

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2460 PRIVATE

D. McLACHLAN

58TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD MARCH, 1917

Donald McLACHLAN

Donald McLachlan was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1889.

Donald McLachlan attended Campbellfield St School, Dennistown, Glasgow, Scotland.

(Note: there is insufficient information on Donald McLachlan to identify him in the Scotland Censuses as no information is known about his parents.)

According to information provided by his sister for the Roll of Honour - Donald McLachlan came to Australia when he was 23 years old.

Other information provided by his sister for the Roll of Honour – Donald McLachlan was with “*Royal Naval Reserve. Served on H.M.A.S. Sydney, until discharged about March or April, 1915.*” “*Deceased from 1910 was sailing in Australian waters as a member of the R.N.R., when war broke out. He reported and was sent aboard H.M.A.S. Sydney. He was one of the landing party who destroyed _/T Station on Cocos Island and was also at the capture of German New Guinea. He was discharged and a month or two after joined with 6th Battalion, A.I.F. and was through Gallipoli being transferred to 5th Battalion when in England.*”

Donald McLachlan was a 26 year old, single, Chief Officer of a Merchant Ship from 83 Queen’s Parade, North Fitzroy, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 7th May, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2460 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Miss Chrissie McLachlan, 35 Beech-Grove Street, Glasgow, Scotland. Donald McLachlan stated on his Attestation papers that he had been an apprentice with Loch Line Sailing Ships at Glasgow. He also stated he had previously served with the Royal Naval Reserve for 10 years (now discharged) & had taken part in 1st Naval Expeditionary Force to New Guinea.

Private Donald McLachlan was posted to Depot A.I.F. on 7th May, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion on 28th May, 1915 then transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion on 22nd June, 1915.

Private Donald McLachlan embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 16th July, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements as Acting Sergeant.

Actin Sergeant Donald McLachlan was sent sick to Hospital on 18th September, 1915 from Reinforcements Camp at Shrapnel Gully, Anzac. He reverted to rank of Private on entry to Hospital. Private McLachlan was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 18th September, 1915 with soft Chancre then transferred to Hospital Ship *Maheno* the same day. Private McLachlan was admitted to St. David’s Hospital at Malta on 23rd September, 1915 then transferred to Forrest Hospital at Malta the same day – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was discharged to All Saints Camp on 20th October, 1915 free from VD. Total period of VD from 18th September, 1915 – 20th October, 1915 – 33 days.

Private Donald McLachlan was written up for an Offence on 7th November, 1915 while posted at Pembroke Camp, Malta - “Whilst on active service 1. Absent from 6 pm until ordered to Camp G by M.F.P. (Military Foot Police) in _____ Valletta about 10.30 pm 2. Not complying with an order. 3. Attempting to strike the M.F.P on 7th November, 1915. He was reprimanded on 11th November, 1915.

Private Donald McLachlan embarked from Malta for Egypt on 2nd December, 1915 & disembarked at Alexandria on 6th December, 1915.

Private Donald McLachlan was taken on strength of Overseas Base at Giza on 7th December, 1915.

Private Donald McLachlan was admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Ghezireh on 4th February, 1916 - cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was discharged to Base on 11th February, 1916 & admitted to Overseas Base at Giza on the same day.

Sergeant Donald McLachlan was written up for an Offence on 18th July, 1916 while posted at Tel-el-Kebir – A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from Tattoo Roll Call on 29th May, 1916 until he reported to 2nd Training Battalion at

Alexandria on 30th May, 1916 at 5 am. His punishment was “*reverted to rank of Private permanently & forfeited 3 days’ pay.*” Total forfeiture of 4 days’ pay.

6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.....The Victorian battalions returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire. Convalescing was also completed in these Training Camps.

(Note: There is no record of when Private McLachlan returned to England)

Private Donald McLachlan was marched in from 2nd Training Battalion at Lark Hill, Wiltshire on 17th July, 1916 from 15th Training Battalion.

Private Donald McLachlan was admitted to Bulford Hospital, Wiltshire with VD on 27th July, 1916 & discharged on 2nd August, 1916. Total period – 7 days.

