



# McGLINN FAMILY



## Family History

At the age of 22, Thomas McGlinn was convicted of larceny in the United Kingdom and transported to Australia on the *Phoebe Dunbar* to serve his ten-year sentence. His arrival in Australia on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 1853 changed the course of history for the whole McGlinn family.

Thomas married Irish-born Catherine Walker around 1856, and they eventually had nine children. The couple were living in York by the early 1860s.

Thomas and Catherine had one son and seven grandsons who fought during the First World War. One did not return. All were from York.

# McGLINN

## James

### Service No: 4562



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: James McGlinn

Service number: 4562

Date of enlistment: 22/10/ 1915

Age at Enlistment: 50 (said he was only 45)

Civil Occupation: Permanent Way Ganger

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War medal, Victory medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 feet 6 inches

Weight: 144 pounds

Chest measurement: 37 inches

Complexion: fair

Eye Colour: blue

Hair Colour: grey

Father: Thomas McGlinn

Mother: Catherine McGlinn (nee Walker)

Siblings: David Patrick, Sarah, Thomas John, Rosa, Catherine, Mary, Elizabeth Flora and Helena.

Children: Ethel Rose, Angelina, Robert James, William, Thomas Henry, Stephen, and Lewis Alexander.



Courtesy of National Archives of  
Australia

### Life Story

James was born at York in 1865, the fourth child of Thomas and Catherine McGlinn. As a boy, James worked with his father as a bootmaker but, by 1893, he had found a job with the West Australian Government Railways where he would work for the rest of his life.

James married Elizabeth Hamilton in 1887 at York, and their first child, Ethel, was born the following year. The growing family moved around the Wheatbelt, living at York, Beverley, Spencers Brook and Burges Siding, following the railway work. This was not to last. Elizabeth fell ill after the birth of her last baby, in 1899, and died in Northam on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1900.

James enlisted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1915, claiming to be forty-five years old when he was, in fact, fifty. James appears to have enlisted at the same time as his son, Stephen, as their service numbers are only five digits apart. James and three of his sons, Robert, Thomas and Stephen, all fought in the War. Their story is heart-warming because all returned home.

Both James and Stephen served with the 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion and saw action together in France. The harsh conditions would have been extremely difficult for an older man, and James was eventually returned to Australia on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1917, classified as 'over-age and debility'.

After the War, James returned to work with the Western Australian Government Railways and continued to move around the State as required by his work.

McGLINN.—The Friends of the late Mr. JAMES McGLINN, of the West Australian Government Railways, Pinjarra, formerly of Wuraming and late of the 51st Battalion, A.I.F., are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Karrakatta. The Funeral is appointed to leave Messrs. Bowra and O'Dea's Private Mortuary, 195 Pier-street, Perth, at 1.45 o'clock TOMORROW (Friday) AFTERNOON, per road. Friends wishing to attend the Funeral may proceed by the 2.5 o'clock train leaving Perth. BOWRA and O'DEA, Undertakers, 195 Pier-street, Perth, Tel. B4308.

When he died in 1931, the W.A. Amalgamated Society of Railway Employees' Union put advertisements in the newspaper asking members to attend his funeral.

Courtesy of: Courtesy National Library of Australia

# McGLINN

# Stephen

## Service No: 4557



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Stephen McGlinn

Service number: 4557

Date of enlistment: 29/10/ 1915

Age at Enlistment: 18 years

Civil Occupation: Labourer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War medal, Victory medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 feet 6 inches

Weight: 124 pounds

Chest measurement: 34 ½ inches

Complexion: dark

Eye Colour: brown

Hair Colour: dark

Father: James McGlinn

Mother: Elizabeth Hamilton

Siblings: Ethel Rose, Angelina, Robert James, William, Thomas Henry and Lewis Alexander.

Married: Violet Muriel McGregor

Children: Harold Stephen

## Life Story

Stephen, born in 1897, was only three years of age when his mother, Elizabeth, died. It is likely that Stephen, while supported by his father James, lived with extended relatives as a young child.

Stephen's father enlisted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October and, by the 29<sup>th</sup> October, Stephen had enlisted too; their service numbers were only five digits apart. Stephen and James both served with the 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion and saw action in France. James was sent home in early 1917, because he was over-age.

