

Private William Richard Maddocks[©]

Regimental number: 1965

25th Battalion, Australian Infantry

born: about 1888 – died: 2 July 1916

Private William Richard Maddocks was one of two sons of Richard and Alice Fanny Maddocks.¹ He was born in 1888 in Mackworth, Derbyshire.² His parents, Richard and the former Alice Fanny Goodchild, were both born in about 1863—Richard in Mackworth and Alice in Winfrith, Derbyshire.³ They were married on 16 June 1885 at Christ Church in Sparkbrook, Warwickshire.⁴ William was possibly their first child. He was followed by Edward Henry (born in about 1894)⁵ and Marguerite Alice Maddocks (born in about 1899).⁶ The identity of a fourth child who died, probably in childhood, was not found.⁷

In 1891, the William and his parents were living with his grandfather, also Richard Maddocks, in Mackworth.⁸ His grandfather was a collector of rates and his father a farmer. Ten years later, the whole family was still living in Mackworth and Alice's sister, Sarah Ann Goodchild, was living with them.⁹ In 1911, William was working on the farm in Mackworth with his father.¹⁰

Two years later, William decided to immigrate to Australia. He left London on the SS *Roscommon* on 23 July 1913, travelling to Townsville, Australia, and entered Australia as a farm labourer.¹¹ The same year, his younger brother, Edward Henry, immigrated to Canada, arriving in Montreal on 13 September 1913.¹²

Soon after the outbreak of the Great War, William enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force.¹³ He had been in Australia for less than two years when he enlisted in the 25th Battalion in Brisbane on 26 June 1915. He is described as being a “freezer”—this may have been a food processor. He was 5' 9" tall, had a fresh complexion and brown eyes and hair and was a member of the Church of England. He was taken on strength on 11 December 1915 when his battalion was in Gallipoli. On 9 January 1916 he travelled to Alexandria, Egypt and, from there, to Marseilles on 14 March 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. He had a minor disciplinary incident on 3 April 1916 when he was in Hazebrouck without a pass. His punishment was only an admonishment.

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs) served first in Gallipoli and Egypt and then crossed the Mediterranean to join the Western Front in March 1916.¹⁴ The 25th Battalion arrived in Marseilles on 19 March. The regimental band played “La Marseillaise” as the transport ships moved into the harbour. Within a few days the troops had left Marseilles for the Le Havre area in northern France. In early July 1916, the ANZACs, as were other allied troops, were busy preparing for the battle of the Somme. The German attack on Verdun a few months earlier had drained a lot of the French resources destined for the Somme. Between 28 June and 3 July, the ANZACs were involved in extensive raids on the enemy lines. There were 773 ANZAC casualties for the week ending 2 July.

William was probably one of these casualties. He was admitted to the 7th Field Ambulance on 1 July 1916 as “slightly wounded.” From there, he went the same day to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. By 12:10 p.m. the next day he had died at the CCCS of shrapnel wounds to his right side.

He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave Reference: II. E. 103)¹⁵ by Reverend J. T. Hall.¹⁶ Bailleul is in France, but close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14

October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.¹⁷

William's next of kin was Robert Cameron, who lived on Malcolm Street in Hawthorne, Bulimba, Brisbane, Australia.¹⁸ Robert was a foreman in a meat works plant and his wife, the former Ellen Emily Goodchild,¹⁹ was William's cousin. Ellen's father was Jacob Hibbs Goodchild,²⁰ older brother of William's mother, Alice Fanny Goodchild.²¹ Jacob probably immigrated to Australia sometime between 1861 and 1871.

After the war, William's parents were living at Morley Fields, Greenwich, Ripley, near Derby.²² In October 1916, his father received William's effects, which included "Letters, Cards, Photos, Large watch, Wrist Watch & Strap, Knife, 8 Badges, Book of Hemans poems,²³ Note book, Belt, Wallet, Cottonbag."²⁴

In July 1917, his mother wrote to the Australian army concerning her son's deferred army pay.²⁵ She was his next of kin and was reportedly desperately in need of money. William had made a will in favour of his mother. At some point, it appears that his father also made a claim for a pension. However, it was rejected because his father had not been dependent on William for the 12 months prior to his enlistment and his father had adequate means of support.

