



BURGESS FAMILY

Family History

Arthur Meredith Jacques Burgess was born in Tasmania in 1857 in the Swansea District. He married Sarah Hannah Lloyd in 1881 and the couple had three children, Gordon Angelo, Myrtle Coral and Eric Lloyd, before Sarah's death from an ovarian tumour in 1891.

Arthur was in the building trade and, in 1892, he married again to Henrietta McDonald. By this time, the family was living in Victoria.

By 1898, the family had moved to York, where the five youngest children were born, and Arthur found work as a carpenter. However, it seems some of the older members of the family remained in the Eastern States. Gordon, Clifford and Eric all served in World War One but enlisted over east and no record has been found of their presence in York or Western Australia.



Arthur Burgess with his second wife
Henrietta McDonald
Courtesy of Ross Burgess

Around 1921, Arthur returned to Victoria with his family. Family furniture was auctioned in late 1920, and his last entry in the Post Office Directory for York appeared in 1922. Arthur's business premises, next to the Imperial Hotel, were taken over by H. Frost, a carpenter and joiner, sometime in May 1922.

Henrietta died in Victoria in 1939. Arthur died in Victoria the following year.



BURGESS

Clarence Ronald

Service No: 3996

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Clarence Ronald Burgess

Service number: 3996

Date of enlistment: 24/1/1916

Age at Enlistment: 21 years 4 months

Civil Occupation: Railway Employee

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 8 ½ inches

Weight: 130 pounds

Chest measurement: 33 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Dark

Father: Arthur Meredith Jacques Burgess

Mother: Henrietta McDonald

Siblings: Gordon Angelo (1883), Myrtle Coral (1884.) Clifford Arthur (1889)
Violet Ettie (1893) Eric Lloyd (1885) Nellie Bernice (1898) Norma Katherine
(1900) Francis Edward 1902) Lyell Meredith (1904) Edith Eone (1906)

Married: Catherine Lightbody

Life Story

Clarence Ronald Burgess (also known as Jack) was born in Morang, Victoria, in 1894. As a young child, he moved with his parents to York and attended York State School.

In 1907, he received 1st place for two schoolwork entries, "Printed Set of Names and Clay Modelling," in a Grand Spring Fete held in York.

In 1912, Clarence started work with the Western Australian Government Railways as a junior porter in York before being briefly transferred to Fremantle (then back to York) and from there to Narrogin, before he resigned in May 1914.

Fifteen months later, Clarence was reemployed as a junior porter with the W.A.G.R. at West Midland before being transferred to Chidlows Well in June 1915.

He married Catherine Lightbody that same year, and they lived at Chidlows Wells until he was granted leave, on the 26th January 1916, to enlist in the A.I.F. Catherine then moved to Cook Street, Nedlands. Their first child, Agnes Prentice, was born in June 1916, three months before Clarence embarked from Fremantle. Another daughter, Etta, was born in 1920.

Clarence attended Signal School and Non-Commissioned Officer School after his enlistment and was promoted to Sergeant on the 28th March 1916.

On the 30th October 1916, Clarence embarked from Fremantle aboard the *Port Melbourne*, bound for England with the 10th Reinforcements of the 32nd Battalion.

In March 1917, after a period of training, he proceeded overseas to join his Battalion but was admitted to the 4th Field Ambulance with mumps before he could do so.

Clarence joined his Battalion on the 24th April but, only a month later, was back in hospital suffering from impetigo and was not released until the 20th June 1917. Over the following months, Clarence was also hospitalised with sinusitis and influenza until, on the 7th March 1918, he took 16 days' leave in the United Kingdom.

On the 31st May, Clarence was attached to the 5th Signalling Company. Three months' later, he was Wounded in Action with a gunshot wound to the leg and a shrapnel wound to the right knee. The wound became septic, so Clarence was invalided back to the United Kingdom and admitted to the Beaufort War Hospital in Bristol on the 18th August 1918.

