

**Tring Road Cemetery,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



110 2ND AIR MECH.

G. C. D. KING

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

31ST OCTOBER, 1918 Age 47

George Croft Denman KING

George Croft Denman King was born in Bristol, England around 1871.

[Note: There is insufficient information to correctly identify George Croft Denman King's birth, his parents or him on any of the England Censuses]

George Croft Denman King was a 44 year old, single, Clerk from West Maitland, NSW when he enlisted at West Maitland on 14th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 110 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his friend – Mrs Marie Stratford of 400 High Street, West Maitland, NSW. George King stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 12 years with York and Lancaster Regiment & 2nd Yorkshire (North Riding) Regiment in England before being discharged for period served.

Private George Croft Denman King embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 2nd May, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 34th Infantry Battalion, "A" Company & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 23rd 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 George King was discharged from Military Hospital at Devonport, England & transferred to Tidworth, Wiltshire on 5th July, 1916. (There is no record of when he was admitted)

Private George King was admitted to Fargo Hospital, Wiltshire with Conjunctivitis on 11th July, 1916.

Private George King was marched in to 5th Training Battalion (20th Battalion) from 34th Battalion on 9th September, 1916.

Private George King was written up for an Offence at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 24th September, 1916 – Absent from Church Parade. He was deprived of 2 days' pay.

Private George King proceeded overseas to France from 5th Training Battalion on 7th October, 1916. He was marched in to A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 9th October, 1916. Private King was marched out to join his Unit on 4th November, 1916 & joined his Battalion in France on 8th November, 1916.

34th Battalion

The 34th Battalion was formed in January 1916 at a camp established at the Maitland showground in New South Wales. It was planned that the bulk of the battalion's recruits would be drawn from the Maitland area and thus it was dubbed "Maitland's Own". The first recruits for the 34th, however, hailed from the far north-west of the state and arrived at Maitland after joining a recruiting march that began at Walgett. These men were known as the "Wallabies".

The 34th became part of the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. It left Sydney, bound for the United Kingdom in May 1916. Arriving there in late June, the battalion spent the next five months training. It crossed to France on 22 November, and moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 27 November, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George King was transferred from 34th Battalion to 20th Battalion on 8th November, 1916. He joined his Unit in France on 8th November, 1916.

20th Battalion

The 20th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade.....

The 20th Battalion provided reinforcements for the attack near Flers between 14 and 16 November, launched in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF.... *(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

[Note: The Statement of Service form recorded that Private George King was transferred to 38th Battalion (no date recorded until 8th September, 1916 – this entry was possibly an error).

Private George King was wounded in action in France on 3rd May, 1917. He was taken to 5th Australian Field Ambulance then admitted to Casualty Clearing Station with a gunshot wound to left hand. He was transferred to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 4th May, 1917 then embarked from Rouen on Hospital Ship "France" for England on 14th May, 1917.

20th Battalion

In 1917, the 20th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost five times as strong, at Lagnicourt. The Battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

From the War Diary of 20th Battalion:

5th May, 1917 – Relieved by 5th Bn A.I.F. this morning at 3.30 am and moved from Vrautre Craucourt to _____ Camp arriving at 5.30 am.

During the operations on 3rd May the following casualties occurred.....The estimated Casualties of the other ranks stand at present 17 killed 147 wounded missing 123.

No parades were held this morning except a Church Parade the men having a complete rest.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George King was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham on 15th May, 1917. He was discharged to furlough on 28th June, 1917 & was to report to Training Depot at Perham Downs.

Private George King was marched in from furlo to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 11th July, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A.

Private George King was transferred to No. 30 Training Squadron A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) at Shawbury on 17th July, 1917 from 20th Battalion & his rank was mustered as 2nd Class Air Mechanic.

2nd Class Air Mechanic Georg King was transferred to No. 6 Training Squadron A.F.C. (A.I.F. Order No. 1074) on 18th January, 1918.

2nd Class Air Mechanic George King was written up for an Offence while attached to 6th Training Squadron at Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire on 7th July, 1918 – "Conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline i.e. A.W.L. from reveille on 7th July, 1918 until 8 am on 8th July, 1918. He was forfeited 2 days' pay.

2nd Class Air Mechanic George King was transferred to No.1-Two Squadron A.F.C. on 2nd August, 1918.

2nd Class Air Mechanic George King was written up for an Offence while attached No. 1 / 2 Squadron at Minchinhampton – "Whilst on active service – A.W.L. from 08.00 on 4th August, 1918 till 18.00 9th August, 1918. He was awarded 14 days CB (Confined to Barracks) & forfeited 6 days' pay.

2nd Class Air Mechanic George King reverted to the rank of Private on 3rd September, 1918. He was marched out to A.F.C. Depot on 11th September, 1918.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class George Croft Denman King died at 11.45 am on 31st October, 1918 at Military Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire from Pneumonia.

