

## Edwin Harold McDONALD 15-2-1890 to 31-1-1936 & Mavis Sylvia FLACK

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Edwin Harold was the seventh child and fifth son of Flora and Joseph McDonald. He was born at Nurrabiel, ten months after the death of his elder brother, Louis Stanley. Four first cousins were also born that year: Harold Angus Edmund Mott in New South Wales; Angus Lloyd Raggatt at Carchap, Victoria; Norma Stuart McDonald at Noradjuha and Hugh Sheridan McDonald at West Wail, Victoria. His grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

That year, in Africa. Uganda and Bechuanaland came under British control. In Australia the author Ion Idriess was born, and responsible government was granted to Western Australia.

Ted attended Nurrabiel State School and the certificate of exemption from compulsory attendance stating that Edwin McDonald had been educated up to the standard of education required by the Education Act 1890 was dated at Nurrabiel on the 17th day of September AD 1902, and signed by the District Inspector, Joseph Hocking. Ted was also a Sunday school pupil at the Nurrabiel Methodist Church. On leaving school he joined his father and brothers on the family farm. He became an active member of the Nurrabiel sports teams; football, rifle shooting and cricket. When the family moved to *Glencoe* at Mockinya, Ted accompanied them. A few years later he joined the Wonwondah football team. During World War One he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces and became Number 942 Private E.H. McDonald, C Company, 38th Battalion, 10th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Australian Division. His brother Gordon enlisted with him and they spent much of their service time together until Gordon was killed at Messines in France in 1917. Conscription was not introduced in World War One so all members of the services were volunteers. The observant eye of the farmer, even in the trenches in France, is shown by Ted's postcard home.

*France  
April 29th 1917*

*Dear Mother,*

*Just a line or two, to let you know we are both still alive and well trusting this will find you all much the same. We are out of the trenches again now and have moved a few miles further up the line, I suppose will be going in again in about a week's time. It is real spring weather here this last week, the days are much longer and the place has dried up a lot. The country is looking much better, the trees are getting their new leaves and the grass and crop is growing fast. There isn't much news here so I think I will close. .With Love to All at Home.*

*From Ted*

Another letter from Ted, written in pencil, told of Gordon's death.

*Somewhere in Belgium  
June 10th 1917*

*Dear Mother,*

*Just a line to let you know I am still alive and well, trusting this will find you all the same at home. I dare say you will have received word before this reaches you. that poor Gordon has been killed, he was shot through the head with a bullet, so it was instant death. It was at dawn in the morning of June 7th that we all hopped over in this big advance that has begun, and it was about two hours after when he got hit. The 38th Battalion did 48 hours in the Front and then were relieved by another Battalion, there were a fair number of Casualties but only a few killed, a good many were only slightly wounded. Well, I don't think there is much more to write about this time. I suppose we will be kept pretty busy from now on, they seem to think the war will soon end. I only wish it would. I've seen enough to satisfy me for the rest of my life. I am sending home Gordon's wallet and pay book so you can expect it with this mail. I will close now with Love and Best Wishes to All.*

*From Ted*

Ted was still on active service in France when the armistice was signed in 1918.

4th Army Inf. School — Ault  
France  
Nov. 12th 1918

*Dear Mother,*

*A few lines to let you know I am still alive and well and sincerely hope this will find you all the same. There has been great excitement here this last couple of days over the grand news that an Armistice has been signed between Germany and the Allies, so it means practically the end of the war. I can just imagine what it will be like in Ausy when the news reaches there. I daresay it will be some time before we get away from here as it will take a long time to settle up all the minor details, but I really think they will get all the Ausies home as quickly as possible, so as to save the Government a good deal of expense in the upkeep of the Army that is here.*

*We are having very good weather here considering the time of the year, of course we get it cold enough at times but as a rule these changes do not last very long.*

*I sent home about a fortnight ago to get £10 sent to the Commonwealth Bank in London but now that the war is over I may not get another Leave to England but if I can't get there I must try and get to Paris if we are here long enough. This is about all the news this time so Au Revoir. Love and best wishes to you All.*

*Your Loving Son,  
Ted*

Ted returned to the family farm after the war. During the early Twenties he managed a farm in the Harrow district of Victoria for his uncle, Angus McDonald, and it was during this time that he played cricket against a visiting English eleven at Hamilton. Eventually this farm was sold and Ted returned to Mockinya. Until his death he always classed the *Glencoe* wool clip.

