

HERBERT ERNEST KING

Herbert Ernest (Bert) KING was born in Traralgon in 1891, the second child of Thomas Henry and Mary Jane (nee Myers) King, who lived at Tyers. Thomas King was a dairy farmer and Herbert was a labourer at the time of enrolment, as was his brother Thomas Henry jnr.

Thomas Henry King enlisted in Traralgon on 2 November 1916 but did not leave Australia as he was discharged as medically unfit. He developed pneumonia while in camp and spent some time in hospital in Seymour.

Herbert names his father Thomas Henry as his next of kin.
James King, who also served in WW1 was the brother of Thomas Henry King snr.

Service Number	3481
Enlisted	15 July 1915 in Traralgon as a Private and aged 23
Embarked	11/10/1915 from Melbourne on board the HMAT A71 Nestor
Unit on enlistment	5th Battalion, 11 th Reinforcement
Returned to Australia	24 January 1919

Bert signed up as a 23 year old labourer. He enlisted in Melbourne and after camp, he was farewelled from Tyers after a home visit, and his father went to Melbourne to see him off when he embarked in October 1915. He seemed to have landed in Egypt and went from Alexandra to Marsailles, landing there on 30 March 1916 with the 5th Battalion.

He then joined the Field Ambulance in France until he developed a disease and spent 30 days in hospital at Etaples. After he recovered he went back to his unit on 11 May 1917.

He was awarded the Military Medal in October 1917.

The recommendation:

'Valuable services in carrying out rescue work and attending to wounded, showing great personal courage and devotion to duty. (East of Ypres 4 October 1917)'

Recommendation date: 11 October 1917

Also gazetted: Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 31 Date: 7 March 1918

'These men [KING and 3464 STC EZARD, 6th Bn], as Stretcher Bearers, showed great coolness and devotion to duty in the operations of the 4th October, 1917, in the vicinity of ZONNEBEKE east of YPRES. Casualties were extremely heavy through the enemy barrages of 4th, 5th and 6th and notwithstanding the shelling, fatigue and great danger, they moved about constantly dressing and attending wounded men. They set a fine example of devotion to duty.'

On 25 August 1918, Bert was gassed while serving in France. He was transferred from Rouen to England and spent time in hospitals in Dartford and Cheltenham, finally being discharged on 1 November 1918. He left England on the 'Delta', arriving in Australia on 10 March 1919. He was discharged on 2 May 1919. He was welcomed home in Tyers along with Mat Nippe, Ted Taylor and Walter Christensen.

Herbert Ernest King married Olive Myrtle (nee Williams) in 1920 and a son William Ernest was born that year.

Bert eventually died as a result of his gassing at his residence in Henry Street on 12 November 1923. William was aged 3 at that time. Bert is buried in at Traralgon in a War grave – WB-C010. His wife and child then lived in Melbourne at South Yarra. His son, William died following being run over by a taxi in 1926, aged 6. Olive continued to live in inner Melbourne for some time.

Herbert was awarded: the Military Medal, British War Medal, The 1914-15 Star and the Victory medal.

MILITARY MEDAL



The 1914-1915 Star



The Victory Medal



The British War Medal



Gippsland Memorial Park,
Traralgon
WB - C010



Herbert Ernest King



HMAT A71 Nestor

