

**Stockbridge Cemetery,
Stockbridge, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

L. J. MAC DONALD

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

19TH JANUARY, 1918 Age 37

Remembered By Loved Ones

His Duty Nobly Done

For King & Country

Lachlan John MACDONALD

Lachlan John MacDonald was born at Ardmona, Mooroopna, Victoria, Australia in 1881 to parents Charles Stuart & Margaret MacDonald (nee Matheson).

Lachlan John MacDonald joined Royal Flying Corps.

The Royal Flying Corps

The Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) was the air arm of the British Army before and during the First World War, until it merged with the Royal Naval Air Service on 1st April, 1918 to form the Royal Air Force. During the early part of the war, the R.F.C. supported the British Army, by artillery co-operation and photographic reconnaissance. This work gradually led R.F.C. pilots into aerial battles with German pilots and later in the war included the strafing of enemy infantry and emplacements, the bombing of German military airfields and later the strategic bombing of German industrial and transportation facilities. (Wikipedia)

From the British Royal Air Force Officer's Service Records the following information for L. Macdonald is listed:

- *Name of Person to be Informed of Casualties* – N. V. McDonald Address No. 2 Rank Aylesbury Military Hospital.
- *Date Sheet started* – 16th August, 1918
- *Appointments & Promotions* – AEO – 17th July, 1916; EO3 –September, 1916; F.O. 5th January, 1918.
- *Special Qualifications* – Gunnery E.O. 3 – 15th July, 1916.

Lachlan John MacDonald was posted to MGS (Machine Gun School?) from 17th July, 1916 – “on appt as AEO.” He was posted to S of A G (School of Aerial Gunnery) “on appt as EO3” then to Reading on 25th September, 1917. He was posted to No. 7 Training Squadron from 9th November, 1917 then to No. 91 Squadron on 5th January, 1918 “On appt as F.O.” (Flying Officer).

Lachlan John MacDonald was appointed Flying Officer (Pilot) from 5th January, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Lachlan John MacDonald of 92 Squadron of Royal Flying Corps, was flying a SPAD VII Serial number A8858 on 19th January, 1918 from Chattis Hill Aerodrome, Hampshire, England when it collided mid-air with another aeroplane.



Royal Flying Corps – SPAD VII

Lieutenant Lachlan John MacDonald died on 19th January, 1918 as a result of an aeroplane mid-air collision near Chattis Hill Aerodrome. Lieutenant Charles Edgar Rowley, aged 20, of No. 92 Squadron, flying an Avro C4388 was also killed in the mid-air collision.

A death for Lachlan Mac Donald, aged 35, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Stockbridge, Hampshire, England.

A Court of Inquiry was held:

"The Court having considered the evidence is of the opinion that the Collision was caused by the Pilot of the Spad No 8858 Engine No. 10107 colliding at about 1200 feet with Avro No 4388 Engine No 4175 when the Pilot was practicing loops. The evidence goes to show that the right elevator of the Avro was completely wrecked whilst the left elevator was undamaged & the bottom port plane of the Spad was wrenched off in the air. It is shown in the evidence that the Two Machines were flying at right angles to one another and that the Pilot of the Avro was side slipping out of his loops. The Court having with the models compared the positions of the two Machines and taken into consideration the fact that the Pilot of the Avro was not looping properly is of the opinion that the port plane of the Spad struck the right elevator of the Avro causing both Pilots to be killed. The Court considers that the Officer responsible for the accident was the Pilot of the Spad, 2nd Lieutenant L. McDonald, R.F.C. Gen List, who as he was flying a faster machine should have kept a better look out and given way to the Avro in accordance with the rules of the Air."

Lieutenant Lachlan John MacDonald was buried in Stockbridge Cemetery, Stockbridge, Hampshire, England and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Lieutenant Lachlan John MacDonald, Pilot, aged 37, of 91 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps was listed as "Airman Died in the Great War, 1914-1919." He died on 19th January, 1918 & was K.W.F. (killed whilst flying) in Spad S7 A8858. His Theatre of Operations was listed as United Kingdom.

Probate Details:

MACDONALD, Lachlan John of Dookie, Victoria, Australia. Lieutenant R.F.C., died 19 January, 1918 at Stockbridge, Hampshire. Administration (limited) London 22 January to Robert Pulsford Hart, Solicitor Attorney of the Equity Trustee Executors and Agency Company Limited. Effects £343 19s 1d.

