

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,  
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2863 SERJEANT**

**H. L. LAKE**

**13TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**1ST MAY, 1918 Age 22**

*In Memory Of  
The Loved Son Of  
Mr And Mrs Lake  
Of Old Junee, N.S.W.*

## Halbert Leslie LAKE

Halbert Leslie Lake was born at Kerr's Creek, near Orange, New South Wales on 18th January, 1898 to parents Thomas & Sarah Ann Lake (nee Ward).

Halbert Leslie Lake attended Old Junee School, New South Wales.

Thomas Lake, father of Halbert Leslie Lake, died on 4th December, 1909 at Marrickville, Sydney, NSW.

Halbert Leslie Lake stated he was a 19 year old, single, Clerk from Old Junee, NSW (actual age was 17 ½) when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 12th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs S. A. Lake, of Thorny, Old Junee, NSW. Halbert Lake stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served in Senior Cadets for 12 months.

As Halbert Leslie Lake was under the age of 21 his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Sarah Ann Lake signed her consent on 7th July, 1915.

Private Halbert Leslie Lake was posted to 9th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion.

Private Herbert Leslie Lake (name as per Embarkation Roll), Service number 2863, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Argyllshire* (A8) on 30th September, 1915 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 13th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Egypt (no date recorded).

Private Halbert Leslie Lake was admitted to No. 2 Australian Hospital at Heliopolis on 22nd October, 1915 with Diarrhoea. He was transferred to N.Z. & Australian Convalescent Hospital at Helouan on 25th October, 1915 with Ptomaine (food) poisoning. Private Lake was admitted to Ras-el-Tin Hospital at Alexandria on 25th November, 1915 with Diarrhoea then transferred to Al Hyat.

Private Halbert Leslie Lake joined 13th Battalion on 8th January, 1916 at Ismailia.

Private Halbert Leslie Lake was admitted to No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital at Ismailia on 18th April, 1916 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was transferred & admitted to 4th Field Ambulance on 19th April, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined) then transferred to 13th Field Ambulance on the same day. Private Lake was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital at Serapeum on 19th April, 1916 still N.Y.D. He was discharged on 2nd May, 1916 & returned to 13th Battalion at Serapeum on 4th May, 1916.

Private Halbert Leslie Lake proceeded from Alexandria on 1st June, 1916 on *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 8th June, 1916.

Private Halbert Leslie Lake was to be Lance Corporal in France from 19th August, 1916.

Lance Corporal Halbert Leslie Lake was to be Temporary Corporal from 3rd September, 1916 while posted in the Field in Belgium – vice Corporal Miles to Hospital.

Temporary Corporal Halbert Leslie Lake was to be Corporal then Temporary Sergeant in the Field from 16th September, 1916 vice Sergeant Coleman wounded. He relinquished his rank of Temporary Sergeant on 22nd September, 1916 on account of Sergeant Jack rejoining.

Corporal Halbert Leslie Lake was to be Temporary Sergeant from 11th December, 1916 vice Sergeant Wadman.

Temporary Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake was to be Sergeant from 17th February, 1917 vice Sergeant Wadman to Supernumerary List.

Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake was reported to be Missing in Action in France from 11th April, 1917. He was placed on Supernumerary List for Prisoner of War on 11th April, 1917.

B1709

Lager: Soltau Datum der Ausfertigung: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Principal-camp: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 oder \_\_\_\_\_  
 or \_\_\_\_\_ Tag: 29 Monat: 10 Jahr: 17  
 Lazarett: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

Zuname: Lake  
 Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Vorname: Halbert  
 Christian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rang: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rank: Serge

Reg. oder Korps: 13<sup>th</sup> Australians Reg. Nr. 2863 Komp.: 6  
 Reg. or Corps: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_ Komp.: \_\_\_\_\_

Erkennungsmarke Nr.: 2863  
 Number of identification disc.: \_\_\_\_\_

Gefangennahme: Frankreich Ort: Bullecourt Datum: 11.4.17  
 Capture: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ob verwundet, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Whether wounded, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bezeichnung der Wunde: Magen, Kugel (S.M. Anderson)  
 Description of wound: \_\_\_\_\_

Geburt: N.S. Wales Ort: Kerrscreech Datum: 18.1.98  
 Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Heimort: Old Junee (N.S.W.)  
 Home place: \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse des nächsten Verwandten: Mutter, Thorney, Old Junee,  
 Address of next-of-kin: \_\_\_\_\_  
N.S. Wales

116 50856

Prisoner of War form from Service Record file

4391.

