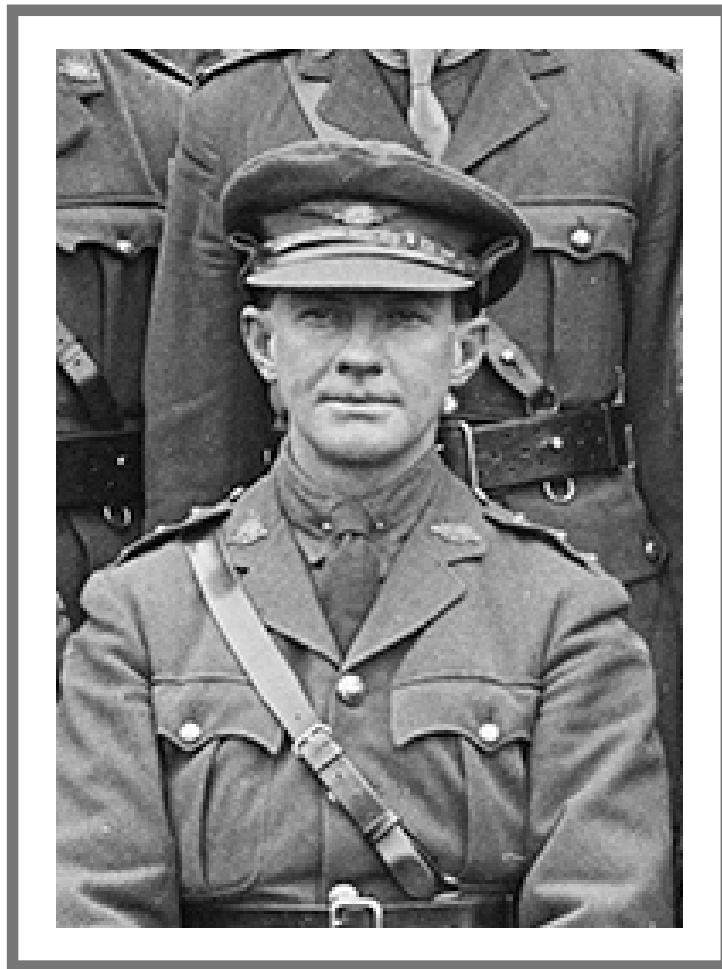


Stories from the Honour Boards

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 73

JOHN FREDRICK McNAUGHT 1881 – 1954



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Please see a Guide if you would like a copy.

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Corner Ann and Creek Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000
2015

Captain John Fredrick McNaught MC

John Fredrick ('Fred') McNaught was a Brisbane dentist who was awarded the Military Cross for bravery in action at Meteren, France on 19 July 1918, while serving in the 9th Infantry Battalion of the AIF. The citation for his Military Cross was:

Captain McNaught conducted the advance of a company. His skill and coolness under the direct fire of snipers and machine guns won the admiration of all ranks and was largely responsible for the success achieved. Later with two men he captured two enemy machine guns and crews, thereby removing obstacles which threatened his men during the work of consolidation. He was eventually wounded whilst supervising the consolidation at final objective.

Fred was born in Brisbane on 5 August 1881, the fourth son of John Ure McNaught, a bookseller and publisher, and Eliza Ann (nee Bothamley). His grandparents Daniel and Barbara McNaught were amongst the first wave of Scottish immigrants to Queensland, arriving in late 1848 and Daniel worked as manager of the joinery works of his brother-in-law, businessman and contractor John Petrie. As foreman carpenter for Petrie Daniel worked on many construction projects such as Parliament House and the Supreme Court. In addition, he was active in politics, a long-term member and Deacon in the Wharf Street Congregational Church, and a magistrate of the colony.

John Ure McNaught and his family were also members of Wharf Street Church and John followed his father in being a Deacon there.

He was a member of the Queensland Recruiting Committee formed in June 1915, which was notable for being initially an independent and privately funded body of citizen volunteers, as opposed to its counterparts in other States. On his death in 1924, John was spoken of as an 'old and highly respected resident of Brisbane'.

Fred trained as a dentist under his older brother Arthur in Bundaberg and was registered by the Queensland Dental Board in August 1905. By 1908 he was working in Charleville, Queensland and then in late 1913 he returned to Brisbane and the family home in Augustus Street, Toowong.

On 15 July 1915 Fred had an advertisement appear for the letting of his suite of offices in Federal Chambers, Queen Street and went to enlist in the AIF. Fred had served for 18 months as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion of the militia and was initially made a Sergeant in the AIF. On 27 October 1916 he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, and embarked on the *Wandilla* in Brisbane on 31 January 1916 as part of the 14th reinforcements for the 9th Battalion.