Private Donald McLachlan was written up for an Offence on 10th August, 1916 while posted at Lark Hill, Wiltshire - A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from Reveille on 25th July, 1916 until apprehended & escorted to Camp on 9th August, 1916. He was awarded 28 days stoppage of Pay & 14 days R.W. Total forfeiture 45 days pay.

Mrs J. Kirkbride, of “Caithness” 83 Queen’s Parade, North Fitzroy, wrote to Base Records on 3rd August, 1916 asking for the correct address of Sgt D. McLachlan, 2460, 6th Battalion, 7th Reinforcements “*being his adopted mother & not having heard from him for some time am extremely anxious.*”

Private Donald McLachlan was admitted to Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 11th August, 1916. He was discharged & marched in to 15th Training Battalion – 7th Camp from Hospital on 22nd December, 1916. Total period 134 days.

Private Donald McLachlan proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 16th January, 1917 on SS *Princess Victoria* from 15th Training Battalion.

Private Donald McLachlan was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 17th January, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 20th January, 1917 & was taken on strength of 58th Battalion in the Field on 22nd January, 1917.

Private Donald McLachlan was wounded in action on 23rd January, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Anzac M.D.S. (Main Dressing Station) then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station with compound fracture right thigh, shrapnel wounds to abdomen, arm & leg. Private McLachlan was admitted to 38th Casualty Clearing Station on 24th January, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) multiple then transferred on 25th January, 1917 to 36th Casualty Clearing Station. He was transferred to No. 15 Ambulance Train on 31st January, 1917 & admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 1st February, 1917 with GSW multiple. Private McLachlan was reported to be dangerously ill on 11th February, 1917. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Dennis* from Boulogne on 16th February, 1917.

58th Battalion

The 58th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 17 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Roughly half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 6th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 6th, the 58th was predominantly composed of men from Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.....

Early in 1917 the 58th battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, but it was spared from the assault.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 58th Battalion

22nd January, 1917:

Relieved in front line system by 59th Battn A & C Coys going back to NEEDLE & B & D to SWITCH trenches, Two fatigues each of 1 Officer & 50 OR's supplied for work with Pioneers in CT's and front line.

23rd January, 1917:

Moved back to B Camp Bernafay, all being in by 8 pm.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Donald McLachlan was admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital/ Kitchener Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England on 17th February, 1917 with multiple wounds & amputated thigh. He suffered a septic infection.



Private Donald McLachlan died on morning of 3rd March, 1917 at Kitchener Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from wounds received in action in France – Multiple Wounds, Amputation of Thigh & Septic Infection.

A death for Donald McLachlan, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

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Private Donald McLachlan was buried on 5th March, 1917 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIX.47. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mrs Kirkbride, of "Caithness" 83 Queen's Parade, North Fitzroy, wrote to Base Records on 5th March, 1917 asking if Sgt Donald McLachlan, 2460 58th Battalion, "B" Company was seriously ill or seriously wounded. *"I am not his next of kin I am his "foster mother" and am extremely anxious about him. I shall be very grateful for any information you can give me concerning him."*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Donald McLachlan contains a letter from Registrar, Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton which reads: *"...I beg to inform you that No. 2460 Sgt. McLachlan, D. 58th Btn. A.I.F. was admitted to this Hospital from France on 17.2.17, suffering from Multiple wounds, amputation thigh Rt, and Septic infection. He died in E. Ward, No. 3 A.G.H. at 1 am on the 3rd inst. Buried in Brighton Cemetery at 3 pm March 5th. Service taken by the A.I.F. Pres: Chaplain, Col. Rev. W. Floyd Shannon. Grave site – Section Z.I.X. No. of grave 47. Personal effects sent to O/c Records, A.I.F. on 6.3.17 Pay book to Staff Paymaster, A.I.U.F. 6.3.17. I might add that the graves of all soldiers buried in Section Z.I.X. are kept in perfect order by the Cadets of Brighton Brigade, who have undertaken this work to show honour to the fallen."*

A War Pension was granted to Christina Cameron MacLachlan, of 35 Beechgrove St, Dalmarnock, Glasgow, sister of the late Private Donald McLachlan, in the sum of 10/- per fortnight commencing 5th May, 1917 & to be revised on 8th May, 1919.