17309

Lager:  
Principal-camp:  
Lager:  
Hospital:  
or *Reserve Lazarett.*  
*Venden. A/Alta*

Datum der Ausfertigung:  
Date:  
Tag: *15<sup>th</sup>* Monat: *April* Jahr: *1917*  
Day: Month: Year:

Vorname:  
Surname:  
*LAKE*

Vorname:  
Christian name:  
*Halbert Leslie*

Rang:  
Rank:  
*Igt.*

Reg. oder Korps:  
Reg. or Corps:  
*13<sup>th</sup> Battrn. A.I.F.* Reg. Nr. *2863* Komp.: *C. Coy.*  
Reg. Nr.: Komp.

Erkennungsmarke Nr.:  
Number of identification disc.:  
*2863.*

Gefangennahme:  
Capture:  
*11<sup>th</sup> April 1917* Ort: *Somme* Datum: *11<sup>th</sup> April 1917*  
Place: Date:

Ob verwundet,  
Whether wounded,  
Bezeichnung der Wunde:  
Description of wound:  
*Wounded. In left part of stomach.*

Geburt:  
Birth:  
*Australia* Ort: *Stems Creek.* Datum: *18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1898*  
Place: Date:

Heimatort:  
Home place:  
*Old Junee. N.S.W.*

Adresse des nächsten Verwandten:  
Address of next-of-kin:  
*M<sup>rs</sup> S. Lake, "Thorney," Old Junee. N.S.W.*

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## 13th Battalion

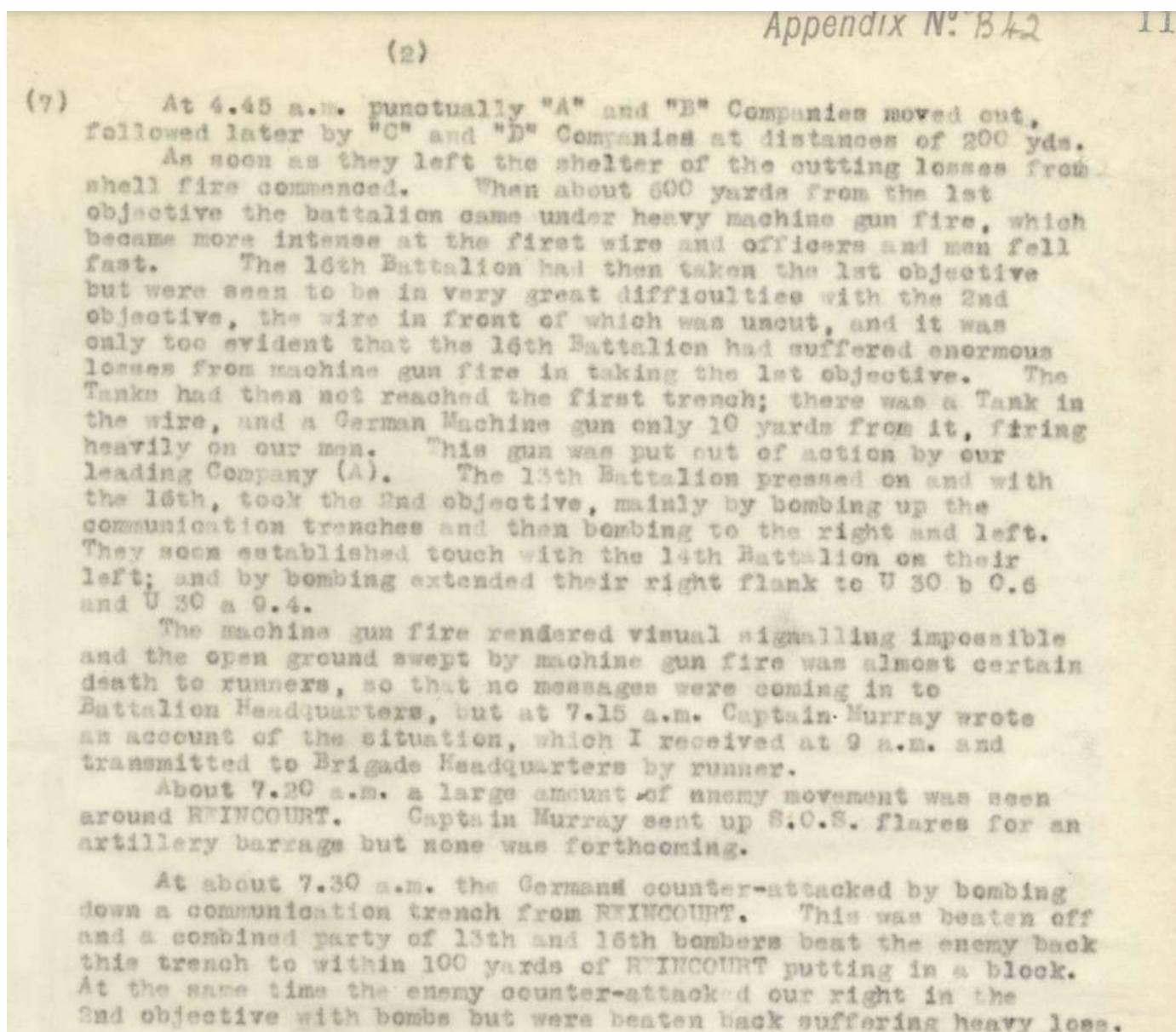
The 13th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. The battalion was recruited in New South Wales, and with the 14th, 15th and 16th Battalions formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.

