McLEOD, Roderick George

Roderick George McLeod (far right above,) Gladstone's only recipient of the Military Cross (Source: Gladstone Observer, 7 April 2015.

Rank: Lieutenant

Service Number: 5197

Unit: Divisional Ammunition Column 1; 14th Field Artillery Brigade.

Place of Birth: Gladstone, Queensland

Date of Birth: 25 April 1892

Enlisted at Liverpool, NSW, on 20 May 1915 aged 28 years 2 months.

Next-of-kin was mother, Catherine McLeod, Glenlyon St, Gladstone, Qld.

On enlistment he was 5 feet 7.75 inches and weighed 144 lbs. His chest measurement was 33-35 inches. His occupation was correspondence clerk. Served in 18th Infantry as 2nd Lieutenant before enlisting. Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A70 *Ballarat* on 9 September 1915. Served France. *On 4 October 1917, the 114th Howitzer Battery was in Action East of Westhoek, during the operations against the PASSCHAENDALE RIDGE. During the night the battery came under heavy bursts of fire on 2 separate occasions when S.O.S calls were being received.*

Lieutenant R. McLeod was in charge of the battery and though on each separate occasion a complete detachment was either killed or wounded alongside him, he, by his personal fearlessness and high example inspired all ranks with confidence and kept his battery in action, though himself shaken.

Medals: *'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On two occasions the battery of which he was in command came under heavy shell fire while in action. On each occasion a complete detachment was put out of action, but by his fearlessness and splendid example he inspired all ranks with confidence and kept the battery in action.'* **Commonwealth Gazette No. 137 30 August 1918.**

Military Cross (MC)

Awarded for an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land, to captains or officers of lower rank up to warrant officers. (NCOs or other ranks instead received the Military Medal.)

Service Record: [View digital copy (naa.gov.au)](naa.gov.au)

Paulette Flint, 2024