

**Fordington Cemetery,
Dorchester, Dorset
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1337 PRIVATE

K. MacDONALD

4TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY

7TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 25*

** (correct age 26)*

Kenneth MacDONALD

(Note: I have been advised by a family member that the correct spelling of the family name is "Macdonald"- with a small "d". Throughout this document the spelling used is that which has been found in the source documents.)

Kenneth Macdonald was born at 62 Links Street, Kirkcaldy, Scotland on 27th January, 1891 to parents Hector and Christina Macdonald (nee McRae).

The 1891 Scotland Census recorded Kenneth McDonald as a 2 month old living with his family at 62 Links Street, Kirkcaldy and Abbotshall, Fife, Scotland. His parents were listed as Hector McDonald (Collector Salesman for Machine __, aged 25, born Roskhill, Inverness) & Christina McDonald (aged 23, born Kiltearn, Ross-Shire). Also living with the family was Mary McRae, a Visitor, (possibly Christina's sister) (General Servant, aged 17, born Kiltearn, Ross-Shire).

Kenneth MacDonald attended the Council School of Scotland.

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded Kenneth McDonald as a 10 year old Scholar, living with his family at Harbour Place, Burntisland. His parents were listed as Hector McDonald (Labourer for Dock Contractor, aged 35) & Christina McDonald (aged 32). Kenneth was the eldest of 6 children listed on this Census – Hector (Scholar, aged 8, born Kirkcaldy, Fife), Alexander (Scholar, aged 5, born Smithtown, Culloden), Archibald (aged 3, born Smithtown, Culloden), Euphemia (aged 6, born Smithtown, Culloden) & Catherine (aged 1, born Haugh Mill, Windygate, Fife).

The 1911 Scotland Census recorded Kenneth McDonald as a 20 year old living with his family at High Station, Falkirk, Scotland. His parents were listed as Hector McDonald (aged 45) & Christina McDonald (aged 43). Hector & Christina had been married for 22 years & had a total of 11 children, 9 still living. Hector & Christina both spoke Gaelic & English. Kenneth was the eldest of 9 children listed on this Census – Hector (aged 18), Euphemia (aged 16), Alex (aged 15), Archibald (aged 13), Catherine (aged 11), John (aged 9), Christina (aged 7) & Donald (aged 3). Also listed was Maggie McRae – a visitor (aged 1).

Kenneth MacDonald came to Australia when he was 18 years old, according to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour. However a "Kenneth MacDonald", aged 21, Railway Worker, was a passenger on *Kaipara* which departed from London & arrived in Brisbane, Queensland on 21st June, 1911.

Kenneth Macdonald was a 23 year old, single, Bushman (according to his mother his occupation was Labourer – Timber Docks, Brisbane) when he enlisted at Toowoomba, Queensland on 16th November, 1914 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 1st Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1337 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Hector Macdonald, of High Station Buildings, Falkirk, Scotland. Private Kenneth Macdonald was posted to 1st Reinforcements of 15th Battalion on 16th November, 1914.

Note: Different forms within the Service Record of Kenneth Macdonald have different spellings of the surname – MacDonald, McDonald & Macdonald. The family spelling of the name has been used for the entries in the service record)

Private Kenneth Macdonald embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 22nd December, 1914.

Private Kenneth Macdonald proceeded to join the M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 12th April, 1915.

Private Kenneth Macdonald was admitted to Hospital at Dardanelles on 19th June, 1915 with Influenza – serious. He was transferred on Hospital Ship to Alexandria where he was admitted to No. 17 General Hospital on 24th June, 1915.

Private Kenneth Macdonald was admitted to Deaconess Hospital at Alexandria on 25th July, 1915 suffering from Enteric Fever. Pte Macdonald was admitted to Enteric Camp on 7th September, 1915. Private Kenneth Macdonald was transferred to England on SS *Runic* & admitted to Welsh War Hospital at Whitchurch, Cardiff on 6th October, 1915.

Private Kenneth Macdonald reported to Base at Abbey Wood on 24th November, 1915.

