

WHITE

Clarence James Samuel

Service No: 4002

Name: Clarence James Samuel White

Service number: 4002

Date of enlistment: 2/8/1917

Age at Enlistment: 18 years 1 month

Civil Occupation: Farm Labourer

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

Height: 5 feet 4½ inches

Weight: 145 pounds

Chest measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: James Jeremiah White

Mother: Rosina/Rosia Ellen Bishop

Siblings: Mona Gertrude (1891), Stanley Joseph (1893), Hilda May (1895), Hector James McDonald (1902), Victor William McDonald (1904), Jack McDonald, Aileen McDonald

Married: Elizabeth Blanche Campbell

Life Story

Clarence's parents, James Jeremiah White and Rosina Ellen Bishop, were married in York in 1891. The couple had four children, including Clarence, before the death of James in 1896, at the age of just thirty-one.

Rosina married again in 1901, to John McDonald, a labourer, in York. By early 1917, the couple had moved to Cottesloe, and Rosina had made an application for a judicial separation after her husband had deserted her. Although the application was not granted, she was given custody of the children, and John McDonald was ordered to pay maintenance of thirty-five shillings per week.

Rosina moved to North Fremantle without her husband. She died of influenza in 1919.

Clarence James Samuel was born at Greenhills, near York, in 1897. At the time of his enlistment, he was working as a labourer for Calwyn Wyborn (Wyborn) Seabrook, a farmer in the York area.

Clarence enlisted on the 2nd August 1915, at Blackboy Hill and embarked from Fremantle on the 23rd November 1915, bound for Egypt.

On the 3rd April, 1916, he was Taken on Strength with the 51st Battalion and, two months' later, left Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Forces in France.

Somewhere between the 14th and 16th August, Clarence was Wounded in Action. He reported back to his unit on the 28th November but returned to hospital with mumps on the 24th January 1917. It was not until the 27th February that Clarence finally re-joined his unit in the Field.

On the 9th August 1917, Clarence was promoted to Lance Corporal.

Two months' later, he received a gunshot wound to the head. Clarence was transferred to England and admitted to the 4th London General Hospital.

Clarence was discharged to Base Depot on the 1st January 1918, and he re-joined his unit in France on the 10th February.

On the 20th June, Clarence was promoted to Corporal. Less than a month later, he suffered defective vision caused by gas and, just one month later, received shrapnel wounds to the face, when he was Wounded in Action for the third time.

Clarence was promoted to Sergeant on the 29th August 1918.

On the 27th January, 1919, he left France on the first leg of his journey to Australia. Clarence arrived home in April 1919, aboard the A68 *Anchises*. He, and his cousin, Roy Bishop, reportedly purchased "Sunshine Farm" in the Greenhills district that same year. However, by 1922, Clarence was in Mullewa, earning his living as a drover. The jointly-owned farm was put out to tender for purchase under the *Agricultural Bank Act 1906*, *Industries Assistance Act 1915 & Amendments Acts* in 1925.

Clarence married Elizabeth Blanche Campbell, at Meekathara, in 1923. They had two children: Roma Mary and Iris.

During World War Two, Clarence enlisted in the Citizens' Military Forces at Meekatharra.

According to the electoral rolls, Clarence lived in Meekatharra, working as a miner, until his death there in 1977. Elizabeth died at Meekatharra in 1980.

Acknowledgements

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Harvey, Heather

References

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