

Sydney Victor MOTT 14-4-1819 to 26-3-1961 & Frances ANDERSON

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Sydney Victor was the second child and second son of Margaret and Charles Mott and was born at *Rockwell*. His cousin Walter George Ewen Tucker was born the same year in South Australia. His grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

Britain fought the Zulu War in Africa, Joseph Stalin was born, and Australian frozen meat was on sale in London.

Syd was educated by governess at Rockwell and then joined his father and brother on the family property. Later he moved with the family to *Springmount* near Guyra and continued farming. On July 26, 1915 Syd, with his brother Jim, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Liverpool, New South Wales. He became Number 1579 Private S. V. Mott, and served in Egypt and France with the 12th Australian Light Horse Regiment and No. 2 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. The corps was the infant Royal Australian Air Force. Cavalrymen were regarded as excellent material for aviation. In the official history of the Australian Flying Corps, Frederick Morley Cutlack wrote: 'Other things being equal the good horseman has all the qualities a good airman'. It is not known when Syd transferred from the light horse to the air force or whether he became a pilot. Australia dispatched No. 1 Squadron to Egypt in 1916 where it supported the infantry in the desert campaign from Romani to Gaza. In 1916, No. 2 Squadron was formed in Egypt, and the following year was sent to England closely followed by Numbers 3 and 4 Squadrons.

In France. No. 2 Squadron, commanded by Major W. O. Watt, was flung straight into the battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917. The commander of the Royal Flying Corps in France, Major-General Hugh Montague Trenchard, wrote of No. 2: 'Their work was really magnificent. They bombed the German and attacked him with machine-gun fire from fifty feet, flying among the tree tops'. From April 1918, No. 2 Squadron was part of a circus formation, a group of fighting squadrons which flew together at different heights and always on the offensive. They continually attacked the German lines until the armistice the following November. Number 2 Squadron is the only one in the Royal Australian Air Force which has the distinction of serving in both world wars, the Malayan Emergency, and the Vietnam War.

Syd had been promoted to sergeant when he was discharged at Sydney, on August 11, 1919. He was awarded the British War Medal, the 1914-1915 Star, and the Victory Medal. During the 1920s, Syd married Frances Anderson whom he had courted for many years. Her parents had a property, *Brookside*, near Armidale. Syd and Fanny had one daughter, Nancy. The family left New England to farm in the Penrith area, near Sydney, and later ran a poultry farm at Blacktown before retiring to Sydney. During their later years Syd and Fanny became members of the Jehovah's Witness faith. Syd died in Sydney on March 26, 1967, aged 87 years.

Child of Syd and Fanny :-

1. Nancy Mott b.

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 121 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 or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.