Newspaper item – Dookie and Katamatite Recorder, Victoria – 14 February, 1918:

Our Heroes

Died, in the service of his country, Lachlan J. McDonald, horticulturist, attached to the staff of the Dookie Agricultural College, and well known to residents of this and surrounding districts. The late Mr McDonald (" Mac " to all his numerous friends) spent his early days in the Mooroopna district, and received special training at the orchard and school of horticulture of Mr John West, of Ardmona. Further experience was gained at the well-known Nobelius Nurseries at Gembrook, and landscape gardening on station home steads in the Western district contributed its share towards putting a finish on an education which was to be used, at a later period, in imparting a first-class knowledge of horticultural work to the numerous students who came under his care.

During the years of his connection with the College, Mr McDonald contributed a great number of articles on subjects connected with his work to various agricultural journals and papers, and was a splendid lecturer and teacher. He was an enthusiast in all matters pertaining to his particular branch, and had the faculty of being able to enthuse others. Mr McDonald joined the College staff in 1907, and left for England in October 1915, where he received a commission as Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps, became Instructor in Aviation, and, as the result of an accident when flying, met his death at Stockbridge, Hants, England, on the 19th January of this year.

A good public-spirited citizen, and one whose loss will be regretted by all classes in the community. We offer his relatives our heartfelt sympathy. "Vale!"

The Medal Index card for Lachlan MacDonald recorded him with the rank of Private with O.T.C. (Officers' Training Corps) & a Regimental Number of 9145. He was then recorded with the rank of Lieutenant with R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps). He was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Lachlan John MacDonald, aged 37, of 91st Sqdn, Royal Flying Corps. He was the son of the late Charles Stuart MacDonald and Margaret MacDonald.

Lieutenant L. J. MacDonald is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)

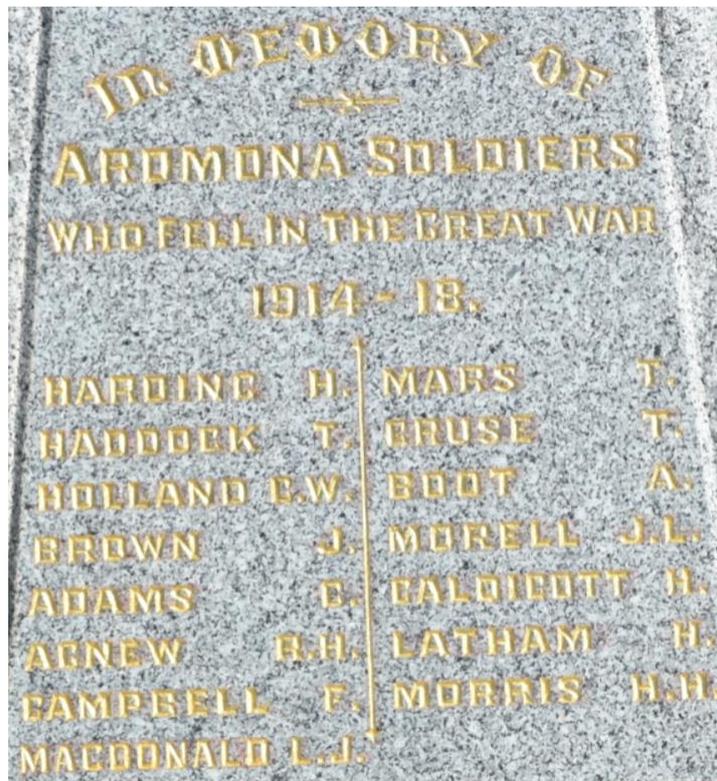


Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)

L. J. MacDonald is remembered on the Ardmona War Memorial, located on Turnbull Road, Ardmona, Victoria.



Ardmona War Memorial (Photo by Arthur Garland)



L. McDonald is remembered on the Dookie Agricultural College Roll of Honour, located in University of Melbourne, Dookie Campus, Dookie College, 940 Dookie – Nalinga Road, Dookie, Victoria.



Dookie Agricultural College Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



At the time of researching (July, 2020) Lieutenant Lachlan John MacDonald was not remembered on the Dookie Cenotaph.