Clarence did not return to France. He returned to Australia on the *Orontes* on the 20th December 1918 and was finally discharged from the Army on the 9th March 1919.

Clarence was employed by W.A.G.R. and remained there until the end of 1923. He then took up a block at Marradong, near Williams, under the Soldier Settlement Scheme. In 1925, he and his wife were listed on the electoral roll as farming at "Fern Hill" Marradong.

In mid-1931, Clarence was part of a prospecting party that went to Larkinville, near Widgiemooltha, south of Coolgardie and, in November, newspapers reported that Jack (Clarence) Burgess was a member of a syndicate which had taken up an option at Broad Arrow.

By February 1932, Clarence and his brother-in-law, Thomas Lightbody, were partners in a working gold mining lease at Ora Banda, and they also applied for leases at Broad Arrow. The forfeited lease on his property at Marradong was put out to tender in August, 1932 and, by the following year, the family were giving their address as "Agetta Goldmine."

The mine may not have been that profitable as, by 1936, Clarence was supplementing his income by working as a fettler (a railway worker) according to the electoral roll for Broad Arrow. His daughter, Etta, suffered serious health issues and spent four months in hospital after a lung operation, so it is possible that Clarence was working two jobs to cover the cost of her treatment. (Etta died at the age of thirty).

During the 1940s, Clarence was working in some capacity at the Kalgoorlie Hospital; by 1946 he was chairing meetings of the Goldfields branch of the Hospital and Asylum Employees, and he was President of the Kalgoorlie branch of the W.A. Hospital Employees Union in 1948.

In 1942, Clarence passed the St John Ambulance first aid examination and an Air Raid Precautions examination to become an A.R.P. warden in the Kalgoorlie District.

Throughout the 1940s, he was heavily involved with the Kalgoorlie branch of the R.S.L., serving on the committee for several years and distributing cigarettes, tobacco and reading material to servicemen in the local hospitals. Clarence was also responsible for the planting and maintenance of the Avenue of Honour in the grounds of the Kalgoorlie District Hospital. In 1948, when he and Catherine retired to Albany, he was recommended by the Kalgoorlie Sub-branch for the R.S.L. Certificate of Service because of his years of dedicated service.

Clarence and Catherine were active members of the community in Albany, winning prizes for exhibits at the Albany Show and writing letters to various newspapers. He was also elected to the committee of the Albany Agricultural Society in 1950.

From 1968 until their deaths in 1977, the couple lived in Burndale Road, Armadale. Clarence and Catherine are buried together in the Serpentine Cemetery, with memorial plaques also on the grave for their daughters, Agnes and Etta.

BURGESS

Alick Gilbert

Service No: 121



Alick Gilbert Burgess
Blackboy Hill Camp 1914
Courtesy National Archives of Australia

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Alick Gilbert Burgess

Service number: 121

Date of enlistment: 17/8/1914

Age at Enlistment: 19 years

Civil Occupation: Surveyor's assistant

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

Height: 5 feet 7 ½ inches

Weight: 135 ½ pounds

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Fair

Father: Bernard Francis Burgess

Mother: Isabella Anderson Ross

Siblings: Doris Elizabeth Katherine (1893) Bernard Ross (1897-1898) Bessie Isabell (1902) Berna May Ross (1911)

Married: Elsie Margaret Richardson

Life Story

Alick Gilbert Burgess, born in 1895 at York, was a cousin of Clarence and Eric Burgess and Clifford Burgess Lloyd. His father, Bernard, was the brother of Arthur Burgess. His mother, Elsie Margaret Richardson, married Bernard in Victoria, in 1891.

Bernard moved this family to Western Australia around the same time as his brother Arthur, and their first child, Doris, was born in York in 1893. However, by the birth of their second child, in 1897, the family had moved to the Goldfields and were living in Kanowna.

Alick attended York State school and completed his education at Perth Boys' School. At the time of his enlistment, Alick's family were living at "Braeside," in Maylands, and he was working as a surveyor's assistant.