William was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).²⁶

William's younger brother Edward had immigrated to Canada in 1913 but travelled back to England to visit his family in November 1919.²⁷ He returned to Canada in February 1920 and was heading to Price Albert, Saskatchewan, where he was an Anglican priest.

William's parents had lost one son in the Great War and their remaining son was living in Canada. So, shortly after their son's visit, William's father and mother (then 58 and 57 years of age, respectively) and his sister Marguerite also immigrated to Canada.²⁸ They sailed from Liverpool on the SS *Canada*, arriving on 9 April 1920 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. They were travelling on to Edgerton, Alberta to be with their son.²⁹ In 1921, both parents and their daughter Marguerite, were living with Edward in Edgerton.³⁰

His mother died in March 1933³¹ and his father in November 1936.³² Both his parents were buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Saskatoon.

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¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 September 2016), entry for Wm Richard Maddocks, Registration district: Belper, Sub-registration district: Duffield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1, Piece: 3226, Folio: 8, Page: 8, Household schedule number: 41

² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 September 2016), entry for William Richard Maddocks, Registration district: Belper, Inferred county: Derbyshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 540

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- ³ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for William R Maddocks, Registration district: Belper, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1, Piece: 2741, Folio: 4, Page: 1
- ⁴ "Birmingham, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1937," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for Richard Maddock, Reference number: DRO 3, Archive roll: 584
- ⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 September 2016), entry for Edward Henry Maddocks, Registration district: Belper, Inferred county: Derbyshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 597
- ⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 September 2016), entry for Marguerite Alice Maddocks, Registration district: Belper, Inferred county: Derbyshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 649
- ⁷ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 August 2016), entry for Richard Maddock [*sic*], Registration district: Belper, Registration district number: 436, Sub-registration district: Duffield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 5, Piece: 20948
- ⁸ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for William R Maddocks
- ⁹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 September 2016), entry for Wm Richard Maddocks, Registration district: Belper, Sub-registration district: Duffield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1, Piece: 3226, Folio: 8, Page: 8, Household schedule number: 41
- ¹⁰ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 August 2016), entry for Richard Maddock [*sic*]
- ¹¹ "UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890–1960," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for William R. Maddocks
- ¹² "Canada, Ocean Arrivals (Form 30A), 1919–1924," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 September 2016), entry for Edward Henry Maddocks
- ¹³ "Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for William Richard Maddocks. Unless otherwise specified, all information about William's military career comes from this source.
- ¹⁴ Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918," *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/RCDIG1069749/>: accessed 26 September 2016), Volumes III, VII and VIII
- ¹⁵ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2016), entry for Maddocks, William Richard, Service No: 1965
- ¹⁶ "Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for William Richard Maddocks
- ¹⁷ "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery,%20Nord>: accessed 5 August 2015)
- ¹⁸ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Maddocks, W. R.
- ¹⁹ "Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 28 September 2016), entry for Robert Cameron, Registration Number: 002148, Page Number: 3754
- ²⁰ "Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 September 2016), entry for Ellen Emily Goodchild, Page Number: 5500, Registration Number: 001685
- ²¹ "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 September 2016), entry for Jacob Hibbs Goodchild, Registration district: Wareham, Sub-registration district: Bere Regis, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8c, Piece: 1347, Folio: 105, Page: 12; "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 September 2016), entry for Alice Fanny Goodchild, Registration district:

Wareham, Sub-registration district: Bere Regis, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 9, Household schedule number: 90, Piece: 1998, Folio: 44, Page: 17

²² "Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 September 2016), entry for William Richard Maddocks

²³ Felicia Dorothea Hemans (1793–1835) was an English poet. ("Felicia Hemans," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felicia_Hemans; accessed 29 September 2016))

²⁴ "Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 September 2016), entry for William Richard Maddocks

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ "Canada, Ocean Arrivals (Form 30A), 1919–1924," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 September 2016), entry for Edward Henry Maddocks

²⁸ "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for Richard Maddocks

²⁹ "Canada, Ocean Arrivals (Form 30A), 1919–1924," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for Richard Maddocks

³⁰ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 August 2016), entry for Richard Maddocks, Province or territory: Alberta, District: Battle River, District number: 1, Sub-district number: 33, City, Town or Village: Edgerton

³¹ "Web: International, Find A Grave Index," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 September 2016), entry for Alice Fanny Maddocks

³² "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 August 2016), entry for Richard Maddocks