Without his father's support, Stephen found himself in trouble many times in 1917: first for being drunk while on duty and, then, for deserting his post while on active service. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in a military prison but had his sentences suspended on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1918 because more men were needed on the Front. Stephen spent less than a month at the Front before he was gassed and hospitalized on 12<sup>th</sup> June. He spent four months in hospital recovering before re-joining his unit in October. Stephen eventually returned home to Australia in February 1919.

On his return, Stephen began work with the West Australian Government Railways where, like his father, he worked for the rest of his life. During his career, Stephen held several positions, including shunter, guard, hall porter and head shunter.

Stephen married Violet Muriel McGregor in 1921, and the couple had one son, Harold Stephen, the following year. The family moved all over the State for railway work, living in Perth, Narrogin, East Perth, Midland and Wongan Hills. While living in Narrogin, the family was heavily involved with the Tennis and Hockey Clubs.

When World War Two was declared, Harold, Stephen's only child, enlisted.

Stephen and Violet retired to Leederville in the mid-1960s after Stephen's health began to deteriorate.

# McGLINN

## Robert James

Service No: 4562



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Robert James McGlinn

Service number: 7466

Date of enlistment: 1/1/ 1913

Age at Enlistment: 20 years of age

Medals, Honours, Awards: 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Father: James McGlinn

Mother: Elizabeth Hamilton

Siblings: Ethel Rose, Angelina, William, Thomas Henry, Stephen and Lewis Alexander.

Married: Christina Madelina Coaker

Children: Nellie Christina Elizabeth, Ethel Florence Madilena, Beryl Morwenna, Arthur Albert, Robert James (Jr)



Courtesy  
National archives of Australia

### Life Story

Robert, born in 1893, was only seven years of age when his mother, Elizabeth, died. Robert, while supported by his father, James, likely lived with extended relatives as a young child.

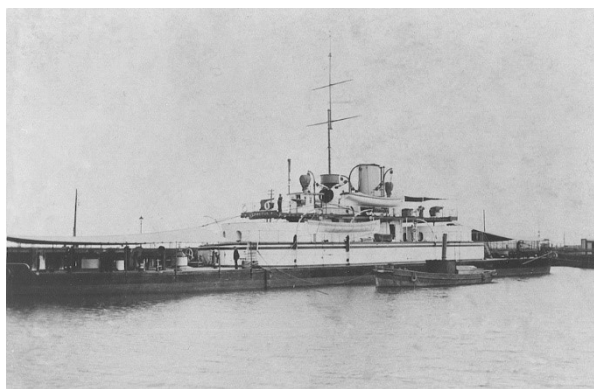
By 1911, Robert was in England training with the Royal Navy. He had joined the year before, as there was no navy in Australia at the time.

In 1913 when the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.) was formed, Robert was immediately accepted with another York boy, Henry Joseph Martin.

Both men served on HMAS *Australia*, the first flagship of the R.A.N. as she led the fleet into Australian waters for the first time. However, Robert's navy career was not all smooth sailing. Robert and five other service men deserted on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 1913 when the ship docked at Albany. Robert was arrested and transferred to the eastern states to continue his career as a stoker.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1914, he was transferred to HMAS *Cerberus*, from where he deserted again on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1914. The N.S.W. police offered a reward of six pounds for his capture. No one apprehended Robert, as he ended up enlisting in New Zealand in late 1914 under the alias of Robert James McDonald.

Robert first saw action on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1915, when he joined his unit in France. However, he was only with them for a day before being transferred to hospital. After being discharged, Robert re-joined his unit where he was gassed and admitted to hospital several times with haemoptysis (coughing up blood).



*HMAS Australia* entering Sydney Harbour for the first time on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1913 – shortly after Robert had deserted  
Courtesy [www.navy.gov.au](http://www.navy.gov.au)

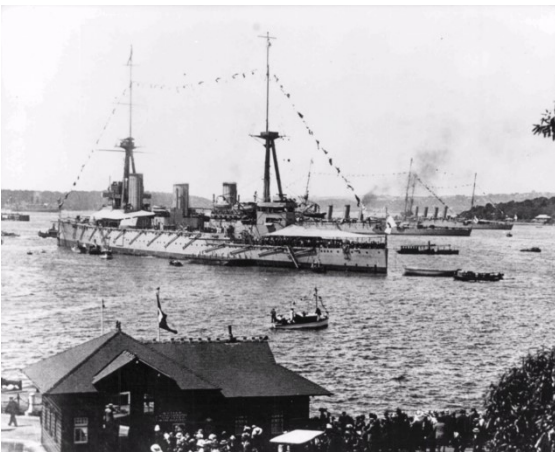
There is a family story that, while Robert was in France, he met with his brother Stephen, and father, James, and they convinced him to confess that he was serving in the New Zealand forces under an alias.