Alick enlisted in the 11th Battalion on the 17th August 1914 and, while still in training camp, was promoted to Sergeant and attached to the Transport Section.

He left Fremantle with the 11th Battalion on the *Ascanius* on the 2nd November and arrived in Egypt on the 6th December 1914.

The 11th Battalion landed at Gallipoli on the early morning of the 25th April, 1915 but, as the Transport Section was not required for the landing and the beach was deemed unsuited to horses and wagons, they returned to Egypt.

On the 4th August, Alick was promoted to Second Lieutenant, then Lieutenant on the 13th December.

On 7 January, 1916, Alick re-joined his unit at Tel-el-Kebir and, in March, the Battalion sailed for France, on the Western Front.

On the 1st September, 1916, Alick was promoted to the rank of Captain.

Conditions at the Front were extremely difficult for the men and the horses. With deep mud in and around the trenches, the use of vehicles was impossible, so all rations and other supplies had to be brought up by pack horses. What had been, originally, only mild exercise for horses and men, had now become very hard work.

On the 6th April 1917, Alick was Wounded in Action when he suffered a severe gunshot wound to the back. He was sent to the 2nd Eastern Hospital in Brighton and not discharged until the 16th August. After discharge, Alick reported first to Perham Downs No. 1 Command Depot, then to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, before returning to France in Later October. He re-joined his unit on the 29th October at Ypres, but his time at the Front was short.

On the 3rd November, Alick was admitted to the 3rd Field Ambulance due to his 'old injury'. He was discharged to duty on the 10th November 1917 and joined his Battalion the next day.

In May, Alick reported sick with pyrexia (fever). He was eventually admitted to the 14th General Hospital to be treated for trench fever but was back with his Battalion by the 9th June.

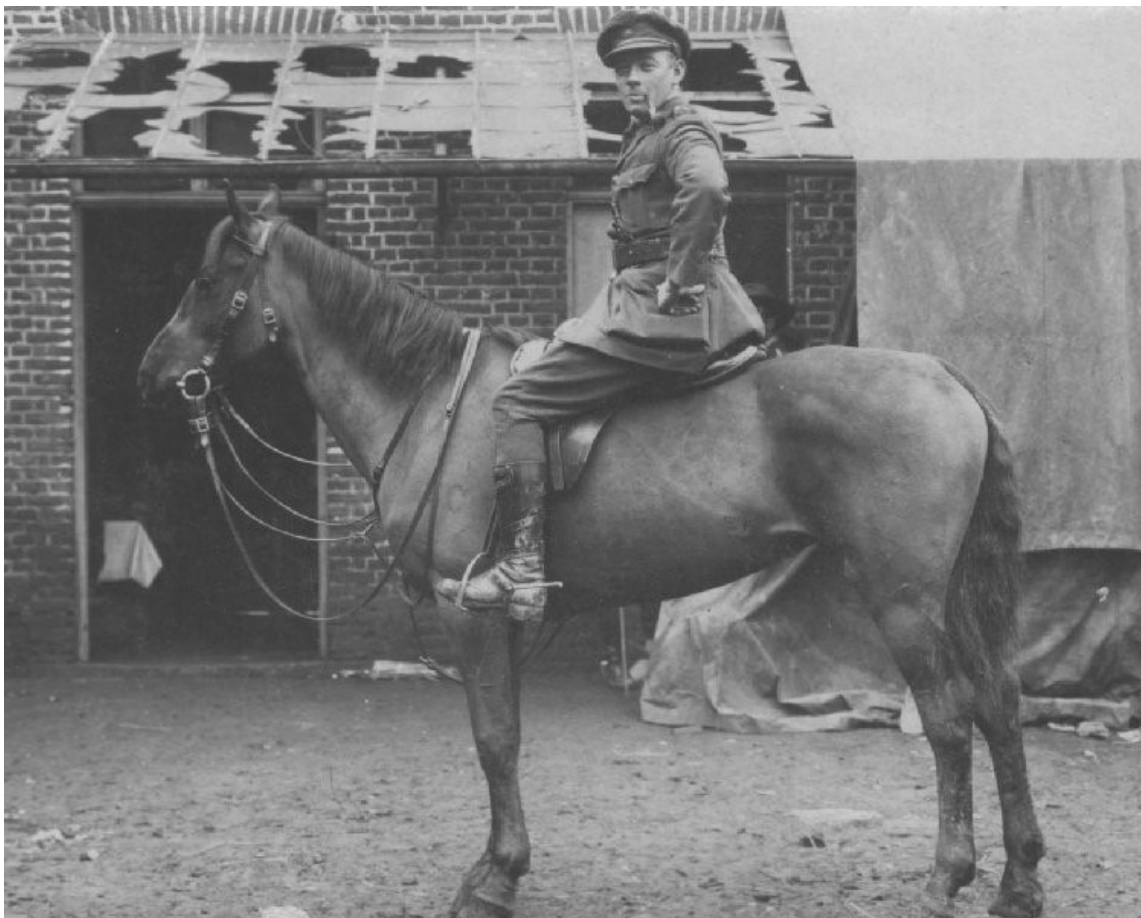
On the 27th June 1918, Alick took over command of C Company of the 11th Battalion. This was probably the first time that Alick had command of an infantry Company.

