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Alexander McDonald

Alexander (Alick) McDonald was born in Kilmore in 1891, the son of John and Anne McDonald (nee Fleming). He lived with his parents, brother Wilson and sister Isabella in “Glencoe” Hamilton Street, Kilmore. He attended the nearby Kilmore State School. After schooling Alick became a blacksmith.

Alick volunteered to serve in the Australian Imperial Force on September 11, 1914 in Melbourne, only weeks after the start of the war. Before enlisting he had served in the Scottish Regiment for two years then transferring to the 15th Light Horse Regiment.

During training, Alick was allocated to the 8th Light Horse Regiment as private No 423. On November 21, 1914 he was temporarily promoted to Corporal as a Shoeing Smith. This was confirmed on July 17, 1915.

Alick embarked in Melbourne on HMAT Star of Victoria on February 25, 1915 bound for Egypt. His service documents indicate he remained in the Middle East. He would have moved with his regiment to ensure the horses were well shod.

During his time in the Middle East Alick's regiment took part in the Battle of Maghdaba in the Sinai desert in December 1916, the first (March 1917) and second (April 1917) Battles of Gaza and the Battle of Beersheba in October 1917.

Alick had several short admissions to hospital in July and November 1917 with diarrhoea. He departed Suez on February 15, 1918 as an invalid on A38 Ulysses for Melbourne and was discharged on April 18, 1918.

He was awarded the British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1914/15 Star. His name is recorded on the Kilmore Shire Roll of Honour, the Kilmore Presbyterian Church Roll of Honour and the Kilmore State School Roll of Honour.

Alick married Elsie Mabel Tyres in 1924 and they lived in “Glencoe” Hamilton Street, Kilmore. He worked on the railways and in 1941 served in WW2 as an army clerk in Melbourne for four years. Alick died in 1968 in Kilmore, and is buried in the Kilmore Public Cemetery with his wife Elsie. Members of the McDonald family lived at “Glencoe” for around 100 years.