Miss C. McLachlan, 25 Pentland Place, Bridgeton, Glasgow, Scotland, wrote to Base Records on 14th February, 1920 requesting *"a complete copy of records re my late brother aforementioned including rank held and when promoted etc..."*

Base Records replied on 13th April, 1920 with the following information on the late No. 2460, Private D. McLachlan, 58th Battalion: *"Enlisted on 7.5.15; embarked for active service on 16.7.15; Served in Gallipoli, Egypt and France; was wounded in action on 23.1.17 (multiple gun-shot wound); was found necessary to amputate his right leg; he succumbed to his wounds on 3.3.17; was buried in Brighton Borough Cemetery, Brighton, grave No. 45 on 5.3.17."*

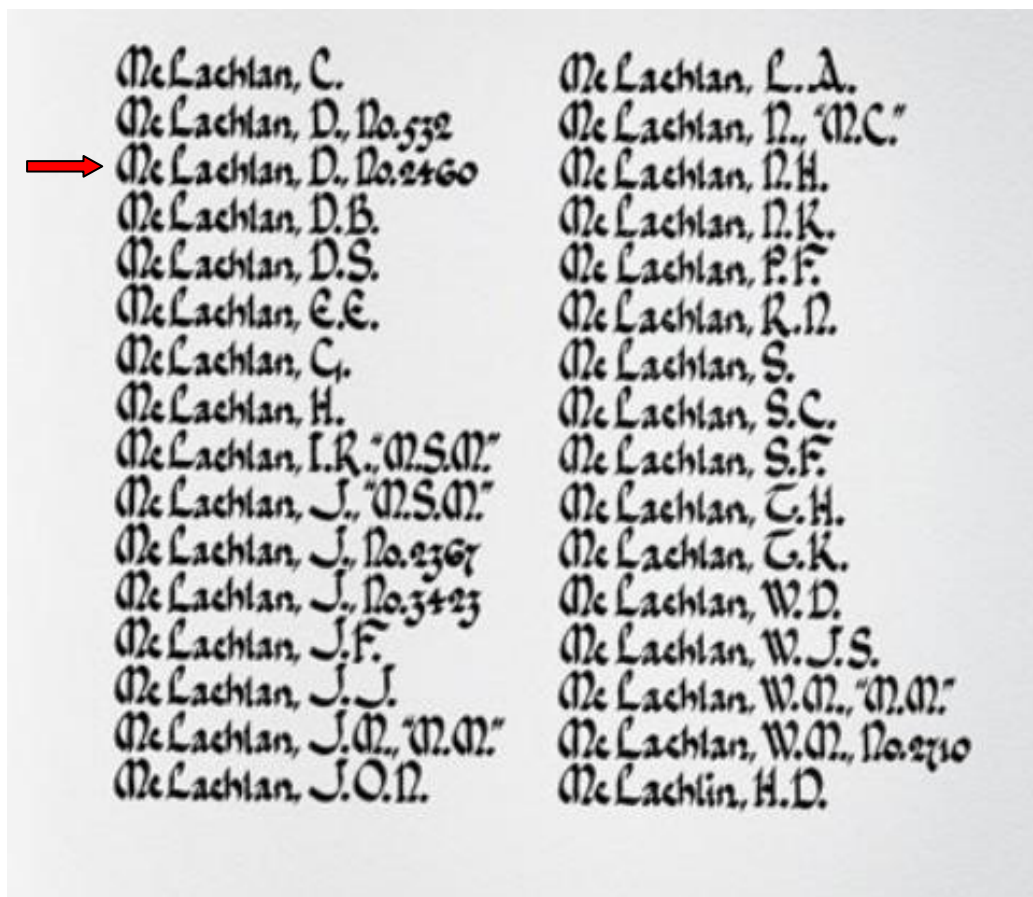
Base Records contacted Mrs J. Kirkbride, of "Caithness" 83 Queen's Parade, North Fitzroy, on 20th August, 1920 stating that upon enlistment Private D. McLachlan nominated Mrs D. Potter (sister), of 25 Pentland Place, Bridgetown, Glasgow, Scotland as the next of kin but desired to know if his parents were still living and if so could she provide their address. If they were deceased did Private McLachlan have any brothers who were living & if no brothers, the name of his eldest sister due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs Kirkbride replied to Base Records on 15th September, 1920 stating *"I cannot give you any information in reference to the late 2460, Private Donald McLachlan, 58th Battn he never spoke much about his relations during his time with me....."*

Private Donald McLachlan was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private McLachlan's sister - Miss C. McLachlan, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued from England in August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private D. McLachlan – service number 2460, of 58th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

D. McLachlan is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



Private D. McLachlan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 166.