March 1916 was spent in Egypt and then via Marseilles, Fred reached the 9th Battalion in France on 25 May 1916. The 9th took part in the Battle of Pozières and the initial attack was successful in taking the village on 23 July 1916. Fred suffered a gunshot wound to his right leg and shrapnel wounds in his arm in that attack. Fierce fighting continued over the ensuing days and Fred was one of what was a total of 17,000 Australian casualties by the end of the battle.

Fred was promoted to Lieutenant on 3 August 1916 while in hospital, and was able to return to the 9th on 18 August.

Soon after his return he was made a Captain (20 August 1917). Then in the following month the 9th was engaged in the Battle of Polygon Wood in Belgium, where on the third day of the attack Fred was buried by a shell explosion and suffered scalp lacerations. He returned to duty after a few days.

In June 1918 Fred was hospitalised for 'debility', but returned after a month. The following month his actions in the Meteren sector on 19 July led to the award of the Military Cross, as well as his third wounding in action - a serious gunshot wound to his left shoulder. It took until October before Fred could convince the medical staff that he was well enough to return to duty.

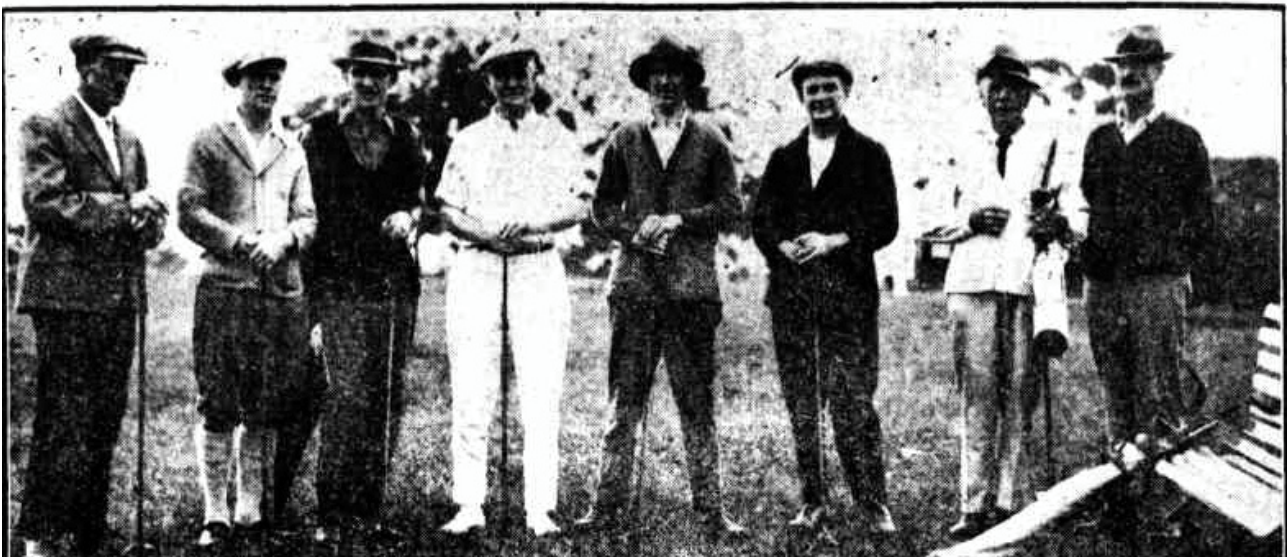
The Armistice took effect on 11 November 1918 and the huge process of returning the troops to Australia extended well into 1919. Fred returned to Australia on the *Suffolk*, arriving back in the middle of 1919.

He resumed his dentistry practice and on 23 October 1929 married Eileen Mary Russell in the Corpus Christie Roman Catholic Church in Nundah. The couple lived in Evans Street, Nundah for many years. Fred was involved in the Queensland branch of the Australian Dental Association and in Returned Service affairs. Eileen was the organiser of fundraising activities for the Nundah and district branch of the Red Cross during the Second World War, as well as being involved with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Dental Association.

Fred died unexpectedly of a heart attack at the age of 72 on 28 June 1954. His fellow 9th Battalion veterans placed a notice in the papers 'in respectful and Proud Memory of their Old Comrade and Friend'. He was cremated at Mt Thompson with



A memorial for Fred McNaught at Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens



Armistice Day Cup, Yeronga November 1925. Fred McNaught third from the right

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Compiled by Ian Carnell, November 2015



Lest we forget