

**Isleworth Cemetery,
Isleworth, Greater London, Middlesex
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2044/A PRIVATE

B. G. BUCKLAND M.M.

46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 27

Never Forgotten Dear Ben

Benjamin George BUCKLAND

Benjamin George Buckland was born at Mitiamo, Victoria on 1st February, 1891 to parents William & Marian Buckland (nee Eldridge).

Benjamin George Buckland attended State School, Victoria.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Wimmera, subdivision of Swan Hill, Victoria listed Benjamin George Buckland, Farmer, of Nangil.

Benjamin George Buckland was a 25 year old, single, Farmer from Piangil, Victoria when he enlisted on 28th February, 1916 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1886 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – William Buckland, Prairie, Victoria.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was posted to 20th Depot Battalion at Castlemaine, Victoria on 28th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 46th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 27th April, 1916.

Private Benjamin George Buckland embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 20th May, 1916 with the 46th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements. Private Buckland was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 8th July, 1916.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was admitted to General Hospital, Devonport, England on 19th July, 1916 with Mumps. He was discharged on 31st July, 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 Benjamin George Buckland was sent sick to Hospital on 29th August, 1916 from 12th Training Battalion, No. 11 Camp at Rollestone, Wiltshire. He was transferred & admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 30th August, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined).

Private Benjamin George Buckland embarked for overseas to France on 22nd September, 1916 from 12th Training Battalion in England. He was marched in to 4th A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) on 24th September, 1916 & joined 46th Battalion at the Front on 4th October, 1916.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was wounded in action on 13th November, 1916. He was admitted to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 13th November, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Face. Private Buckland was transferred then admitted to 8th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 15th November, 1916. He was marked for transfer to England on 19th November, 1916 & embarked from Havre, France on 20th November, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Asturias* with shrapnel wounds to Face & left eye.

46th Battalion

The 46th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 14th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 14th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men from Victoria, although some of the reinforcements hailed from New South Wales and Western Australia.

As part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division, the 46th Battalion arrived in France on 8 June 1916, destined for the Western Front. It participated in its first major battle at Pozieres. Initially, the battalion provided carrying parties for supplies and ammunition during the 2nd Division's attack on 4 August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 46th endured two stints in the heavily contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 46th Battalion

The 46th Battalion were located in the vicinity of Fricourt & Front Line from 12th to 19th November, 1916. During this time Enemy Shelling was “*very active, a practically continuous barrage was maintained between Front Line and GUERDECOURT and on NEEDLE AND PIONEER TRENCH.*”

Casualties for period 12th to 19th November, 1916:

Killed - Officers 1 Other ranks 17

Wounded – Officers 3 Other ranks 33

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Benjamin George Buckland was admitted to 4th Southern General Hospital, England on 21st November, 1916 with a shell wound of eye. He was discharged to Weymouth on 5th January, 1917.

Mr W. Buckland, Prairie, Victoria, father of Private Benjamin George Buckland, was advised by Base Records on 6th December, 1916 that Private B. G. Buckland had been admitted to 4th Southern General Hospital on 21st November, 1916 suffering from shell wound to eye – severe. Mr Buckland was advised by Base Records on 11th December, 1916 that Private B. G. Buckland was progressing favourably.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, Dorset on 5th January, 1917 from 4th Southern General Hospital.

Mr W. Buckland, Prairie, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 15th January, 1917 that his son Private Benjamin G. Buckland was convalescent.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was marched out from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 3rd February, 1917 & marched in to Infantry Draft Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on the same day.

Private Benjamin George Buckland proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 5th April, 1917 from Infantry Draft Depot. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 6th April, 1917. Private Buckland was marched out from 4th A.D.B.D. on 5th May, 1917 to join his Unit & rejoined his Unit on 6th May, 1917 from being wounded.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was On Leave from 30th September, 1917 & returned on 10th October, 1917.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was re-allotted a Regimental number of 2044A.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was reported to be still with 46th Battalion in the Field on 31st May, 1918.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was sent sick to Hospital on 13th October, 1918 whilst on furlough in UK. He was admitted to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, England on 13th October, 1918 with Pneumonia & was dangerously ill. The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Private Buckland had double broncho-pneumonia.

