Western Necropolis Cemetery,

Glasgow, Scotland

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

2537 PRIVATE

R. MC LEOD

49TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 36

In Memory

Of The Dearly Loved Son

Of Mr & Mrs McLeod

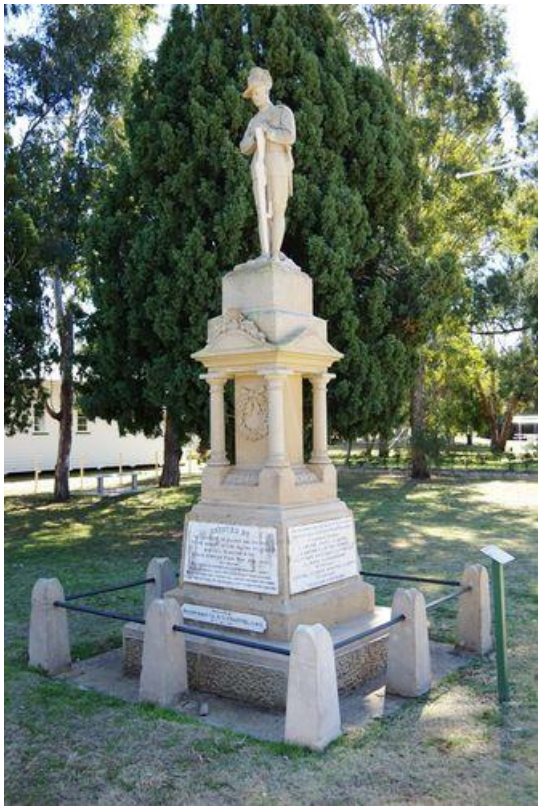
© Cathy Sedgwick 2017

Robert McLEOD

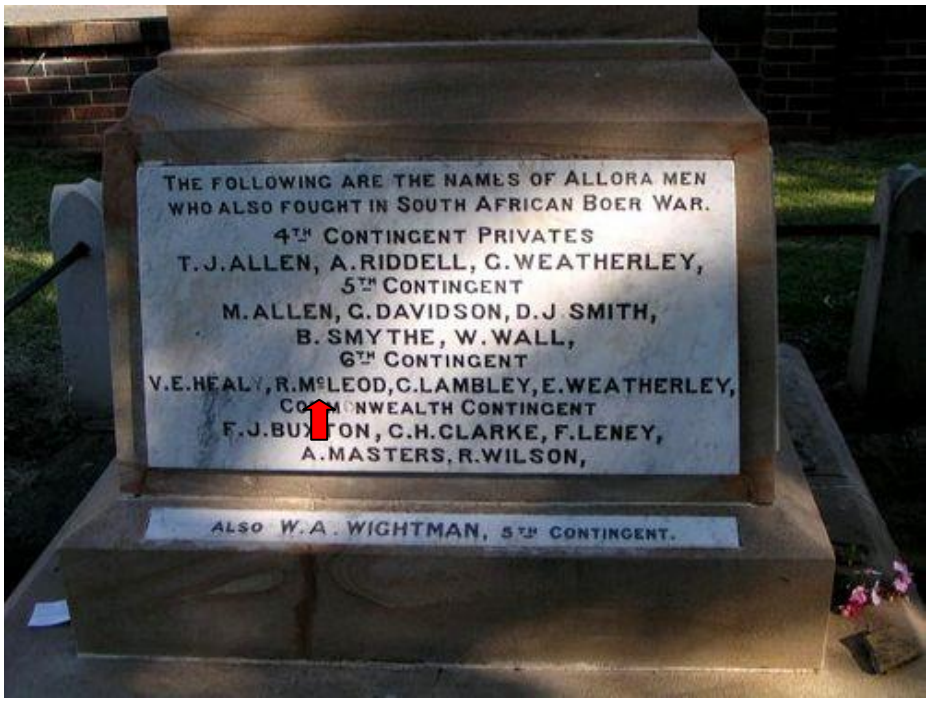
Robert McLeod was born at Allora, Queensland on 18th September, 1880 to parents Allan and Janet McLeod (nee Wilson). (Note: the date of birth of 18th September, 1880 as per Australian Birth Index records on Ancestry, however several family trees on Ancestry have the date of birth as 18th August, 1880).

