

Stories from the Honour Boards

Stories of those who served and are remembered on the Honour Boards in the Merrington Anzac Memorial Peace Chapel at Saint Andrew's Uniting Church

Booklet Number 40

KEITH HOPE MACKAY 1894 - 1979



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Corner Ann and Creek Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000
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Lieutenant Keith Hope Mackay

Keith Hope Mackay was born at Armidale, New South Wales in September 1894, the second son of John Mackay and Marion (née McLennon). His father, Captain John Mackay was an explorer, sailor and harbourmaster, best known for founding the coastal city of Mackay in Queensland. From 1892 to 1902 he was harbourmaster at Brisbane. He died in 1914 at St Helen's Hospital, South Brisbane. A prominent memorial marking Captain Mackay's grave also bears an inscription in memory of Keith's older brother, Rainey Hugh Mackay¹ at Balmoral Cemetery.

The Mackay brothers and their widowed mother were living at Wharf Street, Kangaroo Point when Keith enlisted on 4 January 1916 to serve in the Australian Infantry Force. Private Keith Mackay was given service number 6212 and allotted to 15th Battalion, 20th Reinforcements. He attended a Corporals' School from 8 to 13 June and was promoted to Sergeant before embarking from Brisbane on HMAT *Clan MacGillivray* for Plymouth, England, arriving on 2 November.



HMAT A46 Clan McGillivray (State Library of Victoria)
The HMAT A4 Clan McGillivray weighed 5,023 tons.

¹.See *Stories from the Honour Boards*, Booklet No 36

He marched in to the 4th Training Battalion Depot at Lark Hill and reverted to the rank of Private in December. His unit proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone per SS *Princess Clementine* on 6 January 1917. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 16 March. It was at this time that the Germans were retreating to the Hindenburg Line and the Allies were advancing through villages in a line from Arras in the north to Soissons in the south.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART03023

Breaking the Hindenburg Line

By Will Longstaff, 1918

The Battle of the Hindenburg Line which began September 18, 1918, was a key turning point in the Hundred Days Offensive that eventually led to the end of World War 1. British forces spearheaded the attack against the German Line, continuing their effective use of tanks that started earlier in the Offensive at the Battle of Amiens. The battle was another sign that trench warfare was over as the

He was promoted to Corporal in April and serving as Temporary Sergeant when he returned to England in July 1917 to join the Officers Cadet Battalion at Cambridge. He became Second Lieutenant KH Mackay, 15th Battalion on 3 November 1917 and was promoted in the field of battle to the rank of Lieutenant on 14 April 1918. In March and April 1918, the battalion helped stop the German spring offensive. Fighting took place near Hamel in July and the battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff called “der schwarze Tag”¹ - the black day of the German Army.

Lieutenant Mackay’s right hand was injured on 15 October 1918. The guns fell silent on 11 November 1918. Lieutenant Mackay remained in France till April 1919 when he crossed from Le Havre to Hurdcott for RTA.² He waited till 19 June 1919 when the troopship *Miltiades* set sail from Plymouth to Sydney. His appointment was terminated on 23 September 1919.

In 1923, Keith Mackay married Blanche Evelyn White, second daughter of Mr and Mrs CF White of a property called Molominda in the Stanthorpe district where they were well known. At the time of Mr White’s death in 1940, four of his children were settled on the land including Mrs Blanche Mackay at Mountain Park, Dalveen. Keith Mackay’s wool clip was noted for its good quality. In 1929 he obtained 22 pence per pound for “a super wether wool of useful quality, good length, sound, soft condition and free.”³

¹ L Carlyon P663

² Return to Australia

³ *The Brisbane Courier*, 10 April 1929. P14

Dingoes were causing concern to sheep owners on the Granite Belt in 1938 and a successful drive was conducted on Mr Keith Mackay's land. In 1945, Keith Mackay was dealing with Polled Hereford heifers and herd bulls on his property at Mountain Park.

In the year 1949 Keith and Blanche Mackay were listed on the electoral roll of McPherson. Mrs Blanche Mackay died on 4 April 1958 aged 63 years. Keith returned to the Darling Downs in 1968 and died in 1979 at the age of 85.

Select Bibliography

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Compiled by Noel E Adsett, Brisbane, February 2015



Lest we forget