It is a known fact that, on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1917, Robert confessed under oath that his correct name was Robert James McGlinn and that he had deserted from the R.A.N.

The Australian High Commissioner declined to claim him for service with the R.A.N., so he remained with the New Zealanders in France for the remainder of the War.

On his way back to New Zealand after the War, Robert met Christina Coaker in England. He married her in 1919. The couple departed England on the *SS Athenic* on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1919, bound for Christchurch.

They remained in Christchurch and had five children together. Robert supported his family as a taxi driver until his retirement in 1963 and died on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1975. He never returned to Australia.



*HMAS Cerberus* during World War One  
Courtesy of [www.navy.gov.au](http://www.navy.gov.au)

# McGLINN

## Thomas Henry

Service No: 3133



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Thomas Henry McGlinn (known as Harry)

Service number: 3133

Date of enlistment: 28/4/ 1915

Age at Enlistment: 19 years 4 months

Civil Occupation: Farm Hand

Medals, Honours, Awards: 1914/15 Star, British War medal, Victory medal

Height: 5 feet 5 ½ inches

Weight: 140 pounds

Chest measurement: 38 inches

Complexion: dark

Eye Colour: brown

Hair Colour: dark

Father: James McGlinn

Mother: Elizabeth Hamilton

Siblings: Ethel Rose, Angelina, Robert James, William, Stephen and Lewis Alexander.

Married: Annie Martin

Children: Clifford James and Ronald Arthur

### Life Story

Thomas, known as Harry, enlisted in Perth on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He was an extremely attractive recruit, because he had six months' experience in Senior Cadets and, at the time, was serving with the 25<sup>th</sup> Light Horse.

Harry saw action with the 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion before being seriously wounded on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 1916. Shrapnel lodged in his back and neck. Harry's wounds were so serious that he was sent to Portsmouth Hospital in England, where he remained until the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 1917.

Unfortunately, Harry was back in hospital with illness on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the same month.

He finally re-joined his unit on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1917 and was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 1917.

Harry applied to join the Australian Flying Corps and was transferred on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1917 but had to revert to the rank of Private. He trained at Oxford in England and received his flying certificate on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1919.

Harry returned to Australia in 1920 and began working for the West Australian Government Railways like his father and younger brother.



An Airco DH 5 scout Plane used by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Flying Corps Squadron – Harry would have flown in a similar aircraft

Later that year, he married Myrtle Annie Martin. The pair had two children: Clifford James born in 1921 and Ronald Arthur born in 1923. Both Clifford and Ronald served in World War Two, Clifford with the Air Force and Ronald with the Army.

Harry died in Perth on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1955 and was followed shortly after by Myrtle who died on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1955.

# McGLINN

## Ernest William

Service No: 2263



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Ernest William McGlinn

Service number: 2263

Date of enlistment: 20/3/ 1915

Age at Enlistment: 29 years 4 months

Civil Occupation: Clearing contractor

Medals, Honours, Awards: 1914/15  
Star, British War medal, Victory medal

Height: 5 feet 7 inches

Weight: 158 pounds

Chest measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: dark

Eye Colour: grey

Hair Colour: black

Father: David Patrick McGlinn

Mother: Sarah Ashworth

Siblings: Ada Jane, Sophia, David, Thomas, James Edmund, Frank Robert, Ruth Charlotte Catherine, Florence Hilda, Alice May, Maud Bertha, Sarah Ruby, John, Selina Mabel and Gertrude Eva



Ernest McGlinn  
Courtesy Maureen Francesconi

## Life Story

Ernest William was the sixth child of David and Sarah McGlinn, born in York in 1885. He attended York Boys' School and his name appears on the York State School Honour Roll.

Ernest was employed as a clearing contractor after leaving school, working on a number of local farms and throughout the Wheatbelt.

Ernest appears to have travelled to Melbourne in 1912, before returning home to York to live with his mother, Sarah, at her Ford street home.

Ernest enlisted on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1915 in York and embarked from Fremantle aboard the HMAT *Geelong*, following his best mate and childhood friend, William Kett, who had enlisted the year before.



