

James Arthur MOTT 30-8-1881 to 20-12-1966 & Charlotte Alice NOBLE

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

James Arthur was the third child and third son of Margaret and Charles Mott, and was born at *Rockwell*. His first cousin, Christina Margaret McDonald, was born a few months earlier at Noradjuha, Victoria. His grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

In March 1881, James Garfield was inaugurated as twentieth president of the United States, and was assassinated later that year. In Australia restrictive Chinese immigration acts were passed in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, and the author Marcus Clark died.

Jim was taught by governess, and joined his father and brothers working the family property *Rockwell* and later *Springmount*. Jim became an outstanding horseman and rode in many shows. His niece Ina Donaldson recalled two of his horses were named Go On and Gee Whiz. With his brothers Harold, Guy and Colin he worked the property *Glendon* for some years. On July 26, 1915 Jim, with his brother Syd, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Liverpool, New South Wales, and became Number 1580 Private J. A. Mott. He served overseas in Egypt with the 12th Australian Light Horse Regiment, 4th Field Troop, Australian Engineers', and 2nd Field Squadron, Australian Engineers. A light horse regiment at war was made up of twenty-five officers and 497 men, and was composed of men from the same state. The 12th Light Horse Regiment was from New South Wales.

The army engineers play a critical role in all aspects of warfare; their business is construction and demolition. In the Egyptian and Palestinian campaigns their most important work was the laying of railway lines, helped by myriads of Egyptian labourers. On the tracks from the coast came water and supplies for the thousands of men and animals. The engineers repaired bridges, culverts, viaducts, and used boring plants to find water in dry, rocky wadis or watercourses. They restored damaged wells and sometimes enlarged them to obtain water. They repaired and put into use captured railway tracks, rolling stock and locomotives. When not constructing they reversed the process and demolished bridges, culverts, viaducts and telegraph poles. They blew up Turkish railway points, station buildings, and clipped explosive charges to the steel rails. In May 1917 the 2nd Field Squadron was involved in the demolition of an important Turkish railway south of Asluj, south of Beersheba in Palestine. Jim had the distinction of being mentioned in despatches :-

Dear Sir, I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Second Supplement No 31138, to the London Gazette, dated 21st January 1919, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by the undermentioned member of the Australian Imperial Force.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

The following dispatch has been received by the Secretary of State for War from General Sir E. H. H. Allenby, G.C.B., O.C.M.G., Commander-In-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, submitting names deserving of special mention:-

No. 1580 Second Corporal J. A. MOTT

The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 61, dated 23rd May, 1919.

Yours faithfully

Officer in charge Base Records

Victoria Barracks

Melbourne.

The army record does not give details of the action in which Jim was involved. He had been promoted to corporal when he was discharged at Sydney on August 3, 1919. He was awarded the British War Medal, the 1914-15 Star, and the Victory Medal.

During the 1920s Jim married Charlotte Alice Noble whose parents had a property near Glen Innes. Jim and Charlotte had one son, Ian Charles. Charlotte died on May 23, 1945, aged 46 years. Some years later Jim married Rose Solander Hadley, a widow with one son, Colin. Jim sold *Gaza*, the name he had given to his portion of *Glendon*, and he and Rose lived on her property *Benvale* near Emmaville, New South Wales.

In the mid-1950s Jim and Rose retired to Glen Innes, where Jim died on December 20, 1966. He is buried in Glen Innes cemetery. Rose remained in Glen Innes until she moved to Sydney in the late 1970s to be near her son Colin, his wife June, and their two sons, Robert and Gregory.

Child of Jim and Charlotte :-

1. Ian Charles Mott Born 2-4-1925

- 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.