**Biography**

Roderick was born in Perth (Western Australia) and migrated to Hyde Park (South Australia) before enlisting into the army. His occupation was a Warehouseman, and he was 19 when he enlisted into the military. It is known that the man was single, and that he’s religion was the Church of England. On the 22nd of February 1915 in Keswick SA, he enlisted into the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) as a Private. The Private was the lowest rank of the military class and worked on foot, commonly on the front lines with an infantry rifle. Apon enlisting his service number was 649, with a height of 5 ’10 with a “dark complexion”.

In terms of politics, many things were happening in Australia and around the world before WW1. Although there wasn’t a single definitize factor to why WW1 started, tensions throughout Europe had been growing for years. When Britain declared war on Germany on the 4th of August 1914, with Australia being the dominion of the British Empire, it was also automatically at war. After hearing this news, most Australians became enthusiastic and volunteers rushed to enlist as they were expecting an “exciting” adventure, which lead to young people such as Roderick Francis Macdonald discovering the true horrors of war.

On the 31st of May 1915, Roderick began his involvement in the AIF by embarking from “His Majesty’s Australian Transport” in Geelong, Adelaide. After this, he landed in a disclosed location in which he and others trained for months in preparation for battle. In these training camps, the goal was to teach the recruits fundamental skills necessary to function in an army, with them being trained discipline, physical fitness, and basic weapons training.

Months later on the 4th of September 1915, Roderick fought in the ANZAC Gallipoli battle with the 27th Battalion, before getting wounded in early October to a shell wound in the chest and arm. Due to this, he left the army on leave for 3 years and returned to action on the 30th of July 1918 (5 months before the war ended). He got transported to the 10th battalion as a corporal, with his promotion being due to the previous bravery shown on the battlefield, with him even receiving a posthumous bravery medal. Furthermore, the purpose of this attack from the 10th battalion was to be a “low-cost penetration, with high tactics on the Western Front”. 2 months later on the 30th of September, Roderick’s military career came to an end when he got killed in action in France, at the age of 22.

During his time as a soldier, he would have had to carry things such as grenades, rifles, bayonets, and also endure horrendous conditions due to many factors. One example could be the constant fear in which he and others lived through when in the trenches, as they never knew when they were going to get attacked. Not to mention, there was also the high possibility of illness due to the close proximity between the soldiers and lurking infections. To continue, these trenches on the western front were generally long and narrow ditches, dug into the ground. They were typically covered in thick mud, making it uncomfortable for the soldiers, to the point where the conditions were so bad that sometimes it would lead to medical problems such as “trench foot”.

In terms of the ANZACS, it stands for “Australian and New Zealand Army Corps”, with them typically being known to show positive qualities such as endurance, courage, dignity, and good humour. One example of the ANZAC spirit being reflected could include the bravery and patriotism shown by Roderick as he ran towards the enemy in a daring attempt to gain more ground, despite him knowing that it might not work.