PTE. E. M'GLYNN.  
Killed at the Dardanelles.

Courtesy National Archives of  
Australia

Ernest was Taken on Strength at Gallipoli on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1915 but was Wounded in Action on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The Field reports state that Ernest had a severe head injury from a bomb explosion. However, when he arrived in Alexandria and was admitted to hospital, it was reported that his injury was the result of a penetrating gunshot wound.

Ernest died in hospital on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 1915, seven days after he was injured. He is buried at the Alexandria Military Cemetery in Plot K.31.

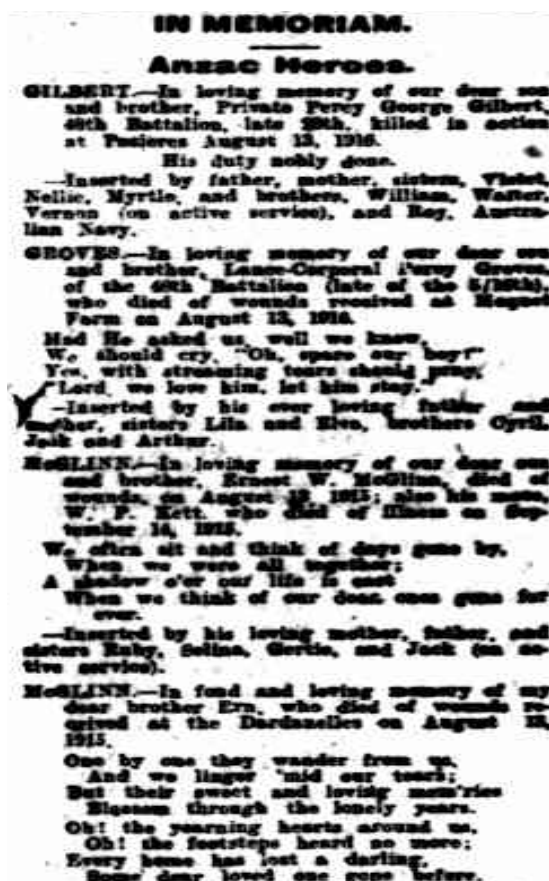
For several years after Ernest's death, his family placed *In Memoriam* notices in the local and Perth newspapers.

In 1918, the notice was for Ernest and his mate, W.P. Kett, who had died of disease.

McGlinn- in loving memory of our dear son and brother,  
Ernest W. McGlinn, died of wounds on August 13 1915;

Also his mate. W.P Kett who died of illness on September 14 1915

Courtesy National Library of Australia



# McGLINN Thomas Service No: 954



## INFORMATION

Name: Thomas McGlinn

Service number: 954

Date of enlistment: 20/3/ 1915

Age at Enlistment: 33 years 7 months

Civil Occupation: Farrier

Medals, Honours, Awards: 1914/15 Star, British War medal, Victory medal

Height: 5 feet 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches

Weight: 124 pounds

Chest measurement: 37 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: David Patrick McGlinn

Mother: Sarah Ashworth

Siblings: Ada Jane, Sophia, David, James Edmund, Ernest William, Frank Robert, Ruth Charlotte Catherine, Florence Hilda, Alice May, Maud Bertha, Sarah Ruby, John, Selina Mabel and Gertrude Eva

Married: Margaret Ellen Christina Wilkie

## Life Story

Thomas was born at York in 1882 and, as a young man, was involved with the York Imperials football team. Both Thomas and his younger brother, John, had success playing with the club in 1905.

The following year, Thomas married Margaret Ellen Christina Wilkie (known as Nellie) the sister of two of York's other servicemen, James and Francis Wilkie. After the wedding, Thomas and Nellie moved to Fitzgerald Street in Northam, where three of their children, Jean Gladys Irene, Francis Thomas and Pearl Helena Catherine, were born, before moving to Alma Street in North Perth where their fourth child, Alma Grace Victoria, was born in 1914.

Thomas enlisted on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1915 and, oddly, listed his mother as Next of Kin, not his wife. Thomas was a farrier, so his trade was of particular use to the armed forces.

Thomas initially served with the Number Two Veterinary Hospital at Le Havre in France before being transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Mobile Veterinary Service.

The extremely cold conditions in France were detrimental to Thomas's health. He was admitted to hospital on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1917 with bronchitis, so ill that he was later transferred to hospital in England where he remained until early April.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1917 Thomas was discharged and he embarked for Australia aboard the *Barambah* suffering chronic bronchitis.

