



McDOUGALL

Albert James

Service No: 6701



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Albert James McDougall

Service number: 6701

Date of enlistment: 9/3/1915

Age at Enlistment: 19 years 11 months

Civil Occupation: Farmer

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

Height: 5 feet 8 ½ inches

Weight: 150 pounds

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Medium

Eye Colour: Hazel

Hair Colour: Dark brown

Father: Peter Joseph McDougal/McDougall

Mother: 1. Elizabeth Ann Smith 2. Ann Wiseman

Siblings: Leonard Edgar b.1901, Clement Victor b.1903, Ivy Elizabeth b.1910, Alexander Malcolm b.1912

Wife: Elma/Alma Margaret Stewart

Children: Valma Holly, Peter Maxwell, Lindsay Stewart

Family History

Peter Joseph McDougal was born in Victoria in 1871. He married Elizabeth Ann Smith in 1895, and their first son, Albert James, was born in Victoria that same year. Elizabeth died in 1896 and Peter remarried, in 1898, to Ann Wiseman. She was a cousin of Archibald, Francis, James and William Wiseman of York, W.A. which may be why the McDougal family moved to Western Australia and settled in the Talbot area.

Peter and Ann had five children before Peter died in 1912. The first to be born at York was Ivy Elizabeth, in 1910. By this time, Peter was already an active member of the Talbot Progress Association.

In 1909, he wrote several letters to the York Roads Board in an attempt to have new roads, and improved roads, put through the Talbot district.

Peter died in York in 1912 and, in 1921, Ann married again, to John Drysdale, in Perth.

Life Story

Albert James was born in Victoria in 1895. He attended Qualen School in 1907 and may have been enrolled at Gilgering School prior to that. Fellow ANZACS, James and George Duperouzel, and Percy Davies, were also pupils at Qualen School.

After the death of his father, Albert helped his mother run the family farm, "Boonadine." While he was serving overseas, his mother sold the farm to A.J. Stewart who owned "Braeside," the farming property on the opposite side of the road to "Boonadine." This probably occurred after 1916/17, when an advertisement was published for a meeting of the creditors of Anne McDougall of Talbot Brook.

Albert enlisted in the 1st Reinforcements, 16th Company of the Army Service Corps on the 9th March 1915 and embarked aboard HMAT *Ceramic* in Sydney on the 22nd May, bound for Egypt.

At the end of July, he was admitted to the Australian General Hospital in Heliopolis suffering from bronchitis.

On the 14th March, Albert was transferred back to the 1st Reinforcements of the 16th Company of the Australian Army Service Corps before embarking from Alexandria, two weeks' later, to join the British Expeditionary Forces in Marseilles. From there, he was Taken on Strength with the 16th Company A.A.S.C. on the 25th April 1916 as a Driver.

On the 25th November, Albert was admitted to the 5th Field Ambulance for a period of six days before re-joining his Unit.

He was briefly attached to the 2nd Salvage Company on the 27th May 1917 before re-joining the 16th Company on the 3rd July.

After taking ten days' leave from France on the 10th July, Albert re-joined his unit for three weeks, before he proceeded to the 2nd Army Rest Camp on the 13th August for a six-week break from the Field.

Albert was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 7th December 1917, after which he took seven days' leave in Paris before re-joining his Unit.

On the 12th November 1918, Albert was appointed temporary Corporal. He reverted to Corporal on the 24th January, when he proceeded to the Australian General Base Depot to prepare for his return to Australia.

Albert embarked for Australia aboard the *Anchises* on the 28th February 1919. He arrived in Fremantle on the 11th April and received his final discharge on the 3rd June 1919.

On his return to York, Albert attended a civic reception at the York Town Hall with several other returned soldiers.

In September 1919, he became engaged to Elma/Alma Margaret Stewart, the sister of Alex and Cecil Stewart, and cousin of Arnold, Edwin, Leslie and Malcolm Stewart and Cyril Deans. The couple married at York in 1920.

In January 1921, it was reported that Albert and Leslie Stewart had bought the property of Mr A.J. Stewart, Lesley's father. This property now included the McDougall family farm that had been sold by Albert's stepmother while Albert was overseas.

In the book, "Cousins and Others," by Norma Parker, it is stated that Albert bought out Les Stewart about two years later and renamed the farm "Boonadine". However, Lesley Stewart was listed on the 1925 electoral roll as a farmer at "Braeside." It appears that either the two men had split the farming property into two properties, "Braeside" and "Boonadine," or Albert had bought out Les' share of the farm that had been the McDougall property before it was sold by his stepmother.

Albert remained on the farm for several years. However, in late 1924, he sold 2 100 acres to Mr S.F. Landquist. Around the same time, Albert and Elma purchased the residence of Mrs D. Deans (Elma's aunt) in Meares Street, York.

In January 1925, Albert began to advertise his taxi, a seven-seater, Austin 20. The business was not successful, and he sold the car to C.S. Baty and Co., in Perth, most likely in September.

That same year, Albert was appointed by the York Roads Board as the truck driver of the Board's new truck, with a salary of four pounds, ten shillings per week, despite there being two lower tenders. The job did not last and, by 1926, he was working as a farm hand.

In December, Albert purchased the 800-acre property of F.R. Wiseman and, in June, he became a partner in the Avon Butchering Co. with Percy James Sack. Albert sold his farm of 800 acres at Gilgering to Mr Gordon Sloan of South Australia for around two pounds, five shillings per acre in 1928.

By 1931, Albert and Elma were living at "Stockdale," the property of Thomas Boys Morse, and Albert was working as a farm hand. Thomas was Elma's step-father, having married her mother in 1923.

Despite Albert and Elma both being recorded as living at "Stockdale" on the electoral rolls up until 1936, there is evidence that Elma was living at "Boonadine" between 1934 and 1943. Albert remained working at "Stockdale" until 1943.

Norma Parker states that Albert had to borrow money to re-establish his ownership of "Boonadine" in 1935, when S.F. Landquist became insolvent. However, Landquist was listed on the electoral roll as a farmer at Talbot Brook between 1925 and 1949.

Albert died in 1949 and was buried in York Cemetery. Elma died in 1974.

Acknowledgements

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