



# BOND

## Thomas

Service No: 393

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Thomas Bond

Service Number: 393

Date of Enlistment: 9<sup>th</sup> March 1915

Age at Enlistment: 29 years 7 months

Civil Occupation: Drover

Medals, Honours, Awards: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 5 inches (165 cm)

Weight: 140 pounds (63.5 kg)

Chest Measurement: 37 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Fair

Father: James Bond

Mother: Mary Ann Bond

Siblings: Ellen born 1877, Louisa born 1881 and Alice born 1889.

Married: Rebecca Endersby

Children: Joe, Tom, Eric, Lou, Connie, Enid, Malcolm, Rene and Valma

## Life Story

Tom was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1885 in Chorley, Lancashire, England. His father, James, set off for Australia not long after in hope of finding a better life. His wife, Mary Ann, with Tom and two daughters, joined him in 1887. According to family memories, James had already found a home for his family at 7 Ninth Avenue, Maylands, and this was where Alice, the fourth and final child in the family, was born in 1889. However, other records indicate the family was residing in Leederville in 1898 (James signed a published petition as a resident of Leederville that year).

On the 1903 electoral roll, he, his wife, Mary Ann, and daughter, Louisa, were enrolled at Howard Street, West Leederville. In 1906, a marriage announcement for Louisa to Frederick Medcraft, had the Bond family's address simply listed as "of Maylands".

James died in November 1908 and, according to the family history, the family moved to 57 Peninsula Road, Maylands.

As a young man, Tom moved to York in search of employment. He worked as a drover, horse breaker and trainer. While working in the district, Tom picked up some work with William Endersby and, while in his employ, met William's daughter, Rebecca (known as Beck). The pair hit it off, although they were not married until after the War.

Tom enlisted at Northam on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1915. He was quickly assigned to C Company of the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion and sent for training at Blackboy Hill.

In early June, Tom was given leave to visit his mother in Maylands but was not permitted to return to York, so he sent his sweetheart, Beck, a postcard.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> June, Tom and his comrades in the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion boarded the *Ascanius* at Fremantle, destined for Egypt and the Gallipoli Peninsula.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1915, the soldiers of the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion landed at Gallipoli and were stationed at an area known as the Apex. The area was under constant shelling and fire from the enemy.

As he had trained horses while working in York and had a love of animals, Tom was involved in caring for the donkeys which were used to transport supplies and wounded men.

While serving at Gallipoli, Tom was hospitalized twice in early November, firstly with influenza, then with a fever of unknown origin. The winter months at Gallipoli were freezing and many Australian men suffered from influenza and frostbite.

Admitted on the 30<sup>th</sup> October to the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance with influenza, Tom was transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on the 4<sup>th</sup> November with Pyrexia (fever) of Unknown Origin. He was then admitted to the Hospital Ship *Galeka* on the 5<sup>th</sup> November for transport to Alexandria, where he was admitted on the 9<sup>th</sup> November to No. 3 Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis. There are multiple, confusing entries for Tom, dated the 10<sup>th</sup> December, showing him admitted to Mena House Hospital; Ras el Tin in Alexandria with gastritis and, lastly, to the No.2 Australian General Hospital (A.G.H.) with asthma. He was discharged from the No.2 A.G.H. on the 14<sup>th</sup> December.

A day later, Tom was Taken on Strength at the Overseas Base, Ghezireh, most likely re-joining others from the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion which had just been evacuated from the disastrous Gallipoli campaign.

There was one moment of fun. While the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion were in Egypt, they spent Christmas Day, 1915, eating sweets from Red Cross packages and playing football against the Victorian 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1916, Tom was returned to duty at Tel-el-Kebir. He transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Company Engineers on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March and, on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, the Company sailed from Alexandria for Marseilles in France. The 7<sup>th</sup> Engineers moved across the Western Front for the next few years, assisting the infantry battalions and companies. The conditions were poor and Tom's health suffered; the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance treated him for bronchitis in late March, 1916.

The Battalion moved to the Somme until early 1918. The mud on the Somme was unbearable and the winters below freezing. Christmas passed without any cheer, but Tom remembered Beck at home and sent her a Christmas card.

By June 1918, Tom was again suffering from illness, this time influenza. The Company was now posted near Villers-Bretonneux and the conditions were still abysmal.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1919, the War for Tom was finally over. He returned to Australia and his sweetheart, Rebecca. Tom had written to Beck throughout the course of the War in a series of postcards that the family treasures to this day.

Tom landed at Albany in W.A and made his way back to Perth, where he was discharged from the army on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1919. He had served for four years and ninety-five days.

Tom visited his mother in Maylands and gave her some of his wages before returning to York, to be reunited with Beck. Rebecca and Tom were married in 1920 and had nine children together, not including Rebecca's son Frank, whom Tom adopted. A total of twelve people lived in the small, but comfortable, home at Caljie Farm, just out of York.

Tom was not a well man and, in 1937, was granted a War Pension because his ill-health was determined to be 'War caused'. The pension that he received was about two pounds per week.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1958, Tom was admitted to Hollywood Hospital to undergo several operations. He recovered and returned home in December.

Tom died on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1961, aged seventy-five, and is buried at York Cemetery.

## Acknowledgements

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## References

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