

**Colchester Cemetery,
Colchester, Essex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3370 PRIVATE

H. McD. McINTOSH

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12TH JULY, 1916 Age 18

My Son

Your Memory We Will Cherish

Until We Follow You

Hector McDonald McINTOSH

Hector McDonald McIntosh was born in Auckland, New Zealand on 14th May, 1898 to parents James & Mary McIntosh (nee Campbell).

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour, Hector came to Australia when he was 9 months old.

Hector McDonald McIntosh attended Pyrmont Public School, Sydney, NSW.

James McIntosh, father of Hector McDonald McIntosh, died in Sydney, NSW on 18th February, 1913.

Hector McDonald McIntosh stated he was aged 18 years & 4 months (his actual aged was 17), single & a Labourer from Jones Street, Ultimo, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 26th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3370 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. McIntosh, 428 Jones Street, Ultimo, Sydney, NSW. Hector McDonald McIntosh stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Cadets & had been born in Sydney, NSW.

As Hector McDonald McIntosh was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Mrs Mary McIntosh, widowed mother of Hector McIntosh, signed her full permission on 26th July, 1915.

Private Hector McDonald McIntosh embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 2nd November, 1915 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion 11th Reinforcements.

Private Hector McDonald McIntosh was admitted to 1st A.D.H. (Australian Dermatological Hospital) at Abbassia, Cairo on 1st February, 1916 & discharged on 16th March, 1916.

Private Hector McDonald McIntosh was marched in to Overseas Base at Ghezireh on 16th March, 1916 from Hospital. He was marched to in to "A" Details at Zeitoun on 27th March, 1916.

Private Hector McDonald McIntosh embarked for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 on *Transylvania* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th April, 1916.

Private Hector McDonald McIntosh was written up on 11th April, 1916 – "*When on active service drunk in town at 18.45 on 9th April, 1916*". He was awarded 10 days F.P. No. 2 (Field Punishment).

Private Hector McDonald McIntosh proceeded from 1st Australian Base Depot at Etaples, France on 14th May, 1916 & was taken on strength of 3rd Battalion in France on 15th May, 1916.

Private Hector McDonald McIntosh was wounded in action in France. He was admitted 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 10th June, 1916 with shell wounds to back. Private McIntosh was then transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 11th June, 1916 & was placed on the dangerously ill List. He was taken off the dangerously ill List on 15th June, 1916. Private McIntosh was transferred from 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station to Ambulance Train on 18th June, 1916 & admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France the same day with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to abdomen. Private McIntosh's condition was reported as dangerously ill on 29th June, 1916 while at 13th General Hospital & then reported as serious on 9th July, 1916. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* on 10th July, 1916 with G.S.W. to abdomen.

3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 3rd Battalion

9th June, 1916 - Fleurbaix

24.00 – Change completed and CROIX MARCHAEEL, FERRETTES, CAINS, ABELS & DURHAM posts and CENTRAL KEEP posts taken over & provided with guards. Operation orders & Defence scheme taken over.

To hospital – Nil From Hospital - Nil

10th June, 1916 – Fleurbaix

480 men on Fatigue – Remainder cleaning billets & draining cellars & buildings.

New operation order and Defence Schemes by Lt. Col. O.G. Howell Price issued.

To Hospital - one OR From Hospital - Nil

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mrs M. McIntosh, 428 Jones Street, Ultimo, NSW was advised on 17th June, 1916 that her son was wounded & dangerously ill. She was advised on 4th July, 1916 that her son's condition was improving.

Private Hector McDonald McIntosh died on 12th July, 1916 at General Military Hospital, Colchester, Essex, England from wounds received in action in France - Septic Bronco & Pneumo–Thorax. The death certificate for H. M. McIntosh records cause of death as “1. Gun shot wounds to chest and abdomen. 2. Toxemia.”

A death for H. M. McIntosh, aged 30, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Colchester, Essex, England.

