

# Harold Angus Edmund MOTT 14-1-1890 to 24-8-1960 & Beatrice Alice MOTT, nee WILLIAMS

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Harold Angus Edmund Mott was the seventh child and sixth son of Charles and Margaret Mott, and was born at Rockwell, Warialda. Four of his first cousins were born that year, all in the Horsham area of Victoria: Edwin H. McDonald, Angus L. Raggatt, Norma S. M. McDonald, and Hugh S. McDonald. His grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

In Britain free elementary education commenced, and in France, Charles de Gaulle was born. In Australia the eastern colonies and South Australia were affected for three months by a crippling maritime strike.

Harold attended school in Warialda and then at Black Mountain Public School until he was 17 years of age. Leaving school, he worked on the family property *Ben Lomond* until it was sold. From there he went to *Glendon* in the Glen Innes district.

On February 27, 1917, Harold enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Armidale, New South Wales. He became Number 6843 Private H. A. Mott, and served overseas in England and France in the 5th Australian Training Battalion, then in the 17th Australian Infantry Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Division. In France he took part in many of the famous battles of the Western Front; Villers Brettoneux, Amiens, Mont St Quentin, and the final attack on the Hindenburg Line in October 1918. The Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. By the end of the month the Australian troops in France were being evacuated at the rate of about 5,000 a week to camps on Salisbury Plain in England. The order of priority for repatriation was based on length of service, family responsibilities, and assured employment. In May 1919 the last 10,000 men in France were taken to England where the Australian camps on Salisbury Plain then held 70,000 men.

Harold had been promoted to lance-corporal when he was discharged at Sydney on August 20, 1919. For a few years after his demobilisation he managed *Springmount* for his parents. On September 12, 1922, Harold married Beatrice Alice Williams at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Armidale. The officiating minister was the Reverend E. N. McKie of Guyra. Beatrice, known as Beatie, was the daughter of James and Eliza Williams who owned a grazing property, *Sunnyside*, close to *Springmount*. Beatie was born on July 25, 1895 and attended public schools at Puddledock and Armidale. Years earlier, Beatie's sister Elizabeth had married Harold's brother Len.

After their marriage Beatie and Harold settled on Harold's block at *Glendon* which Charles had subdivided for his four sons. Harold and Beatie had two children, twin sons. About 1926, Harold sold his block to Guy and bought *Virginia*, a few miles from Glen Innes, where he lived for the rest of his life. From 1944 to 1947 he was a councillor in the Severn Shire; on his resignation he was replaced by his brother Guy. Harold was an elder of the Glen Innes Presbyterian Church. Harold died on August 24, 1960. Beatrice died in Glen Innes on April 3, 1974. Both are buried in Glen Innes cemetery.

An obituary of August 24, 1960, reported Harold's death.

*Mr. Harold Angus Edmund Mott, of "Virginia" Glen Innes, died at the District Hospital this morning.*

*A member of an old and widely known pastoral family, the late Mr. Mott was 70 years of age.*

*He was born at Warialda and had lived all his life in New England.*

*For 35 years he had lived at "Virginia."*

*Mr. Mott served in the 17th Infantry Battalion in World War I.*

*He was an elder of the Presbyterian Church for many years.*

*The late Mr. Mott was a man of very high principles, and commanded the respect of all sections of the community.*

*Surviving are his widow and one son, Angus.*

*A son, Malcolm, made the supreme sacrifice in World War II.*

*Messrs. Guy and James, of Glen Innes and Len Mott, of Guyra, are brothers.*

*Burial will take place tomorrow in the Presbyterian portion of the Glen Innes cemetery after a service in the Cameron Memorial Church beginning at 2.30 p.m.*

*Members of the R.S.S. and A.I.L.A. are requested to attend the funeral.*

*R. T. Lightfoot and Co. are making funeral arrangements.*

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 129 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.