

James Alfred McALLISTER



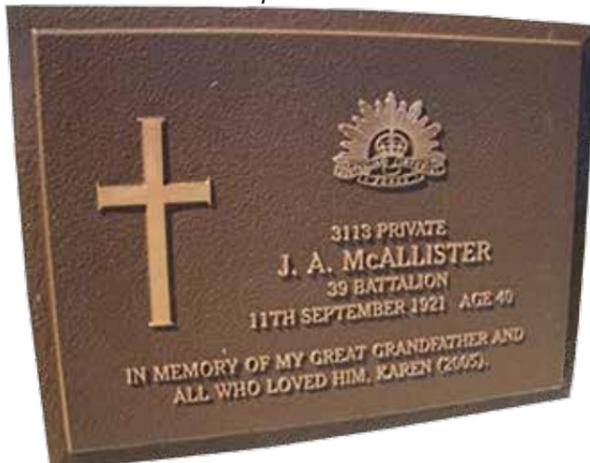
Regimental number 3113
 Religion Church of England
 Occupation Labourer, Electric cable layer
 Address Abbotsford, Victoria
 Marital status Married
 Age at embarkation 36 years 7 months
 Next of kin Wife, Mrs Florence Louise McAllister, 67 Hardiman Street, Kensington, Victoria.
 Enlistment date 12th January 1917
 Rank on enlistment Private
 Unit name 39th Battalion, 7th Reinforcement

AWM Embarkation Roll number 23/56/3
 Embarkation details Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A70 *Ballarat* on 19th February 1917
 Rank from Nominal Roll Private
 Unit from Nominal Roll 39th Battalion
 1917 25th April Ship torpedoed in the English Channel off Plymouth - All were picked up by a Destroyer.
 1917 6th September Marched into Rouelles, France. Taken on strength on 18th September in the field.
 1917 12th October Wounded in Action in Belgium. Gunshot wound to left eye, Transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then to General Hospital then to 1st Auxiliary Hospital in England on the 27th October. A splinter of shrapnel passed through the left upper lid injuring the lens. The cheek was also wounded. The eye is totally blind.
 1917 3rd December On furlough until 17th December in Weymouth, England
 Fate Returned to Australia 10th January 1918 per *Corinthic* Gun Shot Wound, Cataract to left eye

Other details Discharged on 6th April 1918.
 Medals: 1914 - 15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
 Described as 5 ft., 6 in., 125 lb., brown eyes and brown hair.
 Eldest Son of James A. McAllister (who served in R.N. Reserve. Served Boxer Riots 1900 - 1901) and Liliass Jane (Lily) (*nee* Park). All five brothers all enlisted.
 Died in Monbulk in 1937 from war service injuries caused by movement of shrapnel behind blind eye to the brain.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 25th 1917 ANZAC DAY.

Reveille at 5-30am. Put all our hammocks and blankets in store as usual for the day. Dinner at 12.Noon. Roast Beef and Potatoes. We have to report on deck at 2-30.PM. for Anzac service. I was writing letters in aft well deck right under the stern of the boat when a terrific explosion occurred and shook the whole ship. Sent us all sprawling on the floor. -We jumped up and then heard the bugle sounding the alarm. We knew then that the worst had happened. They had got us at last. We grabbed our lifebelts and made for our boat and raft stations. We fell in at our usual stations and then it was given out over the megaphone that we had been torpedoed in the stern and that lifeboats were to be launched immediately as the boat was by then settling down by the stern.....



I went below and the water was up to my knees but I managed to secure a few personal belongings. On returning to deck I found that an order had been given that we were not to throw the rafts over. I was much relieved but that a destroyer was to try and get along side and we were to wait an opportunity and then slide down the ropes tied to the side of the ship on to the destroyer decks. We were then marched as our raft formations to the side of the boat and as the destroyer came alongside. Five or six men were to try and jump from the ropes on to the destroyer's deck. Eventually it was my turn to jump and I can tell you I was glad when I felt my feet touch the deck of the destroyer. At last the destroyer had as many as she could safely carry on her decks and we moved away from the 'Ballarat'.

Extract from The Diary of Captain L.B. Sherren