46th Battalion

After Pozieres, the battalion spent the period up until March 1917 alternating between duty in the trenches and training and rest behind the lines. On 11 April it took part in the attack mounted against the heavily defended village of Bullecourt - part of the formidable Hindenburg Line to which the Germans had retreated during February and March. Devoid of surprise, and dependent upon the support of unreliable tanks, the attack had little chance of success; after managing to fight through to its objectives, the 46th was forced to withdraw with heavy casualties. Later in the year, the focus of the AIF's operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium where the 46th took part in the battles of Messines and Passchendaele.

The 46th rotated in and out of the front line throughout the winter of 1917-18. In the spring of 1918, it played a role in turning the great German offensive by defeating attacks around Dernancourt in the first days of April. During the Allied offensive that commenced in August, the 46th also played an active part, fighting in the battle of Amiens on 8

August and in the battle to secure the Hindenburg "outpost line" on 18 September. The battalion was out of the line when the war ended on 11 November, and disbanded in April 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Benjamin George Buckland was recommended for Military Medal on 25th September, 1918. *"During the operations West of BELLENGLISE on 18/19 September, 1918. For bravery and devotion to duty as runner. He carried messages from front line during the attack through heavy enemy barrage fire. He also crossed machine gun swept area to take information to flank Companies. He continued to carry on until utterly exhausted. His grit and determination were very noticeable."*

War Diary – 46th Battalion

.....Casualties for the Operation on 18th September, 1918 – 1 Officer Killed, 5 wounded; 14 Other Ranks killed and 130 wounded.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Benjamin George Buckland died at 9 am on 25th October, 1918 at 2nd Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, Middlesex, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Benjamin G. Buckland, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was buried on 29th October, 1918 in Isleworth Cemetery, Isleworth, Greater London, Middlesex, England – Plot number R.C. 25 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Benjamin George Buckland - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- Mr & Mrs Druce and family; Mr and Mrs A. E. Fenn and family; Mrs Valentine; Dvr F. Buckland, Pte D. Buckland. Relatives and friends were present at the graveside, and the Rev: D. B. Blackwood officiated. The Last Post was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives or Friends present at the Funeral – Mr & Mrs Druce & family, E. McFenn, Mr & Mrs A. J. Fenn.

Private Benjamin George Buckland was awarded the Military Medal – Commonwealth of Australia Gazette – 10 October, 1919. London Gazette – 17 June, 1919.

Military Medal

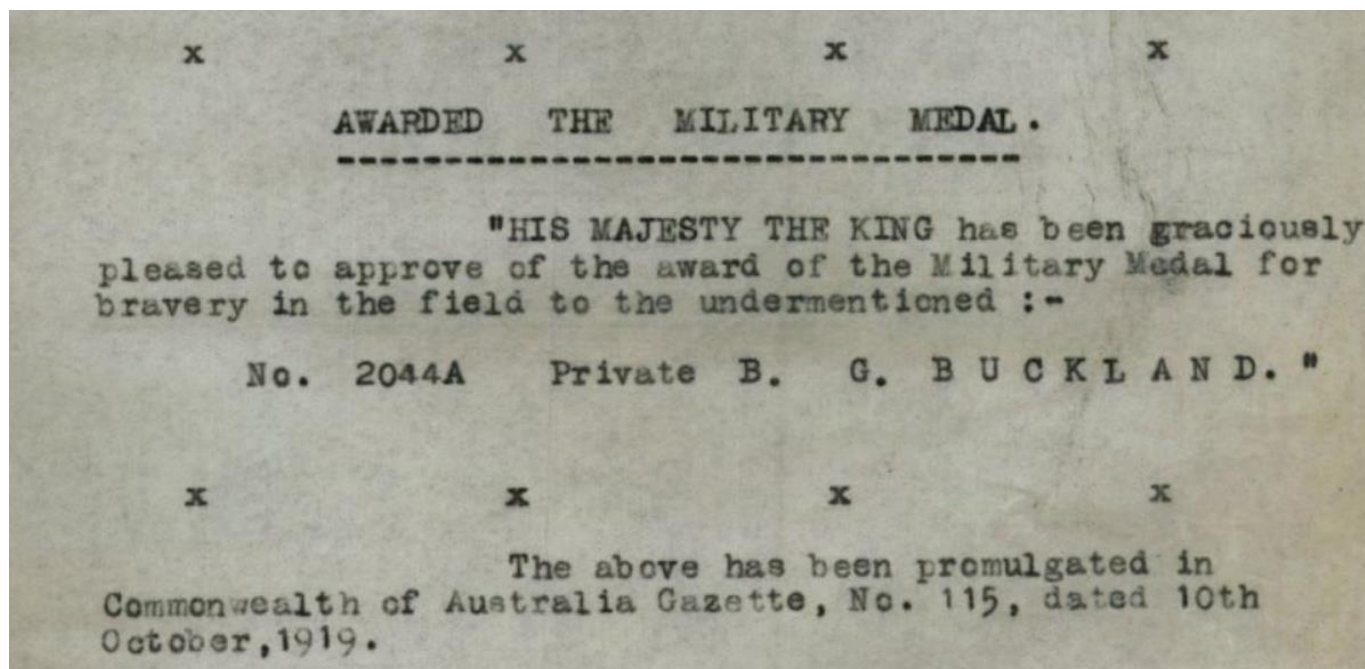
The Military Medal (MM) was a military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army and other arms of the armed forces, and to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. The award was established in 1916, with retrospective application to 1914, and was awarded to other ranks for "acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire". (Wikipedia)