Robert McLeod served in the South African Boer War with 6th Contingent as Private 121 with 6th Queensland Imperial Bushmen. He served from 1900 to 1901 with 575 days Active Service.

R. McLeod is named on the Allora Boer War Memorial, Allora Memorial Park, Warwick Street, Allora, Queensland as having fought in the South African Boer War.



Allora Boer War Memorial *(Photos from Monument Australia)*



© Cathy Sedgwick 2017

The 1903, 1905, 1906, 1908 & 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Darling Downs, subdivision of Allora, Queensland listed Robert McLeod, Labourer of Railway Hotel, Herbert Street. His parents Allan McLeod, Farmer & Janet McLeod, Domestic duties were listed at Teapot Farm on the 1903 Roll & Talgai West in 1905, 1906, 1908 & 1909 Rolls.

Robert McLeod was a 35 year old, single, Labourer from Mackay, Queensland when he enlisted on 27th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2537 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Allan McLeod, Southbrook, Queensland.

Private Robert McLeod was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 31st May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 49th Battalion on 7th August, 1916 then transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 49th Battalion on 18th September, 1916.

Private Robert McLeod embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Seang Choon (A49)* on 19th September, 1916 with the 49th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th December, 1916.

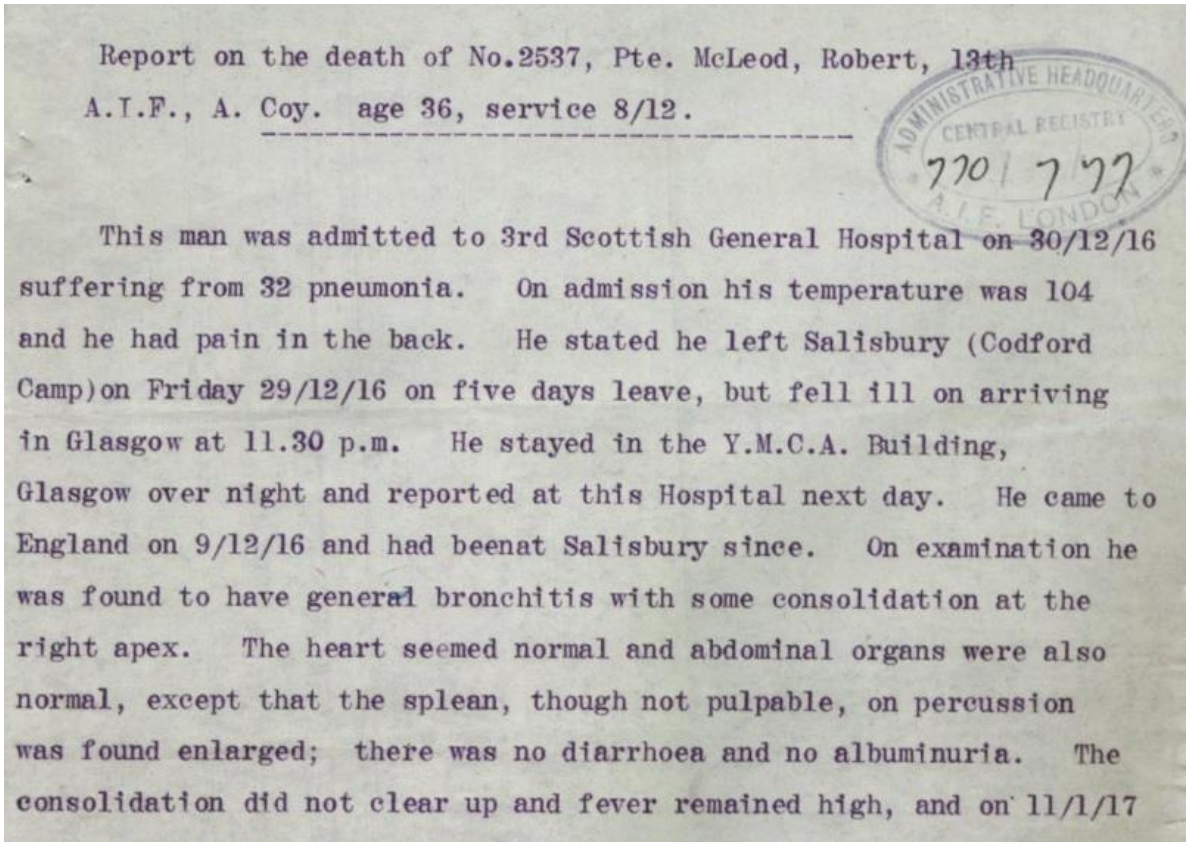
Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Robert McLeod was posted to "A" Company, 13th Training Battalion, Codford Camp, Wiltshire, England.

