

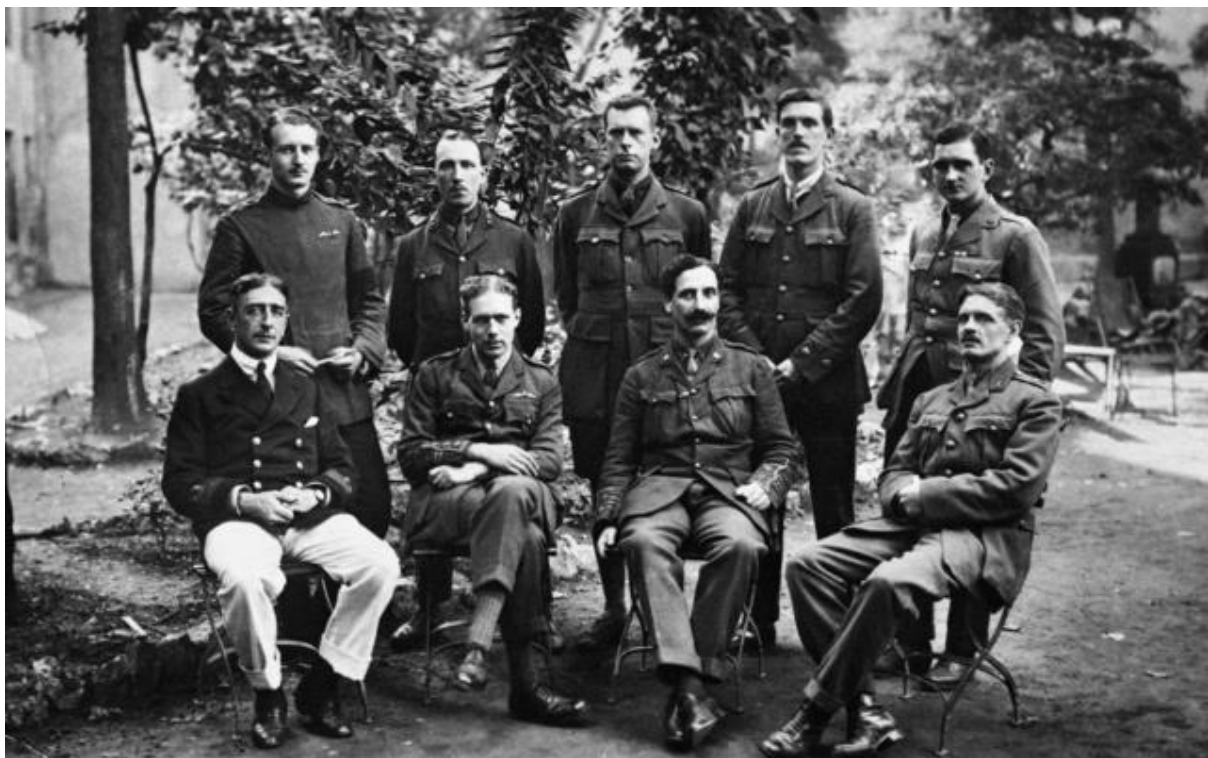
Maurice was born in Hobart on 4th December 1885, the son of Annie Gertrude and George John Burke. At the time of his attestation his parents resided at 37 Brighton Road, St Kilda, Victoria. He enlisted in A Coy, AN&MEF, on 11th August 1914 and served out his full 206 days, finishing on 4th March 1915. He listed his occupation as Clerk (telegraphist).

He re-attested in Rabaul and was posted to the 3 BN, Tropical Force (Service Number 537), and was attached to the Treasury until he completed his period of service on 22 May 1915.

He returned to Melbourne and joined the AIF on 20th June 1915 and was posted to the 29th Battalion (service number 1504). Whilst in training in Seymour, he was promoted Sergeant on 1st November 1915.

On 10th November 1915 he left Melbourne aboard the ASCANIUS arriving at Suez on 7th December 1915, going into camp with the 29th Battalion at Tel El Kebir until 23rd June 1916 when they were transferred to Marseilles. On 29th July 1916 he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant and again promoted on 28th Dec to Lieutenant.

On 1st March 1917, whilst the Battalion was on the Beugny Line, north-east of Poziers, Maurice received a hand grenade shrapnel wound to both legs and his forearm and was taken prisoner by the Germans.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05974.005

Maurice as a POW – centre back row.

Offiziergefangenenlager Freiburg i. Br.

Ehrenwort-Karte No.



für

Lt. Burke, M. F.

(Dienstgrad und Name)

Word of honour:

The British officer signed hereunder gives his parole, that he will make no attempt to escape, that he will make no preparations for an attempt to escape in the future, and that he will not act in any way to the prejudice of the State, by which he is held prisoner, when allowed to leave the camp for the purpose of taking a bath, of having a walk or any other recreation, football, sports etc.

