.05.1915	23	15th Inf Bn	Hamilton	ANZAG
1512	Pte	Braha	Edward George	09.09.1915	19	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAG
180	Cpl	Briggs	Guy Alfred	25.04.1915	19	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAG
98	L/Cpl	Brooke	Vivian Cyril	24.10.1915	20	22nd Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAG
1259	Pte	Brown	Oliver	28.04.1915	20	12th Inf Bn	Longford	ANZAG
683	Pte	Brown	William John Alder	29.08.1915	27	12th Inf Bn	Newtown	ANZAG
1641	Pte	Brown	Donald Arthur R	30.04.1915	23	15th Inf Bn	Bothwell	ANZAG
1159	Pte	Brown	Harold Bayliff	02.05.1915	29	14th Inf Bn	Hamilton	ANZAG
1269	Pte	Browne	George	09.08.1915	30	15th Inf Bn	Port Esperance	ANZAG
1602	Pte	Bruce	Wyndle James	02.05.1915	22	15th Inf Bn	Hamilton	ANZAG
2127	ABSm	Buck	William Kenneth	13.08.1915	30	15th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAG
99	Pte	Buckpitt	George Kenny	09.08.1915	25	15th Inf Bn	Broadmarsh	ANZAG
101571	Pte	Burridge	Richard Stanley	10.05.1915	17	HMAS Australia	Devonport	ANZAG
10862	Cpl	Burrows	John Henry	05.06.1915	29	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAG
1008	Pte	Byron	John	08.08.1915	28	12th Inf Bn	Richmond	ANZAG
319	Pte	Cameron	William Ernest	08.08.1915	28	NZEF WIR	Ridgely	ANZAG
2nd Lt	Cameron	Cyril Henry	08.08.1915	28	15th Inf Bn	Devonport	ANZAG	
2277	Pte	Camm	James	25.04.1915	39	12th Inf Bn	Pentville	ANZAG
95	Pte	Campbell	Argus Donald M	12.03.1915	23	BEP RH Artillery	Fordoa	ANZAG
				08.08.1915	28	15th Inf Bn	Scottsdale	ANZAG
				28.07.1915	22	12th Inf Bn	Ringarooma	ANZAG
100	Pte	Campbell	Alexander	25.04.1915	19	12th Inf Bn	Port	ANZAG

Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania

Ordinary Seaman W. K. Buck is remembered on Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, located at HMAS Cerberus Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Nelson Road, Crib Point, Victoria.



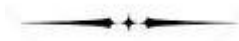
HMAS Cerberus Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Crib Point, Victoria (Photos courtesy of Karen Standen)





Ordinary Seaman William Kenneth Buck (*Weekly Courier, Tasmania – 8th April, 1915*)

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



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIA

H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA

DEATH OF A TASMANIAN

Melbourne March 14

The Navy Office reports the death from pneumonia on March 11 of William Kenneth Buck, ordinary seaman, on H.M.A.S. Australia. Next of kin, father, Mr William Buck, Buckton, Latrobe, Tasmania.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 15 March, 1915)

IN MEMORIAM

BUCK – On March 11, 1915, in hospital, near Edinburgh, Scotland, William Kenneth, of H.M.A.S. Australia – youngest son of Mr and Mrs W. H. Buck, of Devonport, in his 19th year.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 11 March, 1916)

Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland

Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland contains 180 First World War burials, almost all of them naval. There are also eight burials of the Second World War. There are 11 War Graves from World War 1 belonging to members of the Royal Australian Navy.

(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Ordinary Seaman William Kenneth Buck Headstone in Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland. His headstone was erected by his shipmates.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble - 2020)



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble - 2020)