

**St. Bartholomew Churchyard,
Ingham, Suffolk,
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



850 SERJEANT

W. G. HOLLAND

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

1ST NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 32

William George Sydney HOLLAND

William George Sydney Holland was born at Bunyip, Victoria on 4th November, 1885 to parents John & Eliza Holland (nee Snell). His birth was registered in 1886.

The 1909, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916 1917 & 1918 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Flinders, subdivision of Bunyip listed William George Sydney Holland, farmer, of Bunyip, Victoria.

William George Sydney Holland was a 29 year old, single, Farmer from Bunyip, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 3rd June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 850 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Eliza Holland of Bunyip, Victoria. William Holland stated on his Attestation Papers that he was currently serving with Light Horse 13th Regiment & had also served with the Bunyip Rifle Club for 3 years.

Acting Corporal William George Sydney Holland embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Malakuta (A57)* on 10th September, 1915 with the 4th Light Horse Brigade, 13th Light Horse Regiment, 2nd Reinforcements.

Acting Corporal Holland was taken on strength with Composite Australian Light Horse Regiment at Heliopolis, Egypt on 20th November, 1915.

On 20th November, 1915 Holland was made Temporary Corporal.

On 23rd December, 1915 Temporary Corporal Holland was to be Temporary Sergeant.

Temporary Sergeant Holland reverted to ranks on 19th January, 1916 upon disbandment of Composite Australian Light Horse Regiment & rejoined his original Unit – 13th Light Horse Regiment.

Private Holland was transferred to 2nd Divisional Ammunition Column at Heliopolis on 11th March, 1916. He was appointed Acting Corporal & posted to No. 3 Section at Zeitoun on 13th March, 1916.

Acting Corporal Holland was marched out to Alexandria from Zeitoun on 20th March, 1916 & embarked for Marseilles, France on *Magdalena* on 21st March, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles & proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 27th March, 1916.

Acting Corporal Holland was transferred to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples on 20th May, 1916.

Acting Corporal Holland was appointed Acting Corporal (E.D.P.) (Extra Duty Pay) at Etaples on 11th July, 1916. His rank reverted to permanent rank of Gunner on 9th August, 1916.

Gunner Holland rejoined 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) in the field on 18th September, 1916.

Gunner Holland was mustered as Driver while in the field on 11th November, 1916.

Driver Holland was transferred to 6th F.A.B. A.C. on 28th January, 1917. He was taken on strength with 6th Army Field Artillery Brigade & posted to B. A. Column on 1st February, 1917.

Driver Holland was appointed Acting Bombardier (without pay) on 7th June, 1917.

Acting Bombardier Holland was posted to 17th Battery on 12th October, 1917.

Acting Bombardier Holland was on leave to UK on 30th October, 1917 & rejoined from leave on 11th November, 1917.

Acting Bombardier Holland was promoted to Temporary Bombardier on 11th November, 1917, vice T/Bdr Chapman evacuated.

Acting Bombardier Holland was promoted to Bombardier on 20th December, 1917 to complete establishment.

Bombardier Holland was promoted to Temporary Corporal while in France on 20th December, 1917, vice Corporal Lee promoted.

Temp./Cpl. Holland reverted to rank of Bombardier on return of Corporal Weller on 21st January, 1918.

Bombardier Holland was promoted to Corporal on 20th February, 1918, vice Lee promoted.

Corporal Holland was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 28th June, 1918 vice Sgt. Brain evacuated sick. He reverted back to Corporal on 10th August, 1918 on return of Sgt. Lee from Hospital.

Corporal Holland was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 14th September, 1918, vice Sgt. Lee returned to Australia.

Temporary Sergeant William George Sydney Holland was wounded with Gas on 18th October, 1918. He was taken to 41st Casualty Clearing Station on 19th October, 1918 suffering effects of a Gas Shell. He was transferred to 22nd General Hospital at Camiers on 20th October, 1918 & placed on A.T. 48 (Ambulance Train) on 25th October, 1918. Temporary Sergeant Holland's rank reverted to Corporal on being wounded in France on 19th October, 1918. Corporal Holland embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth* on 26th October, 1918.

Corporal Holland was admitted to Suffolk Ampton Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, England on 27th October, 1918 suffering from effects of being Gassed & Broncho Pneumonia. He was reported as dangerously ill.

Corporal William George Sydney Holland died at 3 am on 1st November, 1918 at Ampton Hall Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk from Gas Shell poisoning and Bronchial Pneumonia.

A death for William G. S. Holland, aged 33, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

Corporal William George Sydney Holland was buried on 5th November, 1918 at St. Bartholomew Churchyard, Ingham, Suffolk and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of T/Sgt. Holland - Coffin was good Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by beautiful wreaths sent from:- Hospital Staff, Ampton, Bury St. Edmunds. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev. Wickham of Bury St. Edmunds. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

William George Sydney Holland requested in his Will, dated 9th September, 1915 that Thomas Snell of NarNarGoon, Victoria be appointed Executor & that his real estate to Thomas Snell and Anna Snell "in fee simple in trust for (Father) John Holland."

