

FERGUSSON

Hurtle Henry

Service No: 6760



Basic Information

Name: Hurtle Henry Fergusson

Service number: 6760

Date of enlistment: 2/08/1916

Age at Enlistment: 20 years

Civil Occupation: Farm hand

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

Height: 5 feet 5 ½ inches (166.3 cm)

Weight: 136 pounds (61.7 kg)

Chest measurement: 37 inches

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Light Brown

Father: Alexander Hurtle

Mother: Emma Louisa (nee Osborn)

Siblings: Jessie Irene, Olive Louise, Dorothy Maud, Colin James, Barbara,
Theo Newson, Reginald Allen, Gordon Lyle, Stewart Athol



Hurtle Ferguson

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Courtesy York Residency
Museum

Family History

Hurtle's father, Alexander, arrived in Western Australia around 1889 and started a saddler's business at Dongara, where he married Emma Osborn in 1894.

A few years later, he and his family moved to York, where he embarked upon a butchering business. In 1910 he took up farming at Boyerdine, eventually settling, by 1922, with his wife and family of ten children at Boscabel where they lived at "Fern Dale Farm."

While living in York, Alexander Fergusson successfully applied for two lots in the Mt Hardey Estate: Lot 76, eighty-three acres at one pound at four shillings an acre and Lot 94, 114 acres at six pounds, ten shillings an acre.

While living in York, both Alexander and Emma participated in, and were extremely successful at, the York Agricultural Society's Annual Show, winning prizes for cattle, sheaths of corn and butter.

Life Story

Hurtle was born in 1896 at Dongara, the second child of Alexander and Emma Fergusson. He moved to York as a young child and attended York State School until Mount Hardey State School opened in 1905. Hurtle would have completed most of his education in York, as he would have been aged around fourteen when his family moved.



Mt Hardey State School
P2009.27a

Courtesy York Residency Museum

Hurtle enlisted on the 2nd August 1916 in Perth. Because he was under the age of twenty-one, he needed to gain permission from his parents before enlisting. Both parents signed the paperwork ahead of time on the 10th July 1916.

Hurtle left Fremantle aboard the *Argyllshire* on the 9th November 1916, headed for Devonport, England. On arrival, he marched with the 4th Training Battalion to Codford Training Camp. While there, Hurtle caught the mumps and was hospitalised for a month.

After his recovery, he joined the 16th Battalion in France but, by October 1917, Hurtle was back in hospital with a shrapnel wound to the right arm. The wound was so severe that he was transferred to the Kitchener Military Hospital, in Brighton, to recover.

Unfortunately for Hurtle, he was declared fit to return to active duty in February 1918 and re-joined his unit on the 9th of that month.

Hurtle was Killed in Action on the 1st April 1918 in France. He is commemorated on the Woodanilling War Memorial.

Acknowledgements

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References

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