Dookie Cenotaph (Photo from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

(2 pages of Lieutenant Lachlan John MacDonald's Royal Air Force Officers' Service records are available from National Archives UK).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & National Archives UK



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

MACDONALD – (By Cable) – Killed in aeroplane accident, Stockbridge, Hants, on the 19th January, Lachlan John (Lieut. R.F.C.), the beloved third son of Charles Stuart and Margaret Macdonald, of Yannathan (formerly of Ardmona).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 February, 1918)

More Names for Memorial

BRITISH CUB SCOUTS UNCOVER NAME TO BE ADDED TO ARDMONA PRIMARY SCHOOL WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIAL

Almost one century since his death, Ardmona Primary School is planning to add World War I pilot Lieutenant Lachlan John MacDonald's name to the Ardmona war memorial.

Ardmona-born Mr MacDonald was a horticulturist, but joined the air force in England, serving with the Royal Flying Corps, 91st Squadron.

He lost his life, aged 37, while flying in 1918 in an accident which claimed the lives of two other pilots.

It appears because of his move to England his name was not included on the Ardmona war memorial at the entrance to the school.

More about his history was being discovered thanks to Commonwealth War Graves Commission research.

Cub Scouts found his name in the Commonwealth war graves, which they look after, in Hampshire, United Kingdom.

Ardmona Primary School teacher Clare Canty found out about Mr MacDonald through the Scout group which made contact after reading an article in the News about the school's push to renovate and revitalise the memorial at the front of the school with public help last year.

"They were hoping to find out more about Mr MacDonald from us because it was said in the British archives he was from Ardmona but his name was not written on the memorial at the front of our school," she said.



Historic: Old photo of the Ardmona World War I memorial with laurel still intact.

When Ms Canty checked the names listed on the Australian War Records she could not find his name and then she checked the Trove website and had more success including an article called 'Our Heroes' printed on Thursday, February 14, 1918.

The article in The Recorder describes Mr MacDonald as a horticulturist, who was a valued staff member of the Dookie Agricultural College, and received training from John West.

"A good public-spirited citizen, and one whose loss will be regretted by all classes in the community. We offer his relatives our heartfelt sympathy. 'Vale!'," The article concluded.

Cub Scout leader from Andover, Stockbridge, Morwenna Collins wrote to Ms Canty and said, "It was so interesting to read about you trying to get the monument shipshape again as my plans are to try and get some sort of monument up and running for the 13 soldiers and airmen we have in our cemetery all killed in flying accidents," she said.



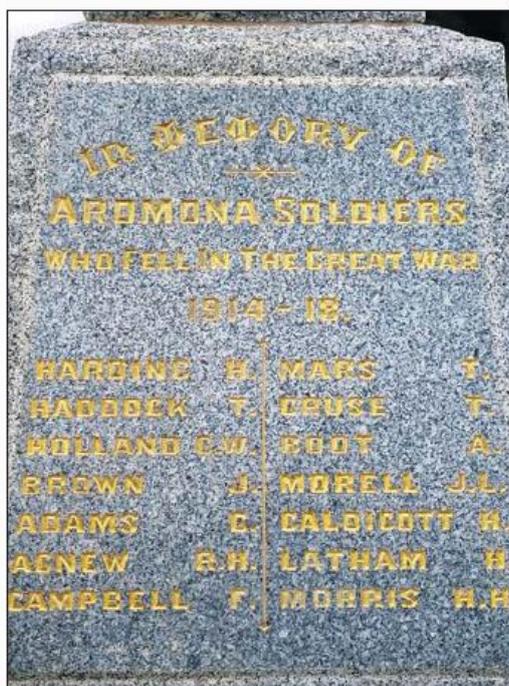
History: British Cub Scouts at the grave of Ardmona born Lieutenant Lachlan MacDonald who joined the air force in England.

Ms Canty was hoping to get in contact with relatives of the airman and believed they could be located in the Gippsland region.

Mr MacDonald was the son of the late Charles Stuart MacDonald and Margaret MacDonald.

Ardmona Primary School was applying for funding to restore the war memorial.

They hoped to add Mr MacDonald's name, along with the names of five World War II soldiers they found on a small plaque at the school, and tell the stories of all those on their memorial.



