



State Funeral for Alec Campbell

A State Funeral for Mr Alec Campbell, the last survivor of the Gallipoli campaign, was held in the Cathedral Church of St David, corner of Macquarie and Murray streets, Hobart, on Friday 24 May 2002.

The funeral began at 10.30am and was followed by a private burial.



Alec Campbell with his medals

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Alec Campbell in 1915

The Campbell Family

More than 120 members of the Campbell family attended the funeral, including eight of Alec's nine children:

- Cathleen (Sam) Claridge - Launceston, Tasmania
- Cressey Stackhouse - Launceston, Tasmania
- Mary Burke - Hobart, Tasmania
- Dr Jim Campbell - Launceston, Tasmania
- Geraldine Padgham - Bendigo, Victoria
- Deidre Langenheim - Melbourne, Victoria
- Dr Neil Campbell - New Zealand
- Felicity Tangney - New Zealand

Greg Campbell of Perth, Western Australia, was unable to attend the service.

The casket

Sitting on the casket was a forage cap and bayonet. These were supplied from the museum of the 12/40th Battalion, Royal Tasmania Regiment. The cap, which dates back to World War I, was laid on the casket by the Chief of Army, LT GEN Peter Cosgrove, as a tribute by the Australian Army to one of its own.

While the Australian Digger has come to be portrayed generally as wearing the famous slouch hat, it was just one of the hats worn by members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Although Alec was presented with slouch hats in recent years he did not wear one during his service at Gallipoli, but wore a forage cap similar to the one placed on the casket.

The bayonet also is an authentic item carried by a member of the Australian Imperial Force during World War I.

A bearer party from the Federation Guard carried the casket from the Cathedral.

Floral tribute

The family's floral tribute comprised 103 red roses - one for each year of Alec's life.

Poppies

The poppies placed by the RSL chiefs during the service were handmade by Alec's great-granddaughter, Sylvia Claridge, of Launceston.

Sylvia undertook to make the poppies as a personal tribute and requested that they be used as part of the funeral service.

Music

Alec was particularly fond of bagpipe music. The casket was carried out of the Cathedral to the air of the traditional lament *The Flowers of the Forest*.

Condolences

Following the funeral service officials offered condolences to the following family members:

- Kathleen (Kate) Campbell - Alec's widow
- Felicity Tangney - Alec's youngest daughter - together with her husband, Grant and three children - Matthew, James and Jessie-Kate
- Dr Neil Campbell - Alec's youngest son

The gun carriage and cortege

On leaving the Cathedral, the casket was placed on a two-piece gun carriage. A one-ton Dodge truck, specially modified for military funerals, drew the MKII 25lb gun carriage.

Since being adopted under the Queen's Regulations in the late 1800s, gun carriages have

been widely used in military and State Funerals for carrying the casket between the church and the gravesite.

This gun carriage also used for the State Funeral last year of Melbourne Gallipoli veteran Roy Longmore.

Four riders on horseback preceded the funeral procession from the Cathedral. The riders wore the World War I uniform of the Australian Light Horse.

Ten members of the Campbell family served as pallbearers. They were:

- Felicity Tangney - Alec's youngest daughter
- Jo Hardy - granddaughter
- Katia Langenheim - granddaughter
- Ruby Rose Langenheim - great-granddaughter
- Alice Claridge - great-granddaughter
- Angela Claridge - great-granddaughter
- Rebecca Claridge - great-granddaughter
- Jeannie Claridge - great-granddaughter
- Sylvia Claridge - great-granddaughter
- Vanitha Padgham - great-granddaughter (pronounced Vanita)

They were followed by:

- the firing party of the Federation Guard
- an attending party of regular and reserve soldiers from all Tasmanian based Army units
- a composite band, comprising members from the Australian Army Bands in Tasmania and Victoria

At Hobart Town Hall, the Governor of Tasmania and other Tasmanian dignitaries saluted the gun carriage as it passed. Soldiers from the 12/40th Battalion, Royal Tasmania Regiment, formed an honour guard, and presented arms as a show of respect.

On the transfer of the casket to the hearse, the firing party fired three volleys. This is a military tradition of saying farewell to a soldier, and is normally conducted at the gravesite or crematorium.

As the casket was transferred from the gun carriage to the hearse, the Hobart-based 16th Field Battery fired a 21-gun salute from the Hobart Domain.

