

HOOPS

Maitland

Service No: 75



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Maitland Hoops

Service number: 75

Date of enlistment: 8/12/1914

Age at Enlistment: 20 years 6 months

Civil Occupation: Farmer

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

Height: 5 ft. 9½ inches

Weight: 166 pounds

Chest measurement: 37 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: William Lockier (Wigmore) Hoops

Mother: Isabella Charlotte Broun/Brown

Siblings: William Lockier, Ernest, Frederick Richard, Francis Henry, Mabel
Vittorio, Lillie Isabella, Reeta/Rita Muriel, Ethel Mildred and Samuel Wigmore

Married: Jean Pennifold Hunter



Family History

Maitland's grandfather, William Wigmore Hoops, arrived in Australia aboard the *Trusty* in 1844. He settled in York and married Margaretta Hardy Seymour Meares in 1849. William was a very successful man and, by his death in 1887, he was mixing in the same circles as some of York and Western Australia's social elite.

William's son, William Junior, became a successful merchant and farmer in York. Hoops' Store was originally located opposite Edwards' Store, where the Palace Hotel now stands. William Junior married Isabella Charlotte Broun, and they had ten children together. William's sister, Belinda Eleanor, married George Monger, and their youngest daughter, Ethel Susanna, was York's only World War One nurse.

The Hoops family farmed at Cold Harbour and Mt Hardy for a time but, in June 1916, the properties were advertised for auction as mortgagee sales. William and Isabella were living on Beaufort Street in North Perth by mid-1917, and they were joined in the Perth metropolitan area by most of the family by the mid-1920s.



The Palace Hotel York, on the original site of Hoops Store
Courtesy York Residency Museum P1998.78

The Hoops brothers set up a small family business growing and retailing seeds and bulbs for major Perth stores, such as Boans and Foy's. Maitland was involved in this business as a grower.

Life Story

Maitland Hoops was born on the 12th March 1894 in York, Western Australia. He was the sixth child of William and Isabelle Hoops.

Maitland enlisted on the 8th December 1914 and was sent to Gallipoli to serve with the 10th Light Horse.

He was admitted to hospital in Alexandria in mid-1915 suffering from influenza and dysentery. While there, he was nursed by his cousin, Ethel Monger. In a letter, Maitland said that it took Ethel half a day before she recognized him, as he had six weeks' worth of growth on his beard and was so delirious that he did not take much notice of who was nursing him.

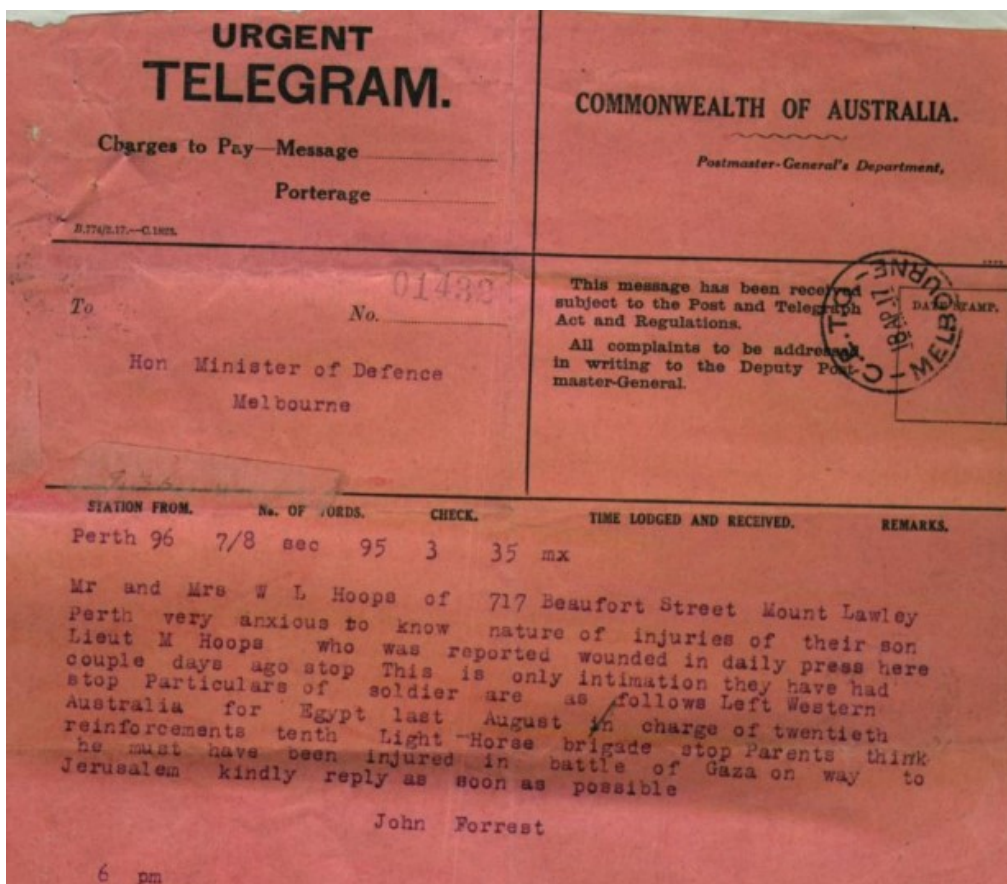
which are painted all white, with a red cross on the sides. I went off on a pinnacle to Embros Island, and after a couple of days proceeded to Lemnos, from there to Alexandria, and arrived here on Thursday by the hospital train. Ethel Monger was nursing me, and it was half a day before she recognised me. I had six weeks' growth of beard on, so that accounted for my temporary disguise. I was feverish, so could not take much notice of my attendant. She has gone on a hospital ship now. I have a slight touch of typhoid, but am recovering.

Extract of a letter Maitland wrote to his family, published on the 15th October 1915 in the Eastern Districts Chronicle
Courtesy National Library of Australia

Maitland's condition worsened, and he was returned to Australia on the 15th November 1915 to recuperate. His recovery took quite a while, but he finally boarded the *Malwa* to return to Egypt on the 24th August 1916. Having been promoted to Sergeant in April 1915, Maitland was put in charge of the 20th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse while on board the ship.

In April 1917, Maitland suffered a "mild" gunshot wound to his left hand on the 2nd April 1917. Things got worse for Maitland in August, when he severed tendons in his right hand, meaning that both hands had sustained serious injuries while he was on active duty.

Maitland’s family first heard about his injury when it was reported in the newspapers (it appears Maitland had not updated their contact details), and they were not shy about using influential contacts to find out more information about their son’s condition, as a telegram from John Forrest, former Premier of Western Australia, in his service record, shows.



At the end of the War, Maitland returned to Australia aboard the *Dorset*. He arrived in Australia on the 29th April 1919.

On his return, Maitland moved to Kendenup, where he grew bulbs and vegetables. He played for a number of football teams in the Kendenup, Mt Barker and Albany areas.

By the 1930s. Maitland was spending six months of the year in the North West of W.A. working as a shed hand in shearing sheds. He spent the remainder of the year in Kendenup, tending his gardens and orchards.

During World War Two, Maitland served with "C" Company of the 19th Garrison Battalion, and was posted to Albany, where the Company was responsible for defending the port town. In 1943, he was discharged from the services, as his civilian occupation was deemed "essential to supply."

In 1942, Maitland married Jean Pennifold Hunter in Albany. She had grown up in York, and the couple had probably known each other since childhood.

Maitland died at Mt Barker on the 11th March 1976, aged eighty-one.

Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Harvey, Heather

Silhouette artwork:

York District High School Students

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