Private Kenneth Macdonald was to be debited for the loss of his Kit on 7th June, 1916 while in England.

Private Kenneth Macdonald was transferred from Monte Video, Weymouth to Perham Downs, Salisbury, Wiltshire on 28th June, 1916. Pte Macdonald was taken on strength of 4th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire.

Private Kenneth Macdonald proceeded overseas on 16th July, 1916. He was marched in to No. 4 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 18th July, 1916.

Private Kenneth Macdonald proceeded from Etaples on 11th August, 1916 to join 15th Battalion. He joined his Battalion in France on 14th August, 1916.

15th Battalion

The 15th Battalion A.I.F. was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The Queensland and Tasmanian recruits were united when the battalion trained together in Victoria. They embarked for overseas just before Christmas. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an A.I.F. division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt, it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

From May to August, the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. In August, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. At the end of the month, a detachment from A Company reinforced the 14th Battalion's unsuccessful attack on Hill 60. The 15th Battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there, the A.I.F. was expanded and was reorganised. The 15th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 47th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August 1916. Along with most of the 4th Brigade, the battalion suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April 1917 when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. It spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium, advancing to the Hindenburg Line.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Kenneth Macdonald was wounded in action on 28th August, 1916.

War Diary – 15th Battalion

From 4.30 am till midnight enemy shelling was well distributed and fairly heavy except as follows:- From 2.30 to 3 pm enemy heavily shelled out front line doing much damage to trenches and inflicting many casualties. From 2.15 pm to 3.30 pm heavy enemy barrage on communication trenches just north of Pozieres, with little damage caused, also on all trenches in Western half of R 34 A with great damage to trenches considerable lengths of which were nearly levelled by heavy shells. At 3.45 pm three enemy planes came from a north easterly direction and cruised over our sector of front for half an hour subsequently returning in the direction from which they came. During our stay in the front line on numerous occasions enemy stretcher bearers were observed working in the open under cover of Red Cross Flags. Our stretcher bearers were doing the same and were not fired on.

During the night of 28th/29th we, less our D Coy., were relieved by the 13th Battalion (relief completed by 5am) and proceeded to Crater Trench as reserve. Our D Coy. remained in reserve to 13th Battalion being situated in trench R 34 d 09 to C 75.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

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Private Kenneth Macdonald was taken to 1 A.R.S. on 28th August, 1916 with a gunshot wound to shoulder then transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 30th August, 1916. Pte Macdonald was transferred & admitted to 14th General Hospital at Wimereux on 31st August, 1916. He was transferred to 1st Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 3rd September, 1916 then transferred to Details on 4th September, 1916.

Private Kenneth Macdonald was marched in from Hospital to No. 4 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 6th September, 1916.

Private Kenneth Macdonald proceeded to join 15th Battalion on 21st September, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion in the field on 23rd September, 1916.

Kenneth Macdonald, aged 24, Soldier in Australian Force, married Hilda Ethel May Gill, aged 21, on 16th October, 1916 in Church of St. Mary, West Fordington, Dorchester, Dorset, England. Both listed their residence at the time of the marriage as Maud Road, Victoria Park.

Private Kenneth Macdonald was seconded for duty & taken on strength of 4th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery from 15th Battalion on 29th October, 1916.

Private Kenneth Macdonald was sent to Hospital sick on 23rd December, 1916. He was transferred to 8th General Hospital at Rouen on 2nd January, 1917 – N.Y.D. Mental (Not Yet Determined).

Private Kenneth Macdonald was marked for transfer to England on 3rd January, 1917. He was transferred to Havre then embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick* on 3rd January, 1917

Private Kenneth Macdonald was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, near Southampton, Hampshire, England on 4th January, 1917. The Hospital Report reads :*"On admission ___ Medical Division was found to be suffering from Disseminated Sarcoma – with paraplegia. Symptoms of further growth in the brain supervened & Pt died on 7.2.17. No post-mortem."*

Private Kenneth Macdonald died on morning of 7th February, 1917 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, near Southampton, Hampshire, England from Disseminated Sarcoma (not due to Military Service).



