

# **Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

## **World War 1**



**4110 PRIVATE**

**L. G. GRAYLAND**

**24TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 25**

*Duty Nobly Done*

## Leslie George GRAYLAND

Leslie George Grayland was born at Ballan, Victoria in 1891 to parents George & Sarah Anne Grayland (nee Pilling). His birth was registered as Jules Leslie Grayland.

Leslie George Grayland attended Penshurst School.

Leslie George Grayland was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from Macarthur, Victoria when he enlisted on 1st December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4110 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – George Grayland, of Macarthur, Victoria.

Leslie George Grayland was posted to "B" Company, 23rd (Depot) Battalion on 1st December, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 24th (Depot) Battalion, A.I.F. at Royal Park on 24th December, 1915. Pte Grayland was transferred to Williamstown Reinforcements on 14th January, 1916 & transferred to 10th Reinforcements, 24th Infantry Battalion at Broadmeadows on 20th January, 1916.

Private Leslie George Grayland embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 7th March, 1916 with the 10th Reinforcements, 24th Infantry Battalion, 6th Infantry Brigade.

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 Leslie George Grayland embarked for Overseas from 6th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 25th July, 1916. He was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 26th July, 1916.

Private Leslie George Grayland was taken on strength with his Battalion in France on 5th August, 1916.

Private Leslie George Grayland was evacuated wounded on 22nd August, 1916. He was admitted to 44th Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to legs then transferred to Ambulance Train on 24th August, 1916. Pte Grayland was invalided to England from Boulogne on 28th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Western Australia*.

### 24th Battalion

The Battalion proceeded to France in March, 1916. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres and Mouquet Farm in July and August, 1917.

#### War Diary – 24th Battalion – 22nd August, 1916:

*Bn at Brickfields making final equipment*

*3pm – Orders to move to SAUSAGE VALLEY*

*5.30pm – Bn arrived in Sausage Valley & proceeded to Pozieres to relieve 9 & 12 Bn who were holding Trenches... Mouquet Farm - Heavy casualties owing to barrage. Men had to move across open for 500yds. Men took shelter in shell holes. Lt. William Aubrey COWARD killed during relief. Fighting strength 598 O/R. Capt. Trew, O/C B Coy., Capt Garr, 2in Com C Comp Lt Hitchen remained in Sausage Valley.*

(War Diary & extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Leslie George Grayland was admitted to Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, Hampshire, England on 29th August, 1916 with gunshot wounds, amputated right leg & fractured right leg. He was dangerously ill. Pte Grayland was still listed as dangerously ill on 31st August, 1916.

Private Leslie George Grayland died on 28th September, 1916 at Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds & amputation of right leg.

A death for Leslie G. Grayland, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Fareham, Hampshire, England.

Private Leslie George Grayland was buried in Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire, England – Plot number C. 66 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Leslie George Grayland contains a letter from J. Right, for the Matron, Alexandra Hospital, Cosham which reads: *"We have written to Pte Grayland's friends in England, also to his friends in Melbourne, The Sister of the ward also wrote and sent a snapshot. Pte Grayland had a very serious injury to the thigh, also an amputation of the leg, Hemmorahge of the injury was the real cause of death, which came on at several different periods. He was a very nice lad and much liked in the ward. We would have been glad to have been able to give you different news of him."*

Private Leslie George Grayland was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Grayland's father - Mr G. Grayland, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent June, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie George Grayland – service number 4110, aged 25, of 24th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of George F. and Sarah Ann Grayland, of Macarthur, Victoria, Australia. Born at Ballan, Victoria.

Private L. G. Grayland is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 101.