Military Medal (MM)

Base Records wrote to Mr W. Buckland, Prairie, Victoria, on 10th October, 1919 stating "I am directed to transmit peer separate registered post one Congratulatory Card issued by the General Office Commanding 4th Army, British Expeditionary Force, referring in laudatory terms to the conspicuous manner in which the late No. 2044A, Private B. G. Buckland, 46th Battalion conducted himself on the battlefield in the face of the enemy."

Base Records wrote to Mr W. Buckland, Prairie, Victoria, on 17th November, 1919 to advise that a copy of extract from Fourth Supplement to the London Gazette, dated 17th June, 1919, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by his son, the late No. 2044A, Private B. G. Buckland, 46th Battalion was forwarded.



Private Benjamin George Buckland was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Buckland's father – Mr W. Buckland, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

Base Records wrote to Mr V. R. Bishop, Honorary Secretary, 46th Battalion Association, PO Box 39, Sandringham, Victoria on 22nd May, 1963 stating "Your letter of 16th May 1963 is acknowledged. The following information is advised regarding the two former members of the 46th Battalion whose British War Medals were returned with your abovequoted letter.

2044 Private Benjamin George Buckland

Died of disease in London 25th October 1918. Next of kin was Mr W. Buckland (father) who resided at Prairie, Victoria. However, it has not been possible to establish his present address as his name does not appear in the latest Directory. The medal will be held in safe-keeping until further information is available.

3746 Private Alexander Gordon McDonald....."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Benjamin George Buckland – service number 2044/A, aged 27, of 46th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Marion Buckland, of William St., Long Gulley, Victoria, Australia.

B. G. Buckland & his brothers are remembered on the Mitiamo War Memorial, located at Echuca-Mitiamo Road & Bendigo–Pyramid Road, Mitiamo, Victoria.



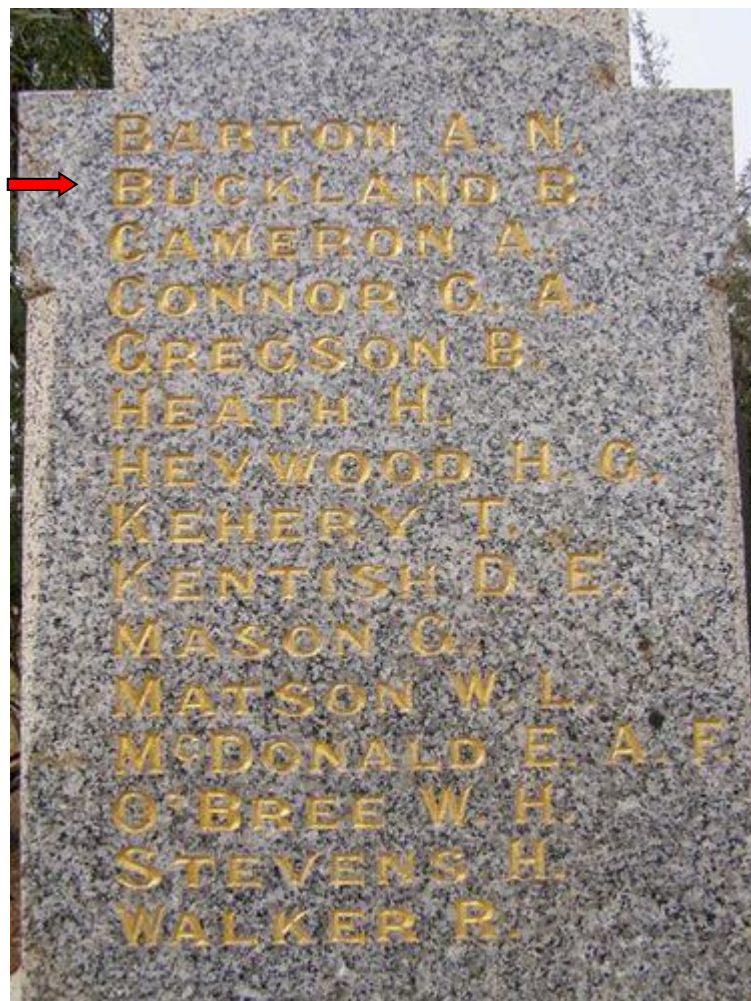
Mitiamo War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



