

## **William Harry McDonald**

**Rushworth Chronicle**

**27 March, 1942**

MCDONALD: -- On March 22, Private William Harry, loved son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. McDonald, Rushworth, and loving brother of Jean (Mrs. G. Curtis). Accidentally killed.

MCDONALD: -- On March 22, result of accident, William Harry, June's love. --- Inserted by June Lyndon.

### YOUNG MAN'S TRAGIC DEATH

#### Collision with car

#### Well-known Rushworth resident

The Hand of Death struck heavily on a Rushworth family at the weekend when in the early hours of Monday morning, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. McDonald were advised of the death of their only son, Harry.

A few hours before, he left Rushworth to return to his military duties, after spending leave with his parents was then looking forward to returning home again for the Easter vacation.

Leaving Rushworth on his motorcycle, apparently all went well until he reached the straight stretch of road between Beveridge and Donnybrook. At that point a car was pulled to the side of the road while the driver secured a pump to attend one of his tyres. Just what actually caused the tragedy is not clear, but McDonald collided with the vehicle and was thrown from the machine, resulting in instantaneous death. What helped in the tragic accident was probably the fact that the motorcycle had screened headlights which prevented his observation of the car before the impact. After identification (deceased was in military uniform), the sad news was conveyed to his parents about 3 a.m. on Monday morning. The tragic news spread quickly and cast quite a gloom over the town.

Pte. McDonald was a pay clerk attached of the 38th Battalion and was transferred to the 4th Ordnance attached to headquarters. He was 20 years of age and always proved himself a bright scholar at Rushworth State and Technical [?] school. Finishing his education he subsequently joined the State Savings Bank and continued in the Rushworth Branch until he joined the military.

The deceased was of a bright and happy disposition and made a very wide circle of friends and his untimely end came as a great shock to the community who extend heartfelt sympathy to the parents in their hour of sorrow.

Prior to the funeral on Tuesday afternoon a service was held in the Presbyterian Church when representatives of the Southern Command attended. There was an impressive service at the graveside conducted by Rev. Mr. Blackney. Mr. J. Collard sounded the Last Post and Reveille. Funeral arrangements were in the hands of Messrs Matthews Bros., Melbourne, and Hilder and Kittle, Rushworth. Members of the R. S. A. were at the head of the funeral procession.