Sacrifices made: The names engraved in the Ardmona Primary School World War I memorial.

• Anyone with information on Mr Macdonald or any other people listed on the war memorial is asked to phone the school on 5829 0273 or email to canty.clare.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

(*Shepparton News*, Victoria – 14 April, 2017, via pressreader)

NOTE: L. J. MacDonald's name has been included on the Ardmona War Memorial (see above)

Dedication of Memorial Plaque on Old St Peter's Church 11am, Saturday 28 April 2018

The plaque, which commemorates the nine Commonwealth airmen who were killed in training accidents in 1917 and 1918 when flying from military airfields at Chattis Hill and Lopcome Corner, and are buried in Stockbridge Cemetery, was installed on the north wall of Old St Peter's in December following a research and fundraising campaign by Stockbridge Scouts. The Right Reverend Jonathan Frost, the Bishop of Southampton, will lead a service of dedication at Old St Peter's church at 11am on Saturday 28 April. The ceremony will be attended by officers from the Royal Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, the Royal Canadian Air Force and the South African Defence Force and the Scout Group will be on parade, together with the Royal British Legion standard. Members of some of the families are also expected. Following the service, wreaths will be laid in the cemetery and the Scouts involved in the project will give a short presentation in Old St Peter's. Afterwards, a buffet lunch will be provided in St Peter's church. Please do come and join us in this special celebration.

(The Parish Magazine for Stockbridge, Longstock & Leckford – April, 2018)



Memorial Plaque to 9 Commonwealth Airmen at Old St Peter's Church, Stockbridge, Hampshire

Stockbridge Scouts Group lead project which honours nine Commonwealth Airmen who died in World War 1

Stockbridge Scouts Group lead project which honours nine Commonwealth Airmen killed while training near Stockbridge in World War 1. The Bishop of Southampton will dedicate a Memorial Plaque at Stockbridge's 12th Century Church in the presence of representatives of the countries and descendants of the Airmen.

At 11am on Saturday 28th April, in the presence of the Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire, the Right Reverend Jonathan Frost, Bishop of Southampton will officiate at a dedication ceremony outside Old St Peter's Church in Stockbridge of the memorial plaque honouring the memory of nine airmen, killed far from home whilst training to join what would become the Royal Air Force in 1918.

Representatives of the Armed Forces from Australia, Canada and South Africa, together with members of the family of one of the Canadian airmen and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will attend the dedication. Music will be provided by a quintet from the Army Medical Services. The Scout Group, who have undertaken this initiative, will be on parade, together with the Royal British Legion Standard. The Scouts will give a presentation following the ceremony on their project. It includes the link they have now established with a school in Ardmona, Australia which one of the airmen attended.

No 93 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, was formed at Croydon and provided the training at Chattis Hill and Lopcome Corner Aerodromes in 1917 and 1918.

In this year, marks the centenary of the end of the First World War in 1918. This vibrant Scout Group (14th Andover (Stockbridge)), under the talented leadership of Frances Waghorn, Morwenna Collins and Jim Smith are to be congratulated for having researched the graves of these nine Commonwealth airmen (from Australia, Canada and South Africa) buried in the old graveyard opposite Old St Peter's Church in Stockbridge. They decided, on their own initiative, to commission a simple memorial plaque in Welsh slate and to raise the money for its fabrication.

The plaque was fixed to the outside north wall of Old St Peter's Church in December, appropriately close to the graves of the airmen on the other side of the Romsey Road. Its simple inscription – "In grateful memory of those from other lands who now rest in Stockbridge" chosen by the Scouts, names and commemorates these nine airmen (see picture below). They have located and been in touch with some of the descendants of these airmen in Australia and Canada and were delighted when a great nephew of one of the Canadians decided to come over for the dedication. Following the service, wreaths will be laid at the graves in the cemetery.

(Gazette Community Magazines – 19 April, 2018)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Lieutenant L. J. MacDonald has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone & also has a personal inscription on his headstone.

Remembered By Loved Ones

His Duty Nobly Done

For King & Country

Stockbridge Cemetery, Stockbridge, Hampshire, England

Stockbridge Cemetery, Hampshire has 10 Commonwealth War Graves – all Air Force burials from World War 1 with 2 Australians.