...  
In June 1916, the 13th sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August. In February 1917, Captain W. H. Murray, who had transferred to the 13th from the 16th Battalion, earned the Victoria Cross for his actions during an attack near Gueudecourt. He became one of the most highly decorated officers in the AIF. The 13th Battalion, along with most of the 4th Brigade, suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. The battalion spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium advancing to the Hindenburg Line.....

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

### War Diary of 13th Battalion

11/4/17 4.45 am – Attack on HINDENBERG LINE See Appendix B42



At 9 a.m. a battalion of the enemy in close formation moving from QUEANT to the N. of REINCOURT was dispersed by our machine gun fire, suffering heavy loss.

From then until 10.45 a.m. our men were re-organizing and consolidating, during which time two small bombing attacks by the Germans on our left were beaten off. All the bombs were collected and dumps made near each bombing block.

Captain Murray went along the whole position and reports that the 4th Brigade held 900 yards of the Hindenburg line. He commenced the organization of the whole brigade position. At 10.45 a.m. heavy bomb attacks by the Germans were started from the right and left of both objectives, also down the communication trench from REINCOURT and a communication trench running N and S on the W. of REINCOURT, six attacks in all.

These attacks were very severe and our bombs were quickly exhausted, and our men pressed back to the centre of our position from all sides. The Germans had machine guns trained on the parapet which frustrated every endeavour on the part of our men to go along the top and attack the bombers with the bayonet.

Attempts to call up an Artillery barrage by power buzzer and S.O.S. flares failed, the buzzer being jammed by the Germans and the flares apparently not being observed.

Except where parties were cut off the men tried to get back over the open under a fearful machine gun and rifle fire; the losses being very heavy.

Shortly after noon the position was entirely evacuated.

(8) At nightfall, the remnants of the Battalion, under cover of the outposts of the 52 Battalion, withdrew to HORNUIL and thence to FAVREUIL.

(9) The failure of the Tanks was the primary cause of our failure to carry out our original plan. They were knocked out by an anti-tank gun situated on the W. side of REINCOURT, at a range of about 600 yards. This gun was right in the open shooting over open sights. No tank reached the second objective, and only one (perhaps two) crossed the first objective. Our men put the anti-tank gun out of action with Machine Gun fire from the second objective, but by this time it was too late to save the tanks. The fact that our artillery were slow in putting a barrage on REINCOURT resulted in the bombing attacks being pressed with great vigour; also the gap between the 4th and 12th Brigades gave the Germans a great advantage. We did not have enough hand grenades or rifle grenades, but the role allotted to the 13th Battalion was an above-ground one, hence we took more S.A.A. and fewer bombs. Ground flares were lit at 8 a.m. I cannot understand why the R.F.C. thought we were in REINCOURT.