On June 10, 1931, at 12.30 p.m. at the Methodist Church, Horsham, Ted was married to Mavis Sylvia Flack by the Reverend H. F. Allen. They were attended by the bride's sister Elvie Flack and the groom's cousin Lloyd McDonald. The reception was at the Exchange Hotel, Horsham. Mavis was born on Friday, August 13, 1909, in the front bedroom of *Garthowen*, Brimpaen, the eldest child of David and Clara Brough Flack, nee Jackson. *Garthowen* was the home of Clara's aunt, Esther Rees. The little girl had no name for a few days and so Clara's nine-year-old cousin Arthur Rees called the baby Friday. As they grew up he frequently teased her by chanting 'Mavis Sylvia Friday'. David and Clara Flack lived on their farm *Henley* at Brimpaen, adjoining the Rees land. After their marriage Ted and Mavis rented a cottage belonging to Herb Hallam on a block known as Schmidts. They lived there for four years until a new house was built for them nearby on the McDonald farm near the Jallumba road. The cottage was later moved to Wonwondah for Hallam's son Edgar when he married.

Ted and Mavis had two daughters and a son. On January 13, 1936, Ted died suddenly of meningitis. He was buried in Nurrabel cemetery. The Horsham Times of January 17, 1936 published an obituary.

*NURRABIEL — There was quite a gloom over this district on Monday morning when the news arrived of the death of Mr. E. (Ted) McDonald, of Mockinya. His loss will be felt here very much, as he was a good clean sport and an outstanding cricketer, and up to the time of his death was captain of the Nurrabel Cricket Club and also an active member of the Nurrabel Rifle Club. There were many floral tributes from the sporting bodies. All matches have been postponed in the Arapiles Association as a tribute to the one who always played the game.*

Mavis remained on the farm which was then run by her brothers-in-law Bill and Alan until she remarried. On November 20, 1939, Mavis married Oliver Hill at the Horsham Methodist parsonage. Oliver was the son of Edith and William Hill of Horsham and was born on September 30, 1909. Mavis and Oliver had one son, David Lynton Hill, born on July 5, 1945. David married Pamela Robin Collard and they have four children: Anthony Dean Hill, born March 10, 1967; Rosalyn Louise Hill, born June 16, 1968; twins Simon David and Patricia Anne Hill, born June 12, 1972. David and Pam and family live in Sydney.

Mavis played tennis for Mockinya for many years and golf at Mockinya Golf Club. She did fine handwork, knitting and crochet, until a crippling disease affected her hands. She then used a knitting machine. Mavis and Oliver continued to live on the farm until they sold it in March 1977 and retired to live at 3 Olympic Street, Horsham. Oliver died at the Wimmera Base Hospital on August 10, 1982, aged 73 years. He was buried in Horsham cemetery. Mavis is a member of Horsham's elderly citizens' club and the Country Women's Association. She has a pet watch dog named Katrina, a long-haired chihuahua.

#### Children of Ted and Mavis

- |                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 <i>Marjorie</i> Joyce McDonald | Born 17-11-1932 |
| 2 <i>Gwenda</i> Flora McDonald   | Born 23-4-1934  |
| 3 <i>Colin</i> Edwin McDonald    | Born 31-7-1935  |

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 106 of "History of Ewen & Rachel McDonald & Descendants" by Jill McDonald which was originally published in 1985. It was republished as part of "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" in 1995.
- COLONIALISTS : Christina and Donald McLean and their ten children migrated from Argyllshire to South Australia in 1837. This was in the earliest years of the colony. The McLeans initially settled near Adelaide where they grew the first wheat crop in SA. Then in about 1840 they pioneered the Strathalbyn area. There are now well over 20,000 descendants spread across Australia and elsewhere.
- CHANGES : Please contact us with additions, corrections or suggestions about any part of this family tree.
- CONTACT : Visit our website [www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com) or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.