Private Robert McLeod was admitted to 3rd Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland on 4th January, 1917 seriously ill with Pneumonia. ("4th January, 1917" date is from Casualty Form – Active Service & Statement of Service form, however the "Report of Death" from 3rd Scottish General Hospital reports he was admitted on 29th December, 1916, while on 5 days leave).

Private Robert McLeod died on the morning of 14th January, 1917 at 3rd Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland from Lobar Pneumonia.

Report on death of Private Robert McLeod by 3rd Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland:

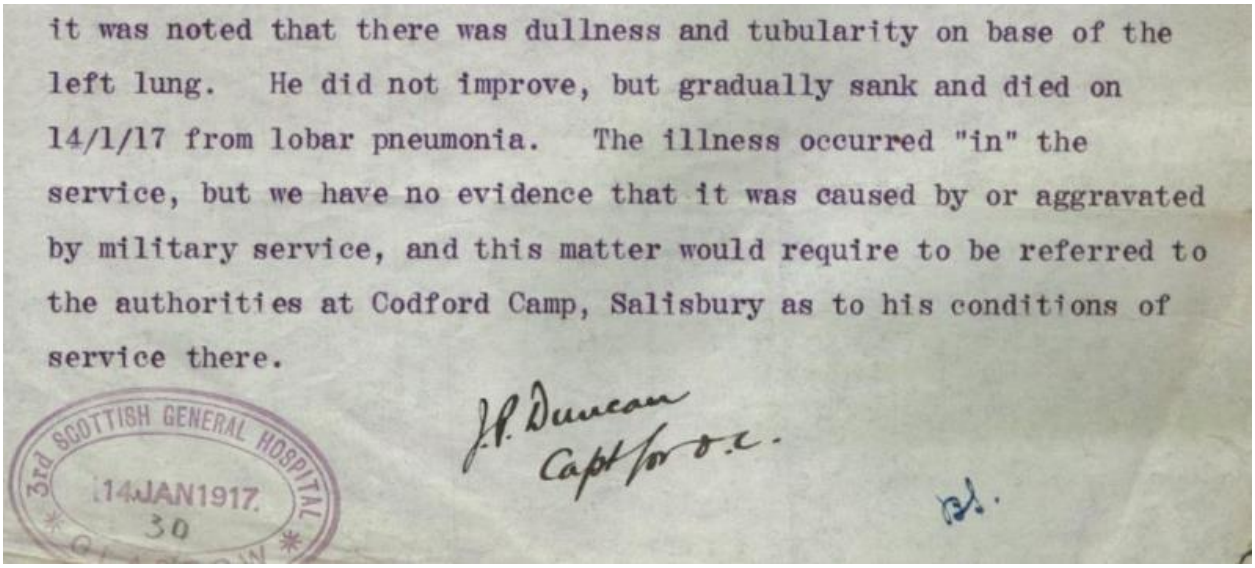


Report on the death of No.2537, Pte. McLeod, Robert, 13th A.I.F., A. Coy. age 36, service 8/12.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS CENTRAL REGISTRY 770/777 A.I.F. LONDON

