

Name: James Hugh RN Macdonald



Service No: 47459

Armed Force: 36th (Mixed) Battalion 2nd NZEF

NZ Ordnance Corps 2nd NZEF

Enlistment At/Date: Dunedin 1942

Training: See details below

Embarkations: 10 Jan 1942

Rank/s: Private

Service: See details below

CIVILIAN LIFE	
Address before Enlistment:	19 Ainsley Place, Dunedin
Next of Kin on Embarkation:	Mrs. Esther. Macdonald, Puketeraki (wife)
Relationship Status:	
Occupation:	Fireman, NZ Railways
Single/Married:	Married

PRISONER OF WAR	
Capture Details:	N/A
POW Serial Number:	N/A

MILITARY DECORATIONS	
Medals and Awards:	

OTHER DETAILS	
Date of Birth & Place:	11 Jan 1918 Waipara
Date of Death & Place:	19 Jul 1969 Timaru
Cause of Death:	
Burial/Cremation:	Timaru Cemetery

Age:	51
Memorial:	

MILITARY SERVICE BIOGRAPHY: Stamps on record

Kiwi Force embarked 27 Dec 1942

Embarked 10 Jan 1942

Returned to NZ 14 Aug 1942

Returned to NZ 9 Jun 1944

Discharged 17 Jul 1944

Certificate of discharge issued 12 Sep 1947

4 Jul 1941 Entered Trentham Camp

31 Aug 1941 Admitted to camp hospital transferred to Wellington hospital

1 Sep 1941 Letter to Mrs E.M Macdonald, 19 Ainsley Place, Dunedin... regret to inform you Spr J.H. Macdonald admitted to Wellington Public Hospital suffering from concussion. Sent from Camp Records Office, Central District Mobilisation Camp, No.3 Depot Btn, Trentham. Hospital discharge shows admitted 31 Aug 1941, discharged 8 Sep 1941, recommendation 10 days leave at home. Certificate of medical officer says he was suffering from concussion and alcoholism. Medical case sheet shows J.H. Macdonald of the Engineers Unit aged 23 with 1 month service was picked up unconscious in Wellington at 1600 hours on 30 Aug 1941, alcohol on breath, pupils dilated, equal sluggish reaction to light, reflexes not very brisk. Haematoma (lump) left occipital region, transferred to Wellington Hospital for observation. No lesion detected on x-ray. 8 Sep 1941 Transferred hospital to unit - 2 days sick leave, then extended

27 Sep 1941 Awol 2200hrs

13 Oct 1941 Returned from awol - forfeits 16 days pay, fined £1, awarded 7 days CB

31 Dec 1941 To Papakura to join 36th Battalion. (36th Btn History, p1 - The 36th Battalion arose from the attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 Dec 1941. The Pacific became the focal point, and it became apparent how little had been done to safeguard it. Before the close of the year the Philippine had been invaded, Shanghai had been occupied, Hong Kong surrendered, Wake, Guam, the Gilberts and part of Malaya were in the hands of the enemy. The foe was at the gates of Singapore and Samoa had been shelled. Three infantry battalions were sent immediately to join the small NZ garrison in Fiji. The nucleus of the battalion was the Central District 8th Reinforcements who had just returned from final leave expecting an early departure to join the Second Division in the Middle East. From a body of reinforcements, the change had to be effected to a mixed Infantry battalion with three rifle companies and a machine gun company. The last days of 1941 were hectic as equipment poured in and men were marched in from all parts of the country, arriving in small drafts at all hours.

10 Jan 1942 Embarked for Suva

14 Jan 1942 Disembarked Fiji ex NZ - marched into Samambula Camp (36th Btn History, p3 - Embarkation of the main body took place on 10 January, also from Auckland, and we had a very calm passage in delightfully sunny weather, growing hotter each day. We reached Suva on 14 January, and trucks were awaiting to transport us to Samambula Camp, some four miles out of Suva.)

3 Mar 1942 Suva - Charge sheet - The accused, a soldier of the 2 NZEF is charged, whilst on active service, with being absent without leave in that he was absent from his billet at St Felix School from 2300 hours 3/3/42 till 0600 hours 4/3/42. Period of absence 7 hours. Witnesses P.A Smith, Sgt H.E Montgomery. Punishment: 3 days' CB and forfeiture of one day's pay under Royal Warrant. I.A O'Neill, captain (36th Btn History, p3 In order to eliminate the daily march to town [from



Samambula Camp) billets were occupied at Huon St Methodist School, St Felix Boys College and St Anne's Girls College. The two last were airy buildings, well-ventilated and commanding a splendid view of the harbour. Few will forget the view looking up from Nambukulau Creek to the hillside below St Felix, ablaze with pink and purple bougainvillea, hibiscus and the variegated reds of crotons and poinsettia. Daily companies could be seen marching along the dust-clouded roads into Suva ready for a day's hard work in the boiling summer sun, picking a soapstone, siting positions to give arcs of fire, erecting miles of double-apron fencing. By March the Japanese threat was drawing nearer. Portions of New Guinea and the Solomons fell into enemy hands, Darwin was bombed, and the threat to NZ became more and more acute. Battle training often took the form of realistic alarms and alerts.)

14 Mar 1942 Suva Fractured thumb

15 Mar 1942 Admitted Military Hospital, Tamarua, Suva, Fiji

18 Mar 1942 Discharged from hospital to 36th Btn

13 Apr 1942 Transferred to Divisional Ordnance Workshops from 36th Btn

30 Apr 1942 Admitted to Military Hospital, Tamarua, Suva, Fiji (36th Btn history - Miles of wire was laid and we were introduced to pampas grass whose scratch rapidly turned septic and we incurred those tropical sores, ulcers and skin infections were to be a constant menace to physical and mental health.)

