

**Wareham Cemetery,  
Wareham, Dorset  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2696 PRIVATE**

**G. LAING**

**7TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**11TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 25**

*An Australian Hero At Rest*

## George LAING

George Laing was born at Dimboola, Victoria in 1890 to parents Joseph Thomas & Euphemia Laing (nee Mcrae).

George Laing attended Sheep Hills School, Victoria.

The 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wannon, subdivision of Merino, Victoria listed George Laing, Labourer, of Merino. George Laing's mother - Euphemia Lang was listed at Merino in the 1915 Electoral Roll.

George Laing was a 25 year old, single, Labourer from Merino, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 2nd August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2696 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Euphemia Laing, Merino, Victoria.

Private George Laing was posted to Depot Battalion on 2nd August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 24th Battalion on 13th October, 1915.

Private George Laing embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 27th October, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private George Laing was allotted & proceeded to join 7th Battalion on 24th February, 1916 from 6th Training Battalion at Zeitoun. He was taken on strength of 7th Battalion at Serapeum on 24th February, 1916.

Private George Laing embarked from Alexandria on 26th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 31st March, 1916.

Private George Laing was wounded in action in France between 22nd & 25th July, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance on 25th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to left leg then transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to lower extremities. Pte Laing was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 26th July, 1916 & embarked for England from Havre on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* on 29th July, 1916.

### 7th Battalion

In March 1916, the 7th Battalion sailed for France and the Western Front and entered the front line trenches for the first time on 3 May. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley where it fought between 23-27 July and 15-21 August.

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

Private George Laing was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth with gunshot wounds to buttock on 29th July, 1916. He was transferred to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital on 29th September, 1916.

Private George Laing was marched out to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset, England on 13th November, 1916 from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth.

Private George Laing was admitted to Wareham Military Hospital, Dorset, England on 25th December, 1916 suffering from pneumonia – severe. His mother was informed of his condition by Base Records, Melbourne on 10th January, 1917.

Private George Laing died on 11th January, 1917 at Wareham Military Hospital, Dorset, England from Pneumonia.

A death for George Laing, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wareham, Dorset, England.

Private George Laing was buried in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England – Plot number B. C. 16 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Euphemia Laing, of Jung, mother of the late Private George Laing, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 16th March, 1917.

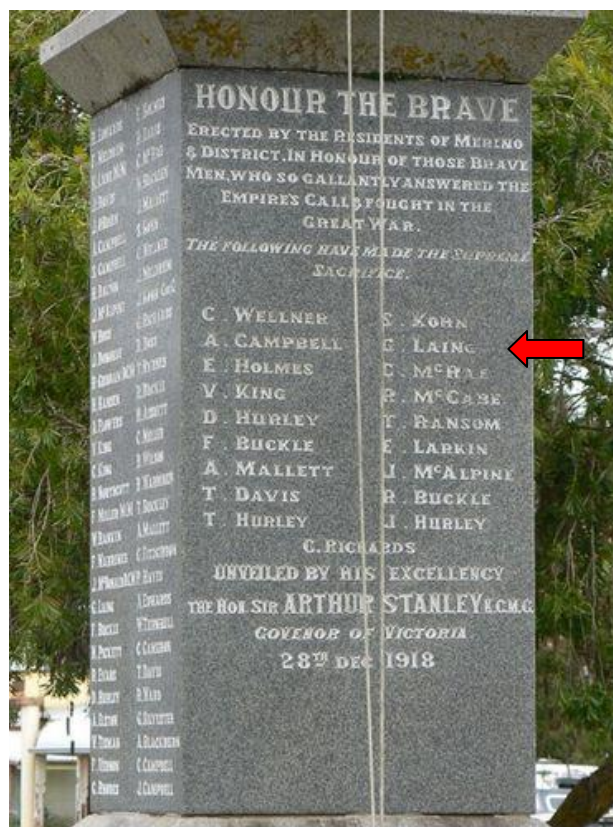
Private George Laing was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Laing's mother – Mrs E. Laing, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Laing - service number 2696, aged 25, of 7th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Euphemia Laing, of Jung, via Murtoa, Victoria.

G. Laing is remembered on the Merino War Memorial, located on Maud & High Streets, Merino, Victoria.



**Merino War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Graeme Saunders)





Pte G. Lang is remembered on the Sheep Hills War Memorial, located at Sheep Hill-Minyip Road, opposite Mechanics Institute, Sheep Hills, Victoria.



**Sheep Hills War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)



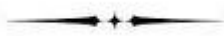
Private G. Laing is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 50.



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

(52 pages of Pte George Laing'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**

### **“Send-Off” to Merino Volunteers**

On Tuesday night in the Mechanics' Hall, Merino, a farewell social was given in connection with the departure of Messrs Frank Buckle, James McDonald, Neil Pickett, and George Laing, volunteers for active service.....

*(The Casterton News and The Merino and Sandford Record, Victoria – 11 October, 1915)*

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## **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

WOUNDED

VICTORIA

Pte G. LAING, Merino

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 August, 1916)*

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## MERINO

Official intimation has been received here that Privates William Buckley and George Laing, both Merino soldiers, have been wounded in France.

*(The Casterton News and The Merino and Sandford Record, Victoria – 31 August, 1916)*

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## TWO CASUALTY LISTS

### DIED OF OTHER CAUSES

Private G. Laing, Merino

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 24 January, 1917)*

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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)*

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Laing concerning the length of the inscription she had chosen for her son the late Private George Laing.

Mrs E. Laing replied to Base Records on 26th July, 1920 enclosing the following two verses: "*Though rolling seas divide us George, And you sleep on a foreign shore, Your name is written in letters of gold, In the hearts you left at home. Our sorrow is great our loss hard to bear, But Angels will tend our loved one with care. Inserted by his loving Mother & Sisters, E. Laing, Annie & Maggie.*" Base Records advised Mrs Laing that each of the inscriptions provided were much too long & advised again that the space reserved on the memorial for an inscription was 66 letters.

Mrs E. Laing replied to Base Records on 10th August, 1920 requesting the following inscription "*Australian hero at rest. Inserted by his Mother & Sisters.*"

Private G. Laing does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*An Australian Hero At Rest*



## Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset contains 71 Commonwealth War Graves. Wareham Military Hospital, with 185 beds, was at Worgret Camp during the First World War and the regimental depot of the Royal Armoured Corps was at nearby Bovington during the Second World War. Wareham Cemetery contains 49 First World War burials and 15 from the Second World War, 5 being unidentified. The cemetery also contains 12 German burials, 1 being an unidentified airman. *(Information from CWGC)*



Wareham Cemetery, Wareham *(Photos courtesy of Tracy Dunne)*





Photo of Private G. Laing's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)*





(Photo from ["Following the Twenty-Second"](#))