B. Buckland is remembered on the Piangil War Memorial, located at Memorial Park, Hall Street, Piangil, Victoria.



Piangil War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

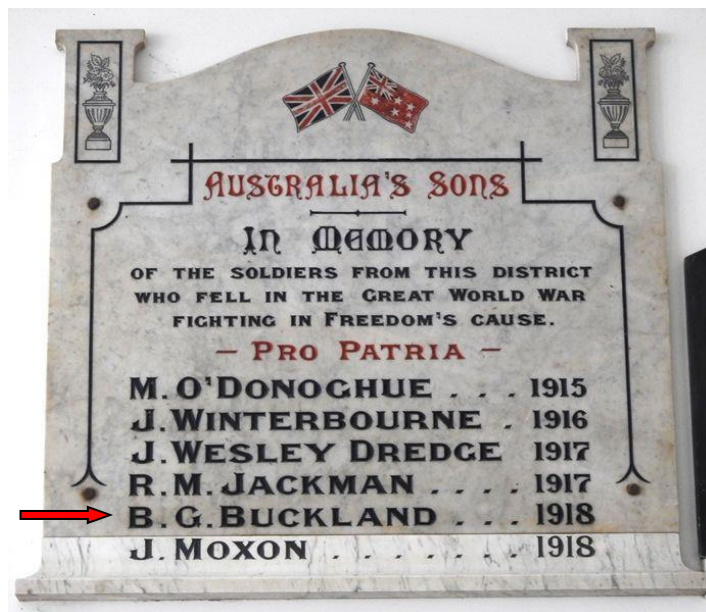


B. Buckland & his brothers – D. Buckland & F. Buckland are all named on the Dingee and District Honor Roll, located in Dingee Memorial Hall, 26 Mack Street, Dingee, Victoria.



Dingee and District Honor Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

B. G. Buckland is remembered on the Dingee and District Honor Roll – “Australia’s Sons” “Who Fell in the Great World War”, located in Dingee Memorial Hall, 26 Mack Street, Dingee, Victoria.



Dingee and District Honor Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

Benjamin G. Buckland is remembered on the East Loddon WW1 Memorial Pillars, located at East Loddon P12 College, Dingee Road, Dingee, Victoria – Pillar 4C & Pillar 5B.



East Loddon WW1 Memorial Pillars (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride)

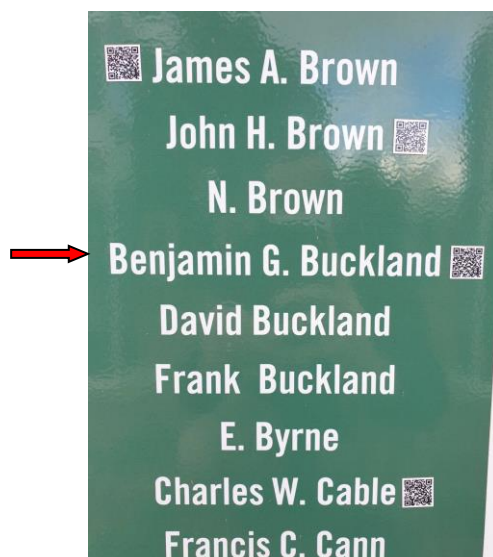
East Loddon WW1 Memorial Pillars

This website contains stories and images that have been compiled by East Loddon P-12 College students in partnership with the East Loddon Historical Society. The aim of this project is to make local history accessible to all. Moreover, we want students to empathise with the service men and women who came before us.