(10) Our losses are as follows:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Officers	6	6	9	21
Other Ranks	19	112	358	489
	25	118	367	510

Lieut.-Colonel.  
C.O. 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

The entry on Casualty Form – Active Service for Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake for 14th April, 1918 reads: “*previously reported Prisoner of War Germany. Now arrived England ex Holland.*”

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake contains several reports relating to his whereabouts:

- *Missing 11.4.17 Prisoner of War – Interned at Res Laz Verden A/Aller. Information dated 8.5.17 “I was taken prisoner on the 11th. 5 (?).17 and wounded in the stomach with a bullet.”*
- *Prisoners of War. Interned Reserve Lazarett Verden A/ Aller. “I am getting along very well and can now get about pretty good.” Extract from Post-card received from Man dated 15.9.17.*
- *Prisoner of War. Transferred Soltau Lager 1. Post-card received from man dated 1.11.17*
- *Repatriated Prisoner of War. Arrived England. Admitted King George Hospital 14.4.18. G.S.W Abdomen wound is healed but it is not yet known whether there are any complications. Quite cheerful and interested, eating and sleeping well. Certified by Report from King George’s Hospital give to Miss Deakin, Inquiry Bureau, Aust, Red Cross 16.4.18.*

Mrs S. A. Lake, “Thorney”, Old Junee, NSW, mother of Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake, wrote to Member of House of Representatives – Mr Chanter, M.L.A. on 9th June, 1917 with the following: “*I was officially notified by the Military Authorities a month ago that my son No. 2863 Sgnt H. L. Lake of the 13 Batt is reported missing from the 11th April. I wrote to the Red Cross Bureau asking them if they could find out anything of his whereabouts, and so far we have not received any news of him. I would be very pleased if you could help me, by trying to find out where he is. I am very anxious to know where he may be. Trusting you will do all you can for me.*”

Mr Chanter forwarded Mrs Lake’s letter on to Major Lean, Base Records, Melbourne, Victoria on 13th June, 1917.

Base Records replied to The Hon. J. M. Chanter, M.P., House of Representatives, Melbourne, Victoria on 18th June, 1917 with the following response: “*....to state that so far no additional information is to hand. In view of the fact that the whole of the organization of the British Army for dealing with these unsatisfactory cases, as well as the Red Cross Agency, is utilized in connection with members of the A.I.F., I regret my instructions at present preclude enquiries from this end without the production of some definite authentic evidence at variance with the official report. You will of course, recognize that it is useless to ask the Overseas Authorities to investigate a case without giving them something to work upon. Needless to say, should anything further be received, it will be promptly transmitted.*”

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. A. Lake, Thornly, Old Junee, NSW on 13th July, 1917 with the following: “*I have to return herewith the correspondence forwarded to this office in connection with your son, No. 2863 Sergeant H. L. Lake, 13th Battalion, as you will in the meantime have received through the Military Commandant, Sydney, the official notification that he is now reported to be wounded (gunshot wound, stomach) and a prisoner of War in Germany. His postal address will be – British Prisoner of War. No. 2863 Sergeant H. L. Lake, 13th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, Germany, c/o Australian Red Cross Commissioners, 54 Victoria Street, London, S.W.*”

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. A. Lake, Thornly, Old Junee, NSW on 26th September, 1917 advising that Sergeant H. L. Lake, had been “*officially wounded and Prisoner of War Germany. Captured 11.4.17 and is interned at Reserve Lazarett, Verden, A/Aller, Province of Hanover, Germany. British Prisoner of War. No. 2863 Sergeant H. L. Lake, 13th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, Germany, c/o Australian Red Cross Commissioners, 54 Victoria Street, London, S.W.*”

Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England on 14th April, 1918 with G.S.W. to Stomach - severe. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: “*G.S.W. Abdomen F B removed. Cystitis.*” (G.S.W. – gunshot wound/s. F B – foreign body). “*Repatriated Prisoner of War from Germany....*”

Mrs S. A. Lake, "Thorney", Old Junee, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 2nd May, 1918 that Sergeant H. L. Lake had been admitted to King George War Hospital, Stamford Street, London on 14th April, 1918 suffering from a gunshot wound to Stomach (severe).

Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake died at 4.15 pm on 1st May, 1918 at The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England from wounds received in action - G.S.W. Abdomen.

A death for Halbert L. Lake, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth, Surrey, England.

Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake was buried at 1.30 pm on 4th May, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 180, 938.

From the burial report of Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral, the Firing Party and Bugler were supplied by Administrative headquarters, A.I.F. London. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by a beautiful wreath sent by the Australian Red Cross Society, 36 Grosvenor Place, London. Chaplain the Rev. Wray, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, officiated at the graveside. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. A. Lake, "Thorney", Old Junee, NSW, on 5th April, 1923 stating that the site of her son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row A Grave 6.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. A. 6. Sergeant Lake now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour her son was *"taken prisoner at Bullecourt 11th April 17 and died of wounds at King George's (Hospital)."*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake contains a request from the Red Cross on 15th April, 1918 to Sister Gurney, 1st Floor Night Sister, King George's Hospital, Stamford St which reads:

- *"Dear Madam, We are very anxious to cable to Australia a bulletin on the present condition of No. 2863 Sgt. H. L. Lake – 13th Battn, A.I.F. – who was recently arrived from Germany and who is now in King George's Hospital – a cot case. His relatives in Sydney are naturally very anxious about him and we should be more than grateful if you would send us any information you can obtain. We hesitate to trouble you and to trespass on your valuable time, but it is so difficult to obtain satisfactory bulletins by telephone from such a big hospital, and we are prompted by our anxiety to help his relatives who are so absolutely dependent on us for news. With many apologies for troubling you."*
- A report from Sister in charge of No. 4 Ward, King George's Hospital on 3rd May, 1918 reads: *"Lake, Sgt H. L. Lake, 2863. Repatriated Prisoner of War. Died King George Hospital 1.5.18 at 4.15 pm. His condition became very much worse 2 days previous. He was quite conscious and died very suddenly. The Sister does not think he knew he was dying. He was suffering very badly from kidney and bladder trouble and he always said he thought he was suffering from Gall stones, but the Hospital Authorities had him X Rayed and the report queried this statement. His whole condition was very low and very septic."*

Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake requested in his Will dated 27th February, 1917 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – *"Mrs S. Lake, "Thorney", Old June, NSW."*



The Public Trust Office, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 29th May, 1919 requesting a certificate, in duplicate, of the death of No. 2863 H. L. Lake, 13th Battalion, along with the address of the deceased prior to enlistment & the name & address of the person nominate as his next of kin.

Base Records contacted Mrs S. A. Lake, "Thorney", Old Junee, NSW on 18th August, 1920 stating that she was registered on the records of the late No. 2863 Sergeant H. L. Lake, 13th Battalion, but requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was asked if his father 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 S. A. Lake replied to Base Records on 25th August, 1920 advising that she was the next of kin of the late No. 2863 Sergeant H. L. Lake, 13th Battalion as his father had been "*deceased for many years.*"

Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Lake's mother – Mrs S. A. Lake, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

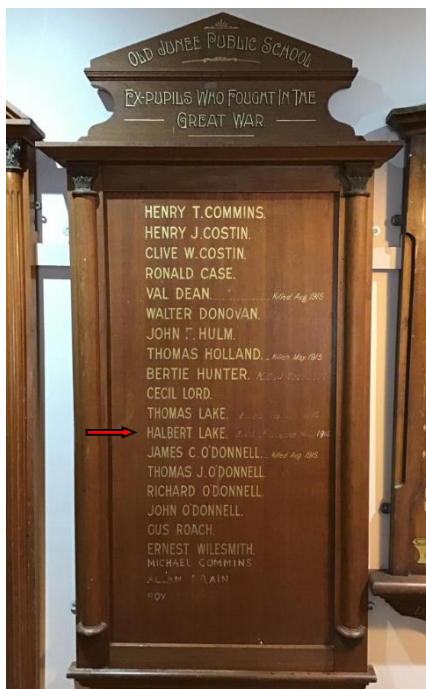
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake – service number 2863, aged 22, of 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas & Sarah Ann Lake, of Old Junee, New South Wales. Native of Kerr's Creek, Orange, New South Wales. His brother, Thomas James Lake also died on service and his name is to be found on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France.