Private Hector McDonald McIntosh was buried on 14th July, 1916 in Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England – Grave number 49, Section S, Division 2.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. McIntosh, 472 Wattle Street, Ultimo, NSW, mother of the late Private Hector McDonald McIntosh, in April, 1920 to advise that information had been received that the remains of her son had “been exhumed from the former site & re-interred in Grave No. 61 Section T. 5 in Colchester Cemetery. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”

Private Hector McDonald McIntosh has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Mary McIntosh, 23 Christie Street, Glebe, widowed mother of the late Private Hector McDonald McIntosh, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 19th September, 1916.

Private H. M. McIntosh is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 37.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. M. McIntosh is remembered on Ultimo Presbyterian Church Honour Roll, now located in the Ultimo Community Centre, 40 William Henry Street, Ultimo, Sydney, NSW.



Ultimo Presbyterian Church Honour Roll (Photo from War Memorial Register NSW)

Hector McDonald McIntosh is remembered on the Auckland Museum Online Cenotaph, New Zealand.

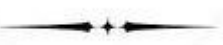


Private Hector McDonald McIntosh was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private McIntosh's widowed mother - Mrs M. McIntosh, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Hector McDonald McIntosh – service number 3370, aged 18, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mary and the late James McIntosh, of "Clarenda", Waratah Street, Canterbury, Sydney, NSW.

(43 pages of Private Hector McDonald McIntosh's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

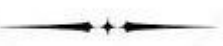
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Connected to Private Hector McDonald McIntosh:

Older brother – Private Neil McIntosh, 1565, 18th Battalion. Enlisted 19th April, 1915. Embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT Themistocles on 12th May, 1915. Later 3659, 53rd Battalion. Died of pneumonia 20th November, 1918. Buried in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

N. McIntosh is remembered on the Pymont & Ultimo War Memorial.



Newspaper Notices

LATEST CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Wounded:- Pte H. McD. McIntosh, Ultimo, also dangerously ill

(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 3 July, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

McINTOSH – Died of wounds and illness received in France, Pte Hector D. McIntosh, aged 19 years, on July 14, 1916.

To manhood days I brought him,
And then he heard the call;

To manhood days I brought him,
And then I gave my all.

-Inserted by his loving mother, brother and sister.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 24 July, 1916)

189th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of illness:- ... Pte H. McIntosh, Ultimo

(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 4 August, 1916)

DEATHS

McINTOSH – September 2, 1916, at Sydney Hospital, Grace, beloved daughter of Mary McIntosh, of 28 Crystal-street, Glebe, and sister of the late Private Hector McDonald McIntosh, aged 20 years.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 4 September, 1916)

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT COLCHESTER

GRAVES CAREFULLY TENDED

Prominent Englishmen and women were quick to spring to the defence of Australian soldiers when they were libelled recently in one of the flood of belated war books on the market. The abiding sense of gratitude felt by the English people towards the men from overseas who rallied to the defence of the Empire, is typified in the action of the members of the women's section of the British Legion at Colchester. Mrs. Florence T. Towsey, chairman of the Colchester section, has sent a message to the Australian relatives of the men of the A.I.F. who were laid to rest in the cemetery at Colchester, the quaint old Essex town, which was established in the time of the Saxons, and was once a stronghold of the Danes in the days when they ravaged the coasts of England. It was strongly fortified by the Romans, and the great Roman walls remain almost entire to this day. The countryside must have seen much fighting, and the frowning Norman keep is one of the largest in England, and there is something singularly touching in the fact that the soldiers of the younger countries rest here, amid the brotherhood of warriors of long ago.

Impressive Ceremony

Mrs. Towsey says on Anzac Day, 1929, the members of the British Legion (Women's Section), Colchester Branch, assembled at the cemetery to pay a tribute to the memory of the men of the overseas Dominions, who came to fight for the British Empire in the Great War, and who lie buried there. A simple but impressive little service was held, and then flowers were placed on each grave. It is proposed to hold this service annually. The graves are carefully tended. The following are the names of the Australians who rest in Colchester Cemetery, and the simple inscriptions on their graves: —

38 651. Gunner C. C. Willcock, Field Artillery. Dec. 25, 1918. Age 38. 'Happy in my lot.'

2 182. Corporal J. P. Byrne, 58th B.N., Australian T.N.F. Jan. 5, 1918. Age 29.