7 May 1942 Discharged from hospital to Divisional Ordnance Workshops

7 Aug 1942 Embarked for NZ at Suva

14 Aug 1942 Disembarked NZ

16 Aug 1942 Marched out on leave

4 Sep 1942 Returned from leave to Papakura, then Trentham

6 Oct 1942 Base Ordnance Workshop, Trentham

13 Nov 1942 Sick at home

1 Dec 1942 Sick at home

9 Dec 1942 Returned to Trentham

27 Dec 1942 Re-embarked

1 Jan 1943 Disembarked Noumea

15 Jan 1943 Wife moved to Puketeraki, Otago

29 Jan 1943 Change of next of kin noted at New Caledonia

6 Mar 1943 Necal (New Caledonia) DOW (divisional ordnance workshops) reported visual problem... print blurs with problem increasing during day. Tested, no action taken

3 Aug 1943 Embarked for Mainyard (Guadalcanal) on Liggett (presumed to be USS Hunter Liggett) (<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USN/ACTC/actc-14.html> Since everyone in the United States with an alert ear knew by this time that Guadalcanal's code word was CACTUS, Guadalcanal received a change of code name from CACTUS to MAINYARD for the purpose of the DRYGOODS Operation [logistics support]. Wikipedia For most of the next year [1943], Hunter Liggett remained on this hazardous duty, the support of Guadalcanal. She made numerous trips to the island bringing troops from Noumea and New Zealand, carried equipment, and transported wounded marines and Japanese prisoners from the embattled island. Constantly threatened from the air and by submarines, she continued this vital job until arriving 22 October 1943, when she anchored at Efate, New Hebrides.)

19 Aug 1943 To draw ED (extra duty) pay as armourer, Guadalcanal (Armourers are skilled in the maintenance and repair of the wide variety of weapon systems used by the New Zealand Army.) NZ 3rd Division landed on Green Island (Nissan Island) 15 Feb 1944 as part of the Solomon Islands campaign to isolate the Japanese stronghold at Rabaul. Shortly after the landings two airfields were



constructed on the island. Richard Nixon was a supply officer on the base. There were approximately 17,000 Allied troops on the island at that time.

24 Apr 1944 Ceases to draw pay as armourer when disembarked Wharton, New Caledonia (Wikipedia: Wharton transported 1782 men of the New Zealand Army from Green Island to Nouméa)

29 Apr 1944 Transferred to NZ roll for return to essential industry

15 May 1944 Awaiting passage return from New Caledonia for essential industry

18 May 1944 Necal (New Caledonia) medical report before discharge - aged 26, civil occupation railway fireman, married two children, proposed future home address Puketeraki, Otago. Suffering from nil. Previous problems (1) concussion & alcoholism 30/8/41 (2) fracture first metatarsal right thumb 15/3/1942 (3) Ac tonsillitis 30/4/42. Has served overseas in Fiji, Necal, Solomons from Jan '42 to May '44. Weight 12st 6lb, pulse rate 90, BP 128/78, urine normal. Clinically normal. Signed at Necal.

6 Jun 1944 Embarked for NZ ex New Caledonia.

9 Jun 1944 Arrived NZ marched into Papakura 28 days leave, later amended to 50 days

7 Jul 1944 Direction of District Man-power officer James Hugh Richard Newland Macdonald, Puketeraki. Employer: The Locomotive Foreman, NZR, Dunedin Place: Where required. Time of engagement: 18 Jul 1944 In capacity of: Fireman. Award wage, M/2 Grade I

17 Jul 1944 Pay ceased

8 Aug 1944 Discharged at Wellington - will returned (as you have now been transferred to Area Pool on indefinite leave without pay your will is returned)

20 Oct 1944 Chest x-ray clear

15 Jan 1946 Application for war service gratuity from James Hugh Macdonald, 2 Waimea Av, Calton Hill, Dunedin

3 Jul 1941 to 11 Jan 1942 2 NZEF in NZ

12 Jan 1942 to 14 Aug 1942 Overseas

15 Aug 1942 to 30 Dec 1942 in NZ

31 Dec 1942 to 13 Jun 1944 Overseas

14 Jun 1944 to 9 Aug 1944 in NZ

31 Mar 1946 Gratuity assessment - paid from 3 Jul 1941 to 8 Aug 1944, 373 days in NZ, 743 days overseas; NZ pay £12.8.8; overseas pay £92.17.6; total £105.6.2

15 Sep 1946 Medals awarded, sent to 202 Selwyn St, Timaru



WAR SERVICE IMAGES



Training at Trentham. Jim Macdonald at left.



With sisters Hazel and Chris on leave.

USEFUL WEB LINKS FOR REFERENCE:

1. [Auckland War Memorial Museum - Online Cenotaph](#)
 - o A comprehensive database of New Zealand service personnel.
2. [New Zealand War Graves Project](#)
 - o Contains images and information about New Zealand war graves and memorials around the world.
3. [New Zealand History - NZ Wars and Conflicts](#)
 - o Provides detailed accounts and images of New Zealand's involvement in various wars, including WW1 and WW2.
4. [Archives New Zealand - War History](#)
 - o Access to war-related records and images held by Archives New Zealand.
5. [Te Papa Tongarewa - Collections Online](#)

Features war-related collections, including personal stories and photographs of New Zealand soldiers

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