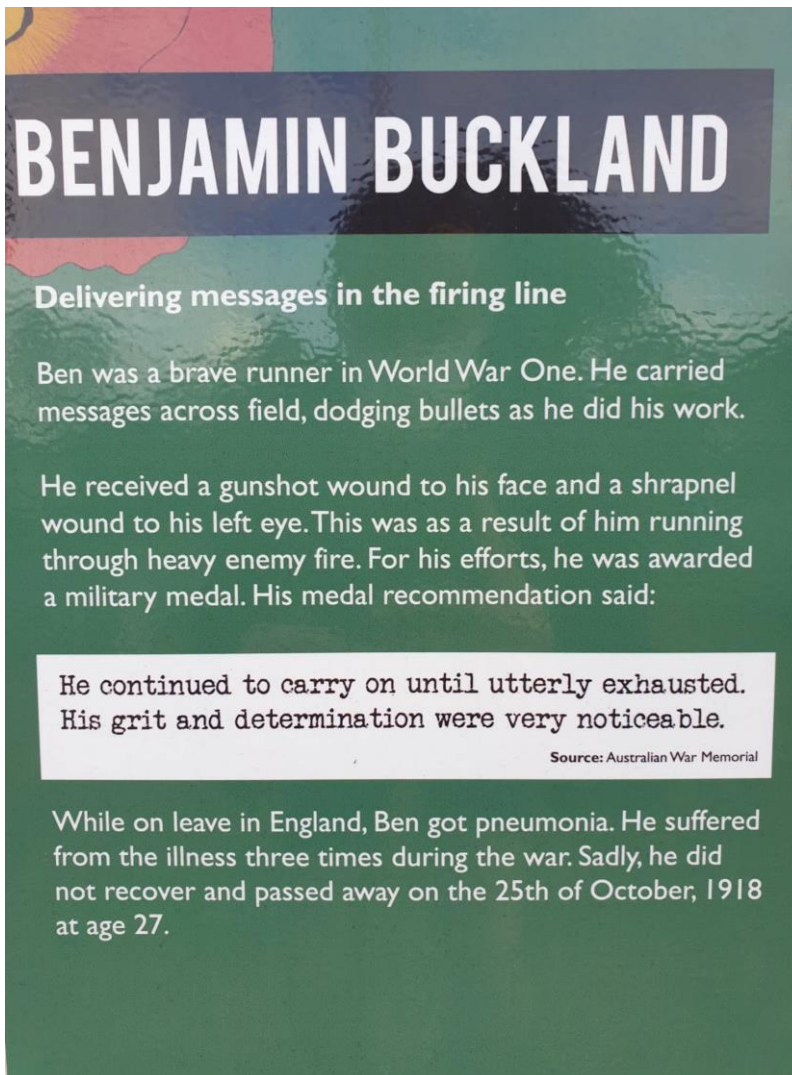
The East Loddon Shire consisted of 9 major towns (Mitiamo, Calivil, Jarklin, Prairie, Dingee, Tandara, Yallock, Serpentine & Pompapier) and is now known as the Loddon Shire. Around 320 men and women either born, living or working within the East Loddon district enlisted in WWI. Sadly over 65 never returned to Australia.

There are 8 pillars in the memorial. Three include a timeline of the local home front during the war. The other five include the honour roll and feature stories about local nurses and soldiers.

(Information from East Loddon Anzacs)



East Loddon WW1 Memorial Pillars (Photo courtesy of [East Loddon Anzacs](#))

An infographic with a green background and a dark blue header. The header contains the name 'BENJAMIN BUCKLAND' in white capital letters. Below the header, the text is arranged in several paragraphs. A quote is enclosed in a white box with a dark border. The background features a faint image of a soldier running through a field.

BENJAMIN BUCKLAND

Delivering messages in the firing line

Ben was a brave runner in World War One. He carried messages across field, dodging bullets as he did his work.

He received a gunshot wound to his face and a shrapnel wound to his left eye. This was as a result of him running through heavy enemy fire. For his efforts, he was awarded a military medal. His medal recommendation said:

He continued to carry on until utterly exhausted. His grit and determination were very noticeable.