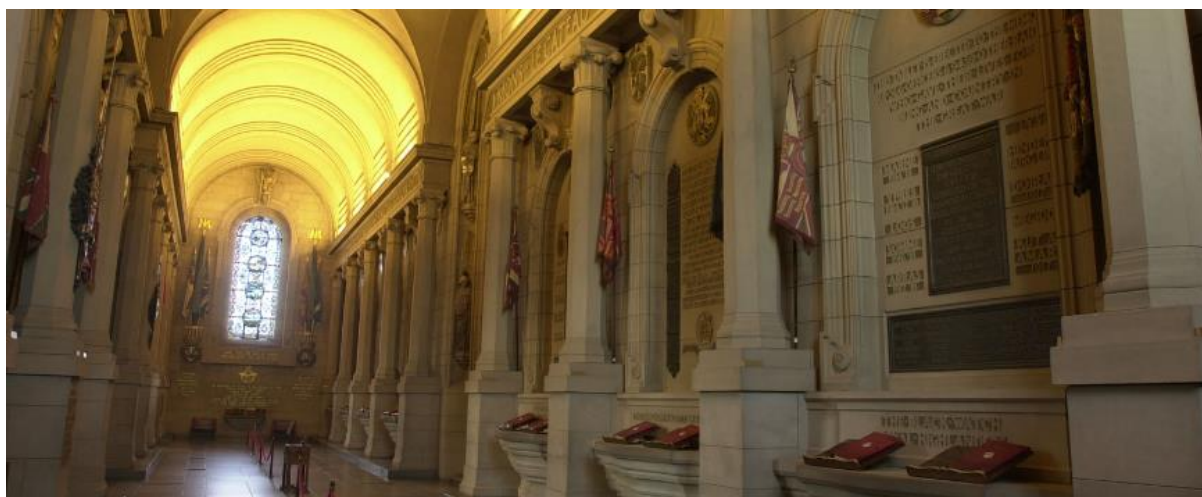
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

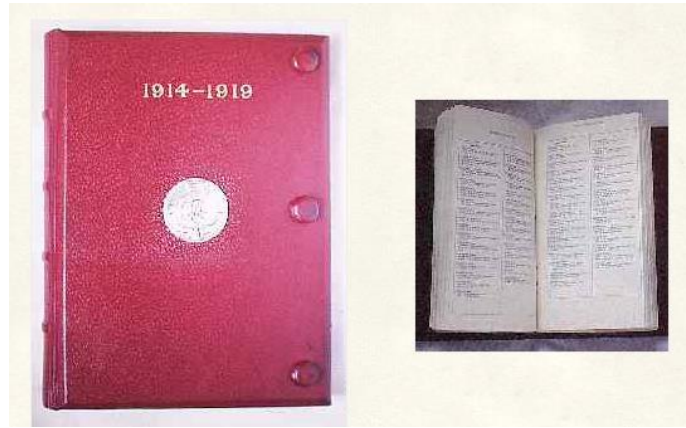
D. McLachlan is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad 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

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)





Roll of Honour books at The Scottish National War Memorial

(52 pages of Private Donald McLachlan'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

VICTORIA'S QUOTA

VOLUNTEERS NOW ENGAGED

INTERESTING LIST

The following official list shows the ranks, names, and addresses of Victoria's naval contribution to the successful Expeditionary Force now in German New Guinea:

.....
A.B. Donald McLachlan, 83 Queen's parade, North Fitzroy

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 September, 1914)

THE 274th CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are:

WOUNDED

Sergeant D. McLachlan, Scotland

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 28 February, 1917)

THE 280th CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are:

DIED OF WOUNDS

Sergeant D. McLachlan, Scotland

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 21 March, 1917)

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)

Private D. McLachlan does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private D. McLachan's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo by Terry Denham)



(Photo from CWGC)