3370. Private H. M. C. D. McIntosh, 3rd B.N., Australian I.N.F. July 12, 1916. Age 18. 'My son, your memory we will cherish, until we follow you.'

1100. Driver R. C. Hendry, Australian Field Artillery. August 9, 1918. Age 25. 'Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away.'

6035. Private J. Hought, 6th Bn., Australian Infantry. Nov. 17, 1917. Age 31. 'Thy purpose, Lord, we cannot see; He gave his life that we might live.'

1384. Private W. I. Mackenzie, 51st Bn., Australian Infantry, Aug. 5, 1916. Age 27. 'Gone, but not forgotten.'

10973. Driver W. R. Bennett. Australian Engineers, Nov. 23, 1918.

1906. Private S. E. Barclay, 45th Bn., Australian Inf. April 11, 1918. Age 24.

493. Private F. R. Rankin, 21st Bn. Australian Inf., Sept. 10, 1916. Age 21 'God has saved from weary strife, In its dawn this young, fresh life.'

2413. Driver C. S. McKellar, Australian Engineers, June 18, 1918. Age 25. The dearly-loved son of Mr. and Mrs. McKellar, of Sydney, late of Glasgow.

19477. Sapper H. F. Smith, Australian Engineers, Nov. 5, 1918. Age 31.

Getting in Touch with Relatives

Mrs. Towsey asked Mrs. Florence Muriel Paxman, a member of the Colchester branch, who is visiting Sydney on a holiday trip, to try and get in touch with the Australian relatives of any of these men. In a letter to 'The Chronicle,' Mrs. Paxman says— 'I visited all the graves the day before I left England, and I shall be most happy to give any relatives any further information, or to get them photographs of any particular grave if they will write to me at my address, Winton, New South Head-road, Rose Bay, Sydney.'

Mrs. Towsey's address is Tollgate House, Shrub End, Colchester, and many Australians will remember with gratitude the hospitality that was extended to them there during the war.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 March, 1930)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 26th July, 1921, to Mrs M. McIntosh, Wattle Street, Ultimo, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late Private Hector McDonald McIntosh, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. McIntosh in August, 1921 stating that the inscription she had chosen for both her sons had exceeded the limit imposed by the War Graves Commission, namely 66 letters. They also advised that the Star of David was the emblem of the Jewish Faith & as both the soldiers were listed as members of the Presbyterian Church they suggested that the Christian Cross may be preferred.

Private H. McD. McIntosh does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

My Son Your Memory We Will Cherish Until We Follow You

Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England

Colchester Cemetery was opened in 1856 and now belongs to the Corporation. It originally covered about 30 acres, but was enlarged in 1940 to 67 acres. The newer part is on the western side of the original burial ground, and behind it is the site of a Roman Way. There are 267 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, 1 being unidentified, of which 50 are in the War Plot, while 11 Australian graves are together in a group nearby, the remainder being scattered. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on a site overlooking both the plot and the group of war graves, in honour of all the servicemen buried here. There are also 114 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war here, 1 of which is unidentified. In the early months of the 1939-1945 War, shortly after the enlargement of the cemetery, land was set aside in the newer part for service war burials. This is now the War Graves Plot. Among these casualties are men who were killed at sea after being evacuated from Dunkirk. The non-war graves are those of a man of the Merchant Navy and two ex-servicemen who were buried in the War Graves Plot although their deaths were not due to war service. There are also 7 Foreign National burials. The plot is enclosed by a hedge of cotoneaster frigida and a Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western side. The graves are set in level mown turf, with continuous flower borders along the rows of headstones in which are polyantha roses and other seasonal flowers. *(Information from CWGC)*



Colchester Cemetery Entrance *(Photo by Iain MacFarlane – Find a Grave)*



Cross of Sacrifice, Colchester Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Australian Plot of World War 1 War Graves, Colchester Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)

Private H. McD. McIntosh's CWGC Headstone (marked with red arrow)

Photo of Private H. McD. McIntosh's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex, England.



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)



(Photo from NZ War Graves)



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth – Find a Grave)