Sergeant H. L. Lake is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 69.



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

Halbert Lake & his brother Thomas Lake are both remembered on the Old Junee Public School Roll of Honour, located in Broadway Museum (old Broadway Hotel), 86 Broadway, Junee, NSW.



Old Junee Public School Roll of Honour (Photo by Australian War Memorial – Places of Pride)

H. L. Lake & his brother T. J. Lake are both remembered on St. Luke's War Memorial Altar & Honour Roll, located in St. Luke's Anglican Church, Denison Street, Junee, NSW.

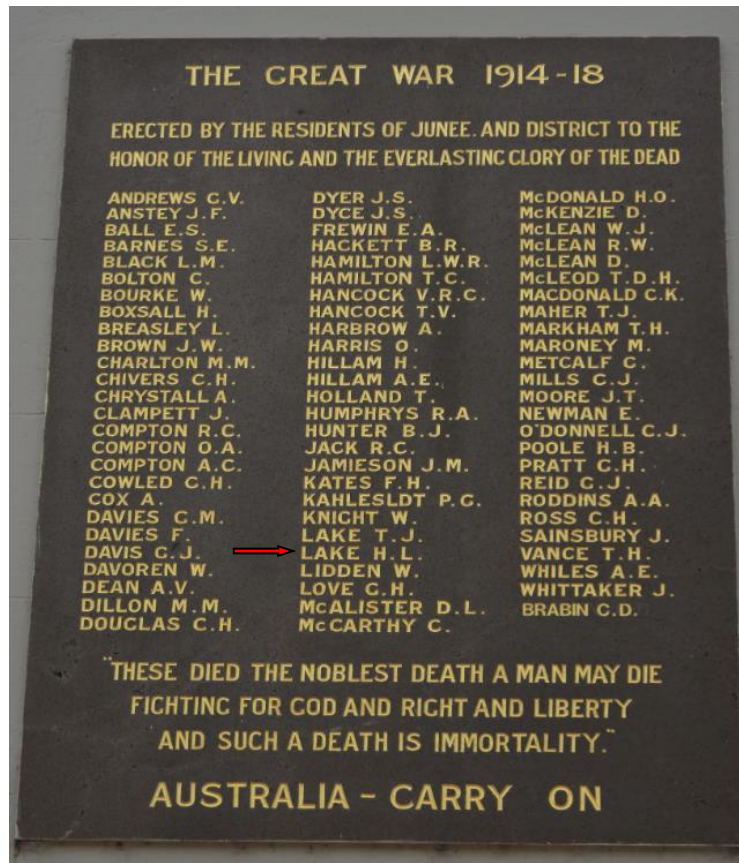


St. Luke's War Memorial Altar & Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

H. L. Lake & his brother T. J. Lake are both remembered on the Junee War Memorial Clock Tower, located on Broadway Street, Junee, NSW.



Junee War Memorial Clock Tower (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Penny Smith)



H. Lake & his brother T. J. Lake are both remembered on the Junee District Roll of Honour, located in Junee Ex-Service Memorial Club, 75 Broadway, Junee, NSW.



Junee District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

H. L. Lake is remembered on the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, located in Botanical Gardens, Wendouree Parade & Carlton Street, Ballarat, Victoria.



Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat (Photos from AWM Places of Pride)



**Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat**





(Panel photo from VWMA – Liz Williamson)

(71 pages of Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake'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 Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake:](#)

Older brother - Thomas James Lake; Enlisted on 1st August, 1915 as a 21 Year old Clerk from Old Junee, NSW. Embarked as Private, 3372, with 4th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements from Sydney, NSW on 13th October, 1915 on HMAT Port Lincoln (A17).

Killed in action in France on 14th August, 1916. Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.