This parole will be in force each time from the moment of leaving the camp until having returned to the camp.

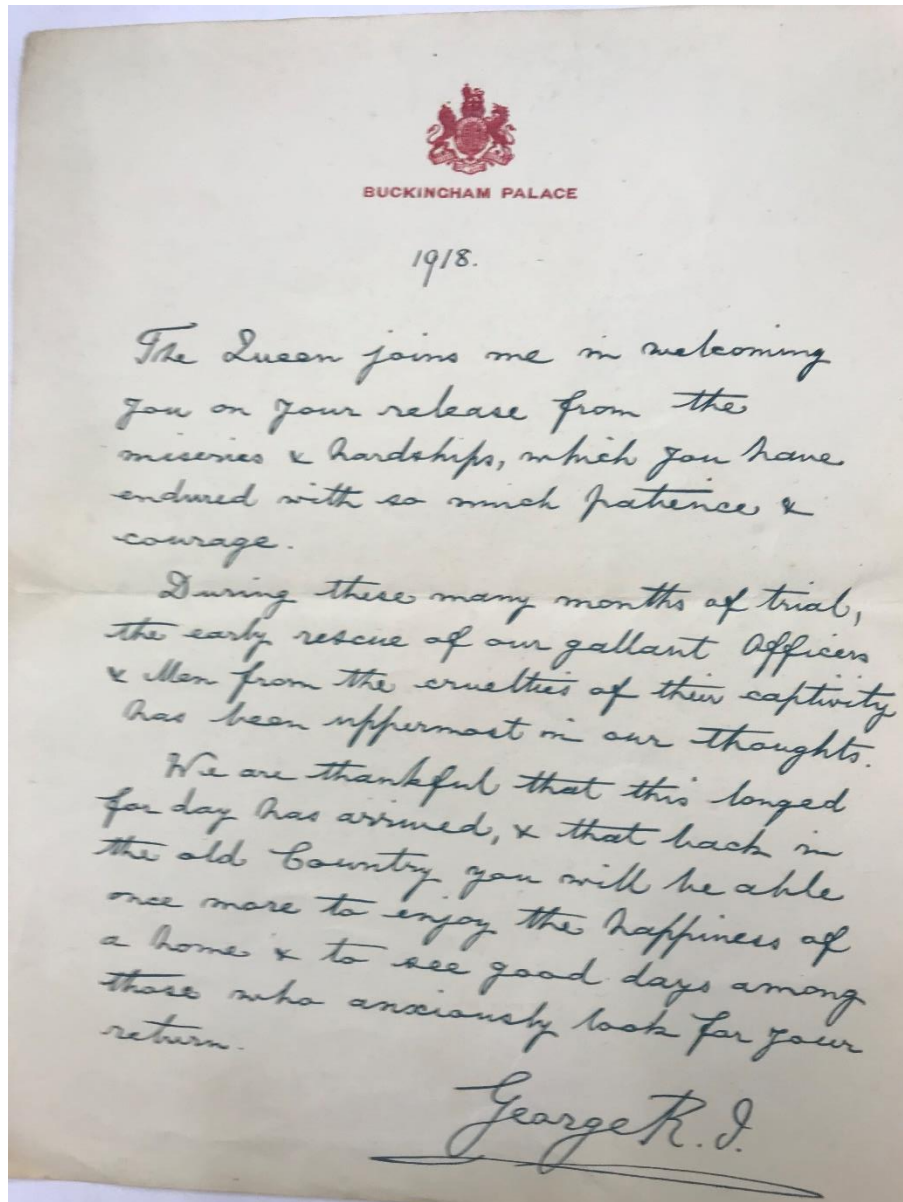
I also give my word of honour, to use this card only myself and not to give it to any other prisoner of war.

M. Burke Lt. 24th Aust Int Bat

Officer-Gefangenerlager

German ID.

He remained a Prisoner of War for the remaining period of the war and was in hospital in Osnabruck and POW camps at Limburg and finally at Freiburg from where he was released, arriving back in Dover on 4th December 1918. Some 13 days later, on 17th December, he married Hilda Florence Derry.



Letter from King George following his release in 1918.

Whilst Maurice was a prisoner of war, he received news that his brother, Capt Harold Burke had been killed on 23rd August 1918 whilst serving with the 5th Battalion in France.

Maurice left the UK aboard the KATOOMBA on 8th August 1919 and his appointment to the AIF was terminated on 26th November 1919.

Maurice enlisted again on 1st April 1942 and served as a Private in the 5th Battalion, Volunteer Defence Corps (service number V357098) until 9th October 1945.

He died in 1955 at Caulfield, Victoria.