This man was admitted to 3rd Scottish General Hospital on 30/12/16 suffering from 32 pneumonia. On admission his temperature was 104 and he had pain in the back. He stated he left Salisbury (Codford Camp)on Friday 29/12/16 on five days leave, but fell ill on arriving in Glasgow at 11.30 p.m. He stayed in the Y.M.C.A. Building, Glasgow over night and reported at this Hospital next day. He came to England on 9/12/16 and had beenat Salisbury since. On examination he was found to have general bronchitis with some consolidation at the right apex. The heart seemed normal and abdominal organs were also normal, except that the splean, though not pulpable, on percussion was found enlarged; there was no diarrhoea and no albuminuria. The consolidation did not clear up and fever remained high, and on 11/1/17

© Cathy Sedgwick 2017



it was noted that there was dullness and tubularity on base of the left lung. He did not improve, but gradually sank and died on 14/1/17 from lobar pneumonia. The illness occurred "in" the service, but we have no evidence that it was caused by or aggravated by military service, and this matter would require to be referred to the authorities at Codford Camp, Salisbury as to his conditions of service there.

3rd SCOTTISH GENERAL HOSPITAL
14JAN1917
30

J.H. Duncan
Capt for O.C.

Private Robert McLeod was buried on 17th January, 1917 in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland – Plot number N. 2 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Robert McLeod was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte McLeod's father - Mr A. McLeod, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Robert McLeod – service number 2537, aged 36, of 49th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Allan and Janet McLeod, of Southbrook, Queensland. Born at Allora, Queensland.

Private R. McLeod is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 148.

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

© Cathy Sedgwick 2017

(47 pages of Pte Robert McLeod'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

Robert McLeod in his Boer War uniform *(Photo from Maree & Mark Worland, Queensland)*

Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

265th LIST

ILL

R. McLeod, Southbrook (ser.)

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 27 January, 1917)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2017

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 R. McLeod does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son Of Mr & Mrs McLeod

Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland

The Western Necropolis is a large cemetery complex north of Glasgow City Centre. Adjoining this site are the following large cemeteries: Glasgow Lambhill and Glasgow St Kentigerns Cemetery, all three are separate but adjoin each other. Glasgow Garnet Hill Hebrew Burial Ground and Glasgow Crematorium Memorial is also at this site.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Glasgow was one of the ports of embarkation for the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 and several military hospitals opened in the city during the First World War, including the 3rd and 4th Scottish General (1,200 beds each), and the Merryflats War Hospital (500 beds). Battalions of a number of Scottish regiments had their headquarters at Glasgow during both wars, most notably the Highland Light Infantry. The Clydeside shipyards were targeted by German bombers during the Blitz, and Glasgow suffered a particularly ferocious attack on the night of 13/14 March 1941 when many civilians and servicemen were killed.

Glasgow Western Necropolis contains 355 First World War burials, many of them grouped together in Section P, with a small group of Australian graves in Section N. A screen wall near the main entrance carries the badges of the regiments represented in Sections P and H. The 124 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery, although there are two among the earlier war graves in Section P. Also in this group are two inter-war service burials and two German war graves.