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

A death for Kenneth McDonald, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Private Kenneth Macdonald's body was sent to Dorchester, Dorset on the 8th February, 1917 for interment by his widow, Mrs Macdonald, of 1 Maud Street, Victoria Park, Dorchester. He was buried on 9th February, 1917 in Fordington Cemetery, Dorchester, Dorset, England – Plot number New. 238 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Ivy Joan Macdonald, daughter of Kenneth & Hilda Macdonald, was born on 12th April, 1917 in Dorchester, Dorset, England, 2 months after her father's death.

A War Pension was granted to Ivy Joan MacDonald of 1 Maud Street, Victoria Park, Dorchester, daughter of the late Private Kenneth MacDonald in the sum of 20/- per fortnight commencing 12th April, 1917 & expired on 12th April, 1933. Hilda Ethel May MacDonald was named as Trustee.

A War Pension was granted to Hilda Ethel May MacDonald of 1 Maud Street, Victoria Park, Dorchester, widow of the late Private Kenneth MacDonald in the sum of £2 per fortnight commencing 9th April, 1917.

The Personal effects of the late Private Kenneth Macdonald, from the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, were sent to Pte Macdonald's mother – Mrs Christina Macree, High Station Buildings, Falkirk, Scotland.

Pte Kenneth MacDonald was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte MacDonald's widow - Mrs H. MacDonald, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Kenneth MacDonald – service number 1337, aged 25, of 4th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery. He was the son of Hector and Christina MacDonald; husband of Hilda MacDonald, of 1 Maud Road, Victoria Park, Dorchester, England. Born at Glasgow, Scotland.

Private K. MacDonald is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 20.



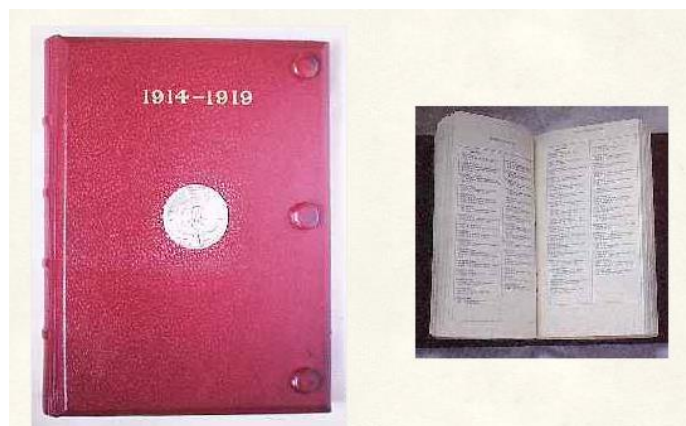
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private Kenneth MacDonald is remembered in the Roll of Honour Books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour Books.

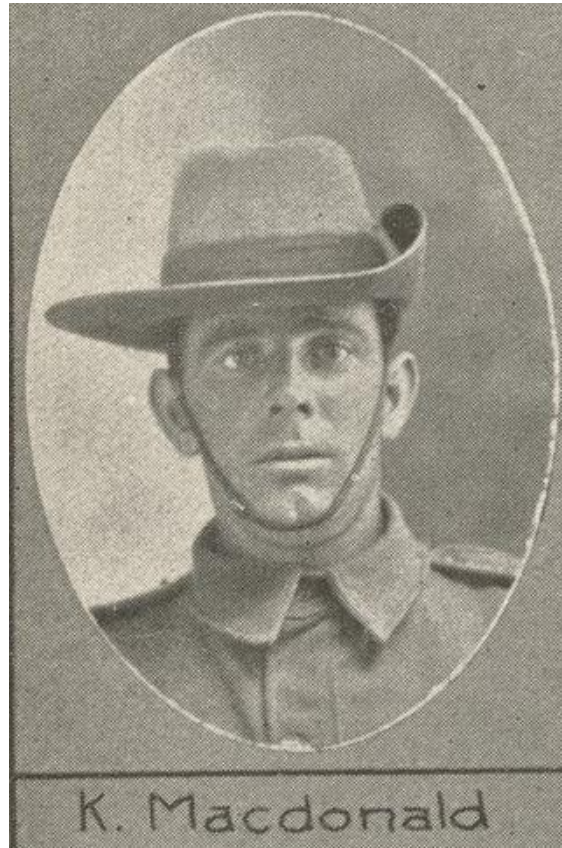
(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