Source: Australian War Memorial

While on leave in England, Ben got pneumonia. He suffered from the illness three times during the war. Sadly, he did not recover and passed away on the 25th of October, 1918 at age 27.

East Loddon WW1 Memorial Pillars (Photo courtesy of [East Loddon Anzacs](#))

Private B. G. Buckland is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 141.



Private Benjamin George Buckland is remembered by St. Margaret's Community website, London, England with a page devoted to his story.



St Margarets

[news](#)

[editorial](#)

[around town](#)

[events](#)

[local info](#)

[forums](#)

(75 pages of Private Benjamin George Buckland'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



[Connected to Private Benjamin George Buckland:](#)

Younger brother - David Buckland (b. 1896) – Enlisted 5th July, 1915 as a 21 year old Labourer. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 15th September, 1915 with 8th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements. Service number 2808. Returned to Australia - 6th September, 1919.

Younger brother - Frank Buckland (b. 1893) – Enlisted 12th March, 1915 as a 21 year old Farmer. Embarked from Sydney, NSW on 25th June, 1915 with 5th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements. Service number 2122. Returned to Australia – 21st March, 1919.



Newspaper Notices

COUNTRY RECRUITS

Included in the list of country recruits accepted at the Town Hall were the following:-B. G. Buckland, Piangil.....

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 1 March, 1916)

Our Honor Roll

The GUARDIAN is desirous of compiling a complete and reliable list of names of "our boys" who have volunteered for military service since the beginning of the war. The district covered includes Swan Hill and surrounding districts....

B

.....

F. Buckland

....

B. G. Buckland

D. Buckland

.....

(Swan Hill Guardian and Lake Boga Advocate, Victoria – 22 May, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

THE CASUALTY LISTS

BENDIGO AND NORTHERN DISTRICT MEN

WOUNDED

Pte B. J. BUCKLAND, prairie (severely)

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 21 December, 1916)

AUSTRALIANS ABROAD

GERMANS ON THE RUN

Mr W. Buckland, of Prairie, who has three sons on active service, has received a letter from his son, Pte David Buckland, who is in France. Pte Buckland, in describing a big stunt in which he took part, stated that they had Fritz on the run. The enemy was nearly half a mile in front of them, and was retreating in disorder. While the battle was in progress a hare pursued by a dog passed close to their lines, and the Australians indulged in some betting on the trial between the dog and hare. In the battle the Australians reached their objective. There was much sniping on both, sides. The Australians discovered some of Fritz's rations in the dugouts and they were appreciated. On the second day of the advance the Germans showed much opposition for a time, but eventually came along in droves with their hands up. The tanks are marvellous, spitting bullets on the enemy, and playing havoc with the Boches. After the stunt Pte Buckland had to go to hospital with sickness, but had recovered and returned to the lines again.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 30 October, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

Official Casualty Lists

BENDIGO AND NORTHERN DISTRICT MEN

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Pte B. G. BUCKLAND, Prairie, 25/10/18

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 5 December, 1918)

NEWS OF SOLDIERS

Mr. W. Buckland of Prairie, has received the sad news that his eldest son, Benjamin, died of pneumonia on the 25th October at 2nd Auxiliary Hospital, England, after nearly two and a half years' active service. He enlisted from Piangil, where he carried on farming with his two brothers, who are now both in France. The late Private Buckland and his two brothers were born and educated in the Prairie district, and much sympathy is extended to Mr. Buckland and family in their sad bereavement.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 30 December, 1918)

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 Mr W. Buckland, Prairie, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 2044A Private B. G. Buckland, 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 B. G. Buckland, M.M. does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Never Forgotten Dear Ben



Original Cross Marker for Private B. G. Buckland's Grave

Isleworth Cemetery, Isleworth, Greater London, Middlesex, England

Isleworth Cemetery contains 58 Commonwealth War Graves – 30 from World War 1 & 28 from World War 2.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)



(Photo courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers)



Some War Graves in Isleworth Cemetery (Photos by Jeff Cavell – Twitter)



Photo of Private B. G. Buckland's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Isleworth Cemetery, Isleworth, Greater London, Middlesex, England.



(Photos courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers)



(Photos courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers)



2044/A PRIVATE
B. G. BUCKLAND. MM.
46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.
25TH OCTOBER 1918 AGE 27



NEVER FORGOTTEN DEAR BEN