

**High Wycombe Cemetery,  
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2401/A PRIVATE**

**A. E. KING**

**9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**13TH AUGUST, 1916**

*The Lord Gave*

*And The Lord Has Taken Away*

## Alfred Edward KING

Alfred Edward King was born at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England in September, 1894 to parents Edward and Rachael King (nee Chilton).

The 1901 England Census recorded Alfred E. King as a 6 year old living with his family at Cresbrook Villa, Hughenden Road, Chipping Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England. His parents were listed as Edward King (French Polisher, aged 47, born High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire) & Rachel King (aged 45, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire). Alfred was the youngest of 4 children listed on this Census (all born High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire) – George King (Plumber, aged 20), Rupert W. King (aged 16), Elsie King (aged 12) then Alfred.

Alfred Edward King attended National School at High Wycombe.

According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour, Alfred Edward King came to Australia when he was 18 years old.

Alfred Edward King was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Joshua Street, Goulburn, NSW when he enlisted at Lismore, NSW on 12th August, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2401 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Rachael King, of Joshua Street, Goulburn, NSW.

Private Alfred Edward King was posted to Camp with 5th Reinforcements of 25th Battalion on 12th August, 1915.

Private Alfred Edward King embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Warilda* (A69) on 5th October, 1915.

Private Alfred Edward King was allotted to & proceeded to join 9th Battalion from Zeitoun on 27th February, 1916. Pte King joined 9th Battalion on 28th February, 1916 at Habeita.

Private Alfred Edward King proceeded to join B.E.F (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 27th March, 1916 on Trop ship *Saxonia*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 3rd April, 1916.

Private Alfred Edward King was wounded in action in France on 23rd July, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to 5th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 24th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to shoulder & back. Pte King was transferred to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen on 26th July, 1916 then embarked from Rouen, France on Hospital Ship *St. George* on 26th July, 1916 for England with gunshot wounds to right shoulder.

Private Alfred Edward King was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Southampton, England on 27th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right shoulder, gunshot wounds to spine (Paraplegia) & Pneumothorax (left). He later developed cystitis & bed sores.

Notification was sent to Pte King's mother, dated 3rd August, 1916, advising her that her son was seriously ill with gunshot wounds to spine & shoulder.

A letter was written to Base Records on 7th August, 1916 from Mrs D. Robbins, of St. Paul's Street, Randwick, Sydney, who was enquiring into what hospital her brother was in. She stated he was Pte Alfred E. King, No. 2401, D Company, 9th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Australian Division, A.I.F. Mrs Robbins was given an address so that she could write to her brother in hospital,

Private Alfred Edward King died on 13th August, 1916 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Southampton, England from Wounds received in action - gunshot wounds to Spine.

A death for Alfred E. King, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

The body of the late Private Alfred Edward King was removed from Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley to his brother's residence for interment – Mr G. King, 58 Gordon Road, High Wycombe. Private Alfred Edward King was buried on

17th August, 1916 in High Wycombe Cemetery, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England – Plot number 311 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. Pte King was given a private funeral, arranged by his relatives.

Base Records contacted Mrs R. King, mother of the late Pte A. E. King, on 11th November, 1920 enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs King replied that she was the closest next-of-kin as her husband had been dead for 15 years.

A War Pension was granted to Rachel King, Goulburn, mother of the late Private Alfred Edward King, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 21st October, 1918.

Pte Alfred Edward King was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte King’s mother – Mrs R. King, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred Edward King – service number 2401/A, of 9th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward and Rachel King, of St. Albans, Bringelly, New South Wales. Born at High Wycombe, England.

Private A. E. King is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 56.



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

(54 pages of Pte Alfred Edward King’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) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **CASUALTIES**

Wounded – Pte A. E. King, Goulburn

*(Albury Banner and Wodonga Express, NSW – 18 August, 1916)*

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### **GOULBURN AND THE WAR**

#### **PTE A. E. KING**

Rev. Canon Carver received word on Monday from Colonel Luscombe, Victoria Barracks, that 2401, Private A. E. King (9th, late 28th Battalion), died in Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, on 13th August, from gunshot wounds in the spine and shoulder. Pte King was a son of Mr R. King, who formerly lived in Joshua-street, Goulburn, but who now lives in Sydney, and a brother of Mrs Phelps, Springfield. He was born at High Wycombe (Bucks), and came to this country four years ago. He would have been 22 in September.

*(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 22 August, 1916)*

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### **FOR THEIR COUNTRY**

#### **N.S.W. WAR CASUALTIES**

The Rev. Canon Carver, of St. Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, has received word from Colonel Luscombe, that Private A. E. King died in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, on August 13, from gunshot wounds in the spine and shoulder. He was 21 years old.

*(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 24 August, 1916)*

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### **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)*

Pte A. E. King does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*The Lord Gave And The Lord Has Taken Away*

## High Wycombe Cemetery, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England

High Wycombe Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the 48 First World War graves being scattered throughout the cemetery.

The plot set aside for service burials during the Second World War was little used, but there is a small group of 10 graves in this part of the cemetery. The rest of the 59 Second World War burials are scattered.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Pte A. E. King's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in High Wycombe Cemetery, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England.



*(Photo by Daghish)*