

HUNT

ALBERT

Service No: 2912



Basic Information

Name: Albert Hunt

Service Number: 2912

Date of Enlistment: 16/8/1916

Age at Enlistment: 28 years 7 months

Civil Occupation: Farm Hand

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

Height: 5 feet 9 inches (175.26 cm)

Weight: 140 pounds (63.5kg)

Chest Measurement: 36 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: George Hunt

Mother: Jane Elizabeth McKenzie

Siblings: George, Clara Beatrice, Georgina Ann, William Thomas, James, Charles, Louisa

Married: Alma Barron

Children: Mavis Alberta Louisa, Raymond George and Barron.



Albert Hunt

Courtesy of C and T Barron

Family History

In 1875, George Hunt and Jane Eliza McKenzie, together with their baby son George, sailed from England to Australia aboard the *Daylight* in search of a better life.

On arrival at Fremantle, the small family quickly made the decision to travel to the inland town of York. Once there, the small family quickly turned into a large family. George and Jane had seven children together; all but the eldest, George, were born in York.

George worked as a gardener in York to provide for his family, but he died in 1893 when his youngest daughter, Louisa, was still an infant. Jane could not provide for her family without her husband's income and started work as a nurse and midwife.

The Hunt children were very close as adults; they lived together from time to time and cared for each other's children. They all married into local families. Young George married Sarah Endersby in 1898. They farmed at "Hampstead Valley Farm," in Ballardong, until around 1926, when they bought land in Scarpia Street, York. Clara Beatrice married William Thomas Peter Spicer in 1897 but died on the 18th April 1909, aged only thirty-one. Georgina Ann married Ernest James Morrison in 1902. They farmed at Taylor's Well, near Pingelly.

William Thomas married Amy Evelyn Hubble, the sister of another York serviceman, John Hubble, in 1915. William worked as a contractor but, by 1931, was seriously disabled and unable to work. James did not marry and died in 1918 from injuries caused during an epileptic seizure.

Charles married Annie Sutherland in 1916. She died in 1919 leaving Charles with two young children. He moved back to his mother's house, so she and his younger sister could help care for his children.

Louisa married Ernest Llewellyn Hobbs, another York service man, in 1916.

Life Story

Albert Hunt was born in 1888 at York. He attended York State School and was a bright pupil, becoming Dux of class 11 in 1900. After leaving school, Albert worked as a hairdresser in York and then as a farm hand.

He enlisted on the 16th August 1916 and set sail from England aboard the *Argyllshire* on the 9th November 1916. Albert trained in England, until he was transferred to France on the 10th April 1917. Whilst in France, Albert served with the 48th Battalion and was Wounded in Action in July before being captured by the Germans on the 12th October 1917.



Albert and Alma Hunt on their wedding day in 1920

Courtesy of C and T Barron

Albert became a Prisoner of War at Camp Limburg, in Germany, where he worked on farms producing food for the War effort. After the War ended, he was sent to Rotterdam in the Netherlands to board the ship that would return him to England. Once in England, Albert boarded the *China* on the 1st May 1919 and arrived in Fremantle on the 1st June.

After returning home, Albert quickly married Alma Barron on the 23rd February 1920 in York.

Albert and Alma probably knew each other prior to the War, as they were both born in York and attended the local school.

Albert and Alma lived on McCartney Street for most of the 1920s, before moving to Scarpia Street in the early 1930s. They had three children together: a daughter (Mavis) born in 1921, Raymond, born in 1925 and Barron born in 1934.



Mavis and Raymond Hunt in 1928

Courtesy of C and T Barron



Barron Hunt as a baby in York

Courtesy of C and T Barron

Albert was quite heavily involved in the York R.S.L., and his daughter, Mavis, made her debut at the R.S.L. Ball on the 9th June 1938.

However, not everything was carefree for the Hunt family. Albert never fully recovered from his War experience. He suffered from breathing difficulties after being gassed. Raymond would often trap rabbits to earn some extra money when his father was too ill to work. After his enlistment in World

War Two, Raymond often sent part of his pay home to his parents so they could make ends meet.

Albert and Alma remained at Scarpia Street until their retirement to Perth in the 1950s.

Eventually, for the sake of Albert's health, he and Alma had to move from Scarpia Street to Perth. Mavis and Raymond stayed in the Avon Valley area, but their youngest son, Barron, moved with them and began working at the Midland Railway Workshop, training to become a wagon builder.

Albert died on the 3rd February 1967 after suffering ill health for many years. Alma died some years later, in 1983. Both are buried together at Karrakatta cemetery.

Acknowledgements

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