**Anzac Day Booklet 2018**

***In the Riverina & Central West***

***Michael McCormack, MP, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, Federal Member for Riverina.***



# A GRAVE FOR ONE BROTHER BUT NOT FOR ANOTHER

**IN THE midst of some of the cruellest and harshest fighting between the Allies and the Central Powers in 1918 came perhaps a small show of mercy for Sergeant Halbert Leslie Lake, of Old Junee.**

Born on 18 January 1898, Halbert was about a week short of being 17 years and six months old when he enlisted for World War I on 12 July 1915 and assigned to the 13th Battalion.

At enlistment, Halbert's occupation was listed as a clerk. He was just 5 feet 5 inches (168.9 centimetres) tall and weighed 140 pounds (63.5 kilograms).

His unit embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT *Argyllshire* A8 on 30 September 1915 but due to bouts of illness Halbert did not see active service on the Western Front until June 1916.

On 26 August 1916 Halbert was promoted to Lance-Corporal and over the next eight months received further promotions to Acting Corporal and then Acting Sergeant.

Halbert was shot in the stomach and captured by the Germans during the Battle of Bullecourt in northern France on 11 April 1917 and might have expected to have died as a Prisoner of War without his captors caring.

He was hospitalised and interned at Verdun in Germany.

About a month later, Halbert was well enough to write that he had been taken prisoner "and wounded in the stomach with a bullet".



*MILITARY HONOURS: Sergeant Lake's grave in Surrey.*

Then came other postcards with promising news.

"I am getting along very well and can now get about pretty good," Halbert wrote in a postcard recorded by the Australian Red Cross Society on 16 June 1917, an extract of which is in the archives of the Australian War Memorial.

In September 1917, Halbert sent home a card indicating he was getting along well, but his condition deteriorated and for some reason – perhaps out of pity or perhaps for more practical reasons – he was repatriated to England via Holland and admitted to King George Military Hospital on 14 April 1918.

The Red Cross reported soon after that the stomach wound had healed "but it is not yet known whether there are any complications. Quite cheerful and interested, eating and sleeping well," the Red Cross records say.

Tragically, Halbert's condition became "very much worse" in late April and two days later, on 1 May 1918, he died suddenly, aged 20. "The Sister did not think he knew he was dying," the Red Cross wrote.

Halbert was buried with military honours at Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey.

A photograph of the grave was taken and is part of the Australian War Memorial collection.

For Halbert's widowed mother, living at "Thorney" at Old Junee, it might have been some comfort one of her two sons who died in the Great War had a resting place.

Sarah Lake did not have that same consolation with another son, Private Thomas James Lake.

Thomas, a 21-year-old clerk, enlisted shortly after his younger brother. He sailed off to war on HMAT *Port Lincoln* A17 on 13 October 1915 and was also with the 13th Battalion by the time he set foot on the Western Front in June 1916.

Thomas was to last only about two months. He was killed in the Battle of Pozzières on 14 August 1916, aged 22.

Thomas was one of 6800 Australians killed in action or died of wounds at Pozzières, one of the most costly battles in Australia's military history. His body was never recovered.

Thomas is remembered on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux in France, on panel 69 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial and on the Old Junee Roll of Honour.



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **FOR AUSTRALIA**

#### **323RD CASUALTY LIST**

NEW SOUTH WALES

PRISONERS OF WAR

Sergt. HALBERT LESLIE LAKE, Old Junee (and wounded, previously reported missing)

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 14 July, 1917)*

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### **PERSONAL**

Mr E. G. Lake, station master at Bathurst has received a letter from his brother, Sergeant H. L. Lake, who is now in hospital in Germany. He was shot internally in April last, and was 24 hours in the snow before the Germans captured him. He states he is doing fairly well.

*(The Bathurst Times, NSW – 6 September, 1917) & (Leader, Orange, NSW – 10 September, 1917)*

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#### **323rd CASUALTY LIST**

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Sgt HALBERT LESLIE LAKE, Old Junee (and prisoner of war, previously reported missing)

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 July, 1917)*

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### **CASUALTY LISTS**

The following casualties are contained in the 397th and 39th lists:-

NEW SOUTH WALES

IN ENGLAND

Sgt. HALBERT LESLIE LAKE, Old Junee

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 10 May, 1918)*

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## **401st CASUALTY LIST**

### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Sgt. HALBERT LESLIE LAKE, Old Junee

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 May, 1918)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOR**

LAKE – In loving memory of my dear son and our dear brother, Halbert Leslie (Hal), who died in St. George's Hospital, London; a repatriated prisoner of war.