There are 11 Australian Soldiers from World War 1 buried in Western Necropolis Cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2017

Cross of Sacrifice in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland *(Photo from CWGC)*

Some of the Australian Headstones in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland *(Photo from CWGC)*

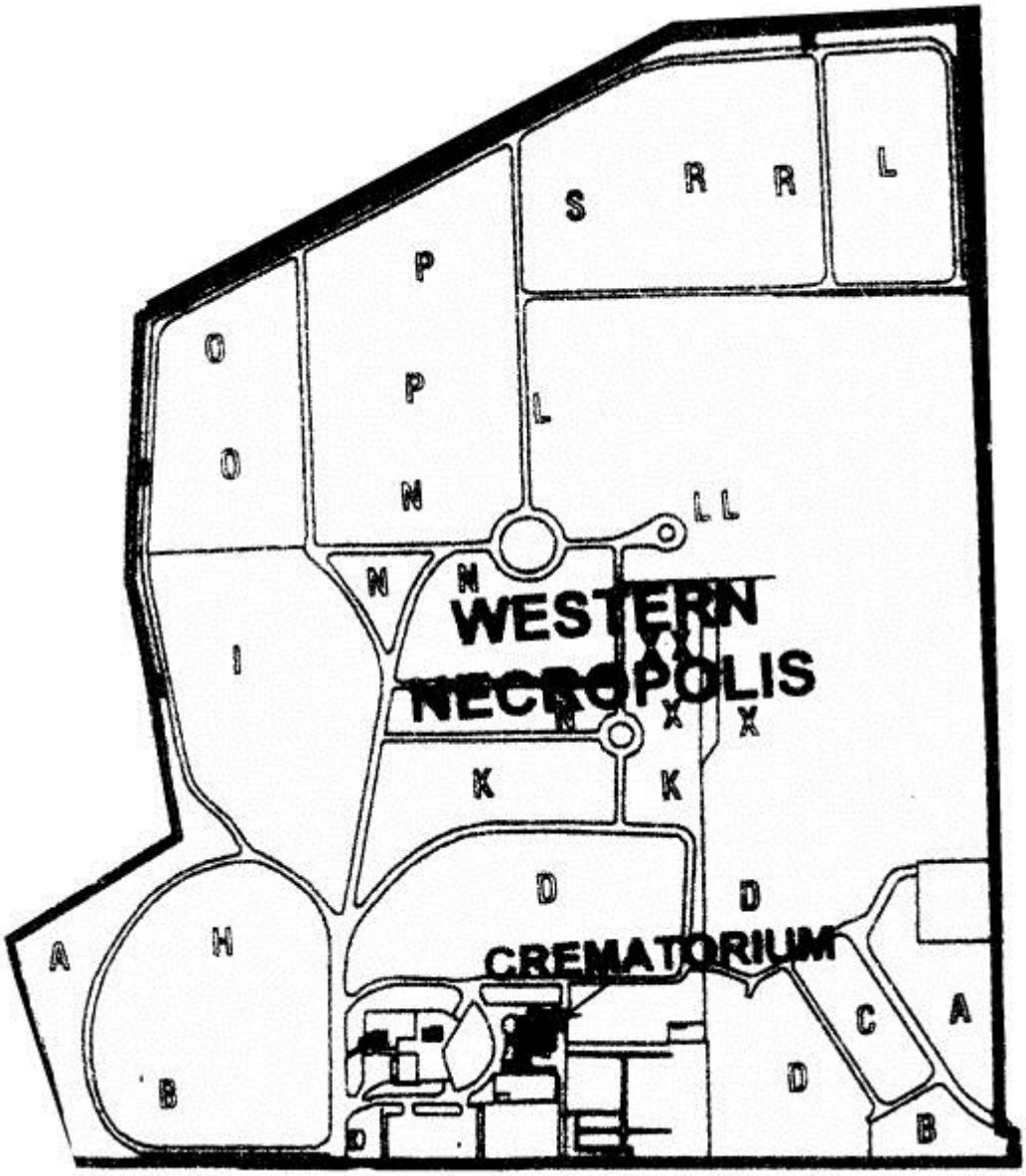
Pte R. McLeod's headstone marked by red arrow

© Cathy Sedgwick 2017

Photo of Private R. McLeod's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland.

(Photo from Ben – Find a Grave)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2017



© Cathy Sedgwick 2017