

# Durrington War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**6474 PRIVATE**

**J. L. MUDD**

*Served as J. L. BUDD*

**11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**25TH DECEMBER, 1916    Age 52**

*Only Son Of Late*

*Mr & Mrs Mudd*

*Taradale Victoria*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J. L. Mudd, served as Budd, is located in Grave Plot # 136 of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## John Leonard MUDD

John Leonard Mudd was born at Trentham, Victoria in 1864 to parents John & Bridget Mudd (nee Larkin).

John Leonard Mudd stated he was a 44 year old, single Bushman from Derby, Western Australia when he enlisted on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 with the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 21<sup>st</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6474 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was stated to be his sister – Miss Elizabeth Budd of Taradale, Victoria. John Leonard Mudd enlisted under the name of John Leonard Budd.

Pte John Leonard Budd embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Suffolk (A23)* on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1916. Pte Budd had been admitted to Ship's Hospital while at sea & discharged on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 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 John Leonard Budd was marched in to 8<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion from Australia on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1916.

Private John Leonard Budd was marched in to 3<sup>rd</sup> Training Battalion, Camp No. 3, Durrington, Wiltshire on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Private John Leonard Budd was sent sick to Fargo Military, Hospital on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1916. He was reported as seriously ill with Bronchitis on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1916.

Private John Leonard Budd died at 7 p.m. on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Broncho Pneumonia. Some Reports within Pte Budd's Service Record file state cause of death as Bronchitis. The Statement of Service form has this entry:

*"Prev. Reported Died of Bronchitis 26/12/16  
Now Reported Died Broncho Pneumonia 25/12/16."*

A death for John L. Budd, aged 43, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

A telegram was sent to Base Records, Melbourne, dated 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1917, from Post Mistress, Taradale, Melbourne advising "Cannot find whereabouts of anyone named Budd in this district."

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte J. L. Budd contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the family for any information regarding the death of Pte Budd. A reply from the Assistant Matron of Fargo Military Hospital dated 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1917 reads:

*"He was admitted to Hospital on the 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1916, very ill, for 2 or 3 days he was delirious & died on Christmas Day from Broncho Pneumonia. He was buried at Durrington grave No. 136 right hand side of cemetery path on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. I well remember Pte Budd for he was such a brave man to enlist, to go through what he did at his time of life for he must have been over 50 yrs. He certainly looked it. I have just had a very pathetic letter from his sister in Australia to which I am replying."*

A request by the Red Cross for the identification details of Pte J. L. Budd were also answered giving his physical description, age at enlistment, place of birth, next-of-kin etc.

Private John Leonard Budd was buried on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 136 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A letter to Defence Dept. from Annie Mudd, dated 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 reads:

*"...Many years ago I had an only brother who left home young and I tried to find him but could not and had given him up for dead. When a message came to Taradale for a Miss Elizabeth Budd, that her brother Private John Leonard Budd died in Military Hospital Fargo, age given as 44 years time of enlistment, born at Taradale, Victoria, next of kin sister Elizabeth Budd. Enlisted at Blackboy, W. Australia.*

*I have lived in Taradale for 43 years and no one by the name of Budd or Mudd but ourselves lived here. My sister Elizabeth Mudd is married for 20 years and comfortable well off. I am 8 years older than her – that is 50 years of age. My brother is 53 years next April but he gave 44 as his age. My father and mother are both dead. I have lived in this town all my life and kept the home, and it seems hard that my brother should make his next of kin where it is not needed. I am sending a copy of a letter from a Post Master at Eulo Q. where I tried to find him.*

*Will my sister be able to claim any property left as her name was Mudd not Budd and would the enclosed copy of a letter be any help to identify him (I have the original let) and to whom should she apply.*

*I am proud of my brother that at his age he could pass and try and help his country and grieved to know that he died before he could give a good account of himself."*

The letter from E. Norris, Post Master Eulo, Queensland, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1889, described above reads:

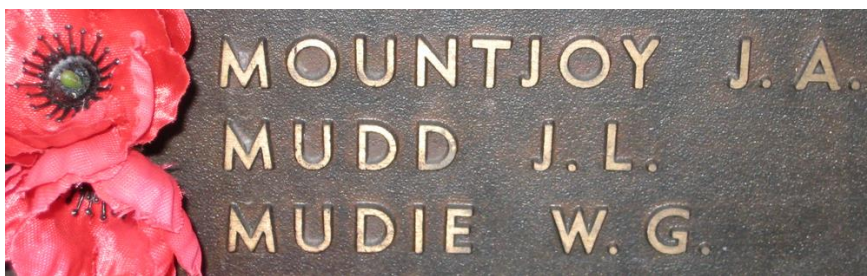
*"I do not know anyone by the name of Mudd, but a young man was staying in the town some time ago named J. L. Budd. I fancy this must be your brother, as I heard it said once that his proper name was Mudd. The party referred is now at Adavale. I have sent your letter on there and endorsed it "Try J. Budd" and hope it will reach him."*

In communications from Finance Dept. of Commonwealth Military Forces to the Officer-in-Charge Base Records, Melbourne in June, 1921, it was stated that Pte J. L. Budd's correct surname was Mudd. It stated that *"In all her communications the soldier's sister, Miss Annie Mudd has emphasised the fact that he enlisted under an assumed name as above, and it is obvious therefore that J. L. Budd and J. L. Mudd are identical."*

Pte John Leonard Budd was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Budd's eldest sister – Annie Mudd (parents deceased & only brother also deceased) (sent September, 1921 & February, 1922). Miss Annie Mudd signed a Statutory Declaration stating that she would preserved with due care any war medals or other items of late Pte J. L. Budd – stated to be Mudd and produce them to the Dept. of Defence should someone with a closer relationship come forward to claim the medals. The Medal, Scroll & Plaque were named to Pte Budd. Annie Mudd also received the personal effects of her brother which in a letter written in July, 1917, acknowledging receipt of a package containing the effects she writes *"amongst his first package were photos of himself taken in uniform which I value very highly. I could not have had anything I am more proud of than they."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Leonard Mudd – served as Budd – service number 6474 as being 52 years old & served with 11th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Bridget Mudd.

Private J. L. Mudd is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 63.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

(70 pages of Pte J. L. Mudd (served as Budd)'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*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **W.A. CASUALTIES – 263<sup>rd</sup> OFFICIAL LIST**

J. L. Budd, Taradale, Victoria, died of illness

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – Saturday 13 January, 1917)*

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### **THE HERO DEAD**

“Till the mountains are worn out and the rivers forget to flow – till the clouds are weary of replenishing spring and the springs forget to gush and the rills to sing, shall their names be kept fresh with reverent honour which are inscribed upon the book of national remembrance.” – Henry Ward Beecher

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### **TARADALE AND ELPHINSTONE**

Pte J. L. Budd

*(Kyneton Guardian, Victoria- Saturday 16 February, 1918)*

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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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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 J. L. Mudd - served as Budd does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Only Son Of Late Mr & Mrs Mudd Taradale Victoria*



**Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire** *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*

Photo of Pte J. L. Mudd (served as Budd)'s Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo © Ian King - with permission)*