He is not dead – but only taking rest  
On the sweet refuse of his Master's breast,  
And far away from sorrow, pain and suffering.  
He is not dead – but only taking rest.  
Greater love hath no man than this,  
That he lay down his life for his friends.

Inserted by his sad and loving mother; brothers, Stan and Harry; sisters Inez and Ruby.

LAKE – in memory of Sgt. H. L. Lake, 13th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F., who died of wounds, May 1st, 1918.

His duty done.

Inserted by Etty Jones.

*(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 1 May, 1919)*

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H. L. Lake & his brother T. J. Lake are both remembered on their parents' headstone in Rookwood General Cemetery, Sydney, New South Wales.



Lake Family Headstone photos courtesy of Gary & Irmgard Heap



## 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)*

Serjeant H. L. Lake does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

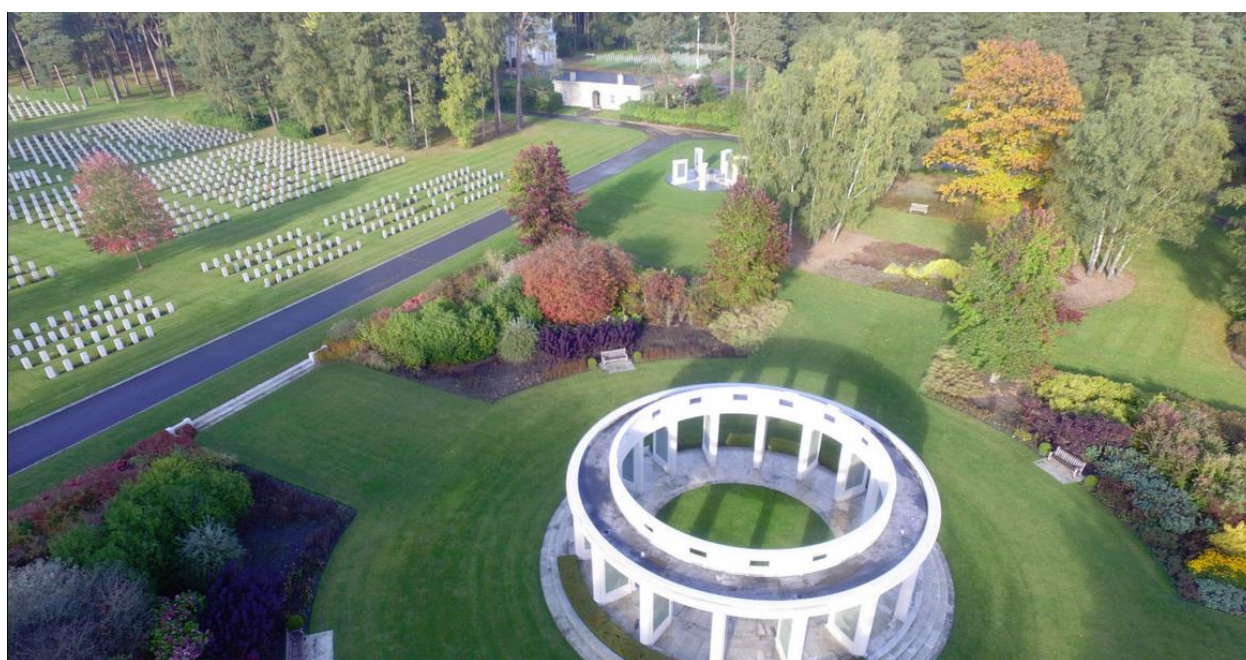
*In Memory Of The Loved Son Of  
Mr And Mrs Lake Of Old Junee, N.S.W.*

## **Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England**

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** *(Photo from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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*A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)*

*Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.*

*Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.*



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)



**Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)





*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*



**Australian War Graves** *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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**Sergeant H. L. Lake's original Cross Marker**

Photo of Serjeant H. L. Lake's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