Thomas arrived back in Australia on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1917 and, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1917, his wife and children were granted a pension due to his poor health.

Thomas died in 1932. Alma died tragically in 1943 when she was murdered crossing through a park near her North Perth home.

# McGLYNN

## John

### Service No: 108A



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: John McGlinn (known as Jack)

Service number: 108A

Date of enlistment: 5/6/1917

Age at Enlistment: 19 years 5 months

Civil Occupation: Railway Employee

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War medal,  
Victory medal

Height: 5 feet 7 inches

Weight: 138 pounds

Chest measurement: 36 inches

Complexion: fair

Eye Colour: brown

Hair Colour: dark brown

Father: David Patrick McGlinn

Mother: Sarah Ashworth

Siblings: Ada Jane, Sophia, David, Thomas, James Edmund, Ernest William, Frank Robert, Ruth Charlotte Catherine, Florence Hilda, Alice May, Maud Bertha, Sarah Ruby, John, Selina Mabel and Gertrude Eva

Married: Gladys Catherine Gawned



Jack McGlinn  
Courtesy Maureen Francesconi

## Life Story

Jack, born in 1898, was the thirteenth child of David and Sarah McGlinn. His parents separated when he was very young, and he was raised by his stepfather Arthur Slocombe. Jack was involved with a number of football clubs in and around York. He played with the Imperials and the Fire Brigade team. Jack's granddaughter, Maureen, recalls him talking about one of his favourite childhood stories:

“When John was a young boy, he and his sister Maude were playing out in the yard. John did a poo on the ground and put his hat over it then told Maude there was a bird under the hat. Maude went to grab the bird when John lifted it! Well they laughed over that story for many years and John delighted in bringing it up when Maude was visiting.”

In late 1915, Jack joined the West Australian Government Railways (W.A.G.R.) moving around Perth as a junior porter and then a cleaner until he enlisted on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1917.

Jack was Taken on Strength with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Machine Gun Squadron at Moascar on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 1917 and served in the Middle East for the remainder of the War.

He returned to Australia on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1917 aboard the *Madras* and was discharged from the military forces on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 1919.

Jack never spoke of the War once he returned.

Jack McGlinn's letter home to his mother, published in the Eastern District Chronicle on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 1918.  
Courtesy National Library of Australia

### A SOLDIER'S LETTER.

Dated Jericho, April 6, 1918, Private Jack McGlinn, writes home to his mother, Mrs. J. Slocombe, of Ford street. Inter alia he states :—We have travelled a long way since I last wrote. I have been through Jerusalem, past the Dead Sea, over the Jordan river, and several small towns not worth mentioning. On our march out we stopped the first day at a place called Latron, on account of it raining so hard. Three days in it and talk about mud. The last night we were there we all got washed out of bed about midnight and had to sit up in the rain, but still we were laughing and joking all the time. We started off quite ignorant of our destination at about 10 a.m. the following day, and at 4 o'clock (still raining) we entered the Holy City of Jerusalem. The road we travelled was very good, but very zig-zag of course! Hills higher than Mt. Bakewell have roads right down the front of them. I only entered the New City. We marched for three

After the war, Jack returned to W.A.G.R. and moved all over the Wheatbelt. In 1920 he trained to be a railway fireman, first stationed in Toodyay, then Brunswick.

While working in Toodyay in 1921, Jack met Gladys Catherine Gawned and they married in the same year. In the following two years, the couple had two children, Joan Irene and Doreen.



Jack and Gladys McGlinn shortly after they were married  
Courtesy Maureen Francesconi

The family moved to Waroonga, Road, Claremont, in the mid-1920s and Jack and Gladys lived in that house for most of their married life. Maureen, Jack and Gladys's granddaughter, recalls Jack being a very keen gardener. The garden at their Claremont home was "wonderful" and the shade house was always filled with beautiful flowers.

When they were no longer able to care for themselves, Jack and Gladys moved to the War Service Housing for the Aged in Mt Lawley, then on to the Silver Chain Hostel in Claremont.

Gladys died in 1984 and John in 1992.

'Jack and Gladys were very gentle and loving grandparents who adored their family.'

Maureen Francesconi



17 Waroonga Road Claremont – where Jack and Gladys lived for 45 years  
Courtesy Maureen Francesconi

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