

## MERCER

Andrew Haddon

Service Number: 2769



## Basic Information

Name: Andrew Haddon Mercer

Service Number: 2769

Date of Enlistment: 18/4/1916

Age at Enlistment: 24 years 8 months

Civil Occupation: Farmer

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

Height: 5 Ft 4 inches

Weight: 136 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 23 inches

Complexion: Red

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Sandy

Father: Alfred Tanner Mercer

Mother: Sarah Annie Booth

Siblings: Alfred Harold, Anne Myra, Joseph Kent, Victor Stanley, Fred Royston, Frank Douglas

Married: Elizabeth Anne James

Children: Norman Trevor

## Family Story

The Mercer family moved to York from Moonta, South Australia, around 1904. Andrew was born in South Australia as were his six siblings.

The family became part of the York community. By 1907, Alfred Harold was a trustee for the Wesleyan Methodist Church in York and, in 1911, he nominated to become a councillor to represent the South Ward.

Alfred was elected Mayor of York in 1921 and served until 1924. His brother, Joseph Kent, became councillor for the East Ward in 1919.

Alfred and Joseph, in partnership as Mercer Brothers, also operated a grocery/bakery business in York.

In 1920, after the demise of Mercer Brothers, Joseph went into partnership with Alexander Prosser to run a bakery and confectionery business before taking full control of the business in 1924.

Alfred Mercer died in York in 1936. His wife, Sarah, died in Perth in 1941.

## Life Story

Little is known about Andrew Haddon's early life.

By 1912, he was a member, and secretary, of the York branch of The Order of Rechabites (an organisation opposed to drinking alcohol).

In 1913, Andrew was granted 300 acres of land at Dowerin by the Lands Board in Northam. However, by 1915, he was recorded as farming at Minnivale.

Andrew Hadden Mercer enlisted on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 1916 and left for England on the *Persic* in December of that year.

He attended the School of Musketry at Tidworth, in England, and became proficient in the use of the Lewis gun before departing for France to be Taken on Strength with the 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1917.

Andrew fought in the Field at Rouelles and, on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1918, was promoted to Corporal.

In March 1919, Andrew was granted Leave With Pay to attend Blackstone & Co. Ltd. Engineering Works, in Stamford, England, before returning to Australia in September of that year aboard the *Barambah*.

By 1921, he was running a newsagency and stationery business in Subiaco.

Andrew married Elizabeth (Beth) Anne James in 1922. Their son, Norman Trevor, was born in 1923.

Andrew remained in the Subiaco area for the rest of his life. Beth died in 1966 and Andrew followed in 1977.

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## References

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