(43 pages of Pte Kenneth MacDonald'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





Private K. Macdonald

(Photo from The Queenslander Pictorial - 2 January, 1915)



The Macdonald family have this photo of Kenneth Macdonald (seated) while in Hospital

(Photo kindly supplied by George Macdonald)

Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

QUEENSLAND

SERIOUSLY ILL

K. MacDonald, Scotland

(The Daily Mail, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia – 23 January, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

MACDONALD – Feb. 7, at the Victoria Hospital, Netley, following wounds received in action, Private Kenneth MacDonald, eldest son of Mr Hector MacDonald, of Springbourne, Glasgow, and husband of Mrs Hilda MacDonald, of 1 Maud-road, Dorchester, aged 26.

(Western Gazette, Yeovil, Somerset, England – 16 February, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN'S INTERMENT AT FORDINGTON

Private Kenneth MacDonald, of the Australian Infantry, one of the gallant Anzacs whose deeds of heroism in the operations in the Gallipoli Peninsula will be immortalised, passed away last week and his body was interred at Fordington St, George Churchyard. The deceased was the eldest son of Mr Hector MacDonald, of Glasgow. He was in Australia when war broke out, and formed on of the first contingent that patriotically left the Antipodes. He took part in the fierce fighting at the Suvla Bay landing and was later invalided to England suffering with enteric fever. On his recovery he again went on active service, and about a month ago was wounded. Complications set in and he was taken to the Victoria Hospital at Netley, where he died at the early age of 26. It was only in October last that he was married to Miss Hilda Gill, second daughter of Mr William Gill, of 1, Maud-road, Dorchester, and the deepest sympathy is felt for her in being bereft of her husband after so short a married life. The body was conveyed by S.W. train to Dorchester on Thursday and deposited in St. Mary's Church to await the interment on the following day. The major part of the Burial Service was conducted in the church. A squad of Australian soldiers was present to accord the final honours to their departed comrade. Six of them acted as bearers, and the coffin, covered with the Union Jack, was wheeled on a hand bier. In the mourning carriages that followed were the chief mourners, namely, the widow, Mr MacDonald (father), Mr and Mrs Gill (father-in-law and mother-in-law), Mrs Barton and Miss Flossie Gill (sisters-in-law), Mr and Mrs Gifford (aunt and uncle). Major A. H. Platt, Depot Dorset Regiment, was present at the Churchyard, as also were a number of troops. At the conclusion of the service at the graveside, the customary volleys over the grave followed, and the sounding of the "Last Post" by the buglers. The floral tributes were very beautiful.

(Western Gazette, Yeovil, Somerset, England – 16 February, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST NO. 273

QUEENSLAND

DIED OF ILLNESS

K. MacDonald, Scotland; 7/2/17 (prev. rep. ser. ill)

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 20 February, 1917)

Fordington Cemetery, Dorchester, Dorset, England

Fordington Cemetery, Dorchester contains 34 Commonwealth War Graves – 323 relate to World War 1 & 2 relate to World War 2.



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Pte Kenneth MacDonald's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Fordington Cemetery, Dorchester, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Gravestone Photographic [Resource](#))

In

Loving Memory

Of

No. 1337 P^{TE} KENNETH M^{AC}DONALD, A.I.F.

The Dearly Beloved Husband Of

Hilda MacDonald Who Died Of Wounds

At Netley Hospital 7 Feb, 1917. Aged 25



The above photo shows the marble cross which has fallen & is on the ground in front of the base

(Photo by Historynut)