T/Serjeant William George Sydney Holland was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Holland's father, Mr John Holland of Bunyip, Victoria, being the next-of-kin even though his mother, Mrs Eliza Holland of 91 Cowper St, Footscray, Victoria, was noted as next-of-kin on the Attestation Papers. Mrs Eliza Holland had written to Base Records in May, 1920 requesting to receive her son's 1914-15 Star. She was advised that according to Regulations under the Deceased Soldiers' Estate Act of 1918, a soldier's father was entitled to receive any medals before the soldier's mother. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922 to Mr J. Holland).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant William George Sydney Holland - service number 850, aged 32, of 6th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Holland. Born at Bunyip, Gippsland, Victoria.

W. G. S. Holland is remembered on the Bunyip War Memorial located at Main Road & High Street, Bunyip, Victoria.



Bunyip War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Corporal W. G. S. Holland is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 14.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Sergeant W. G. S. Holland is remembered on the Ampton Hospital Memorial, located inside Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, New Road, Ampton, Suffolk, England.



Ampton Hospital Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Online)



(77 pages of Corporal William George Sydney Holland'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

DIED ON SERVICE

HOLLAND – Died of gas poisoning, 850, Sergeant W. G. S. Holland, dearly beloved eldest son of John and Eliza Holland, brother of Gertrude, Leslie (deceased), Katherine, Thomas, Phoebe, Jack, Ethel, Percy (deceased) and Edward.

A life nobly ended.

- Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters and brothers. Late of Bunyip.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 November, 1918) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 November, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

448th and 449th CASUALTY LISTS

Other Victorians

DIED FROM WOUNDS

T. Sgt. W. G. HOLLAND, Footscray

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 2 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

HOLLAND – In Loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergeant W. G. S. Holland, who died of pneumonia at Bury St. Edmunds, England, on 1st November, 1918. Lead, kindly light.

Far away in his lonely grave he is not forgotten.

- Inserted by his parents, sisters and brothers, Footscray, late Bunyip.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 November, 1919)

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*)

Eliza Holland, mother of the late William George Sydney Holland, who lived at Footscray, wrote to Base Records in December, 1920 to advise that her husband from Bunyip had forgotten to put the verse that they wanted on the Headstone form & she was hoping that they would be able to arrange to have the following verse on their son's headstone: –

“With pride too great for tears,
We fake the coming years,
Remembering our dead,”

Serjeant W. G. Holland does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

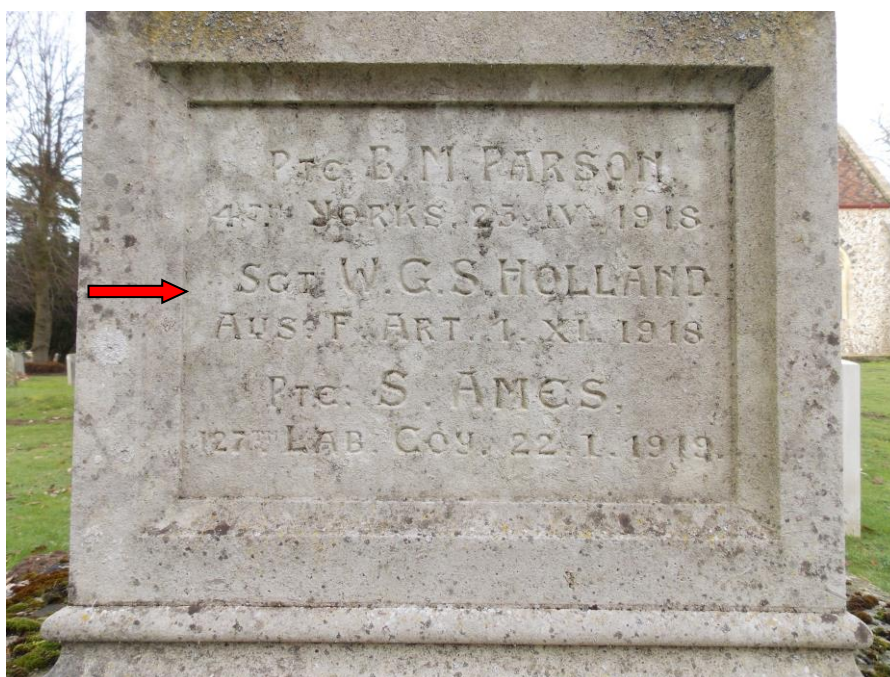
St. Bartholomew Churchyard, Ingham, Surrey

St. Bartholomew Churchyard, Ingham contains 10 War Graves, all but one being World War 1 graves. There are 2 Australian Soldiers buried in this Churchyard.



St. Bartholomew Churchyard, Ingham, Surrey (Photo by Adrian S. Pye)

Sergeant W. G. S. Holland's grave is located next to the War Memorial in St. Bartholomew Churchyard, Ingham, Surrey. He is also named on the St. Bartholomew's Church, Ingham War Memorial for Ampton Hall Red Cross Hospital.



(Photo from War Memorials Online)



St. Bartholomew's Church, Ingham War Memorial for Ampton Hall Red Cross Hospital.

(Photo by Adrian S. Pye)

Photo of Serjeant W. G. Holland's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Bartholomew Churchyard, Ingham, Surrey, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Gunner -January, 2020)