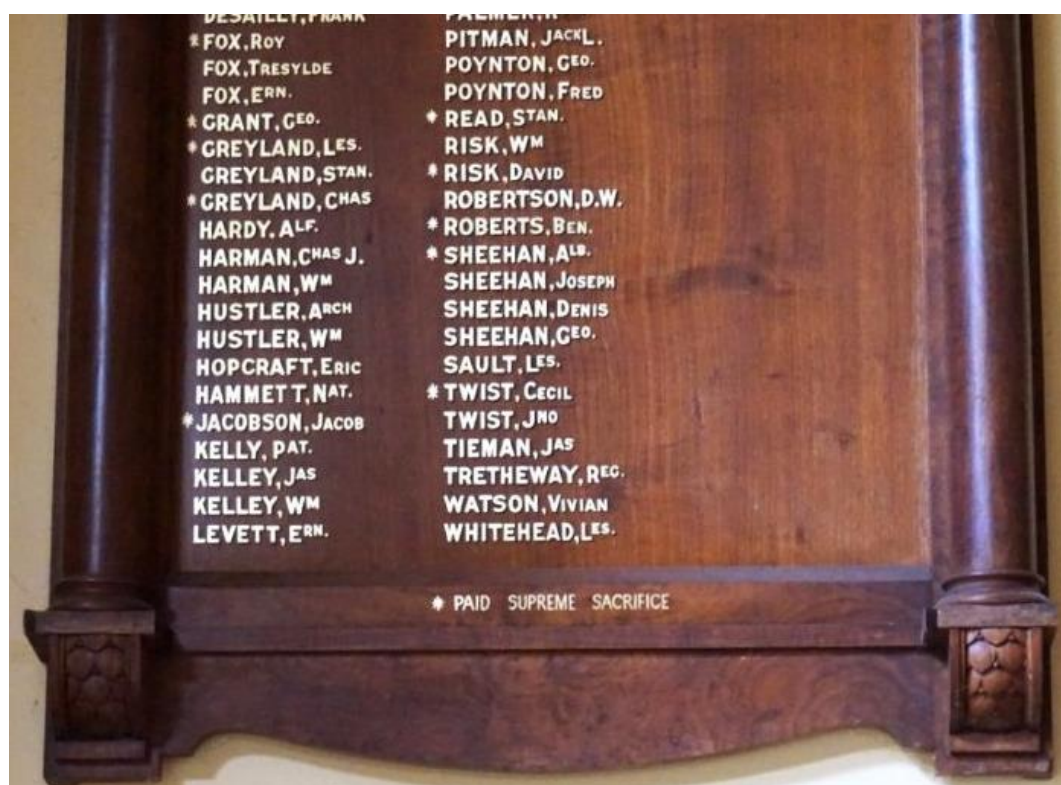


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Leslie Grayland is remembered on the Macarthur & District Roll of Honour, located at Mechanics Institute, High Street, Macarthur, Victoria. His 2 brothers – Charles (killed in action) & Stanley are also remembered, however their names are listed as Greyland.



Macarthur & District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)





Leslie Grayland & his brother Charles Grayland, are both remembered on the Macarthur War Memorial, located at High & Hecklefield Streets, Macarthur, Victoria



**Macarthur War Memorial** (Photo by Mattinbgn)



(63 pages of Pte Leslie George Grayland'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*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P07657.002

### Connected to Private Leslie George Grayland:

Younger Brother – Private (Charles) John Grayland, 5106, 14th Australian Infantry Battalion. Enlisted 12th January, 1916, killed in action on 7th August, 1916. Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France as he has no known grave. Entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal

Older Brother – Private James Stanley, 1131, 22nd Australian Infantry Battalion. Enlisted 29th March, 1915. Wounded in action – Gassed 17th July, 1918. Embarked from England for return to Australia 24th December, 1918 & disembarked on 11th February, 1919 in Australia. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.



### **Newspaper Notices**

#### **THE 218th CASUALTY LIST**

ILL

Private L. G. Grayland, Macarthur

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 27 September, 1916)

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#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

GRAYLAND – In sad and loving memory of dear Les, who died of wounds received in action in France September 28th, 1916.

Though lost to sight, to memory ever dear.

- Inserted by his loving Locky.

(*Hamilton Spectator*, Victoria – 12 October, 1916)

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#### **DEATH**

GRAYLAND – On the 27th September, died of wounds received while in action in France, Pte Leslie George the dearly loved third eldest son of George and Sarah Grayland; aged 25 years.

A British soldier, true and brave,

Peacefully sleeps in a soldier's grave

Great is our sorrow,

But God knows best,

He has taken our loved one

Home to rest.

(*Hamilton Spectator*, Victoria – 13 October, 1916)

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## AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

### TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIFTH LIST

#### DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte L. G. Graylands, Macarthur

(*Camperdown Chronicle*, Victoria – 19 October, 1916)

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#### IN MEMORIAM

##### On Active Service

GRAYLAND – PILLING – In loving memory of Leslie J. Grayland, who died in England, September 26, 1916, of wounds received in France; also his brother, Charlie, killed in action, August 7, 1916, the dear sons of Mr and Mrs G. Grayland, "Merivale", Macarthur; also of Louis J. Pilling, died of wound received in France, September 12, 1916, dear son of Mrs and the late John Pilling, Zeehan, Tasmania; grandsons of the late Mr and Mrs John Pilling, of Ballan, dearly lived nephews of Mr and Mrs J. G. Macdonald, 9 Turner street, East Malvern.