On the 3rd August 1918, Alick was admitted to the 3rd Field Ambulance with scabies. He was treated at the 18th Casualty Clearing Station and re-joined his unit on the 28th August.

Following the Armistice, Captain Burgess was detached for duty with the 1st Divisional Remounts. Along with other duties, his role was to assist in disposal of the Unit's horses.

On the 23rd May 1919, Alick applied to be discharged in the United Kingdom (rather than back in W.A.) and his request was approved on the 22nd July. In his application for ‘a discharge in a country other than Australia’, Alick stated that he was to be married in France and intended living there to carry on a business. He gave his address as L’Etoile, in the Somme region of France, which was probably where his fiancé, Maria Varis, lived.

The marriage did not go ahead. Family stories state that Maria’s Catholic father decided that, with the War over, there was no further need for a uniformed son-in-law, who was Presbyterian and a Colonial “to boot.” Alick and Maria accepted his decision and that was the end of the proposed marriage.



Captain Alick Burgess in France 1918
Courtesy National Archives of Australia

Alick remained in the area to pursue business interests across Europe. There was a shortage of horses in France and Belgium after the War, and he had developed contacts in the horse trade. Alick teamed up with a Romanian business partner; they purchased horses in the U.K. (where horses were cheap) and transported them to France and Belgium where they were sold for high prices. When the horse trade declined, Alick became a full-time horse trainer for a wealthy Belgian racetrack owner.

Alick Burgess finally arrived back in Australia on the 16th July 1927. He took up a block of land at Lake Brown, north of Merredin, in partnership with his father.

During the Great Depression, Alick supplemented his farm income by buying and selling livestock, repairing the Rabbit Proof Fence and capturing brumbies on the abandoned stations.

He married Elsie Margaret Richardson in 1945, and their only child, Ross, was born in 1947.

Alick sold his block at Lake Brown in 1951 and moved to Gidgegannup, where he traded livestock and acted as a stock buyer for Wesfarmers and Patton Meats. He also agisted racehorses and was involved with the W.A. Pony Club.

Alick moved to the Swan Valley around 1957 and, as he had been refused a War pension, ran a rural mail delivery service for several years, before he purchased the Greenmount General Store and Post Office.

In 1967, Alick was finally granted a war pension and the couple retired to Rockingham.

Alick died in August 1967 at the Hollywood Repatriation Hospital. His wife, Elsie passed away twenty years later.

The stables at the Gidgegannup Pony Club grounds have been named "The Alick Burgess Stables" in his memory.

Acknowledgements

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Harvey, Heather

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