Stockbridge Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above from Julie Hopper; below from CWGC)



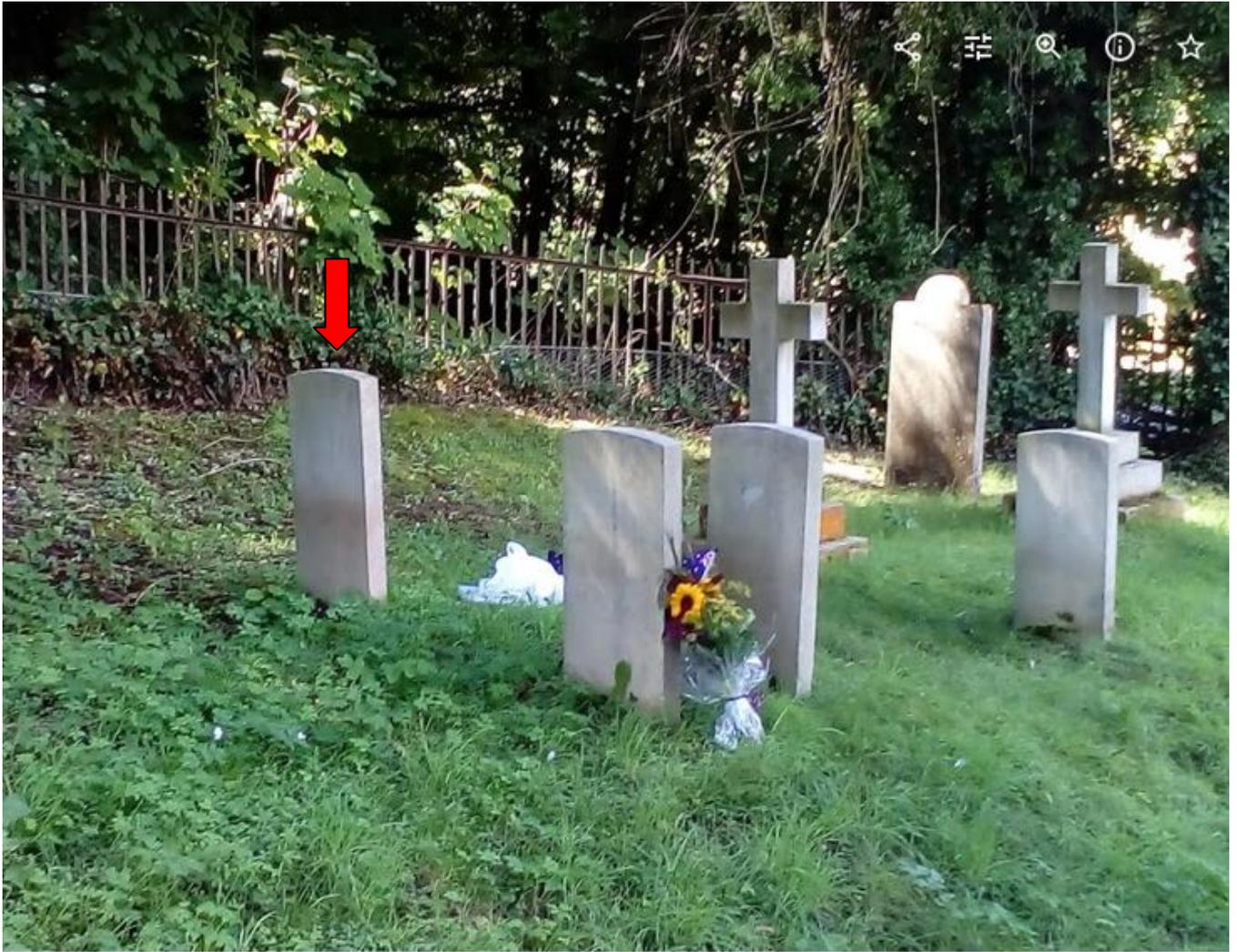
Red arrow marking Lieutenant L. J. MacDonald's headstone

Photo of Lieutenant L. J. MacDonald's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Stockbridge Cemetery, Stockbridge, Hampshire, England.





(Photo by Anthony Whitaker – Find a Grave)



Second Lieutenant MacDonald's headstone marked with red arrow

(Photo courtesy of Julie Hopper)