Deeply mourned.

They'll never quite leave us, our boys who have passed

Through the shadows of death to the sunlight above;

A thousand sweet memories are holding them fast

To the homes that they blessed with their presence and love.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 September, 1917)

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#### IN MEMORIAM

##### On Active Service

GRAYLAND – In loving memory of my dear brothers. Private Charles Grayland, killed in action at Pozieres on the 7th August, 1916; also Private Leslie Grayland, who died of wounds on the 28th September, 1916; loved brothers of Stanley (on active service in France). Sadly missed.

-Their loving sister, F. Axford.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 August, 1918)

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#### IN MEMORIAM

GRAYLAND – In sad and loving memory of our two dear boys, Private C. J. Grayland, killed in action at Pozieres, August 7th, 1916, also his dear brother, Private L. G. Grayland, died of wounds received at Pozieres, September 28, 1916, dear brothers of Private S. Grayland, on active service.

The shock was great, the blow severe,

To part with those we loved so dear;

Only those who have lost are able to tell

The pain at the heart at not saying farewell.

Far and oft my thought do wander,

To those graves so far away.

Their duty nobly done.

-Inserted by theory sorrowing parents, brothers and sisters.

(*Hamilton Spectator*, Victoria – 8 August, 1918)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

GRAYLAND – PILLING – In loving memory of Leslie, died 28th September, 1916, of wounds received in France; also of Charlie, his brother, sons of Mr and Mrs G. Grayland, Macarthur; also of Lou, dear son of the late John and Mrs Pilling, Queenstown, Tas., died of wound in France, September 7, 1916, grandsons of the late Mr and Mrs John Pilling, of Ballan, nephews of Mr and Mrs J. G. Macdonald, Turner street, East Malvern.

'Twas for us they dared all dangers; twas for us those dear lads bled;  
'Twas for us they still pressed onward, though their pals lay crushed and dead;  
'Twas for us, and for our freedom, they so valiantly stood  
'Midst the murd'rous hail of shrapnel, in the trenches soaked with blood.  
Oh! dinna forget.

GRAYLAND – In loving memory of our dear sons and brothers, Private L. G. Grayland, 24th Battalion, died of wounds received at Pozieres, France, 28th September, 1916; also Private C. J. Grayland, 14th Battalion, killed in action at Pozieres on the 7th August, 1916.

Ever remembered

Now peace has dawned over the countryside,  
Let your thanks go to the boys who died.  
Dear, brave hearts, can you hear us tell  
How peace was won by the boys who fell?  
Gone into the land of beauty,  
'Mid the never-fading flowers;  
Gone from sorrow, pain and trouble,  
To a better world than ours.

-(Inserted by their loving mother and father, brothers and sisters, Merivale, Macarthur)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 September, 1919)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

GRAYLAND – In sad and loving memory of No, 4110, Pte Les. Grayland, of 24th Battalion, A.I.F., died of wounds received at Pozieres, France, 28th September, 1916; also 5106, Pte Charles Grayland, of the 14th Battalion, A.I.F., killed in action at Pozieres 7th August, 1916.

Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

-Inserted by their loving parents, brothers and sisters, Stan. (late 22nd Battalion), also Frank. Mrs Axford, Mrs Beard and Beatie.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 September, 1920)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

GRAYLAND – In loving memory of our dear sons and brothers, Private Charles John Grayland, 14th Battalion, killed in action, Pozieres, on the 7th August, 1917; also Private Leslie George Grayland, 24th Battalion, died of wounds caused in France, 28th September, 1916. Ever remembered.

Sleep, soldiers, sleep, thy work is done;  
The wild flowers bloom on thy graves, so lone.  
The soft winds blow on that hallowed spot  
Where our loved ones lie sleeping, but not forgot.

-Inserted by their fond parents, brothers and sisters (late of Macarthur).

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 September, 1921)

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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*)

Private L. G. Grayland does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Duty Nobly Done*

## Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire, England

Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown contains 167 Commonwealth War Graves - 133 from World War 1, including 2 from Belgian Army & 34 relating to World War 2. There are 6 Australian World War 1 War Graves.



Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown (Photo above from CWGC & below from Peter Bennett)





Photo of Private L. G. Grayland's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire, England.



*(Photo by FrankGrant – Find a Grave)*