A 21-gun salute is the highest gun salute and normally reserved for Royalty and Heads of State. The firing of a 21-gun salute for Alec Campbell has been authorised as a tribute to the last veteran of the Gallipoli campaign.

The 16th Field Battery fired 6oz charges out of four M2e2 105mm Howitzers for this salute.

Final resting place

Alec Campbell was buried at Cornelian Bay Cemetery during a private family ceremony. His widow, Kate Campbell, personally selected the plot, overlooking Cornelian Bay, with a clear view of the sailing boats of which Alec was so fond.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Danna Vale MP, encouraged all Australians to observe one minute's silence on Friday to honour the passing of the last Anzac, Alec Campbell.

Biography of Private Alec Campbell

*15th Battalion
Australian Imperial Force*

Alec Campbell was born in 1899 in Launceston, Tasmania, and was working as a clerk with Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company when he enlisted in June 1915.

Private Campbell embarked for overseas service in August 1915 and in October joined the 15th Battalion at Lemnos, Egypt. He served at Gallipoli before returning to Egypt on Christmas Day, 1915.

In early 1916 he was in and out of hospital until he embarked for Australia on board the Port Sydney in June 1916. He was discharged medically unfit in August 1916.

On returning to Tasmania, Mr Campbell worked as a jackeroo before applying for vocational training in motor-body building at the Hobart Repatriation Trade School.

Later he worked as a carpenter in Tasmania's highlands, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and South Australia. In 1927 he took up a position with Launceston Railway Workshop, which he held until 1942 when he was appointed Manpower Officer in Queenstown.

Following World War II Mr Campbell was appointed Disabled Persons Employment Officer and later Research Officer in the Department of Labour and National Service, having completed a degree in economics.

Until 1978 he worked part-time as an adviser to the Heart Foundation. He has sailed in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race six times and in 1950 circumnavigated Tasmania aboard the Kintail.

On Anzac Day 1999, Mr Campbell was presented with the 80th Anniversary Armistice Remembrance Medal, Australia's first commemorative honour, marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War I.

In 2000, Mr Campbell was featured on a special Australia Day stamp issue as one of Australia's living legends, alongside the other two Gallipoli veterans still living at that time.

Early this year, Mr Campbell was the first Australian to receive the Centenary Medal, a commemorative honour to be presented to all Australians born on or before 31 December 1901 who lived to celebrate the Centenary of Federation on 1 January 2001.

Mr Campbell passed away on 16 May 2002 at the age of 103.

Biography of Corporal Frank MacDonald MM

*40th Battalion
Australian Imperial Force*

Frank MacDonald was working as a clerk telegraph operator and labourer prior to enlisting in March 1916 at Ulverstone, Tasmania.

He was an original member of the 40th Battalion, the only all-Tasmanian battalion in World War I, holding the rank of Corporal.

After training in England, Corporal MacDonald went to France in November 1916 and served with the 40th Battalion throughout 1917 and 1918. He received the Military Medal for his bravery under fire in Belgium in October 1917. According to his official citation:

"On 12th of October 1917, East of Ypres, he displayed conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action. This man was at Battalion Forward Station and did splendid work maintaining communication with the Battalion Headquarters. The conditions were exceedingly trying owing to the station being in an area which was almost continuously under fire. Nevertheless he personally saw to the maintaining of the lines until the Battalion was relieved."

He was recommended for a Bar to the Military Medal in 1918 for his outstanding efforts in maintaining communications, although this was never awarded.

The 40th Battalion took part in many significant operations in France in 1918, most notably the battalion attack, which sustained heavy casualties, at Morlancourt in March.

Although Corporal MacDonald was involved as an infantryman in the major campaigns in France and Belgium in 1917 and 1918, he was never wounded.

Corporal MacDonald returned to Australia aboard the *Anchises* in October 1919, was discharged in November and spent most of his working life outside Tasmania. He worked as a paymaster with a transport company, as a salesman and a real estate agent and again served his country from October 1940 to June 1946 during World War II.

In November 1998, Mr MacDonald was presented with the Legion of Honour by the French Government for his service on the Western Front. In 1999 he was awarded the *80th Anniversary Armistice Remembrance Medal*, Australia's first commemorative honour to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War I.

Mr MacDonald lives in Ulverstone, Tasmania.