A death for George C. D. King, aged 47, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class George Croft Denman King was buried on 6th November, 1918 in Aylesbury (Tring Road) Cemetery, Buckinghamshire – Plot number X. 53 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Air Mechanic 2nd Class George Croft Denman King - *Coffin was good Elm with Brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, firing party, Bugler, pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by many beautiful wreaths from A.I.F. Depot, Wendover. Capt. C. A. Sheehan Dare officiated at the grave side and the "Last Post" was sounded. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

George Craft King requested in his Will, dated 3rd January, 1918, stated that he revokes all former Wills made and declares "*this to be my last Will. I devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate unto Mrs Annie Middleton, 175 Shrewsbury Rd, Market Drayton, England*".

A package of personal effects of late Private G. C. D. King were signed for by Jane Stratford of 74 Fawcett Street, Mayfield, Newcastle, NSW, (previously of 400 High St, West Maitland) on 24th July, 1919, being the nominated next-of-kin (friend) at the time of enlisting. Apparently the contents of the last Will were not known about prior to sending the personal effects to Mrs Stratford.

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. Stratford, of Mayfield, NSW in February, 1922 regarding Private G. C. D. King advising her that "*in keeping with his Will, any money that is due to him will be paid over to his beneficiary – a lady in England. I am having further enquiries made from that source before disposing of deceased's war medals, etc., but as you have not given any good and sufficient reason as to why you should be considered in the matter, no further communication on the subject may be expected from this office.*"

Previously, a letter was written to Base Records by Mrs A. G. Piles, c/- G.P.O., Sydney, NSW on 29th May, 1920, enquiring into the private personal belongings of the late Private G. C. D. King. Mrs Piles stated that she "*was a married woman living with her husband and through domestic troubles I was forced to separate from him and on knowing the deceased, myself and him, the late Pte King were living together as man and wife and it was agreed upon only for the death of deceased, that we were to be joined together in Marriage, so, Sir I should like to know from you if it is necessary for me to make out a proper declaration form.... (for) my claim of any private property belonging to the deceased soldier.....*"

Base Records replied to Mrs Pile in June, 1920 stating "*the personal belongings of the late No. 110 Private G. C. D. King, Australian Flying Corps, have already been disposed of, as you had no claim on same. It is advised that the late soldier executed a Will and you are not the beneficiary thereunder.*"

Base Records wrote to Mrs Annie Middleton of Market Drayton, England, in February, 1922 & advised her that "*under the laws of this country (war medals) may only be disposed of to blood relations in a certain order.*" 7 enquired into her knowledge of any blood relations.

In a reply letter to Base Records, dated 2nd May, 1922, concerning the next-of-kin of the late George Croft Denman King, Mrs Annie Middleton of Market Drayton, Salop, England stated that she was no relation to G.C.D. King but she was engaged to him & was supposed to have been married to him the day he died. She stated that his father, mother & 2 brothers had passed away before his campaign. Mrs Annie Middleton also stated she had not received his personal effects but she had returned a silver watch & chain belonging to the late George King to A.I.F. Headquarters. She was later advised that the personal effects of the late G.C.D. King had been forwarded to Mrs J. Stratford of Mayfield, Newcastle, NSW & she assumed that Mrs Stratford was a sister of the late George Croft Denman King.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class George Croft Denman King was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Air Mechanic 2nd Class George Croft Denman King's next-of-kin. His Medals, Plaque & Scroll etc were sent to Untraceables until a blood relative could be found.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Air Mechanic 2nd Class G. C. D. King – service number 110, of Australian Flying Corps. No family details are listed.

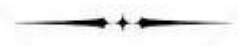
Air Mechanic Class II G. C. D. King is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(65 pages of Air Mechanic 2nd Class George Croft Denman 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

RECRUITING

The following recruits were accepted at the recruiting depot on Friday:-

George Croft Denman King, West Maitland

(The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 22 January, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private George Croft Denman King, West Maitland, Oct. 31 (prev. rep. wounded)

(The Newcastle Sun, NSW – 30 November, 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 19th July, 1921, to Mrs M. Stratford of "Inverclyde" 74 Fawcett Street, Mayfield, Newcastle, NSW, as the nominated next-of-kin – "Friend" advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte G. C. D. King at Aylesbury Cemetery 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.

2nd Air Mechanic G. C. D. King does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Aylesbury (Tring Road) Cemetery, Buckinghamshire

Tring Road, Cemetery, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire contains 107 War Graves from both World Wars, 3 of these belong to Australian Air Mechanics 2nd Class.



Tring Road, Cemetery, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of 2nd Air Mechanic G. C. D. King's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Tring Road Cemetery, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave - julia&keld 2011)