

DONNAN, Arthur Victor



A.V. Donnan
University Archives Ref. 12/016400
DONNAN, AV Student Card



'HAC Rifle team Champs Service team 1912'
The five members of the team are:
Seated (L to R): B.M. Arthur, D.H. Reay, A.V. Donnan
Standing (L to R): D.S. Maxwell, H.D. Barlow.
University Archives Ref. P971 Rifle Team - 'A' Team, winners of the Cooke
Challenge Trophy and Lady Rawson Cup 1912



Lieutenant A.V. Donnan
New Zealand Expeditionary Force
University Archives Ref. AI-46374 HAC Journal (Vol.13, No.12) December 1916 p.168

Arthur Victor Donnan was born 16 September 1892 at Woollahra, NSW, to parents John Stroyan and Marie Louise Donnan.

Arthur attended Sydney High School, and entered HAC in the Diploma Course, aged 16 in 1909, having won both the Sydney Morning Herald and Mail scholarships to attend the College. Arthur finished second in his first year at the College. He was a member of the College Rifle 'A' team, winning the Lady Rawson and Championship Service Cups at Randwick in 1912. He was also a member of the Rugby team. Donnan finished 3rd in the Diploma Course, winning 3rd prize and was awarded the Gold Medal for Best Practical Student.

Arthur joined the HAC staff as Assistant Experimentalist in January 1911. Several months later he became Experimentalist and then went on to become a lecturer in agriculture. Donnan then took up a post at Yanco Irrigation Settlement.

In 1913 Arthur was appointed Instructor in Agriculture under the Auckland Board of Education, and later enrolled in a Bachelor of Science of Agriculture at Auckland University College (now Auckland University).

The director of the New Zealand Department of Technical Education wrote to the HAC Principal in June 1914 stating '...my Board is very pleased indeed with Mr. Donnan, and we should be more than satisfied if you can supply us with another instructor of the same type'.

Donnan tried to enlist from 4 June 1915, but was delayed until October 1915, because of needing glasses. He enlisted in the New Zealand infantry and was promoted to Second Lieutenant while still in training for 'J' Company 18th Reinforcements New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Embarking from Wellington, New Zealand aboard *HMNZT 67 Tofua* on 11 October 1916, Donnan served with the 4th Battalion 3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade on the Western Front.

Recipient of the Military Cross for distinguished service, Arthur was wounded 7 June 1917 in Belgium, and died of those wounds 10 June 1917 aged 24. Donnan is buried in the Trois Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, Nord, France.

The Principal of HAC had written of Donnan, 'as a student and teacher here he has been singularly successful. It has rarely fallen to my lot to meet with so young a man endowed with such keen discrimination and the inestimable gift of common sense'.