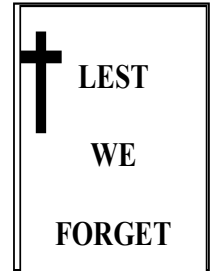


A SOLDIER'S STORY



Service No.: 2449
Name: Charles Cleland McDONALD
Nickname: CC



Medals and Decorations

1914 - 15 Star
British War Medal
Victory Medal

Rank: Corporal
Service: Army
Enlisted: 21 Jun 1915
KIA: 3 Oct 1918

Charles was born on 1 May 1887 at Ninnes (near Lochiel SA) to Robert McDonald and Jeanetta Jane McDonald (nee Ebsary). There were 7 children in the family, 5 boys and 2 girls, of which he was the second eldest. He completed his schooling at Athelstone Public School. His father was a farmer/apiarist.

The family arrived in Port Lincoln in 1906 and moved to the Warunda Creek area before later moving to Koppio/Yallunda Flat area. Both he and his father were apiarists so would have travelled fairly widely to ensure that their bees had adequate supplies of pollen. CC continued in this employ until he enlisted in the Army on 21 Jun 1915, the locality of enlistment being recorded as Keswick.

He was then sent to 2nd Depot Battalion (Bn) for training before being posted to 5th reinforcements/27th Bn on 1 Sep 1915 and embarked for Alexandria from Australia aboard HMAT "*Ballarat*" two weeks later. He was taken on strength by his unit on 16 Jan 1916 at Tel-el-Kabir (Middle East) and almost immediately admitted to 7th Field Ambulance in Ismalia with influenza, returning to his unit on 12 Feb 1916. Four days later he embarked from Alexandria, with his Bn bound for Marseilles (France) and the Western Front.

The 27th Bn was raised in Adelaide on 16 Mar 1915 and deployed from Australia to the Middle East on 31 May 1915; after further training in the Middle East it landed in Gallipoli on 12 Sep 1915, remaining there until the withdrawal on 19 Dec 1915 when it returned to Egypt via Lemnos. A period of retraining and reorganisation followed; it was at this time that CC joined his unit, just prior to its deployment to France.

The Bn first entered the front line on the Western Front on 7 Apr 1916 in the area of Armentieres (France).

CC was Wounded in Action (WIA) on 4 Aug 1916 with gunshot wounds to the back and left shoulder, sustained during the battle of Bapaume. His wounds were described as severe and he was evacuated through 37th Field Ambulance to 13th Army General Hospital and then by HS "*Jan Breydel*" to 1st London General Hospital in UK.

After 5 months in hospital and recuperation he returned to his unit in France on 13 Mar 1917 and a month later was promoted to Lance Corporal. On 16 Jun 1917, he was again evacuated to UK, this time through 56th Casualty Clearing Station and 5th Army General Hospital at Rouen onto HS "*Aberdonian*" before admission to 1st London General Hospital with Trench Fever. After a lengthy stay in hospital and further recuperation he returned to his unit in Belgium on 12 Jan 1918.

In mid 1918 a number of soldiers of the unit who had been in the field for an extended period were given leave to the UK; this included CC. He made good use of his leave, as he married Marion McKinnon, a nurse whom he had met during his periods of convalescence, on 1 Aug 1918 at Edinburgh (Scotland). It must have been a short honeymoon as he was back at his unit in Belgium a week later!

On 3 Sep 1918 he was promoted to Corporal. Exactly 1 month later (3 Oct 1918) he was killed in action during the battle of Beurevoir, the last action fought by his unit before the Armistice. At the time of his death it was recorded that "the above named soldier was killed in action as a result of enemy shell fire. He was buried in the copse (of trees) on the Grandicourt side of Lormisset Farm. There is no record of the exact map reference of the grave." - Commanding Officer 27 Bn.

His name is recorded on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial as he is one of the many who have no known resting place. It is also recorded on the Yallunda Flat Memorial.



1914-15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Corporal
MCDONALD, CHARLES CLELAND

Service Number 2449

Died 03/10/1918

Aged 31

27th Bn.
Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Son of Robert and Jeanette Jane McDonald;
husband of Marion McDonald, of 20, Cross Rd.,
Highgate, South Australia. Born at Port Lincoln,
South Australia.



Memorial